

## NCRI Human Rights Center Weekly Bulletin

February 12, 2018

### Systematic violations of the right to life

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

#### Execution

##### **Man sentenced to death in Rajaie Shahr Prison**

<https://iranhr.net/fa/articles/3223/>

<https://www.hra-news.org/2018/hranews/a-14143/>

On the morning of Wednesday, February 7, at least one prisoner was executed in Rajaie Shahr Prison in Karaj. The prisoner was identified as 29 year old Mohammad Karimi from Varamin. (Human Rights Activists in Iran, Iran Human Rights Organization - Feb. 8, 2018)

#### Death sentence

##### **Stockholm academic's death sentence in Iran 'definitive': lawyer**

<https://www.radiozamaneh.com/380271>

<https://www.thelocal.se/20180205/stockholm-academics-death-sentence-in-iran-definitive-lawyer>



Attempts to convince Iranian courts to review the death sentence given to an academic convicted of spying for Israel have failed, according to the man's lawyer, who says the sentence is now "definitive".

Iranian emergency specialist Ahmadreza Djalali, who is a resident in Sweden, was arrested during a trip to the Islamic republic in April 2016. He was found guilty in

October 2017 of passing information about Iranian nuclear scientists to Israel's Mossad intelligence agency. The sentence was met with protests by Amnesty International, the UN and Sweden's Foreign Ministry. An initial appeal was rejected in December, and his lawyer now says a further request to have the sentence overturned has been denied.

"This time the sentence is definitive. It has been confirmed that the death penalty can be carried out, and it can happen at any time," Djalali's lawyer Zouhaier Chihaoui told Le Soir, condemning the legal process in Iran as unjust.

The Swedish branch of Amnesty International said it has not received information about the death sentence being confirmed. "But we heard from Djalali's wife on Friday that a decision would probably be announced tomorrow (Monday), and the lawyer wasn't optimistic. This is in line with that," Maja Åberg from Amnesty told news agency TT. (The Local Website, Radio Zamaneh – Feb. 5, 2018)

### Mother of political prisoners summoned to Sanandaj intelligence agency



<http://www.ppa-iran.com/%D8%A7%D8%AD%D8%B6%D8%A7%D8%B1-%D9%85%D8%A7%D8%AF%D8%B1-%D8%B4%D8%B1%DB%8C%D9%81%D9%87-%D9%85%D8%A7%D8%AF%D8%B1-%D8%B1%D8%A7%D9%85%DB%8C%D9%86-%D9%88-%D8%A7%D9%81%D8%B4%DB%8C%D9%86-%D8%AD%D8%B3/>

The Sanandaj Intelligence Agency summoned Dayeh Sharifieh, mother of political prisoners Ramin and Afshin Hossein Panahi. Ramin has been sentenced to death. According to reports, intelligence agents asked Dayeh Sharifieh to tell her children to end their hunger strike. She told the agents that her children were unjustly sentenced and that their rights had been greatly violated.

"If the government does not answer them, their father and I will set ourselves on fire outside of the Sanandaj Intelligence Agency", she added. (Political Prisoners Alliance - Feb. 4, 2018)

### URGENT ACTION

### KURDISH MAN SENTENCED TO DEATH AFTER UNFAIR TRIAL

<https://www.amnesty.org/fr/documents/mde13/7872/2018/en/>



05 February 2018

Iranian Kurdish prisoner Ramin Hossein Panahi has been on hunger strike since 27 January in protest of being sentenced to death after a grossly unfair trial that followed four months of enforced disappearance. He has been transferred to solitary confinement in reprisal. His conviction and sentence violate international law and must be quashed.

Ramin Hossein Panahi, a 22-year-old man from Iran's Kurdish minority, started a hunger strike on 27 January after he learned that he had been sentenced to death in connection with his membership of the armed Kurdish opposition group Komala.

On 31 January, a Ministry of Intelligence official visited him in prison and said that his death sentence would be commuted to imprisonment if he agreed to make televised "confessions" denouncing Kurdish opposition groups as "terrorists".

When he refused, the intelligence official apparently became enraged and said that he would pay with his life for his “stubbornness”.

Ramin Hossein Panahi was then transferred to solitary confinement where he now remains. There are fears about his health as he suffers from persistent headaches and a kidney infection, possibly resulting from torture. Following his arrest on 23 June 2017, he was forcibly disappeared for four months. According to him, during this period and a further two months of solitary confinement, Ministry of Intelligence and Revolutionary Guards officials repeatedly tortured him including through beating him with cables, kicking and punching him in the stomach and hitting his head against the wall. They also deliberately denied him adequate medical care for the injuries he sustained from being shot at the time of his arrest. Ramin Hossein Panahi’s trial, which took place on 16 January, was grossly unfair and lasted less than an hour. According to his lawyer, the court convicted him and sentenced him to death for “taking up arms against the state” (baqi) based on his membership of Komala, but without providing any specific evidence linking him to acts involving intentional killing, which is the required threshold under international law for imposing the death penalty. Between his arrest and trial, he was only allowed one brief meeting with his lawyer, which took place in the presence of intelligence officials. This violates the right to consult with one’s lawyer in confidence.

### **Lawyer of minor death row prisoner concerned over client’s health**

<https://www.hra-news.org/2018/hranews/a-14134/>

Minor offender Mohammad Reza Haddadi, whose been sentenced to death for a murder he committed at the age of 15, is still on death row.

His lawyer, Hussein Ahmadi Nejad, said that Mohammad Reza was still in the hospital and had undergone surgery.

He is suffering from a serious digestive problem.

Mohammad Reza Haddadi was born in 1988, and was sentenced to death at 15 for a robbery that led to murder.

During initial investigations on October 30, 2003, he admitted to robbery and murder but eight days later on November 7, he wrote in a letter to court that one of the other suspects had bribed him into accepting the charges due to his age. He said that he had no role in the murder. (Human Rights Activists in Iran - Feb. 8, 2018)



**Political prisoner sentenced to death for armed resistance he denies**

<https://www.hra-news.org/2018/hranews/a-14151/>



The case of political prisoner Hedayat Abdollahpour, who was sentenced to death on charges of armed riot in a court of first instance, was upheld by another branch despite it being overturned by the Supreme Court.

His lawyer, Hossein Ahmad Niazi, said that his client had asked for an appeal. The political prisoner was charged with armed rioting despite his claims that he never touched a gun and was not armed when detained. Hedayat Abdollahpour was arrested along with six other people on June 15, 2016 after clashes in the Qareh Saghel Village in Oshnavieh. According to informed sources, the houses that were destroyed during the clash in the village were barricaded and the villagers were not allowed to enter their homes for a long time after the clash. (Human Rights Activists in Iran - Feb. 9, 2018)

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

**Protester dies under torture in Kermanshah**

<http://www.ppa-iran.com/%D9%82%D8%AA%D9%84%D8%8C%D8%A9%D8%A8%D8%A7%D8%B2%D8%AF%D8%A7%D8%B4%D8%AA%D8%B4%D8%AF%D9%87%D8%AF%D8%8C%D8%AF%D8%B1%D8%AF%D8%B1%D8%B2%D8%8C%D8%B1%D8%B4%D8%A9%D9%86%D8%AC%D9%87%D8%AF%D8%B1/>  
<http://www.kurdpa.net/farsi/idame/72340>

Another young man arrested in the Kermanshah protests died under torture. He was identified as Khaled Gheisari. He died on January 27 under torture in a prison in Kermanshah and his body was buried in this city with the presence of his family and intelligence agents. Agents only allowed his family to hold a ceremony for him on Thursday February 1. According to the Ministry of Intelligence, he died of a drug overdose. (Political Prisoners Alliance, Kurdpa – Feb. 3, 2018)

**Sunni political prisoner tortured to break hunger strike**

<http://www.ppa-iran.com/%D9%81%D8%B4%D8%A7%D8%B1%D9%88%D8%B4%DA%A9%D9%86%D8%AC%D9%87%D8%B2%D9%86%D8%AF%D8%A7%D9%86%DB%8C%D8%B3%DB%8C%D8%A7%D8%B3%DB%8C%D8%AD%D9%85%D8%B2%D9%87%D8%AF%D8%B1%D9%88%DB%8C%D8%B4%D9%88%D8%A7/>  
<http://radioomid.org/%D8%A7%D9%86%D8%AA%D9%82%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AD%D9%85%D8%B2%D9%87%D8%AF%D8%B1%D9%88%DB%8C%D8%B4%D8%A8%D8%A7%D8%B6%D8%B1%D8%A8%D9%88%D8%B4%D8%AA%D9%85%D8%A8%D9%87%D9%82%D8%B1%D9%86%D8%B7%DB%8C%D9%86/>

Political prisoner Hamzeh Darvish, who is detained in Karaj's Rajaie Shahr Prison was violently transferred from Section 10 to quarantine. ,

The 23 year old Sunni prisoner was severely tortured by the head of the prison during the transfer while he was on hunger strike. Agents demanded that he end his



strike. He was thrown in quarantine for his bruised body to heal before being taken back to his section. Hamzeh was supposed to be transferred back on February 4, but agents threatened that if he continued his hunger strike he would be sent to a psychiatric hospital for a month where he would be shackled to his bed.

Hamzeh Darvish was sentenced to 18 years of prison on charges of illegally leaving the country and has gone on hunger strike to protest the sentence. (Radio Omid, Political Prisoners Alliance – Feb. 6, 2018)

## Prison

### Prison conditions

#### **Teacher goes back to Evin Prison after end of prison leave**

<https://www.hra-news.org/2018/hranews/a-14089/>



Mahmoud Beheshti Langroudi, the former spokesperson for the Teachers' Association in Tehran, who went on leave on February 2, went back to Evin Prison after the end of his prison furlough. Beheshti was sentenced to gathering and conspiring against national security and acting against national security in two separate cases and was sentenced to prison. (Human Rights Activists in Iran

– Feb. 4, 2018)

#### **Prison agents prevent hospitalization of ailing elderly political prisoner**



<http://www.ppa-iran.com/%D9%85%D9%85%D8%A7%D9%86%D8%B9%D8%AA-%D8%A7%D8%B2-%D8%A7%D8%B9%D8%B2%D8%A7%D9%85-%D8%B2%D9%86%D8%AF%D8%A7%D9%86%DB%8C-%D8%B3%DB%8C%D8%A7%D8%B3%DB%8C-%D8%B9%D9%84%DB%8C-%D9%85%D8%B9%D8%B2%DB%8C-%D8%A8>

On the morning of Saturday, February 3, political prisoner Ali Moezi was called to be transferred to the hospital. Prison agents intended to handcuff him and transfer him to hospital. The political prisoner refused to wear the handcuffs and prison uniform and agents

prevented his hospitalization. Ali Moezi is over 60 years old and is suffering from prostate cancer and serious kidney problems. (Political Prisoners Alliance - Feb. 4, 2018)

#### **Two detained protesters on hunger strike in Evin Prison**

<https://www.radiozamaneh.com/380653>

Two detained protesters in Evin Prison have gone on hunger strike. The two have been identified as Nima Moziei and Poya Mohammadi. They have now been on hunger strike for five consecutive days in protest to their undetermined state and being kept in a state of limbo. (Radio Zamaneh - Feb. 7, 2018)

## No exact news on whereabouts of detained girls protesting mandatory veil

[illegible]

## Authorities ignore potential cancer diagnosis for detained US resident, deny him medical care



<https://www.iranhumanrights.org/2018/02/authorities-ignore-potential-cancer-diagnosis-for-us-resident-nizar-zakka-deny-him-medical-care/>

US permanent resident Nizar Zakka is being denied medical attention in Evin Prison despite being told by his doctor that he may be suffering from colon cancer, his US-based lawyer told the Center for Human Rights

in Iran (CHRI).

Zakka's attorney, Jason Poblete, also told CHRI that Zakka and his American cellmate, Xiyue Wang, believe prison staff members are drugging their food to make them sleepy. "A few weeks ago, Nizar was diagnosed by an Iranian doctor hired by the family with colon cancer," Poblete told CHRI on February 5, 2018. "He needs a colonoscopy to confirm the diagnosis, but the Iranian government will not allow it." ...

Political prisoners in Iran, including elderly inmates, are singled out for harsh treatment, which often includes denial of medical care. The threat of withheld medical care has also been used as an intimidation tool against prisoners who have challenged the authorities or filed complaints.

In 2016, political prisoner Omid Kokabee was diagnosed with advanced kidney cancer after years of repeatedly being denied treatment for his symptoms. Former

political prisoner Alireza Rajaei, a journalist, lost part of his face to sinus cancer that he says was left untreated while he was in Evin Prison.

"I just learned today that Nizar was taken to the Evin clinic for oxygen because he may have bronchitis or some other ailment that is impeding his ability to breathe easily. However, no doctors or dentists. He was also coughing up blood," Poblete told CHRI. Zakka, a Lebanese-born information technology expert and internet freedom advocate, was arrested by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps' (IRGC) Intelligence Organization in September 2015 in Iran while visiting as an official guest of the government to attend a conference on women and sustainable development. In September 2016, Zakka was issued a 10-year prison sentence and \$4.2 million fine for unspecified espionage charges. An Appeals Court upheld the sentence in August 2016.

"We do not know how exactly or how many times the Iranians have placed substances in his food, but he believes it has happened many times before," Poblete told CHRI. "This most recent incident, both he and Mr. Wang were extremely tired, for several days they slept after eating the same thing."

Poblete added that the authorities are refusing to give Zakka warm clothing sent by his family for the winter months.

"The Iranians have refused deliveries of gloves, hats, or other warm clothing that the family wants to deliver to him," he said. "Nizar has not seen the sun for months."

"In addition to robbing him of his liberty, they are slowly destroying his health," added Poblete. "Nizar is extremely ill and requires advanced medical care outside of Iran; he should be released immediately. Evin prison officials are using medicine as a weapon; their cruelty knows no bounds."

Zakka's cellmate, Xiyue Wang, is a Princeton University PhD student who was conducting research at a state archive in Tehran when he was arrested in August 2016. He was sentenced to 10 years imprisonment in July 2017. An Appeals Court upheld the sentence in August 2017.

At least 12 dual and foreign nationals and foreign permanent residents are being held in Iranian prisons. In November 2017, Reuters reported that at least 30 dual nationals had been arrested by the IRGC since the signing of the nuclear deal in July 2015. (Center of Human Rights in Iran – Feb. 7, 2018)

### **Iran: Three activists on hunger strike after violent prison transfer**

7 February 2018, 14:59 UTC

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2018/02/iran-three-activists-on-hunger-strike-after-violent-prison-transfer/>



The Iranian authorities must immediately and unconditionally release human rights activists Atena Daemi, Golrokh Ebrahimi Iraee and her husband Arash Sadeghi, Amnesty International said today, amid reports all three have begun a hunger strike to protest the unlawful transfer of

Atena Daemi and Golrokh Ebrahimi Iraee to the dangerous Shahr-e Rey prison in Varamin outside Tehran.

Shahr-e Rey prison (also known as Gharchak) is a disused chicken farm that holds several hundred women convicted of violent offences in overcrowded and unhygienic conditions, without access to safe drinkable water, decent food, medicine and fresh air.

Reports from the facility indicate high levels of assault towards inmates both by other inmates and prison staff, as well as rampant drug use and infectious diseases.

“The appalling conditions in Shahr-e Rey prison place Golrokh Ebrahimi Iraee and Atena Daemi – both wrongly imprisoned for their peaceful human rights activism – in serious danger of assault, violence and exposure to infectious disease in addition to overcrowding and poor sanitation.

We have grave concerns for their safety and well-being. No one should be imprisoned in such appalling conditions,” said Magdalena Mughrabi, Deputy Middle East and North Africa Director at Amnesty International.

The Iranian authorities have consistently failed to address the concerns about the inhumane treatment of women prisoners held at Shahr-e Rey prison.

Instead, they have often threatened outspoken women prisoners of conscience with transfer to Shahr-e Rey prison and have occasionally acted on these threats.

Golrokh Ebrahimi Iraee and Atena Daemi were transferred from Tehran’s Evin prison to Shahr-e Rey prison on 24 January. They said that male prison guards physically and verbally assaulted them including through sexual slurs, kicking and punching, after they protested that their transfer was illegal and violated Iran’s own regulations on the separation of different prisoners’ categories.

The women have been on hunger strike ever since. (Amnesty International)

### **Kurdistan teacher denied parole by IRGC**

<https://www.hra-news.org/2018/hranews/a-14145/>





A request by detained teacher Mokhtar Asadi for parole was denied. The political prisoner is a member of the Kurdistan Teachers Association and is serving his one year prison term in Evin Prison for spreading propaganda against the government. According to reports, the Revolutionary Guards Corps opposed his release from

prison.

Mokhtar Asadi was arrested last September after he went to the Tehran Revolutionary Court to follow up his bail order. The Kurd teacher was arrested before this in 2016 during a large protest gathering by Teacher Associations outside of the Majlis.

(Human Rights Activists in Iran – Feb. 8, 2018)

### Prison sentences

#### **Labor activist summoned to serve prison term**



<https://www.hra-news.org/2018/hranews/a-14107/>

Labor activist Osman Ismaili who was sentenced to two months of prison for taking part in a Labor Day ceremony was summoned and has 30 days before going to prison. He was arrested on April 28, 2015 by plainclothes agents.

(Human Rights Activists in Iran – Feb. 6, 2018)

#### **65 year old woman detained to serve prison term in Arak**

<https://www.hra-news.org/2018/hranews/a-14116/>



Maryam Kalangari, 65, was transferred to Arak Central Prison to serve her prison term on January 13. Mrs. Kalangari was sentenced to five months of prison in court. "The agents arrived at the house of Mrs. Kalangari in Arak and transferred her to the Central Prison in Arak, despite



her poor medical condition which is not fit for prison", an informed source said. Earlier on July 26, 2017, her brother Bijan Kalangari, 60, who also served a prison term during the 80's, and her two sons Mojtaba Fouladi, 40 (bachelor's degree in accounting) and Meghdad Fouladi, 35, (Bachelor's degree in management) were arrested by the

Arak Intelligence Agency and were each sentenced to 10 years of prison. The Kalangari family are survivors of the 1988 massacre of political prisoners. (Human Rights Activists in Iran – Feb. 6, 2018)

### **Protesters in Dorud sentenced to prison**

<https://www.hra-news.org/2018/hranews/a-14122/>

A court in the city of Dorud sentenced six protesters arrested during the January protests to one year of prison and 74 lashes on charges of “disrupting public order and peace”. The six people have also been accused of destroying public property, spreading propaganda against the regime and insulting officials and agents. At least two people were killed during protests on December 30 in Dorud, Lorestan, which lasted for several days. (Human Rights Activists in Iran - Feb. 7, 2018)

### **Two detained student protesters transferred to Orumieh Prison**

<https://www.hra-news.org/2018/hranews/a-14127/>

Student protesters Ibrahim Moradi and Matin Khaledi, who were detained during the December-January protests in Orumieh, were transferred to Orumieh Central Prison after the end of their interrogations. They are currently being kept in the Youth Section of the prison.

Ibrahim Moradi, who is a biology student, was arrested on December 31 by the Intelligence Department of the Revolutionary Guards Corps. He was transferred to prison after 16 days in a solitary cell in the RGC Intelligence Detention Center on January 16. Matin Khaledi was arrested on December 30 by the Intelligence Agency and after six days of interrogations and solitary confinement, he was transferred to Orumieh Prison on January 5.

(Human Rights Activists in Iran - Feb. 7, 2018)

### **Kurd political prisoners sentenced to hefty prison terms and flogging**

<http://www.kurdpa.net/farsi/idame/72381>

On Sunday, February 4, a Kurd citizen identified as Milad Delara, was sentenced to 15 months of prison by a court in Saez. The political prisoner was accused of participating in gatherings supporting the referendum on Kurdistan's independence in Iraq and disrupting public order. In addition, two Kurdish activists, Manarollah Weisi and Zamaneh Zivoie, who were accused of similar charges, were sentenced by

the Revolutionary Court of Saez to flogging and a fine but their case was left undetermined in the Sanandaj Court of Appeal. (Kurdpa - Feb. 7, 2018)

## Arbitrary arrests

### Social arrests

#### **Protests and Arrests in Iran**

<https://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2018/02/277865.htm>

Department Spokesperson

February 2, 2018



The United States supports the Iranian people who are protesting against women being forced to wear the hijab. We condemn the reported arrests of at least 29 individuals for exercising their human rights and fundamental freedoms by standing up against the compulsory hijab. The United States remains steadfast in our support for the rights to freedom of religion, freedom of expression, and peaceful assembly. People should be free to choose the clothes they wear, and practice their faith as they desire. Depriving individuals of this choice undermines their autonomy and dignity.

#### **156 school students arrested during protests**

<http://www.entekhab.ir/fa/news/391899>

Minister of Education Mohammad Bathaie said that 156 school students were detained (during the recent protests). “From this number, six people were interrogated for having a presence in the riots”, he added. “The children whose interrogations were prolonged, were sent to rehabilitation centers which is for children under 18 years of age. The students were kept there until their interrogations phase was completed”, Bathaie said. (Entekhab state-run Website - Feb. 4, 2018)

#### **No news on fate of 12 detained Kurds in Oshnavieh**

<http://www.kurdpa.net/farsi/idame/72345>

No information is available on the fate and whereabouts of 12 Kurd citizens detained in January by intelligence agents in Oshnavieh. The 12 men have been identified as Shafi Feghizadeh, Mohammad Amiri, Mohammad-Amin Fazli, Rozgar Amini, Mansour Ghaderzadeh, Mohammad Sureh, Younes Sharifi, Mohammad Farzad, Mohammad Mahmoudtash, Hamed Zarifeh, Fattah Ali-Kurd and Mamand Ali-Kurd. The detainees have been accused of cooperating with Kurd opposition parties. (Kurdpa - Feb. 3, 2018)

### **Detained Kermanshah student in prison quarantine because family can't afford bail**

<https://hengaw.net/fa/?p=5246>

Security forces stormed the home of student Omran Pirmoradi and arrested him on January 15. According to a reliable source, the student was taken to court on February 1 and a heavy bail order was set for his release. His family were not able to pay the requested amount due to poverty and Omran was transferred to the quarantine section of Dizel Abad Prison in Kermanshah. (Hengaw - Feb. 5, 2018)

### **Iran: Ardabil University Student Arrested For Peaceful Activism**



<http://iran-hrm.com/index.php/2018/02/06/iran-ardabil-university-student-arrested-peaceful-activism/>

Mohammadreza Shiralizadeh Student of Ardabil University was arrested on February 5 in Khalkhal, northwestern Iran. There is still no news available on his whereabouts. (Human Rights Monitor - Feb.6, 2018)

### **Iran: Young Human Rights Defender Arrested In Urmia**



<http://iran-hrm.com/index.php/2018/02/06/iran-young-human-rights-defender-arrested-urmia/>

Soheil Deirie a civil activist in northeastern city of Urmia, was arrested by security forces for no reason on Monday. There is still no information available on his whereabouts. (Human Rights Monitor - Feb.6, 2018)

### **Tehran University Student Arrested**



<http://iran-hrm.com/index.php/2018/02/06/iran-another-young-human-rights-defender-tehran-university-student-arrested/>

Zahra Rahimi, student of sociology at Tehran University, was arrested on February 5, 2018. Evin Prison officials



in Tehran recently claimed that only four of those arrested during the nationwide uprising in late December and early January remain in jail and there are no women among them. (Human Rights Monitor – Feb.6, 2018)

### **Young Human Rights Defender Arrested**

<http://iran-hrm.com/index.php/2018/02/06/iran-another-young-human-rights-defender-arrested/>



Vahid Langjanzadeh, student of sociology at Tehran University, was arrested on February 4, 2018, and transferred to an unknown location. Iranian regime has started to arrest of renowned human rights defenders since January 1st, 2018, as the latest episode in a long crackdown on any form of peaceful activism in the country. (Human Rights Monitor – Feb.6, 2018)

### **Student arrested by intelligence agents in Sanandaj**

<https://mafnews.de/?p=20665>



On Tuesday, February 6, 24 year old Mahiar Ahmadi was arrested by the Ministry of Intelligence in Sanandaj. According to reports, he is a computer science graduate from the University of Yazdanpanah. Mahiar informed his family of his arrest during a short telephone call from prison. There have been no reports on the charges brought against him. (Maf News - Feb. 7, 2018)

### **Lawyer and civil rights activist held in state of limbo in Arak Prison**

[https://zandaniran.blogspot.co.uk/2018/02/blog-post\\_5.html](https://zandaniran.blogspot.co.uk/2018/02/blog-post_5.html)



Attorney of law Mohammad Najafi, and civil rights activist Ali Bagheri, who were arrested for pursuing and revealing the death of detained protester Vahid Heidari, have been transferred to Arak Central Prison and have been banned from visits. According to reports, another protester, Behzad Ali Bakhshi, was also transferred to Section 8 in this prison. His family's efforts in trying to visit him have been in vain.



Mohammad Najafi and Ali Bagheri have been accused of being members of dissident groups, disturbing public opinion, publishing lies, participating in protests and talking to foreign media. Vahid Heidari, who was a 23-year-old street vendor was arrested during protests in Arak and was then murdered in prison. Agents said that he had committed suicide. (Zandaniran – Feb. 5, 2018)

### **Iran: at least six young human rights activists arrested in coordinated raids**



<https://www.amnesty.org.uk/press-releases/iran-least-six-young-human-rights-activists-arrested-coordinated-raids>

Responding to reports that at least six young human rights activists - including Shima Babaei and her husband Dariush Zand, Saeed Eghbali, Leila Farjami, Mahmoud Masoumi and Behnam Mousivand - were detained in coordinated arrests across Iran yesterday (1 February), Magdalena Mughrabi, Amnesty International's Middle East and North Africa Deputy Director, said:

"These human rights defenders must be released immediately and unconditionally - they have committed no crime and have been arrested purely because of their human rights work. "We are extremely concerned that these individuals are now at risk of torture or other ill-treatment."The coordinated nature of these arrests confirms our grave concerns about the grim reality for those defending human rights in Iran today, where peaceful activism is repressed and criminalised by the authorities.

"These people are prisoners of conscience, detained solely for peacefully defending human rights. (Amnesty International)

### **Girl protesting mandatory veil taken to notorious prison**

<https://www.radiozamaneh.com/380466>



Attorney of law, Nasrin Sotoudeh, who is representing Narges Hosseini, a woman who was arrested for taking off her veil in public in protest to the mandatory veil in Enghelab Street, said that the Culture and Guidance Court has brought heavy charges against her client. Thirty two year old Narges Hosseini, who is a graduate student in social sciences from Kashan, works in a government run company. She was transferred to Qarchak Prison in Varamin after a

135,000 dollar bail order was issued for her. She announced in court that she could not afford the bail.

The Culture and Guidance Court charged Narges with not complying with the religious hijab, carrying out a haram (forbidden) act and encouraging corruption. According to article 638 of the Islamic Penal Code, women who take their veil off can be sentenced to two months of prison or 74 lashes. According to article 639 of the Islamic Penal Code, encouraging corruption and immorality can carry a prison sentence of up to 10 years. (Radio Zamaneh - Feb. 6, 2018)

### **Chancellor of Tehran University confirms arrest of two of its students**

<https://www.isna.ir/news/96111911172>



Tehran University Chancellor Mahmoud Nili Ahmadabadi, confirmed the February 4 arrest of Vahid Lanjan Zadeh and Zahra Rahimi, two sociology students at this university.

"Several students detained in the past few days had not carried out any political activities in the university. We did not have any problems with these students and they had no problems with the university. Therefore, we do not know why they were arrested", he said.

"I told my colleagues at the university to closely follow up the issue of student detainees... Despite the fact that security authorities do not provide us with all the information", he added. (ISNA state-run News Agency - Feb. 8, 2018)

### **Iran: No Report On Detained Young Activist After Days**

<http://iran-hrm.com/index.php/2018/02/06/iran-no-report-detained-young-activist-days/>



There is no news available on civil activist Ghasem Heydari, 30, residing in Ahwaz, who was Kidnapped on February 1st, 2018. According to his friends, the state security forces placed a plastic hood over his head and violently whisked him to their car. There is no information available on his whereabouts. (IranHRM

Feb. 6, 2018)

### **Man arrested for protesting in Qazvin**

<http://qazvin.farsnews.com/news/13961119000507>

The Qazvin Public and Revolutionary Prosecutor said that one of the main leaders of the recent unrest in Qazvin was arrested during a complex technical operation

and coordination with the Judiciary thanks to the vigilance of security systems in the province. "The detained suspect filmed the actions (protests) and sent them to anti-revolutionary (groups)", Ismail Sadeghi Niaraki added. (Fars state-run News Agency - Feb. 8, 2018)

### **65 men and women arrested in Mashhad party**

<http://www.fartaknews.com/%D8%A8%D8%AE%D8%B4-%D8%AD%D9%88%D8%A7%D8%AF%D8%AB-8/74439-%D8%B2%D9%86-%D9%85%D8%B1%D8%AF-%D8%AF%D8%B1-%D9%BE%D8%A7%D8%B1%D8%AA%DB%8C-%D9%87%D8%A7%DB%8C-%D8%A2%D9%82%D8%A7%DB%8C-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%81-%D8%B4%D9%88%DA%A9%D9%87-%D8%B4%D8%AF%D9%86%D8%AF-%D9%87%D8%B1-%DA%A9%D8%B3%DB%8C-%D8%AF%D8%A7%D8%B3%D8%AA%D8%A7%D9%86%DB%8C-%D8%B9%D8%AC%DB%8C%D8%A8-%D8%AF%D8%A7%D8%B1%D8%AF>

An elderly man was arrested by law enforcement officers after launching a Telegram channel called "Culture Promotion", and organizing mixed gender night parties. He is a resident of Mashhad. With the presence of an investigative team in the suspect's home, dozens of women and men in various age groups were found with immoral appearances. After this was reported to the judiciary, the 27 men and 38 women were arrested. (Fartak News state-run Website - Feb. 6, 2018)

### **Basic freedom and rights abused**

#### **Editor in Chief of daily found guilty in court**



<https://www.tasnimnews.com/fa/news/1396/11/15/1647469>

The hearing for the cases of the Zir-o Bam Daily and Taroud Website was held at the 6th Branch of the Tehran Penal Court presided over by Judge Shaghaghi. Majid Akhshabi, the Editor in Chief of Zir-o Bam Daily was found guilty of the instrumental use of a woman's image. (Tasnim state-run News Agency - Feb. 4, 2018)

#### **Blind Afghan man to be thrown out of hospital for not paying bills**

<https://www.mehrnews.com/news/4218096>



A blind Afghan man who was admitted to Haftir Hospital in Shahre Rey for a hip fracture, is on the verge of being thrown out of the hospital for not being able to pay his bills. The 85 year old Afghan man fell down in the snow and broke his hip. The hospital was not able to provide the cost for his surgery which is about 7million tomans. (About 1900

dollars) (Mehr state-run News Agency - Feb. 3, 2018)

## 90% of Tehran wetlands dry out aggravating Tehran's pollution

<http://www.ilna.ir/%D8%A8%D8%AF%D8%B4%D8%A7%D8%AC%D8%AA%D9%85%D8%A7%D8%B9%D8%8C%D8%A7%D8%A9%D8%B5%D8%AF%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A7%D8%A8%D9%87%D8%A7%D8%8C%D8%A7%D8%B1%D8%A7%D9%81%D8%AA%D9%87%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%8C%D8%A7%D8%B4%D8%A9%D8%B4%D8%A7%D8%A7%D9%86%D8%AF%D8%AA%D8%B4%D8%AF%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AF%D8%8C%D9%87%D9%88%D8%A7%D8%A8%D8%AF%D9%84%D8%8C%D9%84%D8%AF%D8%B4%D8%A9%D8%8C%D8%AA%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A7%D8%A8%D9%87%D8%A7%D8%8C%D9%87%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%84%D9%87%D8%A7%D8%A8%D8%A7%D8%AF>



Masoud Bagherzadeh Karimi, Director of the Environment Organization's Wetland Ecosystems, said 90% of the Salahieh and Allahabad wetlands in southern Tehran had dried out. "The drying of these wetlands has become a source of dust for Tehran. This could be a major threat for Tehran and aggravate Tehran's pollution problem", he said.

"Unfortunately, more than 90 percent of the Salahieh and Allahabad wetlands in the west of Tehran and south of Qazvin are drying due to the drainage systems created by the Ministry of Jihad Agriculture several years ago and these wetlands are one of the main sources of dust in Tehran. (ILNA state-run News Agency – Feb. 3, 2018)

## Tehran pollution reaches dangerous levels

<https://www.mehrnews.com/news/4219821>



The Air Pollution Monitoring Center announced the air pollution index of the capital as 161 which is in the red zone (unhealthy condition for all groups).

"Tehran's qualitative air quality in the last 24 hours has reached a state of warning. The 153 index rose to 161 between 8am to 11pm", Mohammad Rastegari, the Monitoring and Supervision Deputy Director of

Tehran's Environmental Directorate, said. "Indexes above 150 are unhealthy for all groups", he added. (Mehr state-run News Agency - Feb. 5, 2018)

**Religious and ethnic minorities**



**Baha'i man still unable to open business after 10 years**

<https://www.hra-news.org/2018/hranews/a-14121/>

The business of a Baha'i citizen identified as Payam Wali was closed down more than 10 years ago by government institutions. Mr.

Wali's attempts at opening his business again in the appeals court, the Supreme Court, and other government agencies over the past 10 years has been futile and the business of this citizens who lives

in Nazar Abadi is still shut down. (Human Rights Activists in Iran - Feb. 7, 2018)

**Suppressive maneuvers****Security forces clash with dervishes in Tehran**

<https://www.radiozamaneh.com/380061>



On the morning of Sunday, February 4, security forces clashed with dervishes on Golestan Haftom Street in Tehran. The agents had a presence in the street near the residence of Nourali Tabandeh, a Neimatollahi Gonabadi Dervish cleric and wanted to set up a checkpoint in the area with the help of the police. The

Islamic Republic deems the Gonabadi Dervishes as a "deviated group" and has imposed limitations on them. In the past 30 years, a large number of dervishes have been sentenced to prison. (Radio Zamaneh - Feb. 4, 2018)

**Security forces arrest at least 34 striking Ahwaz sugarcane company workers**

[https://www.radiofarda.com/a/iran\\_hafttapeh\\_sugar\\_factory\\_workers\\_arresting\\_police/29017261.html](https://www.radiofarda.com/a/iran_hafttapeh_sugar_factory_workers_arresting_police/29017261.html)



The Syndicate of Workers of the Hafttapeh Sugarcane Company in Ahwaz announced on Sunday, February 4 that at least 34 of their workers were arrested by the



police in their ongoing strike. Ismail Bakhshi, Karamat Pam, Rahim Besak and Ramadan Alipour were among the detainees. According to reports, the four were interrogated. The report indicates that the detainees were transferred to the Hafttapeh Police Station. There is no news on the charges brought against them. (Radio Farda - Feb. 4, 2018)

### **Violence against women**

#### **Female journalists locked in room in Tabriz basketball match**

<http://www.varzesh3.com/news/1503373>

Yesterday, two female journalists who had gone to Tabriz to cover the final match of the basketball league, published a video saying that they were not allowed inside the Tavanay Hall in Tabriz (where the game was being played).

The journalists said that they were led to a room by Tabriz authorities and they realized that the door had been locked on them from the outside. (Varzesh 3 state-run Website - Feb. 7, 2018)