

At a Glance
Weekly report on Human Rights Violation in Iran
28 October 2018

International Condemnation of Violation of Human Rights in Iran

Iran: UN expert says human rights should be at the heart of the response to challenges faced

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=23768&LangID=E>



NEW YORK (24 October 2018) - Mounting challenges in Iran should be met by a constructive response which places international human rights law at its heart, said Javaid Rehman, the new Special Rapporteur on human rights in Iran.

While noting “potentially diverging views, including on the mandate itself”, the Special Rapporteur said he hoped to “build on the cordial cooperation” extended to him thus far through “constructive engagement” with Iran, and hoped to visit the country.

Presenting his first [report](#) to the General Assembly following his appointment in July, the Special Rapporteur welcomed the decision by Iran to amend its drug-trafficking law which led to a marked reduction in the number of those executed for drug offences.

The Special Rapporteur also expressed alarm that Zeinab Sekaanvand was executed on 1 October, noting that “she was the fifth juvenile offender executed this year” following a trial raising numerous due process concerns. He also recalled that there were numerous juvenile offenders currently on death row in Iran, including Mohammad Kalhori, Mehdi Khazaeian, Mohammad Haddadi, Pouria Tabaei, and Saleh Shariati. The Special Rapporteur appealed to the Iranian authorities to abolish the practice of sentencing children to death, and to commute all death sentences issued against children in line with international law.

“The challenges facing people in Iran these past months has been illustrated by numerous protests across the country,” the Special Rapporteur said. He said that the protests were fuelled by discontent relating to the enjoyment of economic and social rights and urged “the Government to both address the grievances underlying the protests, and also safeguard the right to freedom of association and assembly”. “In challenging times, the right to freedom of opinion, expression, and access to information are all the more important.” he added.

Explaining that he will seek to address economic and social rights in the course of his mandate, the Special Rapporteur said he also intended to assess the possible negative impact of sanctions on the enjoyment of such rights.

He further described a number of long-standing issues of concern which he will seek to address including with respect to the right to life and to a fair trial; the recent arrests and treatment of human rights defenders, other civil society actors, and lawyers; and the rights of women, foreign and dual nationals, and groups in vulnerable situations in Iran. The Special Rapporteur, in particular, expressed concern and alarm at the treatment of religious and ethnic minorities.

ENDS

Javaid Rehman is a Professor of International Human Rights Law and Muslim Constitutionalism at Brunel University, London. Mr Rehman teaches human rights law and

Islamic law and continues to publish extensively in the subjects of international human rights law, Islamic law and constitutional practices of Muslim majority States. Several of his published works have been translated into various languages. As a human rights lawyer, Mr Rehman has also provided legal opinions in various high-profile cases in a number of jurisdictions. On 6 July 2018, Mr. Rehman was appointed as the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran. He commenced his duties officially on 13 July 2018 and will present his first report to the seventy-third session of the General Assembly.

The Special Rapporteurs are part of what is known as the [Special Procedures](#) of the Human Rights Council. Special Procedures, the largest body of independent experts in the UN Human Rights system, is the general name of the Council's independent fact-finding and monitoring mechanisms that address either specific country situations or thematic issues in all parts of the world. Special Procedures experts work on a voluntary basis; they are not UN staff and do not receive a salary for their work. They are independent from any government or organization and serve in their individual capacity.

UN Human Rights, Country Page: [Iran](#)

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This year is the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the UN on 10 December 1948. The Universal Declaration – translated into a world record 500 languages – is rooted in the principle that “all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.” It remains relevant to everyone, every day. In honour of the 70th anniversary of this extraordinarily influential document, and to prevent its vital principles from being eroded, we are urging people everywhere to Stand Up for Human Rights: www.standup4humanrights.org

Execution

Zahedan Prisoner Hanged to Death

Posted on: 21st October, 2018

<https://www.en-hrana.org/zahedan-prisoner-hanged-to-death>



Human Rights Activists News Agency (HRANA) – Thirty-one-year-old Mehdi Mirshekar from Zabol, eastern Iran was executed on the morning of Saturday, October 20, 2018.

A prisoner of Zahedan's Ward 7, Mirshekar had been in prison for six years on a rape charge. Per protocol for prisoners whose execution is imminent, he was reportedly transferred to solitary confinement on the evening of Monday, October 15th.

By carrying out this hanging in silence, authorities — particularly the Judiciary — demonstrate a continued pattern of obfuscation on the topic of prisoner sentencing and executions, in spite of their responsibilities of informing the public.

According to [Amnesty International's annual report](#), Iran ranks first in the world in executions per capita. On the World Day against the Death Penalty (October 10th), the Center of Statistics at Human Rights Activists in Iran (HRAI) published its [annual report](#), indicating that at least 256 citizens were executed in Iran between October 10, 2017, and October 9, 2018, 15 of which were public hangings. Sixty-eight percent of executions, referred to as “secret executions,” are not announced by the state or Judiciary.

Iran Executions: Prisoner Hanged at Sirjan Prison

<https://iranhr.net/en/articles/3535/>

The Iranian media outlets have not published news related to the aforementioned execution so far.



Iran Human Rights; October 22, 2018: A prisoner was executed on a murder charge at Sirjan Central Prison last Thursday. Sirjan is a city and the capital of Sirjan County in the Iranian province of Kerman.

According to HRANA, on the morning of October 18, 2018, a prisoner was hanged at Sirjan Prison. He is identified as Hassan Nosratabadi, 37. Hassan killed

a person while trying to rob a home two years ago. He was sentenced to qisas (retribution in kind) and the execution was carried out at Sirjan prison.

The Iranian media outlets have not published news related to the aforementioned execution so far.

According to Iran Human Rights annual report on the death penalty, 240 of the 517 execution sentences in 2017 were implemented due to murder charges. There is a lack of a classification of murder by degree in Iran which results in issuing a death sentence for any kind of murder regardless of intensity and intent.

Ardabil Prisoner Hanged to Death

Posted on: 24th October, 2018

<https://www.en-hrana.org/ardabil-prisoner-hanged-to-death>



Human Rights Activist News Agency (HRANA) – Twenty-seven-year-old Meysam Saber, a prisoner in the Health Ward of Ardabil Prison, was executed in the early morning hours of Sunday, October 21, 2018.

Saber had been detained on murder charges since 2013. He was reportedly transferred to solitary confinement on the eve of his execution.

Saber was the subject of a HRANA report on prisoner abuse last year when he was [chained to the bars of the Quarantine](#)

[Ward for 24 straight hours](#) for complaining about mistreatment by prison guards.

By carrying out Saber's hanging in silence, authorities — particularly the Judiciary — demonstrate a continued pattern of obfuscation on the topic of prisoner sentencing and executions, in spite of their responsibilities of informing the public.

According to [Amnesty International's annual report](#), Iran ranks first in the world in executions per capita. On the World Day against the Death Penalty (October 10th), the Center of Statistics at Human Rights Activists in Iran (HRAI) published its [annual report](#), indicating that at least 256 citizens were executed in Iran between October 10, 2017, and October 9, 2018, 15 of which were public hangings. Sixty-eight percent of executions, referred to as “secret executions,” are not announced by the state or Judiciary.

Prisoner Executed in Sirjan

Posted on: 25th October, 2018

<https://www.en-hrana.org/prisoner-executed-in-sirjan>



Human Rights Activists News Agency (HRANA)- At dawn on Thursday, October 18th, Hossein Nosrat Abadi, 37, was hanged to death in Sirjan Prison.

Convicted of committing murder during a 2016 home burglary, Abadi was unable to obtain a death row pardon from the family of the victim.

By hanging Abadi in silence, authorities — particularly the judiciary — demonstrate a continued pattern of obfuscation on the topic of executions, in spite of their duties to inform the public.

The research of international human rights organizations indicates that Iran has the world's highest rate of executions per capita. HRANA published its annual [death penalty report](#) on October 10th, the World Day against the Death Penalty.

Sirjan is located 600 miles southeast of Tehran.

Arbitrary Murders

Lawyer Vows to Seek Justice After Prominent Iranian Activist's Corpse Found Burned in Car

October 25, 2018

<https://www.iranhumanrights.org/2018/10/lawyer-vows-to-seek-justice-after-prominent-iranian-activists-corpse-found-burned-in-car/>



The corpse of Iranian activist Farshid Hakki was found burned in the trunk of his car near his home in Tehran on October 17, 2018.

The lawyer representing the family of a prominent activist and environmentalist whose burned corpse was found in the trunk of his car has vowed to seek justice for the victim and refuted the unsubstantiated claims that the activist suffered

from depression.

“The murder of Dr. Farshid Hakki is suspicious and the judiciary and police should investigate and arrest and prosecute the perpetrators,” Mohammad Moghimi told the Center for Human Rights in Iran (CHRI) on October 23, 2018.

“The perpetrators could be caught and face justice based on important evidence and leads,” he added. “I will take a stand until death and do everything I can to pursue this national tragedy in accordance with my professional pledge.”

“No Signs of Depression”

After news of the activist’s suspicious death became public, a news outlet affiliated with Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), the Tasnim News Agency, claimed that Hakki suffered from depression and that he had committed suicide.

But Moghimi told CHRI that his family had not witnessed any signs of depression, adding that a medical examiner has not issued a final autopsy report.

“He was a strong, intelligent scholar with graduate degrees in human rights and economics and a PhD in public law. He helped solve people’s problems,” Moghimi said. “If anyone was depressed or had a problem, he would help them.”

“According to his family, he had no signs of depression,” he added.

“Suspicious” Death

Moghimi explained to CHRI why he considers Hakki’s death “suspicious.”

The lawyer said Hakki left his home in the Bagh-e Faiz neighborhood of Tehran on October 17, 2018, at 11 in the morning, never to return again.

“Around 7 in the evening, the police contacted his family and when they went to the station, they realized that his car had caught fire and burned [near his home] and a body attributed to him was found in the trunk,” Moghimi said.

“The investigations have not been completed but a bank clerk near the burned car said it was set on fire by the occupant of a white Peugeot Persia and then they escaped,” he added.

“The bank cleric was able to memorize the license number,” he said.

To date, Iran’s state medical examiner has not submitted a final autopsy report to the judiciary but Tehran’s police chief told reporters on October 23 that Hakki had “set himself on fire,” [according to](#) the IRGC-affiliated Tasnim News Agency.

“The medical examiner’s report explicitly states that the individual set himself on fire,” Tehran Police Chief Gen. Hossein Rahimi [told](#) reporters in Tehran on October 23.

Rahimi also warned that anyone who suggests Hakki was murdered would be prosecuted for “disturbing public opinion.”

The day before Rahimi’s comments, the [medical examiner’s office](#) issued a [statement](#) insisting it had not issued a final opinion on the cause of Hakki’s death.

“Following a news report about the medical examiner’s opinion regarding the charred body of a man inside a burned vehicle attributed to a person named Farshid Hakki, the Legal Medicine Organization informs the public that it has not issued any opinion on this case.”

Moghimi told CHRI that “hasty and contradictory comments” by officials on the cause of Hakki’s death had fueled [rumors](#) on Iranian social media that he was the victim of a political assassination.

“Anything is possible,” Moghimi said. “The killing may have been because of a personal dispute but when officials make hasty and contradictory comments, others may conclude it’s because they want to cover up an obvious political murder.”

An October 24 post on a [Telegram app channel](#) founded by Hakki, quoting the Radio Zamaneh website, [describes](#) him as “a civic activist, environmentalist, defender of street children, supporter of citizens’ rights and university professor.”

Radio Zamaneh's biography also noted that Hakki did not publicize his activist efforts and avoided talking to foreign media outlets, adding that he "didn't want to do anything to upset the establishment because he was always being watched."

Arbitrary Arrests

Abducted by the authorities, teacher activist taken to Psychiatry Hospital

By [Iran HRM](#) Last updated Oct 25, 2018

<https://iran-hrm.com/index.php/2018/10/24/abducted-by-the-authorities-teacher-activist-taken-to-psychiatry-hospital/>



Hashem Khastar, a teachers' union leader who was abducted yesterday by members of the Ministry of Intelligence has been kept in custody while hospitalized at the Ibn-Sina Psychiatric Hospital in Mashhad, northeast Iran, according to his wife, Sedigheh Maleki.

"One of the nurses told me that Mr Khastar was admitted to one of the emergency rooms in the hospital and has been banned from any visits on the order of security officials," Maleki said. She emphasizes her husband was not ill and his transfer to this hospital is very suspicious.

"He was completely healthy and after retiring spent many of his days farming. The only medication he consumed were blood pressure pills. Khastar being hospitalized in an emergency section of a special facility for psychiatric patients means [authorities] injected a special type of medication with the intention of killing him, or he had been severely injured under torture or during his arrest," Mrs. Maleki added.

Seyed Hashem Khastar, had gone missing since Tuesday. His vehicle was found on Tuesday outside the city of Mashhad, northeast Iran, near an orchard. His mobile phone was turned off.

Iranian authorities have ramped up their crackdown on education activists after two-days nationwide teachers' strike.

Two teachers remained behind bars while an unknown number of teachers were summoned to Intelligence Ministry's offices in Tehran, Qazvin, Bojnourd, Saqqez, Marivan, Kermanshah and Aligoudarz, and have been ordered to appear on October 20 in court.

During the past few weeks, Khastar had made public calls for widespread measures aimed at having jailed teachers released.

In a letter he had thanked the striking teachers and had strongly criticized the Iranian regime.

"We don't have guns. Our guns are our pens and our words and our gatherings and sit ins. The guns are in the hands of those who protect lawless, tyrant, cruel rulers instead of defending the rule of law. They defend those who steal millions and yet arrest petty thieves and cut off their hands and legs," he wrote bravely.

Hashem Khastar is an agricultural engineer, former head of the Mashad Teachers' Union, and a former teacher at the Agriculture Technical High School.

Khastar had time and again been harassed by operatives linked to the Iranian regime for defending the rights of Iran's teachers. On numerous occasions, he was arrested by intelligence agents and placed behind bars.

He was arrested on 16 September 2009 while walking in a park and was taken to Vakilabad Prison. Khastar was sentenced to six years in prison. An appeals court later reduced his sentence to two years. Eventually, he was released on September 10, 2011.

Khuzestan Arrest Campaign: 133 Victims Identified, Public Demands Transparency

Posted on: 26th October, 2018

<https://www.en-hrana.org/khuzestan-arrest-campaign-133-victims-identified-public-demands-transparency>



Human Rights Activists News Agency (HRANA) – HRANA has confirmed the names of 133 Ahwazi Arabs swept up in an arrest campaign, a purported search for accomplices of an armed attack on a September 22nd military parade that left 24 dead and 57 wounded.

Held in the southwestern border city of Ahvaz in observance of the Iran-Iraq war, the parade was tragically interrupted by the gunfire of four assailants who were promptly killed by authorities. Having since attributed the tragedy to ISIS, the Iranian authorities

recently launched a retaliatory missile attack on an ISIS base in Iraq. Security forces, seemingly in a continued state of urgency, have continued to sequester citizens across the Khuzestan province on grounds they have yet to disclose.

With no available information on how these would-be suspects could be linked to the armed attack or to ISIS, locals wonder if arrestees are being targeted for other reasons entirely. That detained hail mostly from the cities of Ahvaz, Khorramshahr, Susangerd, and Abadan; many have had prior run-ins with authorities, several on account of their civic activism; and almost all are Ahwazi Arabs, one of Iran's ethnic minorities.

In response to allegations that they may be using the parade attack as a pretext for purging the region of civic activism, Iranian authorities seemed to hedge.

“There are no civil or children's rights activists among those arrested,” said Khuzestan provincial governor Gholamreza Shariati on October 22nd, without making mention of arrest numbers. “We are making concerted efforts to avoid trouble for civil and political activists, and they have not been a subject of discussion. One woman is among those detained, but we have not detained any children.”

Local activists, meanwhile, feel that their comrades have inexplicably come under a scrutiny bordering on persecution. Human rights activist Karim Dahimi cited his colleague, Susangerd civil rights activist Lamiya Hamadi, as an example: “She is not, in fact, a religious activist,” Dahimi said. “Gholamreza Shariati admitting her arrest only corroborates the fact that civil rights activists are among those detained.”

Dahimi also scoffed at the governor's claim that only one woman had thus far been detained, countering with examples of women who were carted off shortly after their family members: Faez Afrawi, who was detained shortly after her son, is now being held in an undisclosed location, and the wife, sister, and mother of detainee Adnan Mazraia, who are also being held incommunicado.

Regarding Shariati's claims that no children had been arrested, Dahimi said, "it ought to be noted that the entire families of the four attackers were detained on the day of the attack, including their children."

Save for a few insinuations that some detainees have been transferred to Tehran, arrestees' inquiring family members have been suffering in radio silence from authorities. "No one has been released since the attacks began in Khuzestan," said Dahimi. "What's more, we don't know where they're being kept, or what kind of condition they're being kept in."

Not long after the attack, Iran's Ministry of Intelligence announced it had taken 22 suspects into custody, broadcasting footage of blindfolded, unidentified detainees facing a wall. Now local sources estimate the number of those arrested has climbed well into the hundreds.

While arrest numbers rise and authorities play tactics close to the vest, public fears return to the possibility that security forces will coerce past offenders to "confess" to a role in the attack. In response to mounting public concern over scapegoating and discrimination, the Defenders of Human Rights Center, headed by Nobel Peace Prize laureate Shirin Ebadi, issued the following statement on October 21st:

"[...]Although state organizations have yet to give a report on the number of detainees or the process of detention, according to the families of detainees, over 500 were arrested between September 23 and October 22 and are held in undisclosed locations. The detainees are deprived of the most basic legal rights, including the right to legal representation or the right to family visitation.

The Defenders of Human Rights Center condemns the recent arrests and any illegal action taken by the security officials and the IRGC. The Center announces that such blind arrests and security measures only result in further unrest and certainly cannot shut down the voice of the protestors. The only path to achieving peace inside Iran is through being responsive to citizens and delivering on delayed promises, as well as through combating administrative corruption, existing "red lines," and releasing all prisoners of conscience and political prisoners."

Listed below are the identities of the 133 arrestees thus far confirmed by HRANA:

1. Khaled Abidawi, of the Shekareh Kut-e Abdollah neighborhood
2. Abu Shalan Saki, of Hoveyzeh
3. Ahmad Bawi, of the Zahiriyeh neighborhood of Ahvaz
4. Ahmad Timas, of the Shekareh neighborhood of Ahvaz
5. Ahmad Hazbawi, of the Kut-e Abdollah neighborhood
6. Ahmad Hamari, 29, holder of a bachelor's degree, married, of the Mandali neighborhood of Ahvaz
7. Ahmad Haidari, of the Mollashieh neighborhood of Ahvaz
8. Ahmad Sawidi, of the Hujjiyeh village of Susangerd
9. Ahmad Krushat, son of Kazim, of Ahvaz
10. Osama Timas, 26, of the Shekareh neighborhood of Ahvaz
11. Omid Bachari, of the Muwilhah neighborhood of Ahvaz
12. Amir Afrawi, son of Fazel, of Albuafri village of Susangerd
13. Jader Afrawi, of the Mollashieh neighborhood of Ahvaz
14. Jasim Krushat, 45, of the Alawi neighborhood of Ahvaz
15. Jafar Hazbawi, of the Kut Abdullah neighborhood of Ahvaz

16. Jafar Abidawi, of the Goldasht neighborhood of Ahvaz
17. Jamil Ahmadpour (al-Ha'i), of the Aziziyah neighborhood of Ahvaz
18. Jamil Haydari, 33, of the Northern Kamplou neighborhood of the Lashkar district of Ahvaz
19. Jamil Sylawi, of the Mollashieh neighborhood of Ahvaz
20. Jawad Badawi, 26, of the Mollashieh neighborhood of Ahvaz
21. Jawad Hashemi, of the Mollashieh neighborhood of Ahvaz
22. Hatam Sawari, of the Alawi neighborhood of Ahvaz
23. Hassan Harbawi, of Susangerd
24. Hussein Haidari, of the Alawi neighborhood of Ahvaz
25. Hamdan Afrawi, son of Abbas, of the Albuafri village of Susangerd
26. Khazal Abbas al-Tamimi (Fazeli), 30, of the Shayban village of Ahvaz
27. Khalil Saylawi, of the Mollashieh neighborhood of Ahvaz
28. Daniyal Adel Amjad, 43, married, of the Mash'ali neighborhood of Ahvaz
29. Ramin Bechari, of the Muwilhah neighborhood of Ahvaz
30. Riyaz Zahiri, of the Mollashieh neighborhood of Ahvaz
31. Riyaz Shamusu, of the Mollashieh neighborhood of Ahvaz
32. Zamil Haydari, of the Alawi neighborhood of Ahvaz
33. Sattar Kuti, of Hamidieh
34. Samir Silawi, of the Mollashieh neighborhood of Ahvaz
35. Sohrab Moqadam, of the Darvishiyya Kut Abdullah neighborhood of Ahvaz
36. Seyed Jasim Rahmani (Musawi), 33, married with three children, of the Alawi neighborhood of Ahvaz
37. Seyed Jalil Musawi, of the Mollashieh neighborhood of Ahvaz
38. Seyed Hamud Rahmani (Musawi), of the Alawi neighborhood of Ahvaz
39. Seyed Sadeq Musawi, of the Mollashieh neighborhood of Ahvaz
40. Seyed Qasim Musawi, of Ahvaz
41. Shaker Sawari, of Ahvaz
42. Shani Shamusu, of the Mollashieh neighborhood of Ahvaz
43. Sadeq Silawai, of the Mollashieh neighborhood of Ahvaz
44. Adil Zahiri, of the Mollashieh neighborhood of Ahvaz
45. Adil Afrawi, of Hamidiyeh
46. Aref Ghazlawi, son of Hanun, of Ahvaz
47. Aref Mughaynemi, 27, of the Hujjiyah village of Susangerd
48. Aref Naseri, 30, son of Aydan, of Kut Abdullah, Majd Kuy, neighborhood of Ahvaz
49. Abbas Badawi, of the Mollashieh neighborhood of Ahvaz
50. Abbas Haydari, of the Shekareh district of Kut Abdullah
51. Abbas Saki, son of Abdali Sharhan, of Howeyzeh

52. Abbas Mughaynemi, 26, married, of the Hujjiyah village of Susangerd
53. Abdulrahman Khasarji, 32, married, of the Kut Seyed Na'im neighborhood of Ahvaz
54. Abdullah Siylawi, of the Mollashieh neighborhood of Ahvaz
55. Adnan Sawari, of the Alawi neighborhood of Ahvaz
56. Abdulrahman Haidari, 19, son of Qasim, of the Mollashieh neighborhood of Ahvaz
57. Aziz Hamidawi, of the Muwailha neighborhood of Ahvaz
58. Aqil Shamus, of the Mollashieh neighborhood of Ahvaz
59. Alireza Daris, of the Mollashieh neighborhood of Ahvaz
60. Ali Saki, son of Amruh, of Howeyzeh
61. Ali Sawiydi, of the Hujjiyah village of Susangerd
62. Ali Shajirat (Abu Faruq), of the Muwailha neighborhood of Ahvaz
63. Ali Afrawi, son of Hamd, of the Albuafri village of Susangerd
64. Ali Mansouri, of the Hamidiyah
65. Ali Abaji, of the Mollashieh neighborhood of Ahvaz
66. Ali Alhay (Hiyawi), of Ahvaz
67. Ali Haydari, son of Shayi', of the Mollashieh neighborhood of Ahvaz
68. Ali Sawari, 23, son of Chasib, of the Aziziyah neighborhood of Ahvaz
69. Ali Sawari, son of Ghazi, of the Alawi neighborhood of Ahvaz
70. Ali Kuti, of Hamidiyeh
71. Ali Mazbani, Nasr (Sawari), of the Alawi neighborhood of Ahvaz
72. Ali Mazraie, of the Mollashieh neighborhood of Ahvaz
73. Issa Badawi, of the Mollashieh neighborhood of Ahvaz
74. Fars Shamus, of the Mollashieh neighborhood of Ahvaz
75. Fazel, Shamus, of Ahvaz
76. Sadiq Haydari, son of Jasim, 28, of the Mollashieh neighborhood of Ahvaz
77. Farhan Shamus, of the Mollashieh neighborhood of Ahvaz
78. Fahd Niysi, resident of Ahvaz
79. Qasim Ka'bawi (Ka'abi), 24, of Hamidiyeh
80. Karim Majdam Abu Mu'taz, of the Kut Abdullah neighborhood of Ahvaz
81. Kazim Ghazlawi, son of Hanun, of Ahvaz
82. Lami Shamus, of Hamidiyeh
83. Lamiya Hamadi, of Susangerd
84. Majed Childawi, son of Sa'dun, of the Alawi neighborhood of Ahvaz
85. Majed Haydari, 25, of the Northern Kamplou neighborhood of the Lashkar district of Ahvaz
86. Majed Sawari, of the Alawi neighborhood of Ahvaz
87. Maher Mas'udi, of the Mollashieh neighborhood of Ahvaz
88. Mohsen Badawi, of the Mollashieh neighborhood of Ahvaz

89. Mahdi Sa'edi, of the Hamidiyeh neighborhood of Ahvaz
90. Mohammad Sawari, son of Sabah, of the Alawi neighborhood of Ahvaz
91. Mohammad Amuri, 26, of Ahvaz
92. Mohammad Mohammadi (Ahyat), 22, of Hamidiyeh
93. Mohammad Mas'udi, of the Mollashieh neighborhood of Ahvaz
94. Mohammad Mo'men Timas, 55, of the Shekareh neighborhood of Ahvaz
95. Mahmud Duraqi, of the Muwailha neighborhood of Ahvaz
96. Mukhtar Mas'udi, of the Mollashieh neighborhood of Ahvaz
97. Murteza Bayt Shaykh Mohammad, son of Naser, 24, of the Hujjiyah village of Susangerd
98. Murteza Mughaynemi, 22, of the Hujjiyah village of Susangerd
99. Murteza Yassin, of Darvishiyya Kut Abdullah
100. Mostafa Sawari, son of Sahi, of Shekareh Kut Abdullah
101. Mahdi Kuti, of Hamidiyeh
102. Mahdi Mazraie, of the Abu Hamiza neighborhood of Susangerd
103. Musa Mazraie, of the Abu Hamiza neighborhood of Susangerd
104. Milad Afrawi, of the Mollashieh neighborhood of Ahvaz
105. Naiem Haydari, 24, of Ahvaz
106. Nur Naysi, resident of Alawi neighborhood of Ahvaz
107. Hadi Abidawi, of the Mollashieh neighborhood of Ahvaz
108. Wali Amiri, of Kut Abdullah
109. Yusef Khosraji, of the Mollashieh neighborhood of Ahvaz
110. Ahmad Amin (Qays) Ghazi, writer, researcher and cultural activist, of the Mellat neighborhood of Ahvaz
111. Khalid Siylawi, of the Mollashieh neighborhood of Ahvaz
112. Sajjad Siylawi, of Ahvaz
113. Seyed Sadiq Nazari (Abu Nabil), of the Al-i Safi neighborhood of Ahvaz]
114. Ali Sawari, son of Sahi, of Kut Abdullah
115. Fa'iz Afrawi, 30, married with one child, of the Albuafri village of Susangerd
116. Zudiya Afrawi, 55, mother of Fa'iz Afrawi, of the Albuafri village of Susangerd
117. Mohammad Ami Afrawi, married, of the Albuafri village of Susangerd
118. Qaysiyya Afrawi, mother of Mohammad Amin Afrawi, 60, of the Albuafri village of Susangerd
119. Adnan Mazraie, of Susangerd
120. Wife of Adnan Mazra'i, of Susangerd
121. Sister of Adnan Mazra'i, of Susangerd
122. Mother of Adnan Mazra'i, of Susangerd
123. Jalal Nabhani, of the Ameri neighborhood of Ahvaz

- 124.Khalid Hazbawi, 40, of the Kut Abdullah, Majd Kuy, neighborhood of Ahvaz
- 125.Mohammad Hazbawi, son of Abdulkarim, 30, of the Kut Abdullah, Majd Kuy, neighborhood of Ahvaz
- 126.Reza Bitrani, 34, of the Kut Abdullah, Majd Kuy, neighborhood of Ahvaz
- 127.Tariq Amiri, 24, of Kut Abdullah
- 128.Jamal Mujdam, 35, of Kut Abdullah
- 129.Hussein Subhani, 28 of the Khashayar neighborhood of Ahvaz
- 130.Rashid Krushat, son of Haj Musa, of Ahvaz
- 131.Hakim Krushat, son of Mannan, of Ahvaz
- 132.Ali Mughaynimi, son of Saddam, of Susangerd
- 133.Jawad Mahnapour (Afrawi), of the Albuafri village of Susangerd

Arrest Surge Continues in Khuzestan Province

Posted on: 27th October, 2018

<https://www.en-hrana.org/arrest-surge-continues-in-khuzestan-province>



Human Rights Activists News Agency (HRANA)-

In the past few days, a number of Ahwazi Arab citizens in the cities of Ahvaz, Susangerd, Shushtar, and Shadegan were arrested by security forces and transferred to undisclosed locations.

They are presumed to have been swept up in an ongoing arrest campaign initiated by authorities after the September 22nd shooting on a military parade in Ahvaz. [HRANA previously published a list of 133 detainees](#) in its recent update on this arrest sweep through Khuzestan province.

The most recent arrestees were identified as follows:

1. Anvar Ashouri, age 26, resident of Beyt-e Ashur village in Shadegan County.
2. Hussein Hamoudi (Sobhani), age 25, arrested by the intelligence office of Ahvaz on October 22nd.
3. Yahya Baravieh, arrested in Ahvaz on October 23rd.
4. Naji Salimi (Ka'abi), resident of Beyt-e Mahmood village of Shush County.
5. Yahya Salimi (Ka'abi), resident of Beyt-e Mahmood village in Shush Province.
6. Azim Shaverdi, resident of Shadegan County.
7. Ibrahim Shaverdi, age 31, resident of Shadegan County.
8. Khaled Albou Khanfar, resident of Shadegan County.
9. Ahmad Shaverdi, age 24, resident of Shadegan County.
10. Mahdi Shaverdi, age 17, resident of Shadegan County.
11. Adnan Khanafere, resident of Shadegan County.
12. Moslem Farajollah, resident of Shushtar city, married father of one, arrested on October 24th.
13. Mohammad Reza Jalali, age 26, resident of Kuye Abouzar in Susangerd County.
14. Rahim Aminpour (Heydari), resident of Goldasht in Ahvaz, arrested on October 24th.
15. Muhammad Saydavi, age 26, resident of Susangerd County, arrested on October 25th.

16. Mostafa Jalali, age 29, resident of Susangerd County, mechanic and married father of one, arrested on October 25th.

17. Mahdi Abidavi, age 25, resident of Susangerd County, arrested on October 25th.

As of the date of this report, no further information is available on these arrestees' locations or the charges against them.

Prisoners of Conscience

Iran: Critically ill prisoner of conscience coerced to end hunger strike

24 October 2018, 00:01 UTC

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2018/10/iran-critically-ill-prisoner-of-conscience-coerced-to-end-hunger-strike/>



The Iranian authorities must immediately and unconditionally release Farhad Meysami, a human rights defender campaigning for women's rights, who is being held in the medical clinic at Evin prison in Tehran against his will to pressure him into ending his hunger strike, said Amnesty International.



Farhad Meysami, a medical doctor, was detained in July for supporting a campaign against Iran's laws imposing forced *hijab* (veiling) on women and girls. He has been on hunger strike since 1 August and his health has deteriorated drastically. On 26 September, he was forcibly transferred from section 4 of Evin prison to the medical clinic, where he is being held in isolation, and has been administered intravenous fluids against his will. Sources told Amnesty International he is being held there until he agrees to end his hunger strike.

"Farhad Meysami's only 'crime' is speaking out against Iran's degrading and discriminatory practice of forced *hijab* and defending women's rights to choose their own clothing. He is a prisoner of conscience and it is utterly outrageous that he is being detained at all," said Philip Luther, Amnesty International's Research and Advocacy Director for the Middle East and North Africa.

"Instead of holding him in isolation in a medical clinic as punishment and to coerce him to end his hunger strike, the authorities should stop playing sinister games with his health and release him immediately and unconditionally."

Since Farhad Meysami began his hunger strike, he has lost approximately 18kg in weight and is reported to be very frail. By pressuring him to end his hunger strike, the Iranian authorities are violating his right to freedom of expression. All prisoners have a right to adequate medical care that complies with medical ethics, including the right to give their informed consent for any treatment.

Farhad Meysami began his hunger strike in protest at his unlawful detention. He was arrested at his home in Tehran on 31 July. Security forces found badges that read "I am against forced *hijab*" in his possession. He was charged with "spreading propaganda against the system" and "gathering and colluding to commit crimes against national security". He was also charged with "insulting Islamic sanctities" because, according to the authorities, he "insulted" the *hijab*.

As part of his ongoing hunger strike he is now also calling for the unconditional release of human rights defenders [Nasrin Sotoudeh](#) and [Reza Khandan](#), who were arrested in June 2018 and September 2018, respectively, for their human rights work. Nasrin Sotoudeh, a human rights lawyer, was detained in connection with her work defending women who have been prosecuted for peacefully protesting against forced *hijab*. Reza Khandan is detained for his support of the campaign against forced *hijab* and for peacefully campaigning on behalf of his wife Nasrin Sotoudeh after her arrest.

“Farhad Meysami is in an extremely vulnerable state and is being cruelly exploited by prison authorities. If the Iranian authorities are truly concerned for his health, they would put an end to his ordeal by releasing him and dropping the baseless charges against him,” said Philip Luther.

Throughout this year, women across Iran have courageously campaigned against forced *hijab* by taking off their headscarves in public. Their campaign [has been met with violence by the authorities](#) and dozens of women have been beaten, arrested, detained and prosecuted for their peaceful protests. Men, too, have joined in this peaceful protest against forced *hijab*.

“The arbitrary arrests, detentions, and prosecutions of women and men peacefully campaigning against the degrading and discriminatory practice of forced *hijab* is a flagrant assault on the right to freedom of expression and must end. Rather than jailing those standing up against this abusive practice, the Iranian authorities must repeal the very laws imposing it,” said Philip Luther.

Police and paramilitary forces routinely harass and detain women for showing strands of hair under their headscarves or for wearing heavy make-up or tight clothing. Amnesty International has [repeatedly called](#) on the Iranian authorities to end the persecution of women who speak out against forced *hijab*, and to abolish this abusive practice.

This practice has violated women’s rights in Iran for decades, including their rights to non-discrimination, freedom of belief and religion, freedom of expression, and protection from arbitrary arrests and detention, torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Iran Charges Environmentalists With National Security Crimes

October 23, 2018

<https://www.iranhumanrights.org/2018/10/iran-charges-environmentalists-with-national-security-crimes/>



Prosecutions Lacking Due Process Aimed at Deflecting Attention from Death of One of the Detainees

October 23, 2018 – Nine months after a group of environmentalists were imprisoned in Iran without any evidence of wrongdoing and denied due process—and after the death of one of them in state custody—five of them have been charged with a serious national security crime.

“Instead of investigating the death in state custody of [Kavous Seyed-Emami](#), Iranian authorities have spent the past eight months cooking up cases against his colleagues,” said Hadi Ghaemi, executive director of the Center for Human Rights in Iran (CHRI).

“The Iranian judiciary should correct these egregious abuses of detainee and due process rights and allow an impartial and independent investigation into the unexplained death of Dr. Seyed-Emami,” he added.

Attorney Mohammad Hossein Aghasi, who has been officially allowed to represent one of the detainees, [Sam Rajabi](#), and is trying to get permission to represent Taher Ghadirian, told CHRI on October 22, 2018, that five of the eight detainees have been charged with “corruption on earth.”

The detainees charged with “corruption on earth” are Houman Jowkar, Taher Ghadirian, Morad Tahbaz, Sepideh Kashani and Niloufar Bayani.

Three others—Amir Hossein Khaleghi, Sam Rajabi and Abdolreza Kouhpayeh—have still not been charged. All eight of them are being held in Evin Prison’s Ward 2-A which is under the control of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC).

Aghasi added that Tehran Prosecutor Abbas Jafari Dolatabadi had changed the charge from “espionage” to “corruption on earth” after he allegedly received a letter from “the army.”

Aghasi said he is unaware of the contents of the letter in question. He added that the charges were issued to the detainees on October 6, 2018, by Branch 2 of the Revolutionary Magistrate in the presence of lawyers appointed to the detainees by the court.

The eight detainees have only occasionally been allowed to call their families or receive family visits. They were denied access to legal counsel for eight months until this month, when some of them were told to choose their lawyers from a list approved by the judiciary.

According to the [Note to Article 48](#) of Iran’s Criminal Procedures Regulations, detainees accused of national security charges can be stripped of their due process and prisoners’ rights, including the right to choose their own lawyer.

It is unclear why some of the detainees have been allowed to choose their own lawyer.

“The Iranian judiciary should allow all detainees unrestricted access to lawyers of their choice in accordance with Iran’s international obligations,” said Ghaemi.

The [International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights \(ICCPR\)](#), which Iran is a signatory to, recognizes in Article 14, subsection (3)(d), the right of an accused in criminal proceedings to be represented by legal counsel of his or her choice.

Aghasi told CHRI he doesn’t understand why the original charge was changed.

“We are dealing with a very strange accusation,” said Aghasi. “I completely object to this charge,” he added.

Corruption on earth is an extremely serious charge in the Iranian penal code that pertains to national security. The maximum penalty for this charge is death.

“Previously, the authorities were accusing [the detainees of] cooperation with foreign governments and agencies, so I don’t know how that has now changed to ‘corruption on earth,’” he said.

No Accountability for Kavous Seyed-Emami’s Death

Nine environmentalists were detained in Iran between January 24 and 25, 2018, after being arrested by agents of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps’ (IRGC) Intelligence Organization.

One of them, Iranian Canadian sociologist Kavous Seyed-Emami, was pronounced dead to his wife by security agents on February 9, 2018.

No one has been held accountable for Seyed-Emami's death, which a judicial official claimed was a suicide, before there was an [autopsy](#). A so-called "[fact-finding](#)" [commission](#) set up by President Hassan Rouhani to investigate the deaths of [at least five detainees](#), including Seyed-Emami, in state custody this year has also failed to announce any findings eight months after its creation.

Instead, Iranian authorities have harassed Seyed-Emami's widow, [Maryam Mombeini](#), including by banning her from leaving the country, raiding her home and repeatedly interrogating her.

They have also kept eight of Seyed-Emami's colleagues behind bars despite the country's own Intelligence Ministry asserting that there is [no evidence](#) to justify their continued incarceration and calls for their release by [Iranian officials](#) and the [UN](#).

"No Evidence That These Individuals Were Spies"

In May 2018, the head of Iran's Department of Environment, Vice President Isa Kalantari, [refuted](#) accusations that the environmentalists were spies, pointing to the conclusions of Rouhani's own Intelligence Ministry and fact-finding committee.

"It has been determined that these individuals were detained without doing anything," Kalantari [said](#). "The Intelligence Ministry has concluded that there is no evidence that these individuals were spies."

"The [Rouhani] government's fact-finding committee [also] concluded that the detained activists should be released because there's no evidence to prove the accusations leveled against these individuals," he added.

Kalantari went further in an interview with the [Islamic Republic News Agency](#) (IRNA) on August 13, 2018, saying, "The judiciary has ordered us not to get involved... They told us this is none of our business and we shouldn't pursue it."

Kalantari added, "The esteemed intelligence minister has repeatedly said there is no evidence that the detainees had spied and yet the judiciary has still not resolved their situation. Almost all of our NGOs are at a standstill because they don't know to what extent they can operate without being accused of spying."

On October 22, Mohammad Reza Tabesh, the leader of the environmentalist faction in Iran's Parliament, said he was shocked by the new charge against the environmentalists and [demanded](#) the detainees be given access to lawyers.

"We pushed for the case against the environmentalists to be sent to the judiciary. Last week we met with [Judiciary Chief Sadegh] Larijani and he had a talk with Dowlatabadi and eventually Mr. Dowlatabadi promised to submit the case to judicial authorities," he [said](#).

"We hope this will happen as soon as possible and these individuals will be able to exercise their rights, including having a lawyer," he added.

Tabesh also urged President Rouhani's fact-finding commission to investigate the new charge.

"Based on the information that has been made public by the Iranian authorities, nothing justifies the continued incarceration of these eight environmentalists, let alone charges levelled against them that could carry the death sentence," said Ghaemi.

"One detainee has already lost his life during this travesty of justice," said Ghaemi. "Iran should immediately release the remaining detainees to prevent further loss of innocent life."

For Iran's Activists, Prison's Just the Start

Jailed Activist to Get Medical Care, Lawyer

October 22, 2018 1:04PM EDT

[Behrouz Javid Tehrani](#) Research Assistant



Iranian officials, under international pressure and facing domestic unrest, have reacted by increasing their pressures on activists. It is unclear how many are behind bars, but Human Rights Watch has [documented dozens of cases](#) of people who have been sentenced or detained for merely exercising their freedom of expression by criticizing the government and engaging in peaceful activism.



Arash Sadeghi

But sending activists to prison is just the start of their suffering in Iran, experience shows. Arash Sadeghi, 32, whom authorities have imprisoned repeatedly and harassed his family since 2009 is just the latest example of scores of activists who are being denied adequate medical care. In August 2015, branch 15 of Tehran's revolutionary court

sentenced Sadeghi to 15 years in prison on charges of "propaganda against the government," "defamation of the supreme leader," and "threatening national security." His wife, Gulrokh Iraei, was sentenced to six years for "insulting the sacred" and "propaganda against the state."

Sadeghi has suffered repeated medical problems in prison in Karaj, a city near Tehran. The authorities have transferred him to a hospital for checkups but never allowed him to receive full treatment.

On June 13, after he suffered severe pain in his arm for months, prison doctors raised the possibility he was suffering from cancer and transferred him to a medical center. Doctors there diagnosed him with a cancerous tumor in his shoulder and recommended an immediate transfer for specialized medical treatment. He hasn't received it and reports from his family indicate that Sadeghi's arm is infected for lack of the medical care he required to avoid infection.

Human Rights Watch has [previously reported](#) that the couple have not been able to get legal representation during their trials. Amnesty International has repeatedly called for the couple's unconditional release.

But while Iran's peaceful activists suffer in prison, other countries continue to engage with Iranian officials, including the EU member states that have sought to maintain the nuclear agreement with Iran. As these countries carry out their diplomatic work with Iran, they have an opportunity to press Iranian authorities to free imprisoned human rights activists and to end their shameful mistreatment in prison.

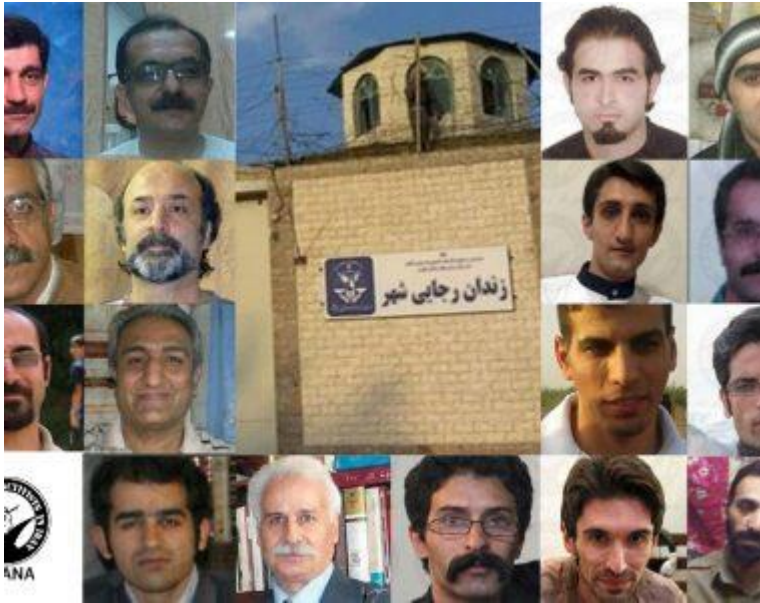
These countries should speak up. As Arash Sadeghi battles cancer, his very life may depend on it.

Tyranny on Prisoners of Conscience at Rajai Shahr

Posted on: 24th October, 2018

<https://www.en-hrana.org/tyranny-on-prisoners-of-conscience-at-rajai-shahr>

Human Rights Activists News Agency (HRANA)- This past August, Rajai Shahr Prison authorities ordered the transfer of political prisoners to Ward 10, where prisoners' already-tight rations on climate control, fresh air, and nutrition have reportedly been cut even slimmer.



It is a running suspicion that prison authorities seek to dismantle the political ward, breaking down these prisoners' spirits so that they will be more amenable to being dispersed among different wards.

Ward 10 currently houses 18 prisoners charged with political and security-related crimes. Four more political prisoners are being held in lateral sections. Of these 22, seven are in need of medical care.

A cold chill is already creeping through the walls of the hillside

prison, boding the incoming flu season from which political prisoners stand unprotected, a close source told HRANA. "The need for heating equipment is felt all across the prison, but on [Prison Head] Gholamreza Ziayi's orders, the political prisoners can't have access to heaters. While prisoners pay for heaters out of their own pockets, the director has forbidden their delivery or use in the political ward." Prison authorities have reportedly even gone as far as banning heaters in common areas that political prisoners might flock to for refuge, i.e. the prison library, gym, or store.

A letter underlining the dire need for climate control addressed to Ziayi from a previous prosecution assistant responsible for overseeing prison affairs, did nothing to change his mind, the source said.

Political prisoners got the brunt of the opposite heat extreme this past summer when they were denied access to any form of a cooling system. While their repeated requests managed to obtain three refrigerators for the ward, Ziayi underlined that they would have access to more equipment and amenities if they requested to be transferred to different wards.

Political detainees have thus far held fast to regulations requiring prisoners charged with different offenses to be housed in separate wards. Their resistance against integrating with prisoners accused of petty theft, drug-related crimes, or violent offenses has contributed to continued daily frictions between authorities and their cohort.

Meanwhile, the assessment of food provided to these political prisoners is even more scathing than the Rajai Shahr usual. Sources say that prisoners eat vegetarian by default, limited to plain rice with soy or lentils at lunchtime. Though the dinner menu promises to be more substantial — bean or lentil stew, or Ash [a thick Iranian soup] — sources say that the dishes hardly live up to their names, and prisoners in the cohort are rarely, if ever, served produce.

Deprivation of fresh air is also being leveraged against them, sources say. The regular 2-to-5:30 recreation period previously enjoyed by political prisoners in mixed groups has been eliminated entirely since their transfer to Ward 10. "Fresh airtime has been denied [to them] on direct orders from Ziayi, despite the fact that the recreation area is empty between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.," an anonymous source said.

Warden and Internal Director Vali Ali Mohammadi has abdicated from addressing prisoners' complaints, stating that he defers to the authority of Ziayi and his secretary/chauffeur. "In other words," a source said, "the slightest request, like for food or stationary, has to pass by Ziayi and his secretary."

Though seasoned in-group attrition tactics, authorities at Rajai Shahr have not shied away from more targeted brutality to get their point across. Multiple sources have reported aggressive body searches, harassment and verbal abuse of prisoners' families, and the placement of arbitrary, extreme restrictions to wear down individual inmates. In one such instance, Supervising Prosecution Assistant Rostami placed a long-term prohibition on visits between Hassan Sadeghi and his imprisoned wife; in another, medical attention to the bone cancer and infected surgery site of Arash Sadeghi were repeatedly postponed and denied. Deprivations like Sadeghi's may become more widespread: two weeks ago, an official prison order came into effect, invalidating all approved transfers of ailing prisoners to [outside] medical facilities.

The respective situations of a number of Rajai Shahr prisoners of conscience are compiled in the lists below

1. Majid Assadi, accused of assembly and collusion [against national security]. Arrested in 2016, sentenced to 6 years. Anticipated release date: 2021. Has been incarcerated for two years without furlough.
2. Afshin Baimani, accused of Moharebeh [enmity against God] through cooperation with the MEK. Arrested in 2000, sentenced to life. Currently in 18th year of incarceration without furlough.
3. Mohammad Banazadeh Amirkhizi, accused of being a MEK sympathizer, and of assembly and collusion against the regime. Arrested on 2016, sentenced to 11 years. Anticipated release date: 2027. Has been incarcerated for two years without furlough.
4. Ebrahim Firouzi, accused of assembly and collusion and propaganda against the regime. Arrested in 2013, sentenced to 7 years. Anticipated release date: 2019. Currently in 5th year of incarceration without furlough.
5. Abolghassem Fouladvand, accused of Moharebeh through supporting the MEK. Arrested in 2013, sentenced to 15 years. Anticipated release date: 2028. Currently in 5th year of incarceration without furlough.
6. Gol Mohammad Jonbeshi, accused of cooperation with the Taliban. Arrested in 2016, sentenced to 3 years. Anticipated release date: 2019. Currently in 2nd year of incarceration without furlough.
7. Latif Hassani, accused of forming an illegal group to act against national security. Arrested in 2012, sentenced to 8 years. Anticipated release date: 2020.
8. Saeed Massouri, accused of Moharebeh through membership in the MEK. Arrested in 2000, sentenced to life. Currently in 2nd year of incarceration without furlough.
9. Mohammad Ali (Pirouz) Mansouri, accused of Moharebeh through support of the MEK. Arrested on 2007, sentenced to 22 years. Anticipated release date: 2028. Currently in 11th year of incarceration without furlough.
10. Asghar Pashayi, accused of espionage. Arrested in 2008, sentenced to 10 years. Anticipated release date: 2018. Release pending his payment of a fine. Currently in 10th year of incarceration without furlough.
11. Farhang Pourmansouri, accused of hijacking a plane. Arrested in 2000, sentenced to life. Currently in 18th year of incarceration without furlough.

12. Shahram Pourmansouri, accused of hijacking a plane. Arrested in 2000, sentenced to life. Currently in 18th year of incarceration without furlough.

13. Houshang Rezaei, accused of Moharabeh through membership in Komele [Kurdish opposition group]. Arrested in 2010, sentenced to death. Currently in 8th year of incarceration without furlough.

14. Arash Sadeghi, accused of propaganda against the regime, assembly and collusion, insulting the supreme leader, and disseminating lies. Arrested in 2016, sentenced to 11.5 years. Anticipated release date: 2027. Currently in 2nd year of incarceration without furlough.

15. Hassan Sadeghi, accused of Moharebeh through cooperation with the MEK. Arrested in 2013, sentenced to 11.5 years. Anticipated release date: 2028. Currently in 5th year of incarceration without furlough.

16. Hamzeh Savari, accused of moharebeh and acting against national security. Arrested in 2005, sentenced to life. Currently in 13th year of incarceration without furlough.

17. Payam Shakiba, accused of assembly and collusion against national security and propaganda against the regime. Arrested in 2016, sentenced to 11 years. Anticipated release date: 2027. Currently in 2nd year of incarceration without furlough.

18. Saeed Shirzad, accused of assembly and collusion against national security, damaging prison property, and disrupting prison order. Arrested in 2014, sentenced to 6.5 years. Anticipated release date: 2020. Currently in 4th year of incarceration without furlough.

Baha'is incarcerated in Ward 11:

1. Vahed Kholousi, accused of assembly and collusion against national security, Baha'i membership, activism, and proselytizing, propaganda against the regime, and activism in defense of Baha'i student rights. Arrested in 2015, sentenced to 5 years. Anticipated release date: 2020. Currently in 3rd year of incarceration without furlough.

2. Afshin Seyyed Ahmad, accused of assembly and collusion and propaganda against the regime. Arrested in 2016, sentenced to 3 years. Anticipated release date: 2019. Currently in 2nd year of incarceration without furlough.

3. Farhad Fahandoj, accused of Baha'i proselytizing and involvement in Baha'i associations. Arrested in 2012, sentenced to 10 years. Anticipated release date: 2022. Currently in 6th year of incarceration without furlough.

4. Afif Naimi, accused of assembly and collusion, blasphemy, and propaganda against the regime. Arrested in 2008, sentenced to 10 years. Anticipated release date: 2018.

Ailing prisoners deprived of medical care:

1. Majid Assadi: gastrointestinal disease, duodenal ulcers

2. Shahram Pourmansouri: herniated disc, syringomyelia requiring immediate surgery (per doctor)

3. Mohammad Banazadeh Amir Khizi: joint pain

4. Hassan Sadeghi: joint pain

5. Aboulghassem Fouldadvand: arterial plaque requiring hospitalization (per doctor)

6. Arash Sadeghi: chondrosarcoma, surgical site infection in the right arm

7. Saeed Shirzad: herniated disk, lower back spasm

Open Letter: Atena Daemi Lauds the Emotional Labor of Iranian Mothers

Posted on: 24th October, 2018

<https://www.en-hrana.org/open-letter-aten-daemi-lauds-the-emotional-labor-of-iranian-mothers>



Human Rights Activist News Agency (HRANA)

– Atena Daemi, a civil rights activist imprisoned since October 21, 2014, has written an open letter to her mother marking her fourth year of incarceration.

In the note, Daemi describes the difficulties endured by her family — particularly her mother — who she characterizes as one of her most important sources of strength in recent years.

With fellow political prisoners Maryam Akbari Monfared and Golrokh Iraee, Daemi was punished October 3rd with a three-week ban on family visits,

per verbal orders from the Women’s Warden at Evin. All three were told the ban served to punish them for refusing an unlawful interrogation this past September.

HRANA has translated the full text of Daemi’s letter below:

Four years ago to this day, I was on my way to work on a cold autumn morning. You had gone to buy fresh bread for us. I was running late, so I didn’t get to see you before dad and I left the house. Before we could reach the end of the alley, they blocked our way, arrested me, put me in another car, and returned to the house with dad, all 11 of them. I don’t know how you reacted when you saw them. After an hour, they brought me back home. I was shocked to see you. I was shocked by your screams at the agents.

“Go on and take my daughter too. You took all of these young people – and how far did that get you? You know what? Go ahead and kill my daughter too. You killed Sattar Beheshti [a blogger who died in prison in 2012] and all those other young people. And what came of it?”

They threatened to detain you too, and you shot back, “Take me! You’ve outdone yourselves putting mothers behind bars and bereaving them.”

I thought you would be scared, but you weren’t; I thought you would blame and reproach me, but you didn’t. In our own language, you told me to go– that this would be the first night I would spend away from home, but that you were still behind me, still with me, and that one day no child would be separated from their mother. That lifted a weight off my shoulders; it felt as though you had given me wings. I went, but you never left me for a moment; we were bonded more than ever, together, united.

I remember your face that day in the Revolutionary Court when I was sentenced to 14 years in prison. Giddily and sarcastically, you quipped, “14 years is nothing– we expected the death penalty!” I know you felt a quiver of fear, but you didn’t show it. Sixteen months later, I returned home and you were in good spirits, though you knew I wouldn’t be staying long. They came back for me nine months later. You weren’t in Tehran then. I called you to let you know they were taking me. You told me to put you on speakerphone so that they could hear you. You were screaming “What do you want from our children? What have they done? What did they ever ask of you? The day will come when us mothers will hold you accountable...”

After I went, they opened cases against your other two daughters, convicting them. You laughed and said that we should ask them to set up a family suite in the prison that would house us all!

I went on hunger strike. I will not forget the concern in your eyes, but your words, filled with hope and promise, only made me more steadfast. Your daughters were acquitted, and I stayed. They filed new cases and lawsuits against me, one after the other. Then, they dragged me to

Gharchak Prison, beating me and insulting me. That following Thursday I called home. You were happy to hear my voice and asked how the prison administrators had come to be so charitable on a Thursday [the beginning of the weekend in Iran].

I laughed and said, "I'm calling you from Gharchak Prison." You replied that it was only right that I see the women held in Gharchak as well. "Let's see how far they want to go!" you said.

When I contacted you a few days later, you did not answer. I was told that you went to the Prosecutor's office to see about my case. The more time passed without any news from you, the more worried I became. You finally replied after 7 p.m. and told me that they had detained you along with Hanieh [my sister]. You told me how they beat you both and shocked you with stun guns. My body trembled at that thought.

You told me they shocked your leg when you refused to get into their car. You said it didn't hurt, that it felt like stinging nettles. I was trembling with anger, but you were laughing and said that you didn't back down and gave them a piece of your mind.

My phone rights and visits were cut.

Then came your little girl's wedding day— my sister Hanieh was getting married...

They did not let me go on furlough to come to the wedding. You came to visit me in Gharchak. Hanieh was restless but you calmed her down, telling her not to cry but to laugh and be joyous so that the authorities wouldn't get the idea that their tactics can break [me]. I remember that you reminded her that Fariba Kamalabadi [Baha'i prisoner of conscience] hadn't been granted furlough to attend her own daughter's wedding. You asked me to distribute sweets to my cell and ward mates to celebrate my sister's wedding inside the prison. What a memorable night that was!

I was returned to Evin Prison. Then we heard news of the execution of Zanyar, Loghman, and Ramin. You went on a hunger strike, wore black, and came to visit me in tears. They had harassed me that day, but the three of us just held hands and sang a song for our fallen brothers. Again, they cut me off from family visits.

Mother, would you look at how pathetic and short-sighted they are? When Zanyar Moradi hadn't seen his mother in nine years when he was killed, and they think they're going to break me by withholding my visiting rights for a while? The pain of mothers never ends. If they think they can reform us, silence us, or make us remorseful with such childish measures, they are sorely mistaken. We won't be disciplined; rather, we will carry on with more resolve than before.

It has been three weeks since we last saw each other. You've gone to visit with [Ramin's mother, Zanyar and Loghman's families](#), and the family of Sharif, who died in the fire [Kurdish activist who died fighting wildfires in western Iran]. You visited [Narges \[Mohammadi\]](#) and the family of [Homa \[Soltanpour\]](#). While we haven't seen each other, you have embraced the pains and sorrows of fellow mothers.

Send my regards to all the mourning and bereaved mothers of Iran and tell them I shall call for justice for them as long as I live!

Atena Daemi
October 21, 2019
Evin Prison

After her arrest on October 21, 2014, Atena Daemi spent 86 days in solitary confinement before being transferred to the Women's Ward of Evin prison. In May 2015, Judge Moghiseh of Revolutionary Court Branch 28 sentenced her to 14 years' imprisonment on charges of

assembly and collusion against national security, propaganda against the regime, and insulting the supreme leader. She was released February 2017 on 5.5 billion IRR [approximately \$140,000 USD] bail. Her sentence was then reduced to seven years on appeal. She was detained November 26, 2016 to serve her sentence, which since been reduced to five years.

Urmia Prisoners of Conscience End Weeklong Hunger Strike

Posted on: 24th October, 2018

<https://www.en-hrana.org/urmia-prisoners-of-conscience-end-weeklong-hunger-strike>



Human Rights Activist News Agency (HRANA) – A mass [hunger strike](#) of Urmia Central prisoners of conscience ended on its fifth day after prison authorities engaged to addressing prisoner complaints of rampant abuse.

Strikes were underway as of October 16th, when prisoners launched a protest against [a violent raid of the Political Ward \(Ward 12\)](#) by special forces that left a number of prisoners wounded.

Divided between Ward 12 and the Youth Ward’s prisoners of conscience, protesters declared that the restoration of their legal rights would put an end to the strike.

In a recently-issued statement, strikers asked inmates’ families to appear at the front gate of Urmia Central on October 21st to demand justice for those inside. The statement impelled the head of the prison to invite groups of strikers for a sit-down in the prosecutor’s’ office– an invitation they declined, a close source said.

During the hunger strike, at least one prisoner, Habib Amini, was sent to the prison clinic for treatment following a decline in his health.

Below is a translation of the aforementioned statement. Its signatories asked to remain anonymous:

“Pursuant to the hunger strike of political prisoners and prisoners of conscience at Urmia Central Prison that began October 16, 2018, the families of these and other prisoners are asked to appear before the Central Prison of Urmia on Sunday, October 21st to demand restoration of the legal and Shari’a-granted rights of their children, in a show of support for their legal and judicial demands.

This protest is a declaration of dissent with the extraordinary oppression and discrimination faced by prisoners and their families in this city. In a state of material and psychological insecurity, prisoners here live under surmounting pressures. We hope that officials have the compassion to reduce this targeted oppression.

Finally, we ask that all sensible minds be moved by this news, and react with the same power they displayed over the three recently executed Kurdish political prisoners and the missile offensive on Kurdistan.”

*

The Ward-12 raid occurred on the evening of October 15th, when political prisoners came to the defense of one of their comrades who had been physically assaulted for arguing with prison personnel. In response to their objections, authorities and special forces, numbering more than 50 and armed with with batons, tasers, and tear gas, stormed the political ward and

laid into the inmates there. That same night, authorities assaulted and injured a number of prisoners of conscience in the Youth Ward.

Kamal Hassan Ramazan, Ahmad Tamooie, Osman Mostafapour, and Touraj Esmaili were among the first prisoners beaten in response to their objections of a group assault on their wardmate Hamid Rahimi. Personnel identified only as “Eskandar” and “Rezaie” reportedly commandeered additional Urmia prisoners to deal blows to the four men, breaking bones and teeth, and cutting one of them with a sharp object.

Ramezan, Tamoo’i, Mostafapoor, and two more Ward-12 bystanders, Hassan Rastegari and Kamran Darvishi, were among those injured in the onslaught that followed. The latter two were transferred to solitary confinement; Rastegari has since been returned to Ward 12. “Hassan Rastegari was badly bruised all over,” the source said, adding that prison authorities then sicced fellow prisoners on political detainees for a second time.

Urmia Central Prison authorities have a history of ruling by corporal punishment. On October 8, 2018, prisoner Morteza Zohrali’s right arm was broken in a beating by prison officials; On September 23rd, Youth Ward inmate Javad “Arash” Shirzad was sent to an outside hospital for treatment of a concussion sustained at the hands of “Bayramzadeh,” the prison’s internal director; in July, Saeed Seyed Abbasi was beaten and sent to solitary confinement without treatment of his injuries, all for arriving late to the prison yard for recreation time; and in May, according to HRANA reports, prisoner Saeed Nouri, a former IRGC lieutenant, was beaten by two personnel in the internal director’s office.

Reports indicate that political prisoners and other prisoners of conscience are more vulnerable than others to the gamut of inmate abuses. HRANA previously reported on a September 18th raid on Ward 12 by special forces, where guards pilfered and destroyed the prisoners’ personal belongings, including food they had purchased themselves.

Canadian Resident Saeed Malekpour Transferred to Hospital After Heart Attack

Posted on: 26th October, 2018

<https://www.en-hrana.org/canadian-resident-saeed-malekpour-transferred-to-hospital-after-heart-attack>



Human Rights Activist News Agency (HRANA) – Evin Prison approved the transfer of prisoner Saeed Malekpour to the cardiology department of Taleqani Hospital last week after he suffered from a heart attack.

A Canadian resident and alumna of the elite Sharif University in Tehran, Malekpour has a growing list of medical complaints that authorities have ignored over the course of 10 years of imprisonment. His requests for medical treatment and furlough have repeatedly been denied.

Now, photographs taken during his recent hospitalization show a worrying mass on Malekpour’s right knee, MRI results on which are pending. Malekpour has also developed kidney stones and prostate issues during his time behind bars.

With an arm and a leg uncomfortably restrained to the gurney, his sister Maryam told HRANA that Malekpour had trouble getting restorative sleep during his three-day stay.

Sources indicate he was banned from hospital visits and subjected to mistreatment by security forces.

In 2008, the Cyber Unit of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), accusing Malekpour of managing Persian-language pornographic websites, arrested him during a trip to Iran to see family. Branch 28 of Tehran's Revolutionary Court sentenced him to death plus seven and a half years in prison, on counts of "propaganda against the regime," "blasphemy," "insulting the Supreme Leader," "insulting the president," "contacting opposition groups" and "corruption on earth."

Malekpour's death penalty sentence, though confirmed by the Supreme Court and sent to the Enforcement Department, was eventually reduced to a life sentence. Throughout his legal proceedings, Malekpour has insisted that case analysis by a computer and internet expert would absolve him of the aforementioned charges.

In a letter written from prison, Malekpour said he was previously isolated in solitary confinement for 320 days, during which time he was subject to torture, and given only a Qur'an, a Turbah [prayer clay tablet], and bottle of water.

Malekpour's family has also borne the pain of his legal ordeal. Promising him that it would facilitate a bail release, authorities coerced Malekpour to provide a taped confession which was televised shortly after his father's death in 2009. Malekpour learned of his father's passing in a five-minute phone call 40 days after the fact.

Family of Labor Rights Activist threatened by Intelligence agents

By Iran HRM Last updated **Oct 28, 2018**

<https://iran-hrm.com/index.php/2018/10/28/family-of-labor-rights-activist-threatened-by-intelligence-agents/>



Wife of labor rights activists Jafar Azimzadeh, has been threatened by agents of the Ministry of Intelligence and Security (MOIS) to report her husband.

Two undercover Intelligence and Security agents went to the house of the family of Azimzadeh on October 24, 2018, instructing his wife Akram Rahimpour and his family to inform the Intelligence Department when he returned home, otherwise they would be in

trouble.

This is the third time in seven months that MOIS agents have referred to Ms. Akram Rahimpour in the city of Showt (Maku Free Zone), West Azerbaijan Province in Iran.

Akram Rahimpour has been intimidated and threatened to turn in her husband while none of the official institutes, including the Tehran Prosecutor's Office, have summoned the labor activist since March, either orally on the phone or by a written warrant.

Azimzadeh, the president of the Free Workers Union of Iran, was arrested on April 30, 2014—a day before International Labor day for helping coordinate the collection of 30,000 signatures from workers in support of a list of demands including the formation of the Free Workers Union of Iran and the Union of Expelled and Unemployed Workers, as well as for organizing labor protests and speaking to foreign media outlets.

He was freed on bail after being interrogated and held in solitary confinement for 46 days.

On March 1, 2015 Azimzadeh was sentenced reduced from an original 17 year sentence for

“assembly and collusion against national security” and “propaganda against the state.” The Appeals Court upheld the sentence and the labor activist surrendered himself to Evin Prison on November 8, 2015.

After nearly eight months, he and Esmail Abdi, an [imprisoned teacher](#), and former secretary general of the ITTA, went on hunger strike to protest the regime’s approach to legitimate trade activities as national security threat.

Widespread domestic and international support and 63 days of hunger strike led to the temporary release of the activists.

Prison Information

A Glimpse Of Evin Prison, Iran’s Most Notorious Jail

By [Iran HRM](#) Last updated Oct 28, 2018

<https://iran-hrm.com/index.php/2018/10/28/a-glimpse-of-evin-prison-irans-most-notorious-jail/>



With a capacity now detaining 15,000 people, the Evin Prison has built a reputation of Iran’s rampant political repression.

Standing at the foot of the Alborz Mountains in northwestern Tehran, it has held hundreds of peaceful activists, journalists, intellectuals and human rights lawyers throughout its disgraceful history.

The structure of prison wards

Evin Prison is a vast complex that consists of multiple buildings, generally up to three floors high with two sections on each floor.

Wards 209, 240 and 241 which have solitary cells called “Suites” are controlled by the Ministry of Intelligence (MOIS).

Ward 209 or section 209 is the most dreadful ward of Evin Prison. Inmates are detained under torture. The ward is made up of 10 rows, each containing eight solitary cells. Due to overcrowding, up to 10 people are kept in every cell. Each solitary cell has its own individual lavatory.

The torture room is located in the ward’s basement where there are all kinds of medieval equipment for torture, including Apolo (a special bed for giving electric shocks to the prisoner while his head is covered by an iron helmet where his cries echo into his own ears), wired beds for flogging with cables, hangers from which prisoners are hanged from the ceiling by foot or by hands as they are tied behind their backs.

No one except the personnel and convicts is allowed into the Intelligence Ministry Ward 209, even the highest officials.

Ward 240 (parts of which are under the control of security and intelligence units), has several floors and each floor has a long corridor containing several cells on both sides. Each cell is about 8 square meters inside which the toilet and the shower are separated by a curtain from the cell’s area. These cells are designed for one person but they are actually holding 6-7.

Ward 2A is under the control of the Revolutionary Guards Corps Intelligence Department.

Political prisoners are blindfolded at all times when outside of their cells in this section.

IRGC's Detention Center 66 or Section 325 is under the control of the Revolutionary Guards Corps. This section was used for interrogating those arrested during the 2009 unrest in Tehran.

Ward 350 was used for the detention of political prisoners but was partially closed down after a prison riot in 2014 and all the prisoners were transferred to Rajaie Shahr Prison in Karaj, Iran's fourth largest city.

The Methadone Ward: There is a hall, actually a big cell, in the women's ward that is always closed. Prisoners call it the Methadone Ward. Closed-circuit cameras are installed in this cell to monitor inmates round the clock, depriving them of minimum freedom of action within the limited space of the cell.

Prisoners are deprived of going out for break and they have to spend all hours of the day in that closed-door hall. The door opens only when food is distributed.

Women's Ward is consisted of three halls with all windows sealed. So, there is not sufficient sun light for prisoners aggravating their illnesses. Bathrooms and the kitchen lack ventilation.

There is no emergency medical facility for prisoners. To receive her medication, a prisoner must first obtain an authorization, then wait until the visitations day on Sunday, to give the prescription to her relatives to purchase her medicine from an outside pharmacy. Then she will have to wait until the next visit, to receive her medication from her relatives.

Referring to a medical center outside the prison is tremendously difficult and may take several months to receive just an authorization.

By the time the prisoner receives a medical leave usually after 9 to 12 months, her illness has progressed. Once in the hospital, her treatment is usually interrupted midway.

Every entry and exit to and from the prison requires humiliating frisking. A prisoner must be handcuffed while she walks into the dispensary.

The Women's Ward is constantly monitored by cameras.

Whenever prison wardens encounter a protest or some form of resistance by prisoners, they threaten to relocate them to the notorious Qarchak Prison.

Wards 7 hold mostly prisoners convicted of financial crimes. The ward has eight halls, with the capacity to hold 200 inmates each, although 700 prisoners are now held in each hall.

Sometimes political prisoners are taken to the ward 7, which violates Iran's own regulations on the principle of separation of crimes.

Halls 1 and 12 of the Ward 7, are located in the basement floor. Many prisoners in these halls suffer from joints diseases due to humidity. Prisoners are usually deprived of warm water for showering in winters.

Common complaints include, lack of ventilation, insufficient and filthy bathroom facilities, prevalence of contagious diseases, lack of sunshine.

Ward 8 is populated mostly by those convicted of financial crimes, drug traffickers and pirates – mainly from Somalia.

In summer, ward eight of Evin prison stinks more than usual. It is hot and unbearable as there is no air conditioner and the water coolers do not work properly. The cells are filthy and infested with beetles and bugs, particularly when temperatures rise.

Nutritional status

Reports indicate food comes in meagre portions and is barely edible. It is so little that hungry inmates are forced to collect the residue of other food trays as well as the food which was left on the ground. That small amount of the food distributed in prison is sometimes rotten and expired.

Prisoners have to buy at their own expense their needed dairy products, vegetables, fruits, and protein at rocket high prices from the prison's stores

Food quality is extremely low and unsanitary. Sand and even mouse feces have been found in the food. Fruits and vegetables are non-existent.

There have been complaints to the prison authorities against malnutrition, especially by political prisoners who are aware of their rights and who have demanded food adequate to maintain health and well-being.

A source close to one of the prisoners said the prison's management threatens prisoners of holding them in solitary confinement if they object to the lack of food or to the prison's bad conditions.

Medical condition

Medical treatment withheld to punish prisoners or force them into making false confessions is a common place.

Prison authorities callously deny prisoners of conscience and other political prisoners adequate medical care, putting them at grave risk of death.

The Office of the Prosecutor, which is responsible for decisions concerning medical leave and hospital transfers often refuses to authorize hospital transfers for sick prisoners even though the care they need is not available in prison, and denies requests for medical leave for critically ill prisoners against doctors' advice.

In some cases, prison officials had also violated prisoners' rights to health, or were responsible for torture or other ill-treatment. In several cases, they withheld medication from political prisoners or unnecessarily used restraints such as handcuffs and leg shackles on political prisoners, interfering with their medical treatment, bruising their hands and feet or causing them discomfort and humiliation.

An Amnesty International [report](#) published in July 2016 revealed that in addition to deliberately delaying or refusing urgent specialised medical care for political prisoners, prison authorities in Iran have regularly downplayed or dismissed the seriousness of their medical problems, treated serious ailments with simple painkillers and withheld essential medication.

In addition to denial of adequate medical access, prisoners are usually held in overcrowded, unsanitary and poorly ventilated conditions which often exacerbates prisoners' pre-existing medical problems or contributes to new problems, causing irreparable damage to their health.

Prison's clinic

A number of prisoners suffering from AIDS are detained in Section 7. Medical attention is barely given to prisoners in this section. Only when prisoners go on hunger strike or when media attention is given to them are they taken to hospital for treatment.

Prisoners say that the prison psychologist prescribes neurological drugs to many prisoners without any medical grounds.

Prison officials make a profit from selling expired food to prisoners at much higher prices. Uncovered and unclear medications are given to the prisoners.

According to prisoners, [Medical personnel assist with torture](#). A doctor named Shahriar Pourfarzam makes sure that when a person is interrogated under torture, she/he could survive so that the interrogator could continue to torture.

Unsafe and infectious medical service is available on a high expense. A significant number of prisoners particularly those their spouses are also imprisoned, cannot afford the high cost of health care.

Prison's store

Prison store is a part of the jail's own perverse economic system. Prison officials make a profit from selling the essential needs of prisoners such as soap, shampoo, even food.

Prisoners' families must provide the cash they need for day-to-day life. Those without support live in the lowest circle of misery on meagre and substandard prison supplies.

Most of the prisoners believe that the low quality and hygiene of food in prison, is deliberate to make prisoners buy from prison's shops where All food items are sold above market prices.

The items sold in prison shop are out-of-date but the Prisoners have no choice but to buy these goods at prices several times more expensive.

Inspections and threats

Up to 50 prison agents periodically search prisoners' cells. All the prisoners are required to go to the prison courtyard during the search. The agents confiscate and "steal" the prisoners' belongings during the search.

After each inspection, many of the prisoners' equipment disappears and a large amount of their food is destroyed.

Prison authorities in various ways sell second hand phones and SIM cards at high prices to the prisoners and they confiscate the same phones and SIM cards during the inspections.

Political prisoners describe being severely beaten by dangerous prisoners incited by prison officials. They use such criminals as a cover up to harass political prisoners and prisoners of conscience.

Prison visitations

There are no criteria or standards for prisoners' visitation rights in the notorious Evin prisons. Family visits and phone calls are used as a tool by prison authorities to exert more pressure on the prisoners.

Political prisoners and prisoners of conscience who are routinely harassed by the authorities have greatly limited visits.

Sometimes, visitations and telephone calls are denied to punish prisoners. Political prisoners are punished when they protest arbitrary behavior and inhuman treatment by revolutionary guards or when they convey prison conditions to their families. If a prisoner sends a letter out of prison, she is severely punished. Punishments range from denial of visitations and telephone calls, to incarceration in solitary cells, to adding new charges to the prisoner's case, and in some cases sending the prisoner to internal exile.

Evin prison's visiting hall has about 80 cabins specifically designated for visits. This number of cabins is sufficient for the families of political prisoners to quickly undergo their visits; however, the policy of the prison authorities is to send the visitors in groups of ten people at a time.

Prisoners can only communicate with first-degree family members for twenty minutes via a cabin meeting. A cabin meeting is a visit through a dirty and blurry window and through a headset that is controlled by prison authorities.

The Women's Ward has no telephone facility for the political prisoners to make phone calls to their family and children.

Women political prisoners are only granted 20-minute (most often cabin) visits per week with their families.

Some of the women political prisoners have young children whom they only have contact with via telephone. Some psychologists believe that cabin visits from behind a glass wall can be destructive to the psychological health of the prisoners' children. Therefore, many of the families try not to bring the children to visit as much as possible.

Children's Rights

Girl children in Sistan and Baluchestan make up majority of drop outs

Created: 24 October 2018

<https://women.ncr-iran.org/iran-women-news/5536-girl-children-in-sistan-and-baluchestan-make-up-majority-of-drop-outs>



An Iranian regime official acknowledged the catastrophic statistics on the number of girl children left out of school in [Sistan and Baluchestan Province](#) in the beginning of the new school year.

Massoumeh Ebtekar, Presidential deputy on Women and Family Affairs, said, "Sistan and Baluchestan has the country's largest number of children left out of school. Girl children make up the majority of the children deprived of

education."

Disadvantages such as living in remote and inaccessible areas, early marriages, poverty, cultural issues, and scattered population, have placed Sistan and Baluchestan on the top of the country's 31 provinces as far as the rate of children left out of school is concerned, and girl children are [the most deprived](#) among them.

Only 45,000 children in Sistan and Baluchestan who had been left out of school have been identified by the Education Department and sent to school for the 2018 academic year. This is according to Alireza Nakhaii, Director General of the Department of Education in Sistan and Baluchestan Province. (The state-run Tasnim news agency – October 23, 2018)

Of the 169,000 children deprived of education in Sistan and Baluchestan Province, 156,000 are girls. ([Alireza Nakhaii](#), Director General of Education in Sistan and Baluchestan Province, the state-run ILNA news agency – June 16, 2017)

According to the state media, more than 15 million children in Iran are at the age of attending school, while the student population is about 13 million. That means at least 2 million students are deprived of education, and many of them are girl children.

Revocation of free education has been the most important factor contributing to the increase in the number of children being left out of education in Iran. According to Principle 30 of the Iranian Constitution, "The government is obliged to provide free elementary and high school education for all members of the nation and facilitate free higher education for all until the country is self-sufficient."

Early marriages are the worst oppression of Iranian girls

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<https://women.ncr-iran.org/iran-women-news/5539-early-marriages-are-the-worst-oppression-of-iranian-girls>



Early marriages are the worst form of oppression of girls in Iran.

In a gathering discussing elimination of violence against women in Tabriz, Massoumeh Aghapour, a Majlis deputy, said early marriages are examples of violence against women. "They are in fact, the worst form of oppression of girls and future women of Iran," she added.

"Looking at official statistics," Aghapour said, "we realize that this is the great pain of our

present society which needs practical and logical solutions to remove this ugly image."

Zohreh Arzani, a jurist, also pointed to the large numbers of divorced children in Iran and said, "When the parliament talks about 15 being a suitable age for marriage, has any of the gentlemen listened to the complaints and pains of any one of these girls? Is it not possible that they have remained silent in the face of violence and have not dared to object?" (The state-run salammatnews.com, October 20, 2018)

The regime's parliament has not passed the bill proposing to eliminate violence against women for eight years. The only effort made has been an attempt to urgently pass a bill banning marriage of girls under 13 years of age, which has not been decided upon, yet.

According to the official statistics, there are some 24,000 under-18 widows in Iran, and most of the early marriages end up in divorce. [Razavi Khorasan Province](#) (eastern Iran) has the largest number of early marriages, while [East Azerbaijan Province](#) (northwestern Iran) ranks second only next to Khorasan.

A Majlis deputy had previously said, "[Domestic violence against women](#) is pervasive in the society."

[Experts of social affairs](#) also recently declared that violence against women in Iran had 20 per cent rise in 2017.

In a meeting on September 18, 2018, discussing the bill on Provision of Security for Women, one of the regime's experts by the name of [Parastoo Sarmadi](#), asserted, "Iran has one of the highest statistics on violence against women, and this makes adoption of the bill for Provision of Security for Women even more urgent." (The state-run ILNA news agency - September 18, 2018)

Drop out of children exceeds 7.4 million this year

By [Iran HRM](#) Last updated **Oct 25, 2018**

<https://iran-hrm.com/index.php/2018/10/25/drop-out-of-children-exceeds-7-4-million-this-year/>



An Iranian regime official acknowledged the catastrophic statistics on the number of children left out of school in Sistan and Baluchestan Province in

the beginning of the new school year.

Massoumeh Ebtekar, Presidential deputy on Women and Family Affairs, said, “Sistan and Baluchestan has the country’s largest number of children left out of school. Girl children make up the majority of the children deprived of education.”

This year many families in Iran were forced to send their children to work instead of school because they are not able to pay the costs of their child’s education.

State-run news agency Ilna published a report on September 21 titled “Many students will drop out soon!” and drew a grave perspective for Iranian students saying: “It appears that if things stay as they are, drop-out numbers, especially for girls, will rise. As things are, low-income families, especially in deprived regions, prefer to just ‘survive’. So they must choose between eating enough and continuing their children’s education, and naturally, they will choose survival. On the one hand, living costs and education costs have multiplied, and on the other hand, free education plans have become a thing of the past. In such conditions, there are few low-income families who can pay the cost of their children’s education, especially girls. The red alarm is already shining for a few months. While salaries are still 70 percent behind the increase of life costs, education should be free for everyone and students from low-income families should receive subsidies for stationeries and other educational assistance tools. Otherwise, soon we will face a high rate of illiterates and half illiterates.”

On September 14, Iran’s Ruydad news website published a report in which it revealed damning statistics about the educational conditions of children inside Iran. According to this state-run website, Iranian regime officials are offering conflicting accounts of how many Iranian children have or don’t have access to basic education. Writes the site: “Like many other national statistics, the exact number of children who have been deprived of education is not available. The figures offered by the ministry education differs from that of the Well-being Organization. The Mardom-Nahad body and other NGOs also offer different information.”

The report concludes that such differences between the figures itself speak to the criticality of the situation.

According to Ruydad, the caretaker of the Iranian regime’s labor ministry says that in the first three months of the Persian year (March-June), the government has identified approximately 327,000 children in the streets of Tehran who weren’t going to school. This is the statistics offered by the Well-being Organization.

Taking this figure as a basis to offset the entire country, in the most optimistic calculation, in which the uneducated children of other provinces (31 in total) are estimated at a third of Tehran, the total sums up to around 3.5 million children across the country who aren’t going to school.

The Ruydad report writes: “The situation could be worse than this: According to the most recent consensus, the country’s 7- to 19-year-old population is around 20 million people. If we compare this figure to the last consensus, which counted 12.6 million Iranian students, the count of children deprived of education spikes to 7.4 million!”

Despite all of the evidence, during the presidency of Hassan Rouhani and his predecessor Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, the Iranian regime’s education ministry never acknowledged these statistics.

Farideh Oladghobad, a member of the education and research commission in the Iranian regime’s parliament, says, “A while ago, the head of education in one of the counties of Golestan province approached us and said that they are faced with a large number of children who aren’t going to school, most of them being girls.”

Oladghobad added, “We don’t have accurate figures of the number of children who have been deprived of education across the country. For example, in Sistan and Baluchestan province, where the living conditions are harsh, our estimates are 100,000 uneducated children, but we don’t know if the other provinces are worse or not.”

According to the Iranian regime’s constitution, the government is responsible for providing quality education to all Iranian children, but the MP lays the blame at the feet of the people themselves, adding that the regime will be ratifying new regulations to penalize families who don’t send their children to school, not taking into account that a large portion of the population is living in substandard conditions and are struggling to make ends meet.

Women’s Rights

Young women arrested in August uprisings receive jail sentences

Created: 22 October 2018

<https://women.ncr-iran.org/iran-women-news/5534-young-women-receive-jail-sentences>



Azar Heydari was sentenced to one year in prison. Niloufar Homafar and Mojdeh Rajabi were each sentenced to six months in jail. These young women had been arrested during the protests on August 2, 2018, in front of Daneshjoo Park in downtown [Tehran](#).

Earlier, the Iranian Judiciary had sentenced other young women arrested in August uprisings to jail sentences. [Yasamin Ariani](#), 23, and [Saba Kord Afshari](#), 19, were each sentenced to one year in prison. They had been held in limbo in the [Qarchak Prison of Varamin](#), a.k.a. Shahr-e Ray Prison. The young women were transferred to Evin Prison in Tehran after their verdicts were handed out.

The regime’s security forces arrested at least 1,000 protesters during the uprisings in August 2018. The Interior Minister acknowledged that the protests in August had spread to 27 cities in 13 provinces. (The official IRNA news agency – August 21, 2018)

Security and intelligence forces also re-arrested in August a number of human rights activists and protesters who had been arrested in the December-January uprising but later released on bail.

Young women students including [Parisa Rafii](#), [Roya Saghiri](#), [Soha Mortezaei](#), and [Maryam \(Massoumeh\) Mohammadi](#), who had been arrested in December and January, [received jail sentences](#) of 2 to 7 years.

At least 50 were killed and 8,000 arrested during the nationwide protests in December 2017 and January 2018. According to the data compiled by the [NCRI Women’s Committee](#), at least 500 women, including a large number of young women, were among those arrested.

Iranian women had an [effective impact](#) on the wave of protests that swept the country in August, so much that the regime’s Revolutionary Guard Corps and media were compelled to speak out.

[Rasoul Sanaii Rad](#), political deputy in Khamenei’s politico-ideological bureau, admitted that about 28 per cent of those arrested in the uprisings in August were women. (The state-run Mehr news agency – August 15, 2018)

Eleven women imprisoned on death row held in Qarchak Prison

Created: 21 October 2018

<https://women.ncr-iran.org/iran-women-news/5532-eleven-women-imprisoned-on-death-row>



Eleven women imprisoned on death row are held under inhumane conditions in the Qarchak Prison of Varamin, in Tehran Province.

The names of the eleven women imprisoned on death row in Qarchak and the duration of their detention in jail are listed below:

1. Azam Maleki, 8 years, charged with murder of her brother-in-law and nephew-in-law;
2. Narjes Tabaii, 3 years, charged with murder of her husband's second wife;
3. Fereshteh Shirazi, 5 years, charged with murder of mother-in-law (sister of Assadollah Lajevardi, infamous as the Butcher of Evin Prison);
4. Tahereh Noori, 12 years, charged with murder of her husband;
5. Roya Amirian, 14 years, charged with murder of a man harassing her on the street;
6. Mahtab Shafii, 3 years, charged with murder of her husband and mother-in-law;
7. Mahboubeh Rasouli, 7 years, charged with murder of mother-in-law;
8. Mahnaz Agahi, 7 years, charged with murder of her husband;
9. Soghra Eftekhari, 10 years, charged with murder during a conflict;
10. Eshrat Nazari, 6 years, charged with murder of her husband;
11. Samira Sabziyan.

From the list of charges, one can deduce that most of these eleven women were victims of violence and harassment. Most likely, they committed these murders in self-defense. However, under the laws of the mullahs' regime, the woman and the victim who has defended herself must face trials and retribution.

The fate of these eleven women imprisoned on death row is just an example which calls for the attention of international human rights organizations to the injustices of the Iranian Judiciary, in human prison conditions, and the need to abolish the death penalty.

Inhuman conditions in Qarchak

The [Qarchak](#) prison in [Varamin](#), located in eastern Tehran, used to be a chicken farm. It is now a prison for women who are convicted of ordinary offences.

In terms of health facilities and prisoners' access to appropriate treatment, Qarchak Prison is one of the worst prisons in Iran. There is no potable water in this prison.

About 1,000 women have been detained in Qarchak in the past month, alone. As a new routine, those arrested on political grounds are first transferred to this prison until their sentences are finalized.

Women transferred to Qarchak Prison after being arrested during protests have reported about the conditions of the prison. They said the prison authorities and guards sexually abuse the

imprisoned women arrested for ordinary crimes. They are abused so severely that some lose their mental balance.

In some cases, political prisoners are exiled to this prison as punishment. The last case was that of [Atena Daemi and Golrokh Iraee](#). The [prison authorities were forced to back down](#) and return them to Evin Prison after they went on a [hunger strike](#) for 81 days.

Activist Leila Mir-Ghaffari Gets Suspended Prison Sentence for Pointing at Picture

Posted on: 24th October, 2018

<https://www.en-hrana.org/activist-leila-mir-ghaffari-gets-suspended-prison-sentence-for-pointing-at-picture>



Human Rights Activist News Agency (HRANA) – On October 6th, Judge Mashallah Ahmadzadeh of Tehran Revolutionary Court Branch 26 sentenced civil rights activist Leila Mir-Ghaffari to a two-year prison sentence, suspended over three years, for having pointed to a picture on the wall.

Mir-Ghaffari's attorney Mohammad Hossein Aghasi explained to HRANA that her conviction of “insulting the supreme leader” hinged on a single moment: when she voiced criticism of foreign aid to Lebanon and Syria

whilst pointing a “finger of blame” to a picture of the Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei, whose image overlooks the entrance to almost every public building in Iran.

Mir-Ghaffari was initially detained on October 2nd for defending the “Girls of Revolution Street,” a movement that gained international attention through photographs of its defenders de-veiling in public places in protest of mandatory head coverings. Morality court ordered her to pay a fine of 32 million IRR [approximately \$250 USD], and she was released on bail the next day.

On June 13, 2018, HRANA reported on a summons from the Tehran Appeals Court to review the sentencing of a number of civil activists, including Mir-Ghaffari, who had been issued 91 days' imprisonment and 74 lashes each. Judge Farshid Dehghani presided over their preliminary trial on February 9, 2016, in Tehran Criminal Court No. 2, Branch 1060.

In November 2016, Mir-Ghaffari was arrested with 17 others for staging a peaceful gathering across from Evin Prison. Authorities sent the women protestors to Gharchak Prison and the men to Evin. Charged with “disrupting the public peace,” they were eventually released on bail of 500 million IRR [approximately \$4000 USD]. Her co-arrestees were Reza Makeian (Malak), Hashem Zaynali, Simin Aivazadeh, Ehsan Khaybar, Abdulazim Arouji, Mohsen Haseli, Mohsen Shojaie, Azam Najafi, Parvin Soleymani, Sharmin Yamani, Sala Saie, Arshiya Rahmati, Massoud Hamidi, Ali Babaie, Esmail Hosseini, Farideh Tousi, and Zahra Moddarezadeh.

People with Disabilities' Rights

Discrimination and Lacking Accessibility Prevent Blind People From Obtaining Employment in Iran

October 24, 2018

<https://www.iranhumanrights.org/2018/10/discrimination-and-lacking-accessibility-prevent-blind-people-from-obtaining-employment-in-iran/>

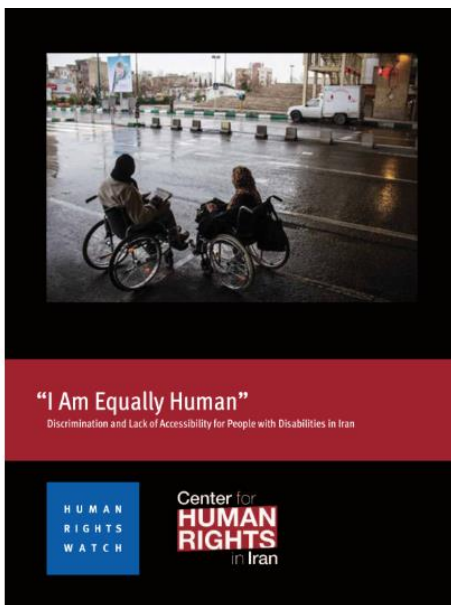


Agency Tasked With Aiding People With Disabilities Fails to Fulfill Mandate

Every October 15 is marked in Iran by [White Cane Safety Day](#), which according to the National Federation of the Blind, is dedicated to raising awareness about safety and independence for people living with blindness and partial sight.

To mark the occasion in 2018, the Center for Human Rights in Iran (CHRI) interviewed blind people in several Iranian cities about the obstacles they face obtaining employment despite the passage of laws during the past fourteen years guaranteeing [people with disabilities](#) jobs in certain employment sectors.

According to Article 15 of Iran's [Law for the Protection of the Rights of Persons With Disabilities](#), which was [approved](#) by the Guardian Council on April 11, 2018, "The government is required to allocate at least three percent of official and contractual employment opportunities in government agencies, including ministries, organizations, institutions, companies and public and revolutionary organizations, as well as other entities that receive funding from the national budget to qualified persons with disabilities."



Learn more about the obstacles blind and other people living with disabilities in Iran face on a daily basis in CHRI's [new report](#) co-authored with Human Rights Watch.

Despite an earlier version of this law being ratified by Iran's Parliament in 2004, the government has still not released any statistics on how the three percent rule is being implemented. Compounding this problem is the lack of accurate statistics on blind people in general.

The government's lack of a system for compiling statistics about this vulnerable segment of society, such as how [many people live in Iran](#) with low vision or blindness, has resulted in officials making wildly different claims about important issues faced by this community, including the employment rate.

For example, on October 14, 2018, Hossein Nahvinejad, the State Welfare Organization's (SWO) deputy in charge of rehabilitation, [said](#) the unemployment rate among blind people in Iran is 40 percent. But in 2017 he had [claimed](#) it was 80 percent.

"When there are discrepancies in the statistics about the blind in the country, naturally there will be differences in the unemployment rate,"

Pouya, an Iran-based advocate for the rights of people with disabilities, told CHRI.

"What is certain is that unemployment is very common among the blind and it would be impossible to imagine that half of them found jobs in the past year," he added.

The individuals who agreed to discuss their experiences for this report requested anonymity to protect their personal security.

Humiliation and Unnecessary Pressure

Blind people in Iran face an array of obstacles obtaining employment, beginning with the lack of reading options for the blind, such as brail, when the job in question requires a written test.

Maryam, a 26-year-old resident of Ahvaz, Khuzestan Province, has a degree in psychology with a specialization on children with disabilities, yet she was treated like she was a nuisance instead of given a fair chance to apply for a job in the [Education Ministry](#):

I mentioned my disability in the employment form but the evaluation test questions were not sent to me in brail due to the carelessness of the officials. On the day of the test, they were very rude to me and asked why I had not informed them of my blindness. I told them I had stated I was in their form. It wasn't my fault.

Then a secretary there came and read the test questions for me. She had poor knowledge of math and literature and couldn't read the questions properly so I didn't mark answers for a lot of them. In the end, she told me to sign my test sheets. I always carry a stamp, which I use instead of signing my name by hand. But for some reason, they didn't accept my stamp and told me to use a pen to sign my name.

My signature looks like a circle or sometimes like horizontal and vertical lines. But they didn't accept that either and said I needed to properly sign all the sheets in the same proper way. I still don't understand why I had to do that. These wrong attitudes humiliate the blind and put unnecessary pressure on them.

Reza, a 23-year-old resident of Rasht, Gilan Province, has a degree in social sciences. He told CHRI that even the SWO, the main agency tasked with providing services to people with disabilities, has not implemented measures that would enable blind people to take employment tests.

“You can even find problems in the employment tests conducted by the SWO, despite it being the top government organ in charge of caring for the disabled,” he said.

“One time I went to the SWO to apply for a job,” added Reza. “They blamed me for not having someone with me to read the questions on the form. They said it wasn't their job to read the questions for me.”

“If the SWO doesn't accept us, who will?”

According to Article 11 of the [Law for the Protection of the Rights of Persons With Disabilities](#), 30 percent of telephone operator positions in Iran must go to people who are blind, living with low vision or to people with physical and mobility disabilities.

But Reza told CHRI that not only is this stipulation extremely restrictive, it has also become nearly obsolete due to the fact that most people don't use phone operators anymore, opting instead for the ease of use of their mobile phones and other digital devices:

“Everybody thinks that a blind person can only be a phone operator. But with the advances in communication networks, there's no longer a need for phone operators. It has disappeared from the job market for the blind. My friends and I went to look for jobs like marketing, packaging and typing but all the officials politely threw us out. They said we need healthy people.”

On October 14, the SWO's deputy in charge of rehabilitation [claimed](#) there are “about 50 special training centers for the blind” that teach telephone operation and secretarial skills as well as handicrafts. But Reza told CHRI the facilities fail to provide sufficient training that could be applied to existing work opportunities in Iran.

The SWO is not providing any training in mobility directions or classes in areas such as computer science or the English language. Many families do not have high incomes and

cannot afford private classes. The SWO has a duty to provide these classes, especially on how to find directions so that when blind go somewhere for work, they know how to navigate without help from others.

Maryam told CHRI that the SWO has refused to step in to enable blind and other people living with disabilities to obtain employment:

I have gone to the SWO office several times and asked officials to find us factory jobs. I even said I would accept all responsibility. We can do packaging operations very well. But they said they were not allowed to interfere in such matters.

My question is: If the SWO cannot step in, and state organizations can easily disregard the law, then why bother legally requiring the three percent allocation of state jobs for people with disabilities?

Since I have a degree in psychology, I asked for a job as an adviser in the social emergency services on an hourly basis. But the official in charge said I was not capable of doing it because I'm blind. If the SWO doesn't accept us, who will?

Reza told CHRI he had applied at some 30 organizations but that they had all politely, and sometimes disrespectfully, rejected him:

At the state-funded Imam Khomeini Relief Foundation, "a gentleman made fun of me for asking for a job. He said 'are you really asking for a job?' I said yes. He said, 'boy, if I hire you I would have to hire another person just to take you to the bathroom and do your work.' I told him, 'didn't you notice I came here from home by myself? I came from downstairs to your office on my own.' Then I angrily left.

Iran Fails to Deliver on Domestic and International Commitments

[Article 27](#) of the UN Convention on the [Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#) (CRPD), which was ratified by Iran in 2008, urges member states to remove employment discrimination obstacles and provide job training and accessibility in the workplace for people living with disabilities.

But the people interviewed for this report told CHRI they haven't seen positive developments beyond the words written on those legal documents.

"The SWO and people with disabilities are concentrating their efforts on implementing the three percent allocation of state jobs but the fact is that attention must also be paid to enhancing the skills of people with disabilities and improve accessibility in their work environment," disability rights activist Pouya told CHRI.

"For instance, one of my blind friends had been hired by a private company but the ill-informed company officials would not allow him to screen-reader software for the blind on his office computer," he said. "The question is, how do they expect a blind person to work like his colleagues if they don't provide enabling capabilities?"

Freedom of Expression

Press freedom violations recounted in real time January 2018

October 25, 2018

<https://rsf.org/en/news/press-freedom-violations-recounted-real-time-january-2018>



25.10.2018 - Citizen-journalist freed after eight months in prison



Reporters Without Borders (RSF) has learned that Poriya Nour, a citizen-journalist working with the Sufi Majzooban Noor website, was released on 19 October. Nour was arrested along [with other journalists who work for the site on the night of 19 February](#), during clashes between police and members of the Sufi religious community of Gonabadi dervishes in the north Tehran district of Pasdaran.

17.10.2018 - Journalists missing in Tehran prison for past 50 days

The families of five detainees who worked for the *Majzooban Noor* website – journalists **Reza Entesari**, **Kasra Nouri** and **Mohammad Sharifi Moghadam** and citizen-journalists **Sina Entesari** and **Amir Nouri** – have had no news of them for the past 50 days. They were separated from other detainees at the start of September when riot police broke up a protest in Tehran prison about conditions, especially the degrading conditions for women.

Majzooban Noor is the only independent source of news and information about the Sufi religious community of Gonabadi dervishes in Iran.

Since the start of September, the intelligence ministry and the prison officials have refused to tell the families where they are holding the five journalists and citizen-journalists and three other members of this religious community, Mehdi Eskandari, Hessam Moieni and Morteza Kangarlou. [All were arrested on the night of 19 February](#) during clashes between police and members of this community in the north Tehran district of Pasdaran.

RSF calls on Javaid Rehman, the UN’s new special rapporteur on the human rights situation in Iran, to intercede on behalf of these journalists, who were arrested arbitrarily and convicted without due process.

06.09.2018 - Journalist’s conviction quashed after 15 months in prison

Reporters Without Borders (RSF) has learned that **Abdol Reza Davari**, the former editor of the newspaper *Shahrvand* and the government news agency *Irna*, was released on 1 September after the Tehran supreme court overturned his conviction. He had served 15 months of a three-year jail sentence on a charge of “insulting” Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei in three Facebook comments.

He was originally sentenced in September 2013 to six years in prison but it was reduced to three years on appeal. He began serving the sentence after his arrest in May 2017, two days after posting an open letter criticizing Ebrahim Raisi and Mostafa [Pour Mohammadi](#), two members of a [commission](#) that passed death sentences in 1988 on thousands of political prisoners who refused to renounce their beliefs.

04.09.2018 - Detained human rights lawyer’s husband arrested



Reporters Without Borders (RSF) condemns the arrest of Reza Khandan, the husband of **Nasrin Sotoudeh**, a prominent human rights lawyer who defends journalists. Intelligence ministry agents arrested him outside their Tehran home today, [12 weeks after Sotoudeh](#) herself was arrested on 13 June.

In a Facebook post yesterday, Khandan said an intelligence ministry agent had called him and asked him to

report next day to the ministry. “I told him that a telephone summons without a court decision was illegal,” Khandan wrote. “He replied: ‘So, you will be arrested.’” The father of two children, Khandan has often posted updates on Facebook about his wife’s situation.

[In an interview](#) yesterday for *Radio Farda (Radio Free Europe)*, Khandan also voiced concern about his wife’s state of health and held the intelligence ministry responsible. She began a hunger strike ten days ago in protest against her detention and the five-year sentence she was given in absentia. Awarded the Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought in 2012, [Sotoudeh](#) has defended many journalists and citizen-journalists.

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Authorities Prevent Folk Author’s Remembrance Gathering for the 3rd Time

Posted on: 26th October, 2018

<https://www.en-hrana.org/authorities-prevent-folk-authors-remembrance-gathering-for-the-3rd-time>



Human Rights Activists News Agency (HRANA) – Shahnaz Darabian’s plans to mark the one-year anniversary of her husband’s death at his resting place in Karaj’s Behesht-e Sakineh cemetery were abruptly derailed by a phone call October 24th, by which Iranian security forces informed her that the ceremony would not be permissible.

The widow and children of late writer Ali Ashraf Darvishian had announced their plans to commemorate his passing on October 23rd of this year.

“Security organs pled ‘anti-regime abuses’ to stop the event from taking place,” a close source told HRANA. “They have said that only family and close relatives of Mr. Darvishian are permitted to visit his grave for an hour. They left the family with no choice but to cancel the ceremony.”

The cancellation marks the third consecutive time that Iranian authorities have obstructed posthumous honors for Darvishian. Just two days after his death in 2017, Iranian authorities canceled a commemoration event planned for October 28th at Elmi Karbordi University. A second attempt to hold a ceremony was halted by security forces December 1, 2017.

Ali Ashraf Darvishian, a writer and scholar of folk literature, died of an illness on October 26, 2017, at the age of 76. He was buried October 30, 2017, in Behesht-e Sakineh cemetery of Karaj.

Darvishian published around 30 books, the most influential of which was a 19-volume anthology of Iranian folklore he composed in collaboration with Reza Khandan Mahabadi. One of the oldest members of the Iranian Writers Guild, his honors include the Human Rights Watch Hellman-Hammett Grant, awarded to writers across the world who are struggling against persecution and economic hardship.

Due to his political activity leading up to the Islamic Revolution, Darvishian was fired from his job, prevented from working, and imprisoned between 1970 and 1979.

Other notable Darvishian works include *My Favorite Stories*, *Bisotun*, *Abshuran*, *Bread Season*, *Along with my Father's Songs*, *Golden Flower and Red Klash*, *The Black Cloud of a Thousand Eyes*, *Our School's Bulletin*, *Rangineh*, *When Will You Be Returning*, *Dear Brother*, and *Fire in the Kid's Library*.

Labor and Guilds' Rights

Bail Release of Syndicate Chairman Arrested Amid Teacher Strikes

Posted on: 24th October, 2018

<https://www.en-hrana.org/bail-release-of-syndicate-chairman-arrested-amid-teacher-strikes>



Human Rights Activists News Agency (HRANA)- Mohammadreza Ramezanzadeh, Chairman of the Coordinating Council of Teachers Syndicates in Iran (CCTSI), was released today, October 23, 2018, on a bail of 100 million tomans [approximately \$7,000 USD] pending trial.

Ramezanzadeh was arrested October 14th in the northeastern city of Bojnourd, amid two-day-long general strikes of Iran's teaching community. CCTSI had called for the strike to protest the low compensation grade of teachers.

Strikers also demanded the release of their still-imprisoned colleagues, including Mohammad Habibi, Esmaeil Abdi, and Mahmoud Beheshti Langroudi.

Fed-up Teachers Confront Rouhani by Post

Posted on: 24th October, 2018

<https://www.en-hrana.org/fed-up-teachers-confront-rouhani-by-post>



Human Rights Activists News Agency (HRANA)- The Iranian Teachers' Organization has written a letter to Iranian President Hassan Rouhani to underline a number of the contentions that pushed teachers to strike in recent weeks.

The full text of their letter is below, translated into English by HRANA:

Dear Mr. Rouhani, President of Iran,
Teachers and school staff have been among the most vocal advocates of your

administration, which has adopted a rhetoric of moderation and prudence. In your promise they have invested their hopes and labor, entrusting the helm of this country to you. Yet the educational system and its institutions have tumbled low on your list of priorities. Should this trend carry on, hope alone will not be viable.

How long?

How long will we be able to argue with peaceful, dignified means — through democratic and civic activism — that education is critical to the balanced and comprehensive advancement of our country?

How long must we emphasize that education is not second to a safe and healthy Iran, but rather its prerequisite?

How long must we belabor the fact written into the Educational Outlook, that the replacement of low-quality products with top-of-the-line imports is impossible in the realm of our country's human resources?

How long are we doomed to argue patiently, host conferences, and author articles about teachers who, feeling that their very livelihoods are at stake, will no longer be able to educate our country's children with ingenuity and sound minds?

How long must we remind you of the impact that the honorable work of teachers has on our workforce and families? How long will we have to shout about the systems in advanced countries, that have wisely grounded their progress and development in education, and ensured that their teachers are held in the same esteem as government ministers, security, and diplomats?

Don't you know?

Don't you know that many of our colleagues live under the poverty line?

Don't you know that uncurbed inflation and price hikes have afflicted teachers' lives and significantly diminished their purchasing power?

Have you any idea of the insurmountable challenge facing principals directing schools with this dwindling per capita funding?

What we know

We know that the government's revenue has increased from the rise in oil sales and currency exchange rates.

We know that the government's income has grown from taxes like the Value-added tax (VAT) that have been tacked onto the high cost of living.

We know that the law allows for salary and other benefit increases under extenuating circumstances.

If you are unaware of the problems and the solutions, woe are we; if you are aware but cannot, or will not do anything about them, woe to you.

It appears you believe everything is as it should be: teachers articulating their predicament with patience and humility, the exemplars of civic demonstration.

Yet we are certain that recent events, widespread protests, and teachers' lowered thresholds of tolerance could spell ongoing protests and turmoil for our education system.

We pray that you take this warning seriously, and in coordination with parliament and the Ministry of Education will pass the necessary orders to find radical structural solutions to the host of issues flooding our education system, in order to prevent further damage to our beloved country.

Iranian Teachers' Organization

October 19, 2018

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The [general teachers' strikes](#) that took place on October 14th and 15th across many provinces in Iran were the follow-up to [a call to action](#) from teachers' associations protesting low wages, and for the release of imprisoned teachers like Mohammad Habibi, Esmaeil Abdi, and Mahmoud Beheshti Langeroudi.

Iranian Court Sentences 15 Kurdish porters to prison

By [Iran HRM](#) Last updated Oct 26, 2018

<https://iran-hrm.com/index.php/2018/10/26/iranian-court-sentences-15-kurdish-porters-to-prison/>



Revolutionary Court of Sardash, handed down out prison sentences to 15 porters after convicting them of “carrying smuggled goods.”

The sentences are subject to appeal within 20 days according to the law.

The names of the porters with their convictions are as follows:

1. Omid Ghorbani, sentenced to six months behind bars, paying fine
2. Yousef Ghorbani, sentenced to six months behind bars, paying fine
3. Kamal Alizadeh, sentenced to 10 months behind bars, paying fine
4. Keyvan Allah Moradi, sentenced to six months behind bars, paying fine
5. Jamal Rahimi, sentenced to eight months behind bars, paying fine
6. Loghman Atashrak, sentenced to six months behind bars, paying fine
7. Reza Sahranavard, sentenced to eight months behind bars, paying fine
8. Zaniar Haji-Khalani, sentenced to eight months behind bars, paying fine
9. Mostafa Aziz-Zadeh, sentenced to eight months behind bars, paying fine
10. Mohammad Rahimi, sentenced to eight months behind bars, paying fine
11. Zaniar Zarei, sentenced to six months behind bars, paying fine
12. Sedigh Fegh Hosseinpour, sentenced to eight months behind bars, paying fine
13. Saber Yahyapour, sentenced to six months behind bars, paying fine
14. Sedigh Zhaleh, sentenced to six months behind bars, paying fine
15. Sedigh Padarshi, sentenced to 10 months behind bars, paying fine

Authorities take harsh measures against porters under the pretext of smuggling while the widespread aspect of [smuggled goods](#) and currency in Iran confirms this reality that the “small smugglers,” who are constantly arrested and even killed by state police, are actually a very small piece of a very large puzzle.

The state-run Ebtekar daily posted an article in December 2016, unveiling startling remarks made by regime officials over the systematic nature smuggling of goods, and how this phenomenon has become an established method for the Iranian regime.

“Small ships, load-carriers and smugglers are only a small percentage of the country’s smuggling dilemma. A large portion of smuggled goods entering the country are far more intense than these simple individuals... confronting such smugglers is only answering to a small percentage of the problem,” the piece reads.

“Considering the statistics provided by official organs, smuggled imports value at \$15 billion. Our official imports are around \$50 billion, and again based on the numbers of manufactured goods imported into the country, including vehicles, adds up to around \$5 billion. Therefore,

the smugglers are importing consumable goods. This means the value of goods smuggled into the country is three times that of official trade,” the article writes citing Majid-reza Hariri, deputy of Iran-China Chamber of Commerce.

“When we \$25 billion worth of smuggled goods in the country, it means that this phenomenon is far beyond a bunch of load-carriers and small ship owners, and we are faced with a large mafia being behind all this,” the article continued, citing Nossier Mousavi Laregani, a member of the Iranian parliament’s economic commission.

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Ethnic Minorities’ Rights

Open Letter: Kurdish Citizen Fears for Imprisoned Brother’s Life

Posted on: 24th October, 2018

<https://www.en-hrana.org/open-letter-kurdish-citizen-fears-for-imprisoned-brothers-life>



Human Rights Activist News Agency (HRANA) –

On August 7th, Iranian state-sponsored television broadcast footage of what appeared to be a confession: two prisoners can be heard owning up to their part in an armed attack on the military base of Saqqez. One of these two men, Houshmand Alipour, is the subject of an open letter written by his brother Hejar, who sees this footage as a sham excuse to end his brother’s life.

Hejar has written in his brother’s defense before, asking human rights organizations [in a recent open letter](#) to address Iranian authorities’ restrictions on Alipour and his co-defendant’s visitations, extra-prison communications, and access to legal defense. Alipour, a Sardasht native, was detained August 3rd of this year alongside the prisoner seen beside him in the video, Mohammad Ostadghader. On charges of membership in Kurdish opposition parties, he has been confined to the Sanandaj Intelligence Office in circumstances increasingly dire.

A close source stated earlier this month that Alipour was being bounced between interrogation, intelligence detention, and Saqqez prosecution court, without the presence of a defense attorney and to the great confusion of his family. HRANA previously reported on authorities’ hindrance of Alipour’s defense proceedings as his October 4th investigation date drew near, only to be postponed.

In a prior statement, Amnesty International expressed concerns about Alipour and Ostadghader’s detention, particularly over their purported confession tapes. “The pair were held in an unknown location without access to their families or lawyers [...],” the statement

read. “The nature of the accusations against them and their forced televised ‘confessions’ may be a precursor to charges that incur the death penalty.”

Amnesty also detailed the plight of Ostadghader, who — as of the date of their statement — was denied medical since sustaining a gunshot wound at the time of his arrest.

The full text of Hejar’s second plea for his brother is below, translated into English by HRANA:

“Houshmand Alipour and Mohammad Ostadghader have thus far spent around three months in custody of the Islamic Republic. They are subjected to a variety of physical and psychological tortures. Their lives are at stake. Houshmand is a man 25 years young whose life is being squandered by the oppression of the Islamic Republic and its abuses of our family.

I want to narrate a part of Houshmand’s life here, for everyone to read. Houshmand was born in November of 1993 in Sardasht. He has a twin sister. He was born to a big family. Although there were ten of us children, our parents worked hard to make sure we wanted for nothing. Our father worked day and night, in the heat of the summer and the cold of the winter, all to provide for us.

The family Houshmand was born into is no stranger to oppression and injustice. Our father, Mostafa Allipour, is one of the better-known activists of the Sardasht region. Advocating to free the people and to better their lives bought him persecution from the Islamic Republic, which trailed him through the years with prison time and fines. My father always said, “Because we wanted fortune for all, much misfortune befell us [...]. The regime gave our family no respite.” Our mother, Ameneh Mowludian, bears the sufferings of the continued threats and pressures imposed on our family by the Islamic Republic. Our paternal uncle, Hossein Alipour, was executed in 1983 by the Islamic Republic. Our father’s paternal uncle Molla Ali Bijavi was executed in 1985 by Islamic Republic operatives, and the mercenaries of the Ba’thist regime in Iraqi Kurdistan.

Bearing witness to the insults and disdain that the government has always borne towards his family, Houshmand was haunted by anger and hatred. No matter how hard he tried, he could never find peace.

In 2009, when he was only sixteen, he was arrested during a celebratory feast in Sardasht. Of his arrest, he said:

“Officers of the Islamic Republic attacked us with tear gas, batons, and pepper spray. I fell to the ground where they beat me and placed me under arrest. In their car, they tied my hands behind my back, blindfolded me, and transported me to the Intelligence Office. There they beat me savagely, insulted me, and spit obscenities at me. During the beatings and while I was blindfolded, they took my fingerprint as a ‘signature’ on documents, the contents of which I was wholly unaware. They forcibly extracted confessions in there.”

Houshmand is sentenced to four years’ imprisonment and 75 lashes. As a minor he spent time in the Juvenile detention center of Urmia before being transferred to the Juvenile Ward (1A). This is where he passed the days of his sentence and endured floggings.

After his release from prison, Houshmand Alipour was repeatedly summoned by the Ministry of Intelligence in connection to his family members’ politics. He eventually decided to flee to Iraq. He spent about four years in Iraqi Kurdistan, and even participated in the Kurdish war against ISIS, and incurred a few injuries in the process. A while later, following in the footsteps of his family members, he travelled to Turkey to seek asylum. His case file was registered at the UN Refugee office in Turkey. Upon his return to Iraq, where he went about

working [...] in the city of Baneh, Iranian Kurdistan, he was arrested alongside Mohammad Ostadghader.

The Islamic Republic pummeled and stifled the dreams of a young man, and we cannot stand by as they try to take his life. For this reason, I entreat all freedom-lovers and human rights organizations to do all in their power to rise up and save Houshmand's life, to bring him back into the loving arms of his parents, sisters, and brothers.

Hejar Alipour,
20 October 2018”

Azerbaijani Activist Nasim Sadeghi Arrested in Tabriz

Posted on: 25th October, 2018

<https://www.en-hrana.org/azerbaijani-activist-nasim-sadeghi-arrested-in-tabriz>



Human Rights Activists News Agency (HRANA) – Azerbaijani activist and Tabriz resident Nasim Sadeghi was arrested by security forces on her walk home October 21st. On a phone call with her child from an undisclosed location, she explained that she had been taken into custody.

Confirming the news of Sadeghi's arrest, a close source told HRANA that security forces also confiscated her personal belongings, including her cell phone, computer, and books. No further information is available on her location or the charges against her.

On July 28, 2016, Sadeghi was among dozens apprehended for their participation in a public protest against controversial comments published in the newspaper Tarh-e No. The Prosecutor's Interrogation Office of Tabriz Revolutionary Court Branch 7 accused her of acting against national security through propaganda against the regime, interrogating her for five days in the Intelligence Detention Center of Tabriz. She was released on a bail of 1 billion IRR (approximately \$8000 USD) pending trial.

In June 2017, HRANA reported on Sadeghi's summons to Branch 1 of Tabriz Revolutionary Court for continued judicial proceedings.

Activist Maharam Kamrani Arrested in East Azerbaijan Province

Posted on: 27th October, 2018

<https://www.en-hrana.org/activist-maharam-kamrani-arrested-in-east-azerbaijan-province>



Human Rights Activist News Agency (HRANA) – Azerbaijani activist and medical doctor Maharam Kamrani was arrested Thursday, October 25th at his workplace in East Azerbaijan Province's Ahar county.

Kamrani's medical practice was raided by security forces who seized his computer, laptop, books, and other personal belongings. He was then sent home under tight security controls and interrogated for three hours in front of his children.

Neighbors were reportedly assaulted when they protested the presence of plainclothes and security agents around the perimeter of Kamrani's house.

After the interrogation, Kamrani was sent to an undisclosed location. His whereabouts and the charges against him have yet to be confirmed.

Kamrani was previously arrested for taking part in street protests against the TV show "Fetileh," believed by many to have portrayed Azerbaijanis in a derogatory light.

Four Activists Arrested in East Azerbaijan Province

Posted on: 27th October, 2018

<https://www.en-hrana.org/four-activists-arrested-in-east-azerbaijan-province>



Human Rights Activists News Agency (HRANA)-

Three Azerbaijani activists residing in Tabriz — Sajjad Afrozian, Ebrahim Ranjir, and Sadollah Sasani — were arrested by security agents Friday, October 26th for participating in a memorial service for Gholamreza Amani. A fourth, Hakimeh Ahmadi, was arrested for undisclosed reasons in Marand.

Gholamreza Amani was a renowned Azerbaijani activist who died in a car accident along with his two brothers on October 23, 2008. Amid public suspicions around the circumstances of his death — believed by some to be a "premeditated murder" — security forces have kept an anxious eye and grip on the gatherings held in his memory.

A close source said security forces surrounded Maralan cemetery on Thursday, where Amani's commemoration was scheduled to take place. Afrozian was among a number of activists contacted by security agents that day who threatened to detain them if they showed up.

Two of the arrested memorial attendees have been pursued by authorities in the past. Sasani was among a group of Azerbaijani activists arrested and interrogated in July 2017 during a gathering at Babak Fort. He was later released on a bail of 20 million tomans (approximately \$5,000 USD). In one of his multiple run-ins with security agents and interrogators, Afrozian was violently apprehended in December 2016 in the city of Malekan and released the following February on a 50 million toman bond [approximately \$12,000 USD].

Coinciding the three aforementioned arrests was the detainment of Hakimeh Ahmadi, arrested at her home in the city of Marand. Security agents reportedly roughhoused both her and husband, threatening them with a close-combat weapon. They offered no explanation for her arrest.

Ahmadi was previously arrested this past September and released on a 100 million toman bail [approximately \$7,000 USD].

Afrozian, Ranjir, Sasani, and Ahmadi have all been transferred to undisclosed locations.

Tabriz, Marand, and Malekan are located in the northeastern province of Azerbaijan, which borders the Republic of Azerbaijan and is home to Iran's Azerbaijani minority.

Religious Minorities' Rights

Increasing Number of Baha'i Arrests in Karaj

October 22, 2018

<http://iranpresswatch.org/post/19667/increasing-number-bahai-arrests-karaj/>

Source: hra-news.org



HRANA News Agency –After searching and inspecting houses and detaining six Baha'i citizens in Karaj, on Tuesday another two Baha'is were arrested following a search of homes, as well as confiscations of personal belongings and books by the Ministry of Intelligence forces of this city.

According to the HRANA News Agency, the news arm of Human Rights Activists in Iran, on Tuesday morning, October 16, 2018, two Baha'i residents of Karaj, Parvan Ma'navi and Elham Salmanzadeh, were arrested by the security and intelligence forces, after the search of their homes and confiscation of their personal belongings and

books.

With the arrest of these two Baha'is, the number of Baha'i arrests in Karaj since late September, has reached eight.

An informed source told the HRANA reporter: "Mr. Ma'navi has a flower shop in [Karaj](#). The officers first went to his place of work. Following a search of his work place, they accompanied him to his home, where they searched the house and confiscated his personal belongings; they then took him away with them. In the same manner, the officers went to the house of Elham Salmanzadeh, and took her with them after the search of her house."

During the last days of September of the current year, HRANA had reported about two other Baha'is in this city, Hooman Khoshnam and Payam Shabani. Also, on September 16 there were two more reports of the arrest of four other Baha'is in [Karaj](#): Payman Ma'navi, Maryam Ghaffarmanesh, Jamileh Pakroo (Mohammad Hossein) and Kianoush Salmanzadeh. They were subsequently transferred to Evin Prison.

Over the past month, Baha'is in various cities around the country have been faced with increasing pressure from Iranian judicial-Intelligence institutions.

In recent weeks, HRANA has also reported on several arrests of a number of Baha'is in the cities of Shiraz and Isfahan.

Bahá'í citizens in Iran are denied freedom of religious belief, a systematic exclusion. In accordance with Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, everyone has the right to freedom of religion and the conversion between religions on the basis of convictions, as well as the freedom to express it individually or collectively and publicly or in secret.

According to unofficial sources in Iran, there are more than 300,000 Baha'is there, but the Iranian constitution recognizes only the religions of Islam, Christianity, Judaism and Zoroastrianism, and does not recognize the Baha'i faith; therefore, over the past years, Baha'i rights have been systematically violated in Iran.

Still no Answers for Sequestered Baha'is of Karaj

Posted on: 25th October, 2018

<https://www.en-hrana.org/still-no-answers-for-sequestered-bahais-of-karaj>



Human Rights Activist News Agency (HRANA)

– Thirty days have passed since security forces first swept through Karaj and began arresting its Baha'i residents, sending eight of them to prison after inspections of their homes between September 16th and October 17th.

From the walls of Evin Prison, these eight await definitive answers to why, and for how long, they will have to stay there. They were previously identified as Parvan Manavi, Elham Salmanzadeh, Hooman Khoshnam, Payam Shabani, Peyman Manavi, Maryam Ghaffarmanesh, Jamileh Pakrou

(Mohammad Hossein) and Kianoush Salmanzadeh.

“The Baha'i detainees said over the phone that they had been transferred to Evin Prison [...],” an informed source told HRANA. “Despite inquiries from their families, no information is currently available regarding their status.”

[Parvan Manavi and Elham Salmanzadeh](#) became the seventh and eighth Baha'is to be arrested in Karaj after authorities confiscated some of their books and personal belongings during a raid of their homes Tuesday, October 16th. [Khoshnam and Shabani](#) were arrested on September 25th and 26th of this year, and [Peyman Manavi, Kianoush Salmanzadeh, Ghaffarmanesh, and Pakrou](#) were arrested September 16th.

The threat of arbitrary detainment loomed larger than ever over Iran's Baha'i religious minority this past month, as Iran's security and judiciary establishment whisked away a number of its members in a surge of arrests that has yet to be explained. HRANA also reported on the arrests of Baha'i citizens in the central cities of Shiraz and Isfahan over this time period.

Iranian Baha'i citizens are systematically deprived of religious freedoms, while according to Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, everyone is entitled to freedom of religion and belief, and the right to adopt and manifest the religion of their choice, be it individually, in groups, in public, or in private.

Based on unofficial sources, more than 300,000 Baha'is live in Iran. Iran's constitution, however, recognizes only Islam, Christianity, Judaism, and Zoroastrianism, and does not acknowledge the Baha'i faith as an official religion. Consequently, the rights of Baha'is are systematically violated in Iran.

UN Expert Calls for End to 'Serious Violations' Against Baha'is in Iran

October 25, 2018

<http://iranpresswatch.org/post/19682/un-expert-calls-end-serious-violations-bahais-iran/>

Source: www.bic.org



UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Iran, Javid Rehman

NEW YORK—25 October 2018—The UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Iran has raised concerns regarding “serious violations” against the Baha’i community in Iran.

Presenting a major report on the situation of human rights in Iran at the UN, Javid Rehman expressed concerns of “substantial violations” against the religious community- the largest non-Muslim

religious minority in Iran.

The concerns were echoed by representatives from Germany, Norway and the United States whilst representatives from the UK and Switzerland also raised the issue of discrimination against “unrecognized religious minorities.”

“The Special Rapporteur is concerned by the substantial violations of the rights of religious and ethnic minorities...in particular the serious violations of rights consistently documented of members of the Baha’i community within Iran,” the UN report reads.

“Allegations of discriminatory policies and practices have been received with respect to the denial of the right to work and to earn a decent living; restriction of access to higher education; the closure of shops; and discrimination in policy owing to the fact that Baha’is do not constitute one of the three constitutionally recognized religious minorities in the country.”

Around 60 Baha’is currently remain imprisoned in Iran while tens of thousands more experience educational, economic and cultural persecution on a daily basis for merely practicing their faith.

Baha’i homes are routinely raided and members of the community are arbitrarily arrested and detained. Baha’i run businesses are shut down and sealed, depriving them of earning a decent living and thousands of young Iranian Baha’is are denied access to higher education or are routinely expelled from universities for practicing their faith.

For more information on the persecutions against the Baha’i community, [visit here.](#)