

the draft resolution criticizing Iran's human rights record.

By a vote of 83 to 30, the UN body passed its draft resolution after a series of debates and submitted reports. Many countries abstained, some criticizing Iran but justifying their abstention by a desire to encourage Tehran to cooperate with the UN in protecting human rights.

During the session, Iran's representatives did not directly respond to any of the issues mentioned in the draft resolution. But the Iranian representative attacked sponsor Canada and called the resolution a politicized document, signaling Iran may not cooperate with the UN on human rights.

A year ago, the committee passed a similar resolution, with an almost identical voting pattern. The recent resolution welcomes what it calls progress of Iran's record, especially new laws limiting the death penalty for drug offenses. Iran raised the bar on applying the death penalty just days before the UN vote.

However, the resolution expresses serious concern at the alarming number of death sentences handed down, including for minors, based on forced confessions.

Referring to dual nationals and foreigners imprisoned in Iran, the resolution urges Iran "to uphold, in law and in practice procedural guarantees to ensure fair trial standards, including timely access to legal representation of one's choice from the time of arrest through all stages of trial and all appeals, the right not to be subjected to torture, cruel and inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and consideration of bail and other reasonable terms for release from custody pending trial."

Resolutions adopted by UNGA are non-binding.

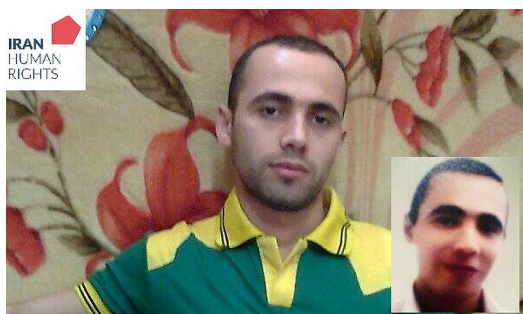
<http://undocs.org/A/C.3/72/L.41>

Juvenile Execution

Iran: Juvenile Offender Hamid Ahmadi Maledeh on Death Row

Close sources also emphasised that Hamid was tortured at the first phase of interrogations to confess against himself.

<https://iranhr.net/en/articles/3591/>



Iran Human Rights (IHR); December 20, 2018: Hamid Ahmadi Maledeh, a prisoner who is sentenced to death for an alleged murder at the age of 17, is in danger of execution in the coming months, after having been on death row after 11 years in Rash Central Prison.

According to the IHR sources, Hamid Ahmadi Maledeh was born on December 24, 1990. He reportedly participated in a street fight on March 5,

2008, in which a person was murdered. Hamid was 17 at the time of the incident.

Nevertheless, his relatives claim that he was only a mediator and did not commit the crime.

Close sources also emphasized that Hamid was tortured in the first phase of interrogations to confess against himself.

Following the adoption of the latest Islamic Penal code in 2013 which was retroactive, Hamid's case was sent to forensics to estimate his maturity at the time of the crime. The

Islamic Penal Code puts the age of criminal responsibility for males at 15 and 9 for females. However, according to Article 91 of Iran's revised Islamic Penal Code, it is up to the presiding judge's discretion to deem the juvenile mature enough to understand the nature of the offense:

"In the cases of offenses punishable by hadd or qisas, if mature people under eighteen years do not realize the nature of the crime committed or its prohibition, or if there is uncertainty about their full mental development, according to their age, they shall be sentenced to the punishments prescribed in this chapter. In Hamid's case, the forensics refused to give an assessment because they could not estimate one's maturity eight years after the committed crime. So, the judge decided to announce Hamid "mature enough" and upheld the death sentence.

He was sentenced to qisas (retribution in kind) death penalty based on his confessions. In qisas cases, the plaintiff has the possibility to forgive or demand diya (blood money) instead of the death sentence. In case of Hamid Ahmadi, the plaintiffs have set a blood-money amount corresponding to 200.000 USD. If Hamid doesn't pay this amount, he will be in danger of execution in the coming months.

Despite ratifying the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child which bans the death penalty for offenses committed at under 18 years of age, Iran is the world's top executioner of juvenile offenders. So far in 2018, Iranian authorities have executed six juvenile offenders.

Execution

Iran Executions: Prisoner Hanged at Mashhad Prison

Man was sentenced to death for murdering his wife 8 years ago. The plaintiffs were his daughters but he could not win their consent.

<https://iranhr.net/en/articles/3588/>



Iran Human Rights (IHR); December 16, 2018: A Prisoner was hanged on murder charges at Mashhad Central Prison last Wednesday.

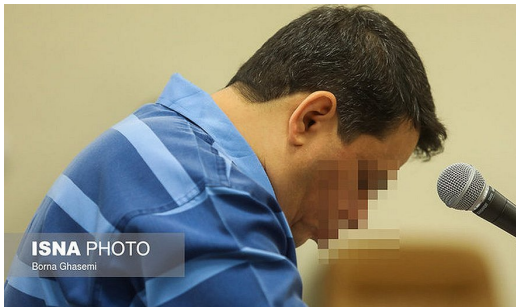
According to the Iranian website, Rokna, a 50 years old man was executed on the morning of December 12, 2018. He was sentenced to death for murdering his wife 8 years ago. The plaintiffs were his daughters but he could not win their consent.

According to the Iranian Islamic Penal Code (IPC) murder is punishable by qisas which means "retribution in kind" or retaliation. In this way, the State effectively puts the responsibility of the death sentence for murder on the shoulders of the victim's family. In many cases, the victim's family are encouraged to put the rope is around the prisoner's neck and even carry out the actual execution by pulling off the chair the prisoner is standing on.

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.

Iran: Hamid Bagheri Dermiani Executed for Economic Corruption

<https://iranhr.net/en/articles/3594/>



Iran Human Rights (IHR), December 22, 2018: Hamid Bagheri Dermiani, a businessman known by the State-run Iranian media as the "Sultan of Bitumen", was executed Saturday morning, December 22, on alleged economic corruption charges.

According to [ISNA](#), Hamid Bagheri Dermiani had been charged with bribery and corruption. Referring to the Tehran Revolutionary Court, the report says

that Mr. Bagheri Dermiani was found, among others, guilty of forging documents to secure state-backed loans for the establishment of front companies which he used to procure more than 300,000 tons of bitumen - a substance used in making asphalt. - one of Iran's most profitable industries.

Hamid Bagheri Dermiani's case was initially processed by the newly established anti-corruption court but later sent to the Revolutionary Court where he was charged with "spreading corruption on earth" and sentenced to death in October 2018.

Iranian Supreme Court upheld Bargheri Dermiani's death sentence quickly after the verdict was issued.

He is the third person to be executed for corruption charges since the head of the Judiciary, with the approval of the Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei, signaled harder punishments for corruption including the launch of a special anti-corruption court in August 2018.

Two other businessmen, [Vahid Mazlounin and Mohammad Esmaeel Ghasemi](#), were executed in November 2018 for corruption charges.

Iran Human Rights (IHR) had strongly condemned the executions for the charges of economic corruption. Mahmood Amiry-Moghaddam, the Director and spokesperson for the organization, said: "The death penalty is an inhumane punishment, and the international law prohibits death sentence for economic corruption, which is not considered as the most serious crimes. Besides, the prisoners were sentenced to death as a result of an unfair trial in an illegal Court. The primary purpose of the execution of these two people is to create fear in society, not to combat corruption. Iranian authorities know that the system, with corrupt organs such as the Judiciary and the Supreme leader who has absolute power and zero accountability, are the main sources of corruption in the country. We call on the Iranian authorities to put an end to the policy of using the death penalty as a solution to all its problems".

Noushin the 86th woman executed under Rouhani

Created: 23 December 2018

<https://women.ncr-iran.org/iran-women-news/5651-noushin-86th-woman-executed-under-rouhani>

A young woman identified only as Noushin, 25, was hanged on Saturday, December 22, 2018, the Iranian state-run ROKNA news agency reported.

It is not clear in which city and prison the execution took place.



The young woman had been interviewed by a state-media reporter just before being hanged as she was waiting in the courtyard for her sentence to be carried out.

Noushin was convicted of murdering a man, Soheil, who had promised to marry her, but took advantage of her, and subsequently brutalized, blackmailed and forced her into having sexual relations with his friends. (The state-run ROKNA news agency - December 22, 2018)

Noushin did this for a month before she decided to stop this situation by killing the man who was forcing her to do so.

Noushin is the 86th woman to be [executed during Rouhani's tenure](#).

She is not the first victim of violence who is being executed for defending herself and her dignity.

Iranian women who are victims of violence receive no support from the government. They are either forced to go back home with the same husband who batters them or are sentenced to execution, or retribution in kind, if they commit murder in self-defense.

[Reyhaneh Jabbari](#), an interior designer, was [executed](#) on October 25, 2014, after seven years of imprisonment for defending herself against rape by a senior Intelligence Ministry official.

At least a dozen women linger on [death row](#) in [Qarchak Prison](#) in Varamin for reacting in self-defense against violence. A similar situation exists in other prisons across Iran where many of the women convicted of murder have acted in self-defense in the face of violence directed against them.

Prisoners of Conscience

Iran: Imprisoned Dissident Dies

Systematic Failure to Investigate Deaths in Detention

December 20, 2018 2:00AM EST

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2018/12/20/iran-imprisoned-dissident-dies>



(Beirut) – [Iranian](#) authorities should immediately carry out an independent and impartial investigation into the death of an imprisoned activist on a hunger strike, Human Rights Watch said today. Anyone found responsible for wrongdoing in the death of Vahid Sayadi Nasiri should be held accountable. Iranian authorities have systematically failed to conduct transparent investigations into at least prior four deaths in custody during 2018.

On December 13, the authorities informed Sayadi Nasiri's family that he had died in a hospital in Qom. He had been convicted of "insulting the Supreme Leader and sacred belief and propaganda against the state." He began a hunger strike in September and later asked to be transferred out of a ward that included prisoners convicted of violent crimes, two sources told Human Rights Watch. The authorities have yet to conduct any transparent investigation into the [five deaths in detention](#) during 2018, but have claimed that three cases were suicides.

"The deaths of dissidents and others whom Iran's judiciary should never have imprisoned in the first place is a deadly travesty of justice," said [Michael Page](#), deputy Middle East director

at Human Rights Watch. “Iranian authorities have a responsibility to protect the lives of all detainees and impartially investigate any deaths that occur.”

Mehdi Kaheh, the prosecutor of Qom, told reporters on December 13 that [Sayadi Nasiri was suffering from “liver issues,”](#) that “his condition deteriorated in detention,” and that he died after seven days in the hospital. However, [Sayadi Nasiri’s sister, Elaheh,](#) told United States-funded Radio Farda on December 14 that he had been transferred to the hospital a week before for gastrointestinal bleeding and was transferred back to the prison. “The night before when his health deteriorated, he was hospitalized again for a couple of hours,” she said. The Radio Farda website report quoted her as saying that the medical examiners told her that the hunger strike, gastrointestinal bleeding, and the “failure of bowel and liver” were the causes of his death.

Radio Farda reported that the government had on March 16 pardoned Sayadi Nasiri, who was serving an eight-year sentence for his social media posts, but that he was rearrested on the same charges on July 23. On December 15, the Iranian Students’ News Agency (ISNA) reported that according to an unnamed source in 2015, [authorities arrested Sayadi Nasiri](#) for “membership in a terrorist group and planning to take actions,” and had been sentenced to five years in prison.

[On March 4, authorities informed the family of Mohammad Raji,](#) a member of the Dervish minority arrested during police clashes with the community on February 19 and 20, that he had died in custody. The authorities have refused to provide any explanation and have threatened reprisals against his family if they speak about it publicly.

[On February 10, the family of Kavous Seyed Emami,](#) a well-known environmentalist and professor arrested as part of a crackdown against environmental activists on January 24 and 25, [reported that he had died](#) in detention under unknown circumstances. Iranian authorities claimed that he committed suicide, but have not conducted an impartial investigation into his death.

On January 7 and 8, in the aftermath of mass arrests that followed protests across the country, [activists reported the deaths of Sina Ghanbari and Vahid Heidari,](#) one in Tehran and the other in Arak. Authorities claimed that both committed suicide.

Other detained activists remain at risk. [Farhad Meysami, a human rights defender](#) who was arrested for his peaceful activism against compulsory hijab laws, has been on a hunger strike since August 1 and his condition has deteriorated, his mother reported. [The Center for Human Rights in Iran has reported](#) that authorities moved Meysami to the medical facility in Evin prison, where he has been held in isolation. On November 29, [a group of United Nations human rights experts expressed alarm](#) at Meysami’s condition, and said they were “deeply disturbed” by the denial of his due process guarantees.

The UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Mandela Rules) provide authoritative guidance on international human rights standards. Rule 71 states:

Notwithstanding the initiation of an internal investigation, the prison director shall report, without delay, any custodial death ... to a judicial or other competent authority that is independent of the prison administration and mandated to conduct prompt, impartial and effective investigations into the circumstances and causes of such cases. The prison administration shall fully cooperate with that authority and ensure that all evidence is preserved.

Furthermore,

this rule shall equally apply whenever there are reasonable grounds to believe that an act of torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment has been committed in

prison, irrespective of whether a formal complaint has been received...[S]teps shall be taken immediately to ensure that all potentially implicated persons have no involvement in the investigation.

“Competent, impartial investigations into prisoners’ deaths are an essential first step for ending the impunity of abusive and negligent officials who are turning Iran’s prison system into a morgue for imprisoned activists and critics,” Page said.

Iran: Unprecedented Crackdown of Independent Lawyers

<https://iranhr.net/en/articles/3584/>



Iran Human Rights (IHR); December 15, 2018: Iranian lawyer Mohammad Najafi has been sentenced to another 13 years imprisonment solely because of doing his job to defend his clients’ rights. He was sentenced to [three years imprisonment](#) a few weeks ago. Human rights lawyer Nasrin Sotoudeh and her husband are in prison facing several accusations. Amir-salar

Davoudi, the defense attorney of several political and civil activists, is under arrest for almost a month, and unprecedented crackdown of Iranian lawyers continues.

"The international community should not remain silent about the increasing suppression of Iranian lawyers and jurists. We urge the United Nations and the European community to immediately react to the imprisonment of Iranian lawyers and their professional restrictions. We also urge all the lawyers and Bar Associations in the world to express their solidarity with their Iranian peers who fight for the right to a fair trial" said Mahmood Amiry-Moghaddam, the Director, and Spokesperson of Iran Human Rights.

According to the IHR sources, lawyer Mohammad Najafi is sentenced to 13 years jail term, and under current Iranian law, should spend a sum of 10 years in jail.

IHR saw the verdict issued by branch 1 of Arak Revolutionary Court, sentencing Najafi to “One year in jail for spreading propaganda against the Islamic Republic on behalf of opposition groups and organizations, two years for insulting the Supreme Leader, 10 years for cooperation with enemy state by interviewing Radio Farda (Persian section of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty), and giving information and news to media abroad.” Judge Ali Mohammad Aliani has issued the verdict. Mohammad Najafi was arrested by security forces at his house in Arak on January 15 after publishing information about Vahid Heydari. Vahid was a vendor from Tekyeh Valley in Arak who was arrested by the police under the December 31 protests in Arak. His body was delivered to his family. Iranian authorities had previously claimed that Vahid was arrested for drug dealing. However, Najafi revealed that his client was one of the protesters arrested during the unrests. He also claimed that Vahid is probably killed under torture.

In a similar event, lawyers [Arash Keikhorsavi and Qassem Shole-Sa’adi](#) were sentenced to [6 years](#) of imprisonment by branch 15 of Tehran Revolutionary Courts, headed by judge Salavati. They are reportedly sentenced to 5 years imprisonment for “illegal gathering” and one year for “spreading propaganda against the system.”

Human rights lawyer and Sakharov prize winner, [Nasrin Sotoudeh](#), is accused of several “crimes” including “acceptance the Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought” given by the European Parliament.

She is also accused of supporting immorality and prostitution by representing Girls of Revolutionary Street, encouraging referendum, helping the establishment of home churches, her membership in Defenders of Human Rights Center, membership in an abolitionist campaign called Step by Step to Stop Death Penalty.

A few days after Nasrin's arrest, her husband [Reza Khandan](#) was also arrested and faced charges like "gathering and collusion against national security, spreading propaganda against the system and encouraging immorality and prostitution" by opposing compulsory hijab.

According to a close source, Amirsalar Davoudi was arrested on November 20 and is held in an undisclosed location. His office and home were searched and some of his personal belongings, computers and also his client cases were confiscated. He could not call or have any contact with his lawyer so far. Some sources told IHR that he is accused of insulting the Supreme Leader and spreading propaganda against the system.

"I do not exaggerate, they are slaughtering Iranian lawyers," an Iranian lawyer told IHR in the condition of anonymity.

Family "Worried" About Ailing, Elderly Labor Activist Held Incommunicado

December 17, 2018

<https://www.iranhumanrights.org/2018/12/family-worried-about-ailing-elderly-labor-activist-held-incommunicado/>



The family of ailing labor activist Asghar Firouzi has been extremely "worried" about his condition since he was detained by unidentified security agents, the Center for Human Rights in Iran (CHRI) has learned.

Firouzi, 70, was taken into custody in the presence of his colleagues at his book depository located on the outskirts of the city of Mashhad, capital of Khorasan Razavi Province, on December 3. He has

not been heard from since, a close associate told CHRI on December 13.

"There were several agents who came with a warrant but did not say what agency they belonged to or what he was accused of and where he was being taken," said the source who requested anonymity for fear of reprisals by Iranian security forces for speaking to a foreign media outlet.

The family is especially worried because Firouzi is in poor health.

"His son has gone everywhere to find him but everybody says they don't know anything," said the source. "He has not contacted his family and nobody has visited him. He has had one heart attack in the past and recently he has been suffering from memory problems."

Firouzi served several years in prison in the 1980s for his peaceful political activities and narrowly escaped death during the Islamic Republic's [extrajudicial executions](#) of thousands of political prisoners in the summer of 1988.

Since then he has been mainly involved in cultural activities such as organizing poetry nights and producing plays, as well as peacefully expressing support for labor protests but had not been summoned or arrested in recent years, the source added.

The family's fears have been heightened due to the ongoing [crackdown](#) on labor activists throughout the country.

Open Letter From Evin Prison: Narges Mohammadi Calls on Tehran Prosecutor to Stop Denying Her Medical Treatment

December 20, 2018

<https://www.iranhumanrights.org/2018/12/open-letter-from-evin-prison-narges-mohammadi-calls-on-tehran-prosecutor-to-stop-denying-her-medical-treatment/>



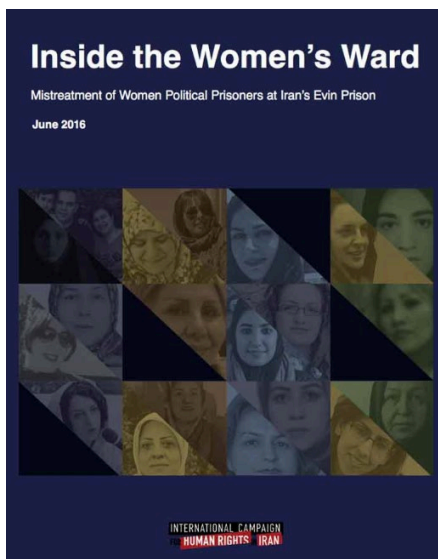
Iranian political prisoner Narges Mohammadi has written an open letter calling on Jafari Dowlatabadi, the prosecutor general of Tehran, to stop denying her medical treatment.

According to her letter, Mohammadi has not been allowed to see a doctor outside the prison for one year and a half despite suffering from life-threatening ailments including seizures and blood clots.

“I will not go into the unfair sentences against me,” she writes, “but I am asking Your Excellency to at least take steps to allow me to have access to medical treatment and specialist physicians who have been taking care of me for years, as well as access to medications.”

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

Report: [Inside the Women's Ward: Mistreatment of Women Political Prisoners at Iran's Evin Prison](#)



The Center for Human Rights in Iran (CHRI) [revealed](#) in 2016 that political prisoners held in the Women's Ward of Evin Prison endure inhumane conditions, including the denial of proper medical care in a [prison infirmary](#) that is dirty and lacking in supplies and medical specialists, denied or delayed transfer to hospital and specialists for treatment of serious illnesses, inadequate nutrition, and intermittent lack of heat.

According to Article 520 of Iran's [Code of Criminal Procedures](#), prisoners suffering from acute illnesses are eligible for five days of leave if approved by the prosecutor. Article 522 states that prisoners who require medical treatment outside the prison for non-urgent issues are eligible for release for a period of time determined by a criminal court judge. (These articles and information about Mohammadi's case appear at the bottom of Mohammadi's letter).

Your Excellency, Mr. Jafari Dowlatabadi

The Honorable Prosecutor of Tehran

With greetings and respect,

For unknown reasons I have not been transferred for medical treatment for a long time and my inquiries in prison as well as through lawyers outside prison have not had any results.

When Your Excellency visited me in Evin Prison when I was being held in solitary confinement in Ward 209, you were made aware of the fabricated case made against me by the Intelligence Ministry and right then you realized that the investigator's allegation regarding the confiscation of a van full of flyers at my home was a lie and you issued a revised order to keep me in temporary detention. Yet I was sentenced to six years in prison.

In 2011, you realized that the judicial authority in charge of the court in Evin Prison, Mr. Reshteh Ahmadi, fabricated a letter on my behalf and ordered my illegal transfer to the women's ward in Zanjan Prison and I was kept there for several months.

Even though I was perfectly healthy before being detained, I suffered from bouts of nervous attacks as a result of psychological pressures in solitary confinement in Ward 209 and experienced several seizures in Zanjan Prison, for which there exists medical records and brain scans taken at Valiasr Hospital in Zanjan that have been marked confidential.

Unfortunately, in 2016 you were again a witness to a heavy sentence issued against me and I was condemned to serve 16 years in prison as Your Excellency's representative fully cooperated with the un-impartial judge.

In the aftermath of this unjust sentence, what is important is the way I am being treated in the women's ward of Evin Prison. I have not been dispatched for medical treatment for a long time without any explanation.

1- According to medical documents and evidence, some time ago I was diagnosed with pulmonary embolism, which requires medical attention as well as stringent tests. It has been at least a year and a half since I was permitted to see the specialist doctor who has been treating me for years. He has submitted several requests through my lawyer to judicial and prison authorities to get permission for my medical visit.

2- Because of the usage of anti-blood clotting pills such as Warfarin, I have developed a feminine disease for which the last medical treatment I received was in 2017 and since then, I have not been able to see my long-time personal physician. Meanwhile, it is very obvious that I need specialist treatment because I am taking anti-blood clotting agents for my pulmonary embolism and coagulation pills to prevent [vaginal] bleeding but no action has been taken.

3- After a two-year delay and a lot of pain and suffering, I underwent a gallbladder operation and during an endoscopy of my esophagus, doctors discovered an inlet patch which is not causing any particular problem at the moment but I worry it could become problematic in the future. The presiding doctor submitted a detailed report to the prison along with photographs and recommended that I be checked by Prof. Malekzadeh and my personal physician at a hospital in September of this year but this did not happen.

4- After prolonged incarceration in solitary confinement in Ward 209 [in Evin Prison] and Zanjan Prison, I suffered seizures and was put under the supervision of a neurologist but I have been prevented from visiting him for a long time.

Mr. Prosecutor,

Unfortunately, I have no hope that fairness and justice would be observed by the judicial system. Therefore, I will not go into the unfair sentences against me, but I am asking Your

Excellency to at least take steps to allow me to have access to medical treatment and specialist physicians who have been taking care of me for years, as well as access to medications.

I have no intention of exaggerating my illnesses and I don't endorse such tactics by anyone including myself. But I believe this is unfair to those who are sicker than I am. Let me remind you that when Dr. [\[Alireza\] Rajae's](#) eye and [part of] his face were removed, I read [Deputy Judiciary Chief Gholam-Hossein Mohseni] Ejei's interview in the newspaper in which he denied any responsibility on behalf of the judiciary.

Also, when I heard the news about Dr. [Kavous Seyed-Emami's](#) death, again I read Mr. Ejei's interview denying the judiciary's responsibility.

1- As I mentioned earlier, my doctor has said that the inlet patch in my esophagus is not problematic at the present time but it could become a cause for concern and those suffering from it need attention away from stressful environments. Since being diagnosed, I have not been given permission to see my physician.

2- The use of [anti]blood-clotting pills along with coagulation pills have been described as worrisome by the specialist doctors and there are many documented reports about this in my file that have been confirmed even by the prison's medical doctor. If untreated, they could be life threatening and this is why I am obliged to write this open letter. Obviously, the judiciary will be responsible for any danger to my life.

CC: Minister of Justice, Minister of Health, Parliamentary Committee for Health Affairs

Narges Mohammadi

November 28, 2018

Iran's [Code of Criminal Procedures](#), **Article 520**: Prisoners can be granted furlough for a maximum of three days per month on condition of compliance with prison rules and regulations and participation in reform activities and earning points, subsequent to leaving an appropriate security deposit. In cases of serious illness or the death of close relatives or a child's wedding, prisoners can be granted furlough for five days with the prosecutor's approval...

Article 522: If a convicted person requires treatment outside the prison, the presiding judge can set a period necessary for treatment based on the Medical Examiner's opinion and payment of a security deposit, while delaying the implementation of the sentence. If the convicted person does not provide a security deposit, hospital treatment will take place under guard and the period of treatment will be considered part of the prison term. Note: The dispatch of persons who are already in prison for treatment will be covered by these same provisions.

Mohammadi, who was awarded the [Per Anger Prize](#) for her peaceful defense of human rights in Iran in 2011 and the [American Physical Society's Andrei Sakharov Prize](#) in April 2018, was first arrested in 2009 and sentenced to 11 years in prison for the charges of "assembly and collusion against national security," "membership in the Defenders of Human Rights Center," and "propaganda against the state."

Upon appeal, her sentence was reduced to six years behind bars and she was released from Zanzan Prison in 2013 on medical grounds.

She was arrested again on May 5, 2015, two weeks after [meeting](#) with Catherine Ashton, the European Union's foreign policy chief at the time, at the Austrian Embassy in Tehran.

In September 2016, Branch 26 of the Tehran Appeals Court upheld a 16-year prison sentence against Mohammadi for the charges of, "membership in the [now banned] Defenders of

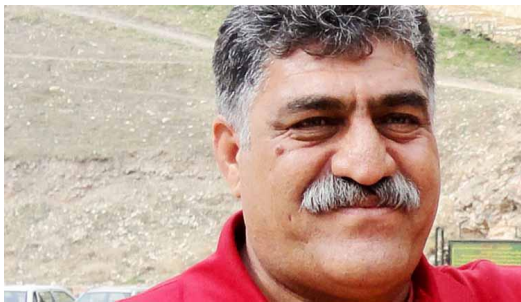
Human Rights Center,” “assembly and collusion against national security,” and one year for “propaganda against the state.”

She will be eligible for release after serving 10 years.

Jailed labor activists charged with disrupting public order and spreading propaganda

By Iran HRM Last updated Dec 23, 2018

<https://iran-hrm.com/index.php/2018/12/23/jailed-labor-activists-charged-with-disrupting-public-order-and-spreading-propaganda/>



Jailed labor activist Ali Nejati has been informed of new charges against him.

According to Farzaneh Zilabi, the lawyer of the former head of the Haft Tappeh Sugarcane Factory Labor Union, Ali Nejati was sentenced to “disrupting public order” and “spreading propaganda” against the Iranian government.

Farzaneh Zilabi said on December 18 that her client was sentenced to disrupting public order for “leading the Haft Tappeh sugarcane workers’ strike action and gatherings.”

She said that the Iranian labor activist was initially taken to Dezful Prison and then to a security detention center in Ahvaz.

Ali Nejati was arrested by security forces November 29, the 25th day of protests by hundreds of Haft Tappeh workers demanding months of unpaid wages in the southwestern Iranian city of Shush.

A telegram channel set up by a worker’s union reported November 29 that Mr. Nejati had been arrested at his home without a warrant.

Nejati’s son, Peyman Nejati, and a family friend, Majid Roayaei, were also arrested and released on bail the same day.

“The stress of the incident caused Ali Nejati to become ill but despite having a history of heart disease, the agents beat him up and took him away,” the report said.

Mr. Nejati was transferred to the hospital on December 14 but was quickly returned to the security section of Dezful Prison.

Ali Nejati, a 55-year-old board member of the sugarcane company’s workers’ union, was fired from the company in 2012, after he served one year in Fajr Prison in Dezful for his peaceful trade union activities.

He was also held for three months in 2015 in the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps’ detention center in Ahvaz, the capital of Khuzestan Province, for leading ongoing protests to demand unpaid wages and benefits for the workers of Haft Tappeh.

Before this, Haft Tappeh labor activist [Esmail Bakhshi](#), who was detained on November 19, was released from prison but new [reports](#) said that he was currently under house arrest and that his home was being monitored by the Revolutionary Guards Corps Intelligence Department.

Iran is a signatory to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which mandates in Articles 21 and 22 freedom of association and guarantees the right to form trade unions,

and to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which guarantees in Article 8 the right of workers to form or join trade unions and protects the right of workers to strike.

Despite this, Iran's Labor Code does not grant citizens the right to form independent unions, despite Iran's ratification of the UN's International Convention on Civil and Political Rights and membership in the International Labor Organization.

Workers are regularly threatened, detained, tortured and even sentenced to flogging, despite their legitimate demands and protests to current conditions which has robbed them of more than 80% of their purchasing power.

Furthermore, Independent labor unions are banned, strikers are often fired and risk being detained, and labor leaders face long prison sentences on trumped up national security charges.

Children's Rights

Delays in Ratification of Bill for Protection of Children Means More Violence and Abuse

December 18, 2018

<https://www.iranhumanrights.org/2018/12/delays-in-ratification-of-bill-for-protection-of-children-means-more-violence-and-abuse/>



Latest Delay: Guardian Council Objects to Punishing Negligent Parents

Parliament's Judiciary Commission Must Find Compromise Language on Parental Neglect to Ensure Passage of Bill

"Each day's delay in its ratification means children will continue to be unprotected against violence and abuse."

Hossein Raeesi, children's rights attorney

While reports of cases of child physical and sexual abuse continue to mount, Parliament and legislative vetting bodies in Iran such as the Guardian Council continue to procrastinate in ratifying the bill for the protection of children.

On December 2, 2018, news about the rape of several students at a school in Isfahan was published widely on social networks. Subsequently, Alireza Mahdi, the Education Ministry's public relations director in the province, [confirmed](#) the news in an interview with the semi-official Iranian Student News Agency (ISNA) and announced that a suspect, who was a member of the unnamed school's parent-teacher association, had been arrested.

This news came just less than two weeks after the rape of children in Shushtar and the [publication](#) of related video clips.

Such reports highlight the urgent need to immediately ratify the [Bill For the Protection of the Rights of Children and Youth](#). Yet the bill, drafted a decade ago, continues to be sent back and forth between Parliament and the Guardian Council, the official body in Iran that vets all legislation for conformity with Islamic law.

Children's rights' attorney and activist Hossein Raeesi told the Center for Human Rights in Iran (CHRI), "This is one of the most urgent pieces of legislation in the hands of the

lawmaker. If it's not ratified, it will truly leave children unprotected against violence and abuse."

Raeesi continued, "Of course, the level of abuse and exploitation of children will not drop the day after [the bill's] enforcement, but it will clarify the responsibilities of relevant government bodies such as the ministries of health and education as well as the judiciary, among others, which will allow them to act more effectively in preventing such incidents. Also, it will significantly reduce parents' autocratic sense of ownership over their children, which is often the root of abuse."

Current Sticking Point: Guardian Council Objects to Article 9 Which Holds Parents Accountable for Neglect and Abuse

While Parliament and the Guardian Council have reached agreement on most of the articles in the bill that have been argued about for years, one article remains disputed: Article 9, which concerns the abuse and neglect of children. The Guardian Council has specifically objected to the Note to Article 9, which holds parents responsible for child abuse or neglect.

The clause mandates punishment "any time parental inattention or neglect results in death, loss of limbs, injury or [the] sexual abuse of a child...." Lawmakers opposed the removal of this clause and sent it back to the parliamentary commission for judicial affairs for reconsideration.

"One of the main causes of harm to children is parental neglect. I once represented a case [in Iran] in which parents had left their two-year-old child in the care of an uncle, even though he was a drug addict. The uncle took the child out of town and abandoned him in order to look for drugs. Tragically the child [died]... Cases like these tell us that parents must be obliged to act responsibly toward their children and not neglect them," Raeesi, the children's rights' attorney, told CHRI.

The lawyer added, "In many countries parents are not allowed to leave their children unattended without adult supervision up to a certain age and if they want them to be cared for by someone else, they have to observe certain rules. If the caregiver is proven to be a drug addict or has a criminal record, the parents will be committing a crime."

Raeesi told CHRI that due to the importance of Article 9 in protecting children's life and health, it was necessary for members of the parliamentary commission for judicial affairs to rewrite it to include specific descriptions that would get the approval of the Guardian Council.

"I'm opposed to criminalizing things, but protecting children is so important that it justifies the criminalization of parental neglect. The existence of this provision will be a strong deterrent and force parents to pay greater attention to their children," he said.

Child Protection Bill Drafted 10 Years Ago, Still Not Passed

In response to societal protest over the increasing number of child abuse cases, Iran's judiciary first drafted a bill for the protection of children and youth on May 12, 2009, consisting of 54 articles, and submitted it to then-President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's government. Two years later the government sent the bill, with 49 articles, to Parliament for ratification. Then in 2013 the bill was sent back to the government, this time under President Hassan Rouhani. Finally in February 2017, a number of female lawmakers wrote a [letter](#) to Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani demanding an urgent restart of deliberations on the bill.

In its current form, the bill consists of 40 articles in four sections including definitions, organizations, crimes, punishments and supportive measures for the protection of children and youth against violence, mistreatment and abuse. There are also specific punishments for crimes committed by family members and others, and in line with international conventions,

the bill calls for special protections for children and youth under the age of 18. However, the bill still has significant shortcomings, such as lack of protections for crimes against child laborers and street workers.

After 10 years of bouncing back and forth between various state bodies, during which time many children have been subjected to neglect, abuse, rape and even loss of life, the current imperative is for passage of the bill, and for the Parliament's judicial commission to quickly arrive at compromise language regarding the issue of parental responsibility for neglect and abuse delineated in the Note to Article 9, so that the bill can move forward to ratification.

On September 21, 2018, Masoumeh Ebtekar, the vice president for women and family affairs, [said](#) the government was ready to implement the legislation once it is approved by the Guardian Council.

Three girls die of burn injuries in school fire in Zahedan

By Iran HRM Last updated Dec 19, 2018

<https://iran-hrm.com/index.php/2018/12/19/three-girls-die-of-burn-injuries-in-school-fire-in-zahedan/>



A at a non-governmental girls' school in Osveh Hassaneh in Zahedan took the lives of three elementary schoolgirls.

Three girls died in a school fire at a private pre-primary and primary girls' school in the southeastern Iranian city of Zahedan on Tuesday.

The fire broke out in a faulty oil stove being used during winter to heat a classroom of girls at Osveh Hassaneh

school in Zahedan, capital of Sistan and Baluchestan Province in southeastern Iran.

The Department of Education in Sistan and Baluchestan Province announced the names of the three pre-school girl students as Mona Khosroparast, Maryam Nokandi, and Saba Arabi.

The situation of another girl student, Yekta Mirshekar, is also reported to be severe. She is suffering a higher than 70 percent burn.

Cited by the state run Tasnim news agency on December 18, 2018, Mahmoud Reza Miri, president of the Medical Sciences University of Zahedan, said that in a fire at a preschool in Zahedan, four girl students suffered severe burns, three of whom unfortunately died due to the severity of burns and injuries to the respiratory system. Now the fourth girl is in a severe condition.

The required standards and safety tips at this elementary school for girl students were also not respected.

This is not the first time that lack of standards in Iran's schools took the lives of children.

The Shinabad school fire in 2012, took the lives of two girls and left 26 other children suffering burns.

Some of the surviving girls still need reconstructive surgery more than five years after the incident and the government has not given them any help during the last year.

Fourth girl student victim of fire in Zahedan dies

Created: 21 December 2018

<https://women.ncr-iran.org/iran-women-news/5648-fourth-girl-student-victim-of-fire-in-zahedan-dies>



Yekta Mirshekar, the fourth girl student who suffered a higher than 70 percent burn in the preschool fire in [Zahedan](#) died at the hospital on Thursday, December 20, 2018.

Condolences on the tragic loss of this innocent girl to her family and the people of Zahedan.

Three pre-school and elementary girl students [lost their lives in a fire](#) on Tuesday, December 18, 2018, at a non-governmental girls' school called Osveh Hassaneh in

Zahedan, capital of Sistan and Baluchestan Province in southeastern Iran.

The names of the three pre-school girl students were Mona Khosroparast, Maryam Nokandi, and Saba Arabi. The situation of a fourth girl student, Yekta Mirshekar, was reported to be severe, but two days after the incident, she also lost her life due to the extent and depth of burns.

A member of the regime's parliament publicly asked how come our media do not report when four students burn in fire in Zahedan? (The state-run ISNA news agency – December 19, 2018)

Referring to the fire incident at the Osveh Hassaneh school in Zahedan and the deaths of four girl students, a nonprofit association for child protection wrote to Rouhani and said, "What threatens our children today is the lack of attention of the authorities to their rights."

[Mohammad Ali Bathaie](#), the Minister of Education made shocking confessions to reporters at a government meeting on December 12, 2018, saying, "Given the credit the government and the Education Ministry have, it is not possible to remove (the non-standard) heaters from schools in seven or eight years." (The state-run Rouydad 24 news agency – December 19, 2018)

The clerical regime's Minister of Education announced in 2017 that 42 percent of Iranian schools do not have a safe heating system. (The state-run Mehr news agency – September 23, 2018)

The accident leading to the deaths of the four girl students was due to the use of oil and non-standard heaters in the school. Unfortunately, the required standards and safety tips at this elementary school for girl students had not been observed.

Freedom of Expression

RSF writes to UN High Commissioner for Human Rights about journalists detained in Iran

December 20, 2018 - Updated on December 21, 2018

<https://rsf.org/en/news/rsf-writes-un-high-commissioner-human-rights-about-journalists-detained-iran>

Reporters Without Borders (RSF) has written to UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet about the conditions of detained journalists in Iran, which is one of the world's five biggest jailers of journalists, according to the worldwide round-up on deadly violence and abusive treatment of media personnel that RSF published yesterday. "Imprisoning journalists, denying them medical care while they are detained and denying them the right to a fair trial constitute a flagrant violation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Iran is party," RSF points out.

Dear High Commissioner,



We would like to draw your attention to the appalling conditions in which prisoners of conscience, including many journalists, are held in Iran. This alarming situation needs to be addressed in a swift and decisive manner by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. We urge you, in the international com-

munity's name, to press the Iranian authorities to give the United Nations their unconditional cooperation and to respect their international obligations.

Reporters Without Borders (RSF) has registered at least 40 arrests of journalists in Iran since the start of 2018. After paying exorbitant sums of money as bail, some were released conditionally pending trial, but 13 of them have been given sentences ranging from three to 26 years in prison. A total of 29 professional and non-professional journalists are currently detained. Iran is one of the world's most repressive countries as regards media freedom and is ranked 164th out of 180 countries in RSF's 2018 World Press Freedom Index.

Several UN special rapporteurs have formulated criticisms and recommendations as regards respect for human rights in Iran, especially prisoner rights. RSF points out that denial of medical care to detainees may constitute a flagrant violation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Iran is party, as it is of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This form of mistreatment has been the cause of many detainee deaths in Iran.

The prison authorities in Iran are required by the country's own prison regulations to provide ailing detainees with the necessary medical care. Articles 102 and 103 of these regulations state that "the monthly check-up at the prison infirmary is obligatory" and that "if necessary, the detainee must be urgently transferred from the prison to the hospital." The regulations also state that the judge is responsible for the safety and health of prisoners with a serious and incurable illness.

An international NGO that defends and promotes journalism, RSF is very concerned about the health of journalists and citizen-journalists held without a fair trial and denied the medical care needed to treat sometimes very worrying illnesses. Five members of the Majzooban Noor website (the only independent source of news about Iran's Sufi religious minority of Gonabadi dervishes) – Reza Entesari, Kasra Nouri, Mohammad Sharifi Moghadam and the non-professional journalists Sina Entesari and Amir Nouri – were transferred to communal dormitories on 13 November 2018 after 110 days in isolation in Greater Tehran ("Fasha-

puyeh”) prison, Tehran’s biggest detention centre. During all this time, their families were denied any news of them on the intelligence ministry’s orders. Prison officials had refused to tell the families where these journalists were being held.

Arrested on the night of 19 February, during clashes between police and members of this Sufi community in the north Tehran district of Pasdaran, these journalists refused to participate in an unfair trial and were sentenced in absentia to a combined total of 64 years in prison and 444 lashes.

Saleholldin Moradi, Reza Entesari and his brother, the citizen-journalist **Sina Entesari**, were sentenced to seven years in prison. **Mohammad Sharifi Moghadam**, and another member of its editorial committee, **Kasra Nouri**, were given 12-year terms, while another member of the editorial staff, **Mostafa Abdi**, was sentenced to 26 years in prison. Three women who worked for the website, **Sepideh Moradi, Avisha Jaleedin and Shima Entesari**, were previously sentenced by a Tehran revolutionary court on 10 July to five years in prison on charges of “meeting and plotting against national security.”

RSF points out that article 48 of the Islamic Republic of Iran’s code of criminal procedure gives defendants the right to request the presence of a lawyer as soon as they are detained. Exception is made for certain categories of defendants listed in article 302. They include those charged with theft, drug-related offences, organized crime-related offences or crimes against national and international security. They also include journalists. Defendants on this list “must choose a lawyer from the list confirmed by the head of the judicial system.” This is a flagrant violation of articles 9, 10 and 11 of the Universal Declaration of Human rights and article 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. It also constitutes a grave violation of article 35 of the Iranian constitution.

The Majzooban Noor website journalists are not the only victims of arbitrary arrest and the Iranian justice system’s iniquities. **Hengameh Shahidi**, the editor of the Paineveste blog, was sentenced to 12 years and nine months in prison at the end of a trial behind closed doors on 1 December 2018. Her clearly intimidated lawyer, Mostafa Turk Hamedani, told the Iranian state news agency IRNA that, “given the confidentiality of the proceedings and the sensitive nature of the case,” he could not disclose details about the court’s verdict. Arrested on 25 June 2018, this journalist was accused of “insulting the head of the judicial system.” She has been held in isolation and denied her basic rights ever since, including the right to visits and medical care.

Mohammad Hossein Heidari, the editor of the Dolat e Bahar news website, was sentenced to three years in prison on 9 December 2018 on charges of “publishing false information designed to trouble public opinion” and anti-government “propaganda.” He has been detained ever since his arrest during a raid on his home on 22 May 2018. His lawyer said he has appealed against his conviction. A supporter of former President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, he was already convicted on the same charges in September, when he was sentenced to 18 months in prison, a fine of 4 million toman and a two-year ban on practicing online journalism.

Saeed Malekpour is another victim of Iranian judicial persecution. He was a website designer living in Canada when he was arrested while visiting his family in Iran in 2008. After his arrest, he was held incommunicado in Tehran’s Evin prison for more than a year and was tor-

ured, according to the information obtained by RSF. He was sentenced to death in November 2010 on a charge of creating “pornographic” websites and “insulting Islam’s sacred principles,” because he had designed a photo-sharing app that was used without his knowledge to transmit pornographic images. His sentence was later commuted to life imprisonment. After suffering a heart attack, he was taken to Tehran’s Taleghani Hospital on 22 October 2018 but was returned to his prison cell just two days later against the advice of the hospital’s doctors. During his ten years in prison, he has never been granted a furlough, whether to visit a doctor or a relative, although Iranian law provides for this.

A journalist and spokesperson for Iran’s Centre for Human Rights Defenders, **Narges Mohammadi** has been held since May 2015. Sentenced to a total of 16 years in prison on several charges, she is to serve ten years under a 2015 law stipulating that those convicted serve only the sentence for the most serious charge. Now aged 46, she is being denied proper medical attention although very ill. After ten days in hospital, she was returned to prison on 28 August 2018 although still in very poor health. As well as being illegally denied the medical care she needs for the past three years, she has also been denied the right to furloughs although, under Iranian law, all detainees are supposed to get one day of leave a month.

Soheil Arabi, a recipient of RSF’s Press Freedom Prize in the citizen-journalist category in 2017, is a leading example of the regime’s inhuman and degrading treatment of prisoners of conscience, including professional and non-professional journalists. After his arrest in Tehran in December 2013, he was isolated and mistreated for two months to force him to confess to involvement in creating a Facebook network that criticized the government and “blasphemed” Islam. A judicial saga ensued in which he was initially sentenced to three years in prison, 30 lashes and a heavy fine. A few months later, he was retried and sentenced to death, but the death sentence was eventually overturned and, in September 2015, he was sentenced to seven and a half years in prison instead.

His wife was detained for eight days in July 2017 and has been harassed and threatened ever since. Arabi’s health has deteriorated alarmingly after repeated hunger strikes and the inhuman and degrading treatment to which he has been subjected by the authorities in Greater Tehran prison. The aim of the judicial system’s persecution of both him and his family has been to get him to stop voicing criticism, even from behind bars. On 18 July 2018, he was given an additional six-year jail sentence for “anti-government propaganda and “insulting Islam’s sacred symbols” in his prison writings.

More and more Iranian prisoners, including journalists, are putting their lives at risk by going on hunger strike in protest against the conditions and mistreatment to which they are being subjected, or to press their demands for decent medical treatment.

Why Did Telegram Warn Users That Iranian Versions of the Telegram App—Talaeei and Hotgram—Are “Unsafe”?

December 17, 2018

<https://www.iranhumanrights.org/2018/12/why-did-telegram-warn-users-that-iranian-versions-of-app-telegram-talaeei-and-hotgram-are-unsafe/>



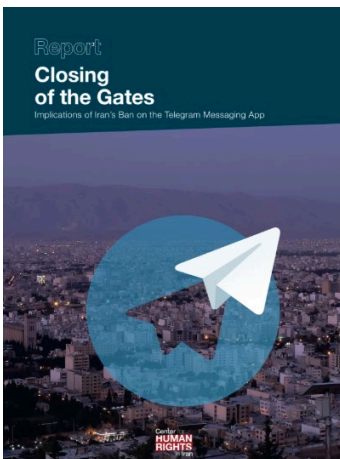
Iranian Client Apps Are Violating Telegram’s Terms of Service by Failing to Protect User Data

December 17, 2018 – In response to a rising chorus of concerns by internet security experts, Telegram, the widely used instant messaging app, has issued a [warning](#) to users of the Iranian-made versions of Telegram (known as “client apps”), Telegram Talaeii and Hotgram, which reportedly have 30

million users between them, that the apps are “unsafe.”

“Warning! The app you are using was not made by Telegram and is unsafe. We can only guarantee your safety if you use official Telegram apps,” said a [message](#) that appeared when users first logged on to the apps on December 15, 2018.

The Center for Human Rights in Iran (CHRI) welcomes this move by Telegram. Five months before the company issued the warning, and again a week before the advisory was issued, CHRI had reached out to Telegram urging it to inform users that the Iranian government can access and monitor private user activities on the modified Telegram Talaeii and Hotgram apps.



[Iran Telegram Ban Strangles Country Amid Struggling Economy, Protests](#)

“Now that Telegram has deemed these apps ‘unsafe,’ the natural next step would be discontinuing their access to Telegram’s servers since they violate Telegram’s own Terms of Service,” said Amir Rashidi, an internet security researcher at CHRI.

According to the “[Privacy and Security](#)” section of Telegram’s Terms of Service, all client apps must “guard their users’ privacy with utmost care” and comply with its security guidelines. Telegram also reserves its right to “discontinue” the apps’ access to Telegram’s [Application Programming Interface](#) (API) if those terms are violated.

Other big social media companies including Facebook have [blocked](#) client apps in the past for violating their terms of service, including in 2018 when Facebook suspended Cambridge Analytica’s access to its API following revelations that it was harvesting private user data.

Not only can the Iranian government access private user data on the two client apps according to research by [CHRI](#) and the internet freedom organization [Article19](#), the apps also censor content that the Iranian government has deemed inappropriate.

In the following paragraphs, CHRI outlines what these apps are, why they’re unsafe and why Telegram’s important warning merits follow-up action.

What Are Telegram Talaeii and Hotgram?

The [Telegram app](#) is a cloud-based, mobile and desktop messaging app with a free and open API that enables developers to legally build clone or “client” versions of the app. In technical terms, the app operates on “open source” code.

There are currently only two Iranian-developed versions of the Telegram app— [Telegram Talaeii](#) (“Telegram Gold”) and [Hotgram](#)—available on the Iranian app store, [Cafe Bazaar](#).

The [original Telegram app](#) had a reported 40 million monthly users in Iran before the Iranian government [banned](#) it in April 2018.

Iran's order to block Telegram came after months of [unsuccessful pressure](#) on the company by the Iranian Judiciary and state officials to move its servers to Iran and comply with Iranian censorship policies. Hostility to Telegram also increased after protestors used the messaging app during the unrest that broke out across Iran [in December 2017/January 2018](#) to spread word of the street gatherings.

After the original Telegram was banned, many people in Iran began using the two Iranian-made client apps, Telegram Talaeii and Hotgram. As of July 2018, they had a combined 30 million users in Iran, [according to](#) Assistant Prosecutor General Abdolsamad Khorramabadi.

Telegram Talaeii and Hotgram pull data and communicate with the original Telegram's servers based outside the country. However, because the two apps' servers are based in Iran, their data and traffic are open to monitoring and hacking by state actors and agencies that can access the apps' servers at any time.

Due to the fact that citizens in Iran can be arbitrarily [arrested and imprisoned](#) for their peaceful online activities, CHRI had called on Telegram to clarify that the client apps—Telegram Talaeii and Hotgram—are not owned, operated or regulated by the Telegram company, and to warn users about the apps' potential security risks.

This warning became all the more necessary after some Iranian officials stated on the record that the client apps were developed by an Iranian security agency.

On November 25, 2018, ultra-conservative Member of Parliament Mojtaba Zolnour [told](#) Iran's parliamentary news agency that "Hotgram and Telegram Talaeii have been developed by a domestic security agency and naturally a copy of their information is stored inside the country."



Screenshot of the code on Telegram Talaeii and Hotgram that informs users a channel has been blocked.

In August 2018, CHRI had [reported](#) that the two apps also block content on the original Telegram's servers deemed

inappropriate by the Iranian government, including channels belonging to CHRI, the BBC Persian Service, Paskoocheh (which offers virtual private networks) and dozens of other channels banned by Iran for their political and independent news content or for offering information and tools that can be used to circumvent online censorship.

Iran has a long history, documented by the UN and international rights organizations, of accessing messaging app data to conduct online surveillance, unlawfully enter accounts, and retrieve private user information despite the fact that such privacy is ostensibly protected in Iran's [Constitution](#). This content is then used to prosecute critics of the state on various national security-related charges in judicial proceedings lacking any semblance of due process.

Intelligence and security agencies work hand-in-hand with Iran's judiciary to conduct such operations, and individuals have been imprisoned in Iran on the basis of such unlawfully obtained online content.

Telegram Talaeii and Hotgram's Ties to Security Agencies?

Little verifiable information is available about the Iranian company that claims to have developed the two client apps, [Rahkar Sarzamin Houshmand](#) (“Smart Land Solutions,” or SLS). But recent statements by Iranian officials indicate they were developed by or with the support of Iranian security agencies.

In November 2018, the secretary of Iran’s [Supreme Cyberspace Council](#) (SCC) stated that the Ministry of Information and Communications Technology (Telecommunications Ministry) was planning on buying hardware to enable the apps to function in Iran without communicating with Telegram’s servers based outside the country.

“The report we have received is that they claim they can operate independently in a testing environment but of course in order to implement them it requires certain data centers and for that, the Telecommunications Ministry has issued a tender to buy the necessary hardware,” Firouzabadi [told](#) the Fars News Agency, which is affiliated with the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), on November 19.

Firouzabadi also told Fars that the apps had received support from the government of President Hassan Rouhani, who has publicly suggested that he is opposed to the ban on the original Telegram app and who had made [statements](#) in support of [limited internet freedom](#) during both his election campaigns.

But according to Firouzabadi, the Telecommunications Ministry, which operates under Rouhani, has provided operational assistance to both the apps and offered tenders to create a data center for them.

The SCC secretary’s statement contradicts an earlier statement by [Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Javad Azari Jahromi](#) who [stated](#) on the record in August 2018, “We have not supported or helped Hotgram and Telegram Talaeii.”

The highest level of the Iranian government has also approved Telegram Talaeii and Hotgram. SLS has an operational license from the [National Cyberspace Center](#), a branch of the SCC, the top internet decision-making body in Iran which is controlled by Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei.

Documented Security Flaws

Researchers inside and outside Iran have written about the client apps’ inherent security flaws.



On December 15, all users who logged on to Telegram client apps Telegam Talaeii and Hotgram were told the apps were “unsafe” in both Farsi and English.

In 2018, three Iranian internet security researchers reported in statements that were cited by Iranian media—including by the mainstream newspaper [Hamshahri](#) and tech

site [Digiato](#)—that Telegram Talaeii is capable of various security violations.

These include: stealing Telegram identity verification codes that could be used to access users’ Telegram accounts, expelling admins and deleting their channels without the user’s knowledge and sending and receiving lists of all the people users communicate with along with their usernames.

Digital security experts at the Talos Security Intelligence and Research Group, which is owned by US tech giant Cisco, have also pointed out security flaws in both the apps.

“Once installed, some of these Telegram ‘clones’ have access to mobile devices’ full contact lists and messages, even if the users are also using the legitimate Telegram app,” said five Cisco Talos experts in a jointly-authored [blog post](#) published November 5, 2018.

“We declare with high confidence that these apps should be classified as ‘greyware.’ It is not malicious enough to be classified as malware, but is suspicious enough to be considered a potentially unwanted program (PUP),” they added.

Now that Telegram has publicly acknowledged that the Iranian-made client apps are “unsafe,” discontinuing their access to Telegram’s servers would help ensure that the Iranian government does not use Telegram to spy on Iranian citizens.

“The onus remains on the Iranian government to lift its ban on the original Telegram app, a ban that was imposed because the company refused to allow Iranian state agencies to access Telegram’s data as well as refused to bow to Iranian censorship policies,” said Rashidi.

“Telegram should follow through on its warning message by discontinuing these apps’ access to Telegram servers,” he added. “Doing so will send a message to the Iranian government that even big tech companies will not engage in business as usual while the state violates the rights of its citizens,” he added.

Iran jails law student for social media posts critical of state policy

By [Iran HRM](#) Last updated Dec 23, 2018

<https://iran-hrm.com/index.php/2018/12/23/iran-jails-law-student-for-social-media-posts-critical-of-state-policy/>



Amir Chamani, a law student at Payam Noor University of Tabriz and civil rights activist was arrested by security forces at his workplace and was taken to Tabriz Central Prison in northwest Iran on December 17, 2018.

He had been sentenced to six months behind bars on September 1, 2018 by Branch 1 of the Revolutionary Court in Tabriz whose name is on a UK sanctions list

for issuing harsh sentences against numerous peaceful activists in Iran’s East Azerbaijan Province.

The Appeals Court upheld his six-month prison sentence for posts on social media about political and economic issues.

According to Chamani’s Lawyer Abbas Jamali, the civil rights activist was detained without the attorney’s knowledge and taken to Tabriz prison in connection with the six-month sentence he received following his arrest in late May 2018. He was also charged with “insulting the Supreme Leader,” for which he was fortunately not found guilty, but the Appeals Court upheld the sentence for “spreading propaganda against the state and in favor of opposition groups” despite our objection.

In July 2012 the first Branch of the Revolutionary Court of Tabriz, had sentenced Mr. Chamani to six months behind bars for “insulting the leader and founder of the regime” and three months behind bars for “spreading propaganda against the state.”

Amir Chamani served served in Tabriz Central Prison until his release on October 3, 2013.

The Branch 104 of the Criminal Court in Tabriz sentenced him to 40 lashes for “insulting the president,” which was carried out on June 5, 2013.

Labor and Guilds’ Rights

Iran: Nightly Arrest of National Iranian Steel Industrial Group Workers

By Iran HRM_Last updated Dec 17, 2018

<https://iran-hrm.com/index.php/2018/12/17/iran-nightly-arrest-of-national-iranian-steel-industrial-group-workers/>

The Free Trade Union of Workers of Iran announced the arrest of dozens of workers from the National Iranian Steel Industrial Group in Ahvaz.

According to the workers’ organization, the authorities raided the homes of dozens of protesting National Steel Group workers in the midnight hours of Monday local time without a written warrant from the judiciary.

The state security forces attacked many houses but only succeeded in apprehending 28 workers. Many of the workers who weren’t at their homes at the time of the attacks could not be apprehended. Many of the workers had to spend the night in the streets to avoid arrest.

This raid, continued until 2 am.

According to reports by the Workers Union, security forces entered the Ahvaz steel company this morning and after declaring the arrests, they threatened to arrest other workers if they continued their protests and demonstrations.

The workers’ organization has identified the 15 workers as:

- Meysam Ali Ghanavati
- Isa Marei
- Amin Alvani
- Morteza Akbarian
- Tareq Khalfi
- Masoud Afri
- Jafar Sobhani
- Mostafa Abiat
- Gharib Havizawi
- Karim Siah
- Hamed Baseri
- Hafez Kanani
- Hamed Joudaki
- Hossein Davoudi
- Kazem Heydari
- Yaser Ebrahimian
- Majid Janadeleh
- Kouros Esmaili

- Ali Oghba
- Mohsen Balouti
- Mohammad Pour Hassan
- Mohsen Pahbati
- Seyyed Habib Tabatabaei
- Jasem Romezi
- Ali Etmami
- Seyyed Ali Javadpour
- Javad Gholami
- Abdolreza Dasti

The outspoken labor activist Karim Siahhi delivered a fiery speech yesterday encouraging the workers to continue their strike.

“Don’t be afraid if they arrest you, threaten you or execute you,” he had cried out to the workers.

The state-run [ILNA](#) news agency also announced the arrest of the workers and said that more than 10 steel factory workers were detained in Ahvaz.

“We do not know why they were arrested and our information is only limited to what we have heard,” the Public Affairs head of the Ahvaz Labor Department told ILNA.

“Security systems are obviously informed about the arrest of workers and since the issue is not related to conflicts between workers and employers, the Labor Department has not been notified,” he added.

ILNA said that the Ahvaz Prosecutor refused to make comments about the arrests and told ILNA’s reporter that he was not willing to talk about the issue over the phone.

National Steel Group employees have been rallying and on strike for the past 38 day, protesting overdue wages, hardship and mismanagement of the complex.

Many of the workers of INSIG, which is one of the largest manufacturers and exporters of steel products in Iran, have not received their salaries for several months. The workers are also suffering from the result of corrupt policies and mismanagement of the steel factory by its private owners.

Latest reports say that the frustrated workers continued their protests also on Monday, marching in front of the Khuzestan province governor’s office and marched across the city to protest delayed paychecks and demanding the release of jailed colleagues.

Footages circulated on social media from Monday, show angry workers chanting “we support the jailed workers.”

An image shows the massive dispatching of security forces and anti-riot units to confront the protesting National Steel Group.

They are preventing people from taking any kind of footage, reports indicate.

The United Oil Workers Group of Khuzestan, along with truck owners/drivers of this province, also expressed their support of the protesting National Steel Group.

Ahvaz steel company is just one of the many factories where its workers have been deprived of their salaries and rights.

In recent months, the failure to pay the wages and benefits of workers in various regions of Iran has led to their guild protests.

More Ahvaz steel workers arrested in a second midnight raid

By [Iran HRM](#) Last updated Dec 19, 2018

<https://iran-hrm.com/index.php/2018/12/19/ahvaz-steel-workers-arrested/>



New [wave of arrests](#) late Monday night into early Tuesday morning local time, arresting at least 10 more National Steel Group employees and bringing the total number to 41 detainees.

Iran's Free Labor Union (FLU) reported that the security forces attacked the workers' homes during the midnight hours, dragging workers

out of their homes. Many other workers spent the night on the streets to evade arrest.

According to FLU, the 41 detained workers have been transferred to the Sheiban Prison in Ahvaz.

The Union also said that Ahvaz steel factory workers held a gathering yesterday to discuss their next steps and decided not to negotiate with officials until all the prisoners were released.

An Iranian member of parliament denounced the arrest of several striking workers following weeks of protests at a steel plant in southwestern Iran, the semi-official ISNA news agency reported Wednesday.

"A number of workers of the National Steel Group who had work-related complaints were arrested two days ago," Alireza Mahjoub, head of parliament's labour faction, said in a speech to lawmakers.

"This is a violation of the constitution," he added, calling on parliament to intervene to free the arrested workers.

Staff at the National Steel Industrial Group in Ahvaz in Khuzestan province have been on strike since November 9 over unpaid wages and benefits, said labor-focused news agency ILNA.

The steel factory in question, located in Ahvaz, capital of the oil-rich Khuzestan province in the southwest, has witnessed labor strikes and protests for the past two months. Workers are demanding their unpaid wages.

People all over Iran have expressed support for the detained workers demanding their release.

Hundreds of pensioners protesting outside the regime's Parliament in Tehran voiced their support for the striking Ahvaz steelworkers on Tuesday morning. The protesters shouted: "From Ahvaz to Tehran, workers are in jails"; "Free the steelworkers"; "Imprisoned workers must be freed"; "Imprisoned teachers must be freed"; "Government engages in crimes, parliament supports it"; "Free insurance is our right"; "The enemy is here, they lie to us that it's America".

The Tehran Vahed Bus Syndicate, which is a member of the International Transport Federation (ITF) also condemned the arrests in a statement.

The Farsi Twitter page of the US Department of State also translated their spokesperson's tweet in support of the workers to Farsi.

“Yesterday, Iran's regime arrested steelworkers who simply asked to get paid for their work. Sadly, this is how the regime has always mistreated the Iranian people. The U.S. supports their rightful demands. Iranians deserve to live in peace and dignity,” Robert J. Palladino, the State Departments Deputy Spokesperson tweeted.

On Monday, the U.S. State Department condemned the initial arrests in Ahvaz. Robert Palladino deputy spokesperson tweeted about the arrests and added, “Sadly, this is how the regime has always mistreated the Iranian people. The U.S. supports their rightful demands. Iranians deserve to live in peace and dignity.”

Labor unrest in the province has intermittently flared up since last December. Another major industrial complex, the sugar mill in Shush has also been on strike and large protests for weeks. Lately, some of their demands have been met and the situation is now relatively quiet.

Reports from Khuzestan indicate that [Esmaeel Bakhshi](#), the representative of the Haft Tappeh sugarcane mill workers, who has recently been released, is currently held under house arrest. IRGC intelligence authorities have placed his house under intense surveillance and control.

The former head of the Haft Tappeh Union is also still in detention despite suffering from a heart condition. Ali Nejati was violently arrested in his home on November 29.

Iran has been hit by strikes over working conditions in several key sectors this year, including education, mines, transport and the steel industry, mainly outside Tehran.

Iran's Labor Code does not grant citizens the right to form independent unions, despite Iran's ratification of the UN's International Convention on Civil and Political Rights and membership in the International Labor Organization.

Workers are regularly threatened, detained, tortured and even [sentenced to flogging](#), despite their legitimate demands and protests to current conditions which has robbed them of more than 80% of their purchasing power.

In November the head of Iran's judiciary warned restive workers against creating “disorder”.

“Workers should not allow their demands to become an excuse and an instrument for the enemy,” Ayatollah Sadeq Larijani said, quoted by the judiciary's news agency Mizan Online.

Iranian authorities take repressive measures against protesting workers

By Iran HRM Last updated Dec 20, 2018

<https://iran-hrm.com/index.php/2018/12/20/iranian-authorities-take-repressive-measures-against-protesting-workers/>



Iranian authorities took repressive measures against steel and sugarcane workers after weeks of protests over delays in salaries.

Iranian authorities [detained](#) at least 41 steel mill workers after five weeks of protests on Monday and Tuesday nights during raids to

their homes, according to Iran's Free Labor Union (FLU).

The State Security Force, agents of the Intelligence Ministry and the IRGC Intelligence, and plainclothes agents have blocked many roads in Ahvaz and in some streets, people are not allowed to park their cars.

In comments carried yesterday by the state-run ILNA news agency, the Khuzestan Governor's Political and Social Deputy implied that striking Ahvaz steelworkers violated the law by carrying out strike action and that the arrest of the more than 40 workers was the natural consequence of their actions.

"I stress that if workers and employees have requests and demands, they should express it in the framework of the law", Hosseinzadeh said.

"When actions are carried out outside of the law, the security apparatus deals with it according to the law and its duty, therefore it is expected that the dear (workers) use legal methods," he added.

"When actions that are against the law take place, the order and security of the city is disrupted therefore the security apparatus has to enter the scene and act according to the law", the deputy governor said.

In another development, the judiciary has summoned and threatened a number of Haft Tappeh sugar cane workers in Shush. It is said that the judiciary has issued sentences for some of the workers of Haft Tappeh Industrial Complex.

In November, four workers of a Khuzestan sugar cane mill were arrested after protesting for not having been paid their salaries for months.

Iran's Labor Code does not grant citizens the right to form independent unions, despite Iran's ratification of the UN's International Convention on Civil and Political Rights and membership in the International Labor Organization.

Workers are regularly threatened, detained, tortured and even sentenced to flogging, despite their legitimate demands and protests to current conditions which has robbed them of more than 80% of their purchasing power.

Religious Minorities' Rights

Last Member of Former Yaran Ends Prison Term, Persecution Continues

December 20, 2018

<http://iranpresswatch.org/post/19865/last-member-former-yaran-ends-prison-term-persecution-continues/>

Source: news.bahai.org



Afif Naeimi (center) stands with loved ones in Tehran earlier today after completing his unjust 10-year prison sentence.

BIC GENEVA — The last imprisoned member of the former leadership body of the Baha'i community in Iran was released from prison today after serving an unjust 10-year prison sentence for merely practicing his faith. Iran's Baha'is, however, continue to face daily, pervasive persecution.

Afif Naeimi, 56, was [arrested on 14 May 2008](#) and charged with, among other false claims, espionage, propaganda against Iran, and the establishment of an illegal administration. Mr. Naeimi and the other six former members of the Yaran—an ad-hoc body tasked with tending to the spiritual and material needs of the religious community—faced those charges more than a year after their arrest in a sham trial without any semblance of legal process. Authorities sentenced Mr. Naeimi and the other former members of the Yaran to 10 years in prison.

While detained, Mr. Naeimi experienced severe health problems, often receiving inadequate treatment. [Authorities made a cruel determination](#) that the brief time Mr. Naeimi, a father of two from Tehran, spent in a hospital recovering would not be counted as part of his sentence.



Afif Naeimi and his wife in Tehran earlier today

“We are of course happy that Mr. Naeimi has been released. However, this should by no means be seen as an improvement of the situation of Iranian Baha’is as a whole,” said Diane Ala’i, Representative of the Baha’i International Community to the United Nations. “The stark reality is that scores of Baha’is still remain imprisoned in Iran because of their beliefs and tens of thousands more face intense persecution including denial of access of higher education,

shop closures, and harassment.”

Iran’s pervasive and systematic persecution of the Baha’i community—including revolving arrests, arbitrary court sentences, and shop closures—has been condemned in recent months by the [United Nations General Assembly](#), the [European Parliament](#) and [United States House of Representatives](#), as well as the [Australian](#), and [Swedish](#) parliamentarians. Furthermore, an increasing number of Iranians within and outside Iran have denounced the persecution. Just last month, a [group of Iranian Muslim intellectuals](#) condemned the “systematic and deeply rooted violation of Baha’i citizens’ rights” and described it as “being inhumane and contrary to religious and moral obligations.”

The long history of Iran’s state-sponsored persecution of the Baha’is is well documented. [The Archives of Baha’i Persecution in Iran](#) website compiles thousands of official documents, reports, testimonials, photos, and videos revealing irrefutable proof of relentless persecution, including the killing or execution of more than 200 Baha’is since the Iranian revolution in 1979. The October 2016 report [“The Baha’i Question Revisited: Persecution and Resilience in Iran”](#) also describes the Iranian government’s systematic persecution of the Baha’is.

A Life Living with Discrimination: A Letter by Negin Ghadimian, a Baha’i Detailing Her Discrimination-Filled Life from Evin Prison

December 23, 2018

<http://iranpresswatch.org/post/19872/life-living-discrimination-letter-negin-ghadimian-bahai-detailing-discrimination-filled-life-evin-prison/>

Source: www.hra-news.org

HRANA News Agency – [Negin Ghadimian](#), a Baha’i detained in Evin Prison who was imprisoned for five years on December 18th 2017, has written an open letter about her deprivations and bitter memories as a Baha’i in Iran since she was 18 years old.



According to the HRANA, the news arm of Human Rights Activists in Iran, [Negin Ghadimian](#) is an Iranian Baha'i who has been detained in the women's ward of Evin Prison since December 18th 2017.

While she is currently serving a 5-year sentence, she has been denied access to proper medical treatment at Evin Prison. Despite a dental gum infection and severe pain in the jaw area and toothache, [Ms. Ghadimian has been denied specialized medical treatment](#). Although this prisoner's permission to be sent to the clinic has been issued, the head of the medical department has disapproved her visit.

This Baha'i citizen has written in an open letter of the limitations and bitter memories she has faced as a Baha'i since the age of 18.

Read the full text of this letter as provided by HRANA:

“Hope, Smile, Beginning”

First: Revolution Square next to the University fence

It is the year 2001, and I am eighteen years old. I beg my mom to come with me. I know what the trend is: I've heard things from my older friends. But my path takes a different direction. I receive the exam entrance card and go to the problematic cases area. I declare to them that on the religion field of my card Islam is written, though I had left this field blank. The gentleman in charge, who was overwhelmed by the noise, asked in a hurry, “So what's wrong with that?” I say I'm a Baha'i. His face changes. Maybe it becomes kinder: I don't know! It's as if he too is ready for this scenario, like me. He takes the card from me. It seems to me as though it became silent for a moment. Absolute silence. I'm waiting for an answer. He lowers his voice, and in a fatherly tone says: “My daughter: be wise. Take this card and take your exam. Don't allow your future to be ruined. Now what's the difference?” For a moment I imagine myself with my backpack in tow and smiling friends, walking to college, or going from store to store along Enghelab Street, looking for our textbooks. The wonderful feeling of being a student. The noise and the crowd brings me back to the present. I tell the kind gentleman that this card does not match my profile. I am a Baha'i. If I go to take the exam with this card, I would feel as if I were cheating. He looks at me with glances which mean “You will never learn, will you?” I also look at him, and respond with glances that look as though I am telling him “I wish you knew and could understand how I feel!” He tore up the card and said he was sorry. But he was not. He quickly turned to his next task. I look at the card torn in half on the table and lose myself in the ruckus and commotion of Enghelab Square. I touch the green fence of the University. My mom looks at me with pride. She too has experienced this pain. I know this well. I know she loved her job. She loved her field of nursing and I'm sure she would have loved to continue. But her path was also blocked. On the way, I promise myself that I will do my best to prevent anyone else from feeling that way ever again. Feel the way my mom and I felt: wanting to study, to get an education, but not able to do so.

The story of the entrance exam was repeated 6 more times for me, and each time with the same result. Meanwhile, I studied at the Baha'i Institute of Higher Education in Iran. After graduating, I started teaching at the same place.

Second: In Class, July 2011

One can read the worry and concern on the faces of every single one of the students in the literature class. They know that in June 1990, I too had been one of those people who had been interrogated and had their houses inspected. To begin with this lesson, it is necessary to transform the class atmosphere first. This much anxiety does not allow any useful teaching

work. I tell them what happened on May 22, 1990. I tell them about interrogation at the house. I tell them how we had some construction in the house and even I could not find anything in all that mess, let alone the [interrogating] gentlemen! Also, that the house and my room were filmed in that condition too. I tell them about a man with a mask who quietly stood in the corner, and the other one who every minute asked me: “Why don’t you go abroad?” and my repetitive answer: “Why should I go?”, and how he paid no attention to my question. The students are now laughing.

I tried my best to convey the sentiment that they should not worry about anything. I said: “What have we done that would cause worry? We are only trying to study and learn because we were deprived of the education that had been our dream. The fact that we want to learn more is not a crime.” I told them that I had a good feeling in my heart that all this would have a happy ending.

I miss those days. I miss every single one of them. I still dream about the classes, and the waves of enthusiasm in their eyes. Their passion for knowledge and playful mischief, characteristic of young students. I know that all those students, the ones that I saw and the ones that I did not see, were all eager for knowledge. Eager to learn. Teaching for me is keeping my promise to myself. For me, teaching is an attempt to improve the situation even if only a little bit. Teaching is not a crime in my eyes.

Third: Tabriz Airport, November 2017

There is a backpack on my back and Pouya’s hand in my hand, we have checked our luggage, and have come to embrace our parents for one last time. The shadow of 5 years in jail hangs over our heads – this time closer than ever. The stress of worry and anxiety has incapacitated my decision-making. A dear one has invited us to Switzerland, and all the preparations have come together faster than we thought. For the moment our decision is to take the trip and then think in a calm environment about what exactly we are to do.

At the last gate, they separated me from the rest of the passengers in the line. Pouya looks at me. We both know what that means. I have been banned from leaving the country, and of course will be arrested. Pouya is holding onto my hand really tightly. We both know how short our time together is. He looks at me. His eyes are confident. My lips are smiling. I say we’ve come to the end of one adventure and the start of a new adventure. He puts his hand on my shoulders and says, “You know I’m in, to the end.” I look at him and say I’m sure you are. And this is how our 5-year joint project begins.

Negin Ghadimian / Evin Prison / December 16, 2018

Regarding the author of the letter: [Negin Ghadimian was arrested](#) on December 16, 2017, when she was arrested at the airport as she was preparing to take a trip. Two days later, she was transferred to the women’s ward of Evin Prison to serve her five-year sentence.

This Baha’i citizen was sentenced to 5 years imprisonment in absentia without being summoned to the court, by Judge Moghiseh in March 2013 on charges of acting against national security through membership in an illegal Baha’i institution.

[Negin Ghadimian](#) had previously been arrested by security forces on May 24, 2011, and was later released on bail of 50 million tomans (about \$455 at the time) until the end of the legal process.

She is currently serving the eleventh month of her 5-year conviction in the women’s ward of Evin Prison.

Attachments

A Daily Overview of Human Rights Violations in Iran for December 16, 2018

Posted on: 16th December, 2018

<https://www.en-hrana.org/a-daily-overview-of-human-rights-violations-in-iran-for-december-16-2018>



The following is an overview of human rights violations in Iran on December 16th, 2018 based on the information compiled and verified by Human Rights Activists News Agency (HRANA).

(1) Negin Ghadamian, a Baha'i prisoner of conscience wrote an open letter about her social deprivation as a Baha'i citizen. She is a teacher at the Baha'i Institute for Higher Education (BIHE) who was arrested on December 16, 2017, at the airport as she and her husband Pouya were about to board a plane bound for Switzerland. Ghadamian was first arrested in 2011 after Intelligence Ministry agents raided the homes of staff and faculty members of the BIHE. In 2013, Ghadamian was summoned to the Revolutionary Court at Evin prison and was sentenced to five years in prison on charges of "acting against national security through membership a the Baha'i deviant sect" and working with the "illegal" BIHE.

(2) More than 11 protests had been held in Iran. National Steel Company workers in Ahvaz continued their protest for the 37th day. Moreover, shareholders of the bankrupt Caspian Institution, Unemployed youth in Pariz, 400 of retired workers of long distance communication in Shiraz, 200 of Borujerd municipality employees and workers, the workers of Farabi Petrochemical Company n Bandar-e Mahshahr, retired employees of Ahvaz University of Medical Sciences, relinquished parliament member of Isfahan, farmers in Isfahan, Urmia University students, participants of Iranian universities' entrance exam (Konkour), and hawkers in Sanandaj

(3) A few detained Bahai citizens, Sunni clerics and activists were released on bail. Five Baha'i citizens, Monica Alizadeh, Shabnam Isakhani, Shahriar Khodapanah, Kambiz Misaghi, and Kheirollah Bakhshi, have been released on bail in Tabriz. Another two Baha'i prisoners, Elham Salmanzadeh and Parvan Manavi, were released on bail. Moreover, two Sunni clerics, Molavi Ayyub Ahmadi, and Molavi Hashem Jafarzadeh, were released on bail. Mohammad Reza Ramezanzadeh, a detained teacher, was released on bail. He was arrested at the teacher's strike in Bojnord. Finally, Asghar Firouzi, a former political activist, was released on bail on December 16, 2018. He was in prison before and after the Islamic Revolution.

(4) Shargh Daily and Cheshmandaz magazine were convicted. They were charged with "publishing articles deemed offensive to Islam".

(5) Two converted Christians were arrested, beaten, and tortured by intelligence agents in Ahvaz.

(6) A 50 years old prisoner was executed at Mashhad Central Prison. He was accused of murdering his wife because of a family conflict in 2011.

- (7) Two Baloch youth were killed while driving, by police. The cause of shooting is still unknown.
- (8) Ali Madani, a civil activist, was summoned back to Evin to begin serving his sentence of three and half years' jail time and 74 lashes.
- (9) A detained labor activist, Behnam Ebrahimzadeh's whereabouts is still unknown.
- (10) Mostafa Daneshjou, lawyer of the detained Gonabadi Dervishes, was sentenced to eight years in prison. A Baha'i citizen, Yekta Fahandezh Saadi, was sentenced to 11 years in prison in the Shiraz Revolutionary Court.
- (11) An accused individual in the city of Neka received an alternative sentencing to get a membership at a local library and have an active engagement in reading ethical and religious books.

A Daily Overview of Human Rights Violations in Iran for December 17, 2018

Posted on: 17th December, 2018

<https://www.en-hrana.org/a-daily-overview-of-human-rights-violations-in-iran-for-december-17-2018>



The following is an overview of human rights violations in Iran on December 17th, 2018 based on the information compiled and verified by Human Rights Activists News Agency(HRANA).

- (1) On the 38th day of the National Steel Company workers protest, more than 32 of them have been arrested: Meisam Ali Ghanavati, Issa Marai, Amin Alavani, Morteza Akbarian, Tarogh Khalafi, Masoud Afri, Jafar Sobhani, Mostafa Abayat, Gharib Hoyzavi, Hossein Davoudi, Karim Siah, Hamed Baseri, Hafez Kanaani, Hamed Joudaki, Kazem

Heydari, Yaser Ebrahimian, Majid Janadeleh, Kourosh Emaeili, Ali Oghaba, Mohsen Balouti, Mohammad Pourhassan, Mohsen Behbahani, Seyed Habib Tabatabaei, Jasem Roumzei, Ali Etmami, Seyed Ali Javadpour, Javad Gholami, Abdolreza Dasti, Seyed Ahmad Seyednour, Fariborz Sheikhrobat, Ehsan Yousefi.

- (2) Narges Mohammadi, a human rights activist who is currently serving a 16 year prison sentence, was transferred to the Legal Medicine Organization office to verify the necessity of her hospitalization.
- (3) The workers of five government-owned corporations, National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC), Bavers Steel Company, Electricity Meter Manufacturing Company, the caviar fishery department of the Iran Fisheries Organization of Golestan province, and Sepehr Windshield Manufacturer, are demanding their 16 months unpaid wages. The unpaid wages has been continuous issue in Iran over the last year.
- (4) Two workers were injured today in Tehran, due to unsafe workplaces. Moreover, Tehran Metro Company has not provided safety work clothing and workwear for their employees in past three years. Iran holds the dubious record for the highest number of deaths and injuries in workplaces.

(5) Another social deprivation case from Iran: this year, approximately 100 thousand children are deprived from going to school.

(6) A child abuse case was reported in Mahabad. The child's abuse was identified to have taken place by his father that is a drug addict and has abnormal psychological condition. The victim was transferred to the city's State Welfare organization.

(7) Another 17-year-old girl committed suicide by jumping off a bridge in Isfahan. More than 7% of suicides in Iran are committed by teenagers.

(8) Civil rights activist, Amir Chamani was arrested and transferred to Tabriz prison to begin serving his sentence. According to Hrana, he has been sentenced to a six-month prison term on charges of "Propaganda against the regime" and "Cooperation with opposition groups". Chamani has previously been pursued on similar charges. On July 5th, 2012, Chamani received a sentenced of six months' imprisonment for "insulting both Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei and the late Ayatollah Khomeini" and "propaganda against the regime". In another instance, after turning himself in for charges of insulting the President, Chamani was sentenced on January 13, 2013, to 40 lashes by the Tabriz Criminal Court. He was dealt with the lashes on June 5, 2013 and was not released from custody until October 2nd of the same year.

(9) After four years, the petition of a Baha'i citizen, Taraneh Ghiami who has been barred from entering university due to her religious beliefs, was denied by the supreme court.

(10) According to the issued verdict in the appeal court of West Azerbaijan province, Eghbal Ahmadpour sentence on a charge of "acting against national security through membership in Kurdish opposition parties" has been reduced from five years to six months. According to Hrana, the Urmia Revolutionary Court sentenced Eghbal Ahmadpour to five years in prison on a charge of "acting against national security through membership in Kurdish opposition parties" on Thursday, October 4, 2018. He was denied access to a trial lawyer. Security forces arrested Ahmadpour on September 11, 2018. He was interrogated and held in solitary confinement for 12 days before being sent to Urmia Prison.

A Daily Overview of Human Rights Violations in Iran for December 18, 2018

Posted on: 18th December, 2018

<https://www.en-hrana.org/a-daily-overview-of-human-rights-violations-in-iran-for-december-18-2018>

The following is an overview of human rights violations in Iran on December 18th, 2018 based on the information compiled and verified by Human Rights Activists News Agency (HRANA).



(1) On December 17th, 2018 in the National Steel Company workers protest, more than 42 workers have been arrested. The names of 10 more people are as the following: Hossein Asakereh, Meisam Al-Mahdi, Seyed Majid Mousavi, Amir Dehghan, Ahmad Bavi, Behzad Alikhani, Seyed Mostafa Mousavi, Majid Jalali, Arash Mohammadpour, and Behzad Shahbazi.

(2) Sepideh Gholian, a social rights' activist, was released on bail. She looks very pale and weak after her release. She was arrested on November 18th while she was

supporting the strike of the Haft Tappeh Sugarcane workers.

(3) A fire broke out accidentally at “Osveh Hasaneh” kindergarten in Zahedan. The fire broke out in a faulty oil stove being used for heating a classroom. Students Mona Khosroparast, Saba Arabi, and Maryam Nokandi died and Yekta Mirshekar is severely burnt.

(4) A United Nation committee on human rights approved a resolution on December 17th, 2018 urging Iran to stop its widespread use of arbitrary detention and expressing serious concern about its use of death penalty. Iran was urged to end widespread and serious restrictions including on freedom of assembly of political opponents, human rights defenders, labor leaders, environmentalists, academics, filmmakers, journalists, bloggers, social media users and others. The resolution strongly urges Iran to eliminate discrimination against women in law and practice and expresses “serious concern about ongoing severe limitations and restrictions on the right to freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief.”

(5) Nazanin Zaghari requested parole but has not yet received any response from the judiciary officials. She is a British-Iranian dual citizen who has been detained in Iran since 3 April 2016. She was sentenced to five years imprisonment and has served half of her sentence now. She is also in need of acute medical care.

(6) Two activists, Ansar Advaei 27 years old and Fardin Advaei 24 years old, were released in Uraman District in Sarvabad County and the two others, Hamid Ahmadi and Zaniyar Moradi remain in prison there. The reasons for these four citizens’ arrest, are still unknown.

(7) Hamid Ahmadi Maledeh, a juvenile offender who is accused of murder in a street fight was sentenced to death. He has been serving 11 years in the Rasht prison and was transferred three times to solitary confinement for execution but still is waiting on the death row.

(8) One of Nasrin Sotoudeh ‘s criminal charges is putting a flower bouquet by the electricity junction box in Enghelab street. She is a predominant human rights lawyer who has security-related charges.

(9) Farokh Abdi, a social network activist who was sentenced to 15 months in prison earlier this year and faced another 15 months conviction from another court in Urmia, was sentenced to five years imprisonment in an appeal court.

(10) A construction worker died in Yasuj due to unsafe workplace.

(11) According to Reporters Without Borders’ 2018 round-up of deadly attacks and abuses against journalists published on December 18, 2018, Iran still holds its position as one of the five largest prisons for journalists in the world. In this year, Hengameh Shahidi, Tahereh Riahi, Zeinab Karimian, Saleh Deldam, Morad Saghafi, Ramin Karimian, Alieh Matlabzadeh, Asal Emailzadeh, Bakhtiar Khoshnam, Mehdi Khazali, Abdolreza Davari, Sasan Aghai, Yaghma Fashkhami, Mohammad Mohajer, Alireza Tavakoli, Mohammad Mehdi Zamanzadeh, Saeed Mojtaba Bagheri, Javad Jamshidi, Nima Keshvari, Saeed Naghdi, Ali Ahmadiania, and Soheil Arabi are some of journalists, reporters or citizen journalists who have been arrested in 2018.

(12) City service workers of Karun and Zanzan cities have at least six months of unpaid wages.

(13) Another labor activist, Aram Mohammadi who was accused of “propaganda against the state” for participating in international Labor Day protest, began serving his sentence today.

(14) Mohammad-Reza Khatami was prosecuted because of his claims in an interview with Aparat (a video sharing service) that a voter Fraud was observed during 2009 presidential election.

(15) Retired personnel of various governmental organizations held protests in Tehran and other cities for their financial hardship.

A Daily Overview of Human Rights Violations in Iran for December 19, 2018

Posted on: 19th December, 2018

<https://www.en-hrana.org/a-daily-overview-of-human-rights-violations-in-iran-for-december-19-2018>



The following is an overview of human rights violations in Iran on December 19th, 2018 based on the information compiled and verified by Human Rights Activists News Agency (HRANA).

- (1) Nasrin Sotoudeh, the jailed human rights lawyer, who was sentenced to five years imprisonment earlier this year, will face prosecution on her new charges on December 23. Also, Nader Fatourehchi confirmed that he faced persecution over his criticism of prison conditions after his detention in Fashafoyeh Prison. His court day will be on December 23, 2018.
- (2) More than four protests were held in Iran. Workers of Zanzan Bus Company, retired teachers and the education personnel of Kermanshah, and participants of entrance exam at Medical Branch of Islamic Azad University held protests on December 19, 2018.
- (3) Iranian Parliament Committee on Culture requested investigation and additional information from Judiciary and intelligence department about Vahid Sayadi Nasiri, the imprisoned Iranian activist who died after a 60-day hunger strike.
- (4) Siamak Namazi and Baquer Namazi 's appeals were denied. Siamak was sentenced to 10 years in prison for collaborating with a foreign government. Baquer who was a governor before the revolution is suffering from heart disease.
- (5) A theatrical performance was canceled in Islamic Azad University of Quchan because of a mixed-gender play on the scene.
- (6) On December 19, 2018, 11 detained workers of Iranian National Steel Industrial Group in Ahvaz were released on bail. Their names are the following: Seyed Habib Tabatabaei, Javad Gholami, Mohsen Baloti, Mehdi Tahmasbi, Kouroshe Esmaili, Ali Emami, Abdolreza Dasti, Sohrab Naami, Hossein Asakereh, Fariborz Sheikhrabat, and Seyed Ali Javadpour. On December 16, more than 43 workers of Iranian National Steel Industrial Group in Ahvaz had been arrested.
- (7) City service workers of Borujerd have nine months of unpaid wages. Borujerd is a city in Lorestan province.
- (8) Mohammad Mehdi Zamanzadeh, an internet activist, was temporarily released from jail. Zamanzadeh, Mohammad Mohajer and Alireza Tavakoli were arrested in September 2018 and have been sentenced to five years imprisonment being accused of blasphemy related charges.
- (9) Mehran Zaharakar is a detained author who is serving his two years sentence on charge with 'insulting supreme leader'. He has been published several socio-political books.

(10) Shaho Sadeghi, a labor activist who was accused of ‘propaganda against the state’ for participating in International Workers’ Day protest, began serving his sentence on December 19, 2018.

A Daily Overview of Human Rights Violations in Iran for December 20, 2018

Posted on: 20th December, 2018

<https://www.en-hrana.org/a-daily-overview-of-human-rights-violations-in-iran-for-december-20-2018>



The following is an overview of human rights violations in Iran on December 20th, 2018 based on the information compiled and verified by Human Rights Activists News Agency (HRANA).

- (1) Ebrahim Nouri, an Azerbaijani Turkic minority rights activist filed a complaint against the head and the judicial deputy of Evin prison. Nouri, a law student, has a record of being detained for civic activities, beginning in 2005 when he was arrested and interrogated by the Intelligence department. In 2009, he was sentenced to ten months imprisonment on a charge of propaganda against the regime.
- (2) Five of the significant spate of Nationwide protests today: retired educators in Gilan, Isfahan, Yazd, and Zanjan have held protests. And shareholders of the bankrupt Caspian Financial Institution protested in Kerman.
- (3) A furlough request of Latif Hassani, a Azerbaijani Turkic minority rights activist, was denied. He was arrested in 2012 and has been sentenced to eight years imprisonment. He was accused of forming an illegal group to act against the national security.
- (4) More than 2600 workers of Railway Transportation Company and Samen al-Hojaj financial Institution are demanding their unpaid wages. The issue of unpaid wages has been a continuous one in Iran over the last year.
- (5) Mahmoud Naji who began his hunger strike on December 11, has critical medical states and he has been denied medical treatment. He is serving his 10 years sentence in Evin prison.
- (6) Two labor activists, Mehrdad Sabouri and Omid Ahmadi, who were accused of “propaganda against the state” for participating in international Labor day protest, began serving their sentence today.
- (7) Afif Naimi, one of the administrative members of the Baha’i Community who was arrested in 2008, and served his 10 years sentence was released today. He was accused of ‘assembly and collusion’, ‘blasphemy’, and ‘propaganda against the State’.
- (8) Omid Shahmohammadi, a teachers’ rights activist who had been arrested on November 12, was released on bail in Divandarreh today.
- (9) On December 20, police opened fire on a fuel tanker truck in Zahedan which caused the truck to set on fire.
- (10) Eight prisoner requested human rights organisations especially the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in Iran to investigate in Vahid Sayadi Nasiri ‘s death. Earlier this week France and US requested investigation on the circumstances of his death.

(11) A juvenile offender death penalty was confirmed in the Supreme Court. He was charged with murder in 2011 when he was 14 years old.

(12) Bahram Javadi, the administrator of 'YollPress' website, was released on bail today. He was arrested on a complaint from the governor of West Azerbaijan regarding coverage his speech coverage.

A Daily Overview of Human Rights Violations in Iran for December 21, 2018

Posted on: 21st December, 2018

<https://www.en-hrana.org/a-daily-overview-of-human-rights-violations-in-iran-for-december-21-2018>



The following is an overview of human rights violations in Iran on December 21th, 2018 based on the information compiled and verified by Human Rights Activists News Agency (HRANA).

- (1) A school bus driver in Bandar-e Mahshahr is facing charges after being accused of sexually assaulting a girl while transporting students. Two other school bus drivers were arrested yesterday.
- (2) Two Sunni clerics, Molavi Khodabakhsh Eslamdoust and Molavi Esmail Eslamdoust were summoned to the Revolutionary Court in Chabahar.
- (3) An 11-year-old hanged himself in Izeh due to poverty. More than 7% of suicides in Iran are committed by teenagers. Iranian news agencies reported that he committed suicide due to a family conflict, but some news in cyber space noted it happened because of poverty. Izeh is a city in Khuzestan province.
- (4) Iranian border patrol shot three Kurdish couriers also known as kulbars, Rahman Shovaneh, Nader Nabizadeh, and AliMamand in Oshnavieh, Piranshahr, and Sardasht. Another kulbar, Salar Tanhaei, was found dead from hypothermia in Javanrud.
- (5) Water crisis will cause 20 million people to migrate from the south of Iran. Ali Asadi Karam, a member of the parliament added that this migration which is due to the water scarcity will have so many social consequences.
- (6) A prisoner in Nowshahr who was arrested on charge of murder and was sentenced to death, was saved from execution after 10 years in jail with forgiveness and consent of the next of kin. His execution was scheduled the next week.
- (7) Three firefighters were injured in an unsafe workplace-related incident in a warehouse in Mashhad.
- (8) A Sunni prisoner, Moloud Shaier, was released on parole from Urmia prison. She was arrested in January 2016 and was sentenced to 5 years imprisonment on charges of "collaborating with Salafi groups".
- (9) Sam Nasir Moghadam is a political prisoner who was sentenced to two years imprisonment on charge of 'propaganda against the State' and 'insulting the Supreme Leader'.
- (10) Reporters Without Borders (RSF) had written to UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet, about the conditions of detained journalists in Iran, which is one of

the world's five biggest jailers of journalist. According to the worldwide round-up on deadly violence and abusive treatment of media personnel that RSF published yesterday. "Imprisoning journalists, denying them medical care while they are detained and denying them the right to a fair trial constitute a flagrant violation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Iran is party," RSF points out.

A Daily Overview of Human Rights Violations in Iran for December 22, 2018

Posted on: 22nd December, 2018

<https://www.en-hrana.org/a-daily-overview-of-human-rights-violations-in-iran-for-december-22-2018>



The following is an overview of human rights violations in Iran on December 22nd, 2018 based on the information compiled and verified by Human Rights Activists News Agency (HRANA).

- (1) More than seven protests were organized in Iran. Abadan municipality workers, Haft Tappeh Sugarcane Agro-Industry Company workers, more than 100 workers of Cement Plant Manufacturer, workers of Tehran and Suburb Bus Driver Company, students in Zahedan, the students of Sistan and Baluchestan University, and the workers of Ahvaz Intercity Railroad Corporation requested their demands in separate protests.
- (2) A ranger was severely injured in a fight against poachers in Gilan-e Gharb, a city in Kermanshah province.
- (3) A businessman, Hamid Reza Bagheri Dermani, also known as the Sultan of Bitumen, was executed on December 21, 2018. He was accused of 'Spreading corruption on Earth', fraud, bribery, and embezzlement.
- (4) A labor activist, Khalil Karimi, was sentenced to one-year imprisonment in the Sanandaj Revolutionary Court. He was charged with 'propaganda against the State', participating in the International Labor Day, and taking part in the International Campaign of No to Execution in Iran.
- (5) Saber Naderi was arrested and transferred to Sanandaj prison on December 19 to begin serving his Sentence. He faced four years in prison on charge of 'acting against national security'.
- (6) More than 130 thousand 5-11-year-old children are deprived from going to school in the school year of 2018-2019. Moreover, 30% of them belong to Sistan and Baluchestan which has the highest rate among provinces.
- (7) In the last six months, 130 convicts received alternative sentences in Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari province . These sentences included public service, purchasing books, counseling, and fines.
- (8) More than 35 workers of Tabriz Bearing Manufacturer have four months unpaid wages. Tabriz is the city of East Azerbaijan Province.

(9) In the last few days, 20 workers of the Iran National Steel Industrial Group were released on Bail. The released workers are Seyed Habib Tabatabaei, Javad Gholami, Mohsen Baloti, Mehdi Tahmasebi, Kourosh Esmaceli, Ali Emami, Abdolreza Dasti, Sohrab Naami, Hossein Asakereh, Fariborz Sheikh Robot, Seyed Ali Javadpour. At least 43 workers were arrested on December 19.

(10) Vahid Jahangiri who has been accused of murder in 2011, was executed in Isfahan on December 17. Another prisoner who was accused of murdering a five-year-old girl, Melika, was executed on December 21, 2018 in Falavarjan. And finally, a prisoner charged with murder who was held in Tehran prison was saved from death with forgiveness and consent of the next of kin at the gallows.

(11) Mohammad Khakpour, an Azerbaijani Turkic minority rights activist, was arraigned to the Ardabil Revolutionary Court.

(12) Three construction workers were injured due to an unsafe workplace in Hajiabad city in the Hormozgan province.

A Daily Overview of Human Rights Violations in Iran for December 23, 2018

Posted on: 23rd December, 2018

<https://www.en-hrana.org/a-daily-overview-of-human-rights-violations-in-iran-for-december-23-2018>



The following is an overview of human rights violations in Iran on December 23rd, 2018 based on the information compiled and verified by Human Rights Activists News Agency (HRANA).

(1) Iranian border patrol shot a 27-year-old Kurdish kulbar, Ali Mamveisi, in Sardasht. He was severely injured and was transferred to a hospital in Urmia.

(2) A 36-year-old woman committed suicide by self-immolation on December 22 in Kooy-e Saadi district in Ahvaz.

(3) In the last two days, six workers of Iran National Steel Industrial Group were released. More than 43 workers were arrested on December 19.

(4) A prisoner charged with murder was saved from death with forgiveness of the next of kin in Khuzestan.

(5) Behrouz Farzandi, a Baha'i prisoner of war and disabled veteran of Iran-Iraq war, has been denied his degree after completing a bachelor program in Business Administration.

(6) A citizen was severely injured after a mine exploded in Dehloran city in Ilam province.

(7) The Supreme Court rejected the death sentence of Marjan Davari, a 52-year-old translator and scholar in Shahr Ray women's prison, who was sentenced to death on charge of 'corruption on earth' in 2017. She was a translator in the Rah-e-Marefat institution.

(8) Detained civil rights activist Reza Khandan was released on bail. His charges are "assembly and collusion against national security," "propaganda against the state" and "encouraging prostitution by promoting non-observance of the hijab."

(9) Esmail Bakhshi, a labor activist, returned to his workplace. He was a worker of Haft Tappeh Sugarcane Argo-Business and was released on bail on December 12. He was detained for 40 days in prison.

(10) Nader Fatourechi's court was on session on December 23. He confirmed that he faced persecution over his criticism of prison conditions after his detention at Fashafoyeh Prison. He was released on bail.

(11) A woman suffers serious injuries after an acid attack by her 20-years old step-son in Tehran. The two had financial disputes.

(12) The director of burn prevention research center: 40 percent of the burn patients are children and more than 15 percent of them are the women who are the victims of self-immolation.

(13) In a statement, more than 600 teachers requested immediate investigation of the causes and the responsible authorities in a Zahedan kindergarten fire. They warned that more than half of the schools in the country are unsafe.

(14) The appeal court of a Baha'i painter, Shahriar Cyrus, who was arrested on June 2015 and was sentenced to five years in prison will be in session on December 25th. He was accused of 'assembly and conspiracy against the state' by offering painting classes. He was a student of Aydeen Aghdashlou, Rouyein Pakbaz, and Ahmad Vakili and had been teaching painting for many years. He has also published articles on philosophy and art history in Iranian newspapers.

(15) More than 60 workers in Iranian Rail Industrial Development Company (IRICO) have been laid off due to company's financial problems.

(16) Two workers died due to an unsafe workplace in Dehdasht and Gonabad.