

NCRI Human Rights Center Weekly Bulletin December 24, 2016

Systematic violations of the right to life

Executions, arbitrary killings, deaths in custody, and death sentences

Execution

Iran publicly hangs man in Ilam

<http://www.iribnews.ir/fa/news/1432113>

On the dawn of December 22, the death sentence of a man was carried out in Ilam with the presence of judicial and security officials. He was executed on charges of rape and abduction. (Central News Agency state-run TV channel – Dec. 22, 2016)

Iran hangs 3 men in prison

<https://www.hra-news.org/2016/hranews/a-8936/>

Three Balouch prisoners were hanged in Birjand prison on drug related charges on December 19. Two of these men were identified as Allah Noor Daroun Parvar and Naser Barahouyi.

A source close to the families of these prisoners said that the three men were being held in section 105 of Birjand Prison. (Human Rights Activists in Iran – Dec. 21, 2016)

Execution of two prisoners in Mashhad prison

<https://humanrightsiniran.org/1395/31318/>

In early December, two prisoners charged with narcotics were hanged in Mashhad Central Prison. They were identified as Khalil Din Mohammadi and Mohammad Sarani. (Human Rights in Iran - Dec 22 , 2016)

Arbitrary killing

Security forces shoot and kill Balouch man

<http://www.balochcampaign.info/?p=10018>

A Balouch man from Saravan was targeted and killed by security forces. He was identified as Mohammad Yasin Sepahi. (Balouch Activists Campaign – Dec. 20, 2016)

Death sentence

Iran sentences two political prisoners from ethnic Baluch minority to death

http://hrdai.blogspot.al/2016/12/blog-post_19.html

On Monday December 19, the death sentence for two Baluch political prisoners detained in Section 3 of Zahedan Prison was announced after two months of being in a state of limbo. These two prisoners were taken to the 2nd Branch of the Zahedan Revolutionary Court presided over by Mohammad Marzieh five days before and were tried without a lawyer. They have been identified as 22 year old Elias Kalandar Zehi and 27 year old Hassan Dahvari. (Human Rights and Democracy Activistst in Iran - Dec. 20, 2016)

Inhumane treatment and cruel punishments Amputation, flogging, torture and humiliation

Psychologically ill prisoner tortured by guards

<http://bit.ly/2htX52P>

Prisoner Majid Keshvari, who is suffering from psychological problems and has tried to commit suicide a number of times because of his condition, was tortured last week. Burn marks and signs of beating are evident on his body. “Majid has always tried to commit suicide because of the harassment of guards. Even the prison psychiatrist has confirmed his poor mental health”, a person close to this prisoner said. “On Thursday December 8, guards were informed that Majid was looking for a rope to commit suicide but did nothing. His family was also informed and called the prison psychiatrist but still no measures were taken to stop the suicide until he once again committed suicide”, the person added. Majid Keshvari is one of the 12 suspects of the Qezelhesar Prison “uprising” in 2010. From the 12 prisoners sentenced to death, seven people were executed while five of the suspects’ death sentences were lowered to prison terms. (Javaneha website - Dec. 17, 2016)



Security forces publicly humiliate and degrade young man in Mashhad

<http://www.jamnews.ir/detail/News/745571?sk=1>

A young man, known by his nickname as Amir Ghorbat, was paraded around town by security forces. He was then taken to prison on charges of disrupting public order. Pictures of him have been published on judicial orders for identification. (Jam News state-run Website - Dec. 20, 2016)



Prison

Prison conditions

Prisoners force to go outdoors in freezing temperatures in Kermanshah Prison

https://zandaniran.blogspot.al/2016/12/blog-post_26.html

Prisoners in Dizel Abad Prison in Kermanshah are forced to stay in very cold temperatures several degrees below zero, which puts the prisoners in danger of illnesses. The prison facilities also lack heating systems.

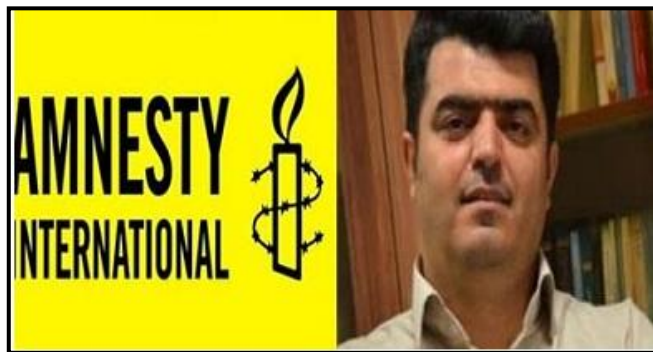
During the day, prisoners are forced to leave their cells and go outdoors. They have to go outside after breakfast until lunch and again after lunch. This is while some prisoners are suffering from kidney problems and according to doctors, being exposed to the cold can be fatal for them. (Zandaniran weblog - Dec. 16, 2016)

Urgent Action Update: Prisoner Of Conscience Targeted For Teacher Union Activities (Iran: UA 171/15)

URGENT ACTION

DECEMBER 13, 2016

<http://www.amnestyusa.org/get-involved/take-action-now/urgent-action-update-prisoner-of-conscience-targeted-for-teacher-union-activities-iran-ua-17115>



Iranian teacher union activist Esmail Abdi, the Secretary General of the Iranian Teachers' Trade Association (ITTA), was arrested on 9 November and taken to Tehran's Evin Prison to begin serving a six-year prison sentence. He is a prisoner of conscience targeted solely for his peaceful trade union activities.

Six intelligence and security officials arrested teacher union activist Esmail (Ismail) Abdi, a high school maths teacher and the Secretary General of the Iranian Teachers' Trade Association (ITTA), at his house on 9 November 2016 and took him to Evin Prison to begin serving his six-year prison sentence. Amnesty International understands that the officials carrying out the arrest refused to provide identification documents or an arrest warrant. Esmail Abdi was sentenced to six years in prison in February 2016 after Branch 15 of the Revolutionary Court in Tehran convicted him of trumped-up national security offences including "spreading propaganda against the system" and "gathering and colluding to commit crimes against national security". The charges stem from his peaceful trade union activities, including associating with Education International, the world's largest federation of unions, and organizing peaceful demonstrations by teachers and members of the ITTA outside Iran's parliament in May 2015 in protest against the level of both the education budget and wages in the sector, both of which they considered low, and the imprisonment of teacher union activists. The sentence was upheld on appeal in October 2016.

Esmail Abdi was first arrested by Revolutionary Guard officials on 27 June 2015, following his attempt to obtain a visa to attend the 7th Education International World Congress in Ottawa, Canada, in July 2015. He was held in solitary confinement in Section 2A of Evin Prison, which is run by the Revolutionary

Guards, for 40 days, and then transferred to Sections 7 and 8 of Evin Prison, where he was held with prisoners convicted of ordinary crimes for 10 months in poor conditions. He was released on bail on 14 May 2016. His release came 14 days after he started a hunger strike in protest at the imprisonment of himself and other trade unionists and teachers on spurious national security charges; the repression of trade unionists' peaceful assemblies and strikes; the ban on independently organized events for International Workers' Day and World Teachers' Day; and the continuing existence of wages that fall below the poverty line. In an open letter from inside prison in April 2016, Esmail Abdi wrote: "Going by the evidence used to issue the verdicts against [me], you could say that any effort... to improve the lives and livelihood of teachers and workers in Iran can be considered acting against national security". (Amnesty International)

Detained spiritual leader collapses after 9 days of going without food and water

<http://hesarr.com/2321-2/>



On December 18, prisoner of conscience Mohammad-Ali Taheri went unconscious on his 9th day of dry hunger strike, after more than 70 days of hunger strike. He regained conscience after being taken to the prison clinic and receiving serum and vitamins via injection.

He was denied the right to see his lawyer on December 17 after pressure by his interrogators. (Hesar News - Dec. 19,

2016)

New bogus charges brought against female human rights activist

<https://www.hra-news.org/2016/hranews/a-8908/>



New charges have been brought against human rights activist Atena Daemi after new claims by the Revolutionary Guards Corps. She has been charged with "insulting the leader, publishing lies, insulting officials, preventing the implementation of a judicial sentence and beating an agent while on duty".

A trial to see to these charges will be held 12 days from now.

(Human Rights Activists in Iran - Dec. 19, 2016)

Political prisoner denied right to see wife

<http://bit.ly/2i2raYB>



Political prisoner Arash Sadeqi, who is on his 57th day of hunger strike, was denied the right to see his wife, Golrokh Iraie, for the second time.

Security forces have threatened him saying that he would see his wife only after he dies.

Sadeqi has lost his speech and more than 18 kilos of weight. He constantly goes unconscious, suffers from kidney and respiratory problems, vomits clots of blood, and is in very poor condition. (Javaneha website – Dec. 19, 2016)

URGENT ACTION ALLOW JAILED MOTHER VISITS FROM HER DAUGHTER

Further information on UA: 117/16 Index: MDE 13/5364/2016 Iran

Date: 19 December 2016

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/5364/2016/en/>



Iranian Revolutionary Guard officials have pressured British-Iranian charity worker Nazanin Zaghari Ratcliffe, a prisoner of conscience, to choose between moving her two-year-old daughter into prison with her for up to three days a week or sign a document to say that she does not want the “right to be with her young daughter”.

Prisoner of conscience Nazanin Zaghari Ratcliffe, a British-Iranian charity worker held in Tehran’s Evin Prison, told her husband on 25 November that Revolutionary Guard officials had pressured her to choose between moving her two-year-old daughter, Gabriella Ratcliffe, into Section 2A of Evin Prison with her for up to three days a week or sign a document to say that she does not want “the right to be with her young daughter”. There are no suitable facilities for children inside Evin Prison. In her last phone call with her husband on 2 December, Nazanin Zaghari Ratcliffe said that neither choice is acceptable to her and what she requests from the authorities instead is more regular visits – either a day-long visit or two half-day visits each week – with her daughter. She is currently

allowed to have only one hour-long visit per week. The authorities seem to have imposed this choice in a misguided attempt to counter the negative publicity caused by the fact that she has been separated from her child. She has suffered a serious decline in her physical and mental health, and wrote a suicide letter to her husband in October.

Nazanin Zaghari Ratcliffe was sentenced to five years' imprisonment in September following an unfair trial before a Revolutionary Court in Tehran, which convicted her on trumped-up national security charges. The precise charges remain unknown to the family. Articles available on state-run news outlets indicate that her conviction solely stems from her professional work with media foundations and charities based in the UK. At the time of her arrest, which happened in April when she was on holiday in Iran, she was employed as a project manager for the Thomson Reuters Foundation (TRF), managing journalism and media training projects in countries including Lebanon, Jordan, Morocco and Myanmar and preparing fundraising applications. State-run news outlets have claimed that she was a "spy" for TRF and that TRF pursues the interests of Western states by promoting "Western-style" democracy in developing countries and facilitating, in turn, "the erosion of local cultures and traditions". Amnesty International understands that TRF has no projects on Iran. In June, the head of the justice department of Kerman Province stated that Nazanin Zaghari Ratcliffe had "conducted actions against the security of the country during the 2009 sedition [referring to the post-presidential election protests] through designing various websites and carrying out media campaigns". These accusations are solely based on the work that she did seven years ago in London as an administrative assistant at BBC Media Action for a project that trained youth journalists in Afghanistan and Iran.

Man sentenced to life in prison commits suicide due to prison pressure

<https://www.hra-news.org/2016/hranews/a-8941/>

A prisoner serving his life in prison sentence in Rajaie Shahr Prison in Karaj hanged and killed himself. He was identified as Gholam Shokri.

A source close to this issue said that he probably "committed suicide because of mental pressure due to the long prison term". (Human Rights Activists in Iran - Dec. 21, 2016)

Female political prisoner goes on hunger strike to demand violated rights



<https://humanrightsiran.org/1395/31289/>

Political prisoner Lavin Karimi who is suffering from gastro hemorrhage started a hunger strike on December 21 in protest to not being taken to the hospital from Hamedan Prison and a decision by the prosecutor, which denies her a medical leave. She has not been allowed to go to the hospital despite the fact that the prison medic has stressed that she has to be hospitalized because of the hemorrhage.

This student from Saqez is suffering from gastro problems because of the torture inflicted on her during interrogations.

The 26-year-old management major was sentenced to three years of prison on charges of cooperating with dissident Kurd parties. (Human Rights in Iran – Dec. 22, 2016)

Prison sentences

Saqez Revolutionary Court sentences female student to 18 months of prison for “spreading propaganda against the system”

<http://www.kurdpa.net/farsi/idame/69602>



On Monday December 19, the Saqez Revolutionary Court issued an 18-month prison sentence for Sahar Feizi. She has been charged with “spreading propaganda against the system”.

This 25-year-old student from Tabriz was arrested by agents of the Intelligence Agency in her Saqez home on July.13, 2016. She was banned from the right to a lawyer during numerous court hearings. (Kurdpa website – Dec. 19, 2016)

Arbitrary arrests

Social arrests

Security forces arrest 18 girls and boys in party in Chenaran

<http://www.farsnews.com/printable.php?nn=13950927000282>

Eighteen girls and boys were arrested in a party. Bassij (RGC) forces crashed a party last night and arrested 11 men and 7 young women who were dancing and partying. The Commander of the Revolutionary Guards Forces in the Chenaran Region said, “last week another mixed party in the same region was crushed and 23 girls and boys were arrested”.

Majid Azarkish said that the average age of the detainees was 18 to 25 years old.

“These people were referred to judicial institutions for legal procedures”, he added.
(Fars state-run News Agency – Dec. 17, 2016)

Man arrested without warrant taken to unknown location
<http://www.kurdpa.net/farsi/idame/69605>

Security forces arrested a 19-year-old man from the town of Salmas and took him to an unknown location.

Khalil Salmas was arrested without an arrest warrant by intelligence agents. (Kurdpa website – Dec. 20, 2016)



Basic freedom and rights abused

Iran arrests 32 Telegram channel owners in one town
<http://bit.ly/2hSjssc>

The head of the Hormozgan Intelligence and Security Police said that 32 managers of Telegram channels and those who have other social media accounts were arrested in Hormozgan. “The identification and arrest of the 32 internet suspects has been implemented in line with the Plan to Counter Cyber Criminals”, Ali-Asghar Ebadi Nik said. (Tafsir News state-run Website – Dec. 21, 2016)

Security forces arrest 1200 so-called “internet criminals” in Tehran
<http://donya-e-eqtesad.com/SiteKhan/1147164/>

The head of the Tehran Police said that during this year 1200 internet criminals were identified and arrested in Tehran.

“986 men and 298 women were identified and arrested in the first eight months of the (Iranian) year in cases that were filed in regards to economical, moral and social issues”, Hossein Sajedi Nia added. (Donyaye Eqtesad state-run Daily – Dec. 19, 2016)

Religious and ethnic minorities

Baha’i man arrested in Qazvin
<https://humanrightsiniran.org/1395/31291/>

Qazvin Security Forces raided the home of a Baha’i man identified as Soheil Keshavarz on December 20 and took him to an unknown location.



More than thirty Baha'i citizens have been arrested during the past few months and the businesses of more than 140 Baha'is in various regions have been shut down. (Human Rights in Iran – Dec. 22, 2016)

Violence against women

Kurdistan official says 339 girls under 15 married in Kurdistan

<http://bit.ly/2hSD844>

The head of the Kurdistan Registration Office said in a press conference that 339 marriages of girls under 15 have been registered in Kurdistan.

“Most of the girls were between 10 to 14 years of age”, Mohsen Aqayi added. (Kurd Today website – Dec. 21, 2016)

Majlis representative says 13,000 children married unofficially in Iran

<http://www.ana.ir/news/166991>

Mohammad-Ali Pourmokhtar, a member of the Majlis Judicial and Legal Commission, said that the marriage of about 12 to 13,000 children is being carried out unofficially and without registration.

He stressed that according to the law, the marriage of an underage girl is only possible with a court verdict.

“It seems that the announced figures of 43,000 marriages of 10 to 15 year old girls was carried out illegally”, he added. (Ana state-run Website – Dec. 11, 2016)