

HUMAN RIGHTS IN IRAN

THE ANALYTIC REPORT OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN IRAN



In this report, there are several sections including women, labors, children, prisoners and etc

IRAN VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS

In Iran, basic freedoms of speech, assembly, thought, and religion are all severely violated. The vast majority of those who dare to criticise the state are thrown into prison. Trials are unjust. Torture and mistreatment, including whipping and amputation, are widespread. Prejudice and violence on the basis of sexual orientation, disability, political and religious views, and ethnicity are common. Each year hundreds of people are executed, some of them in public places, and thousands are on death row, including some who were under 18 when their ‘offense’ was committed.

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Freedoms of speech and assembly

Iran institutes severe restrictions on freedom of speech and of assembly. Most critics of the government are imprisoned under the fabrication that they pose a security issue. Among these prisoners are peaceful political opponents, journalists, social media activists, students, film makers, authors, musicians, human rights activists - including campaigners for women's rights and for ethnic rights - environmentalists, trade unionists, anti-execution campaigners, lawyers, and those who continue to pursue the truth respecting the mass executions and disappearances of the 1980s. Many of these prisoners of conscience go on hunger strike to protest their unjust imprisonment and mistreatment.

During the nation-wide anti-government protest of November 2019, the state security forces killed hundreds of protesters and arrested thousands. Security forces directed live fire on unarmed protesters, in what came to be called the Bloody November. At the same time, the government imposed an internet blackout in order to stop the use of social media such as Instagram and Telegram, which are widely used in Iran, where Facebook, Twitter and YouTube are all locked.

Previously, the Iranian authorities had put pressure on the Minister of Technology and Communication to request Telegram to locate its server inside Iran, and to block tens of thousands of Telegram accounts they regard as “threatening national security” or “humiliating religious sanctities”. Telegram rejected both requests.

Freedom of speech through music is also strictly limited. Women are forbidden to sing in public places, and the authorities continue to refuse permission for concerts. The state imposes censorship across the press, and disrupts satellite TV channels. The journalist association is suspended, and journalists who work for foreign papers are persecuted.

Large numbers of students who took part in the November 2019 protests have been deprived of education, despite promises made by President Hassan Rouhani that this block would be lifted.

Workers are prevented from forming trade unions remains in place, and tens of labour activists are in jail. The state security forces continue to suppress peaceful gatherings of workers, including for the celebration of international workers’ day.

A significant number of environmental activists have been detained for participating in peaceful rallies against environmental pollution, and against projects such as damaging river realignments and dangerous waste disposal.

Torture and mistreatment

Torture and mistreatment are widespread, especially during the interrogation process. The Ministry of Intelligence and the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) hold prisoners in solitary confinement for a long time, which is in itself a form of torture.

Authorities have persistently refused to investigate allegations of torture, and have refused to acknowledge that they obtain "confessions" under torture. Prison authorities continue to deprive prisoners of the medical treatment they need. In many cases, they do this as a form of punishment, or as a way to obtain a "confession". This in itself is a further form of torture.

Prisoners suffer from cruel and inhumane conditions, including over-crowding, lack of access to hot water and bedding, lack of proper ventilation, and insect infestation.

Cruel and inhumane punishment

Judicial authorities continue to carry out cruel and inhumane punishments. Some of these punishments are carried out in public.

Many people, including children, receive a public punishment of up to 100 lashes for committing offences such as theft, and for many other actions that would not even be considered offences according to international norms – for relationships outside marriage, partying, eating in public during Ramadan, and participation in peaceful rallies.

The Iranian Supreme Court continues to approve the use of amputation as punishment. In April 2017, judicial officials in Shiraz cut off Hamid Mohini's hands, and ten days later executed him. He had been convicted of robbery and murder. At least four more cases of amputation for robbery were recorded that year alone.

Unfair trials

Trials, especially those in which execution is handed out, are fundamentally and systematically unfair. There is no impartial mechanism to ensure accountability in the judiciary. Judges are appointed according to their political view and their relationship with the intelligence institutions. This is especially true for the judges of the Revolution Court and has raised serious concern.

The provisions of the new criminal justice regulations, which require fair trial and access to a lawyer during the detention and investigation periods, are regularly flouted. Despite Article 48 of the criminal justice regulation, the authorities (for their own political reasons) regularly prevent detainees accessing a lawyer. Lawyers are regularly told that they are not included in the official list published by the chief of the judiciary. Trials, especially those conducted in the revolution courts, tend to be closed to the public and extremely short. In some cases, they take only a few minutes.

Foreigners and Iranians with dual citizenship are subject to arbitrary arrest, extremely unfair trials, and long detention. The authorities claim that they do this to avert the “manipulating projects” of foreign enemies. If these people avail themselves of their rights to freedom of speech and movement, they become subject to vague accusations related to national security.

Freedom of believe and opinion

Freedom of believe and opinion is systematically violated through the Iranian legal system. The authorities force peoples of different religious views and backgrounds to adhere to a specific set of social regulations that emanate from their strict interpretation of Shiite Islam. No non-Shiite is permitted to stand for the office of president or for any other key political position.

There has been systematic and extensive oppression of the Bahai community. This includes arbitrary arrest, long detention, torture and mis-treatment, forced closure of businesses, prohibition of employment in the public sector, and non-admission to university. The Mullah’s

regime regard Bahais as “apostates” and “impure”. They spread hatred against them and encouraged communal attacks.

Other religious minorities not recognised by the Iranian constitution, including the Yarsan (Ahle Haq), are subject to systematic discrimination and harassment, both at their work places and in the education system.

People are deprived of the right to change or abandon their religious belief. Those who convert to Christianity receive severe punishment, and some have been condemned to up to 15 years imprisonment. At the same time, the authorities continue to harass Churches.

The Gonabadi dervishes are subject to continual attacks on their places of worship and to arbitrary arrest. Many of them have been fired from their work and denied entry to university. Those who identify themselves as non-believers or atheists become subject to arbitrary arrest, torture, and even death, by authorities who categorise them as “apostates”.

Sunni Muslims are prevented from taking high-ranking positions, and continue to suffer from discriminations, including restrictions on holding separate prayers for Eid al-Fitr.

Discrimination against ethnic minorities

Ethnic minorities, such as Kurds, Arabs, Azaris, Baluchis, and Turkmens, are subject to institutionalised discrimination that limits their access to education, employment, appropriate accommodation, and political position.

Areas inhabited by minorities have suffered from continued economic neglect, bringing poverty and further marginalisation. Many villages in these areas have no access to electricity, clean water, education, or medical services. These neglected areas have high rates of illiteracy among girls, and high rates of infant mortality.

Education and training at both elementary and intermediate levels is provided only through the Persian language, leading to members of minority groups dropping out of education.

Criticism of the lack of measures to secure minority rights has borne no fruit.

Members of minority groups who protest violation of their rights face arbitrary arrest, torture, mistreatment, unfair trials, imprisonment, and execution. Security and Intelligence institutions continuously accuse minority rights activists of “separatist activities”.

Systemic discrimination has left people with very limited options for earning enough to survive. Many have been forced to become *kolbers*, carrying domestic goods on their backs across the border between Iran and Iraq. Even though they are civilians and generally carry goods such as tea, sugar and cloth, the Iranian border guards shoot them on the spot with impunity, killing over a dozen each year, and maiming many more.

Discrimination against women

Women are subject to institutionalised discrimination that are deeply imbedded in the legal system. They have no equal rights with men on issues such as divorce, employment, heritage, political engagement, and family and criminal laws.

Domestic violence and forced under age marriage are committed widely and with impunity. The authorities refuse to criminalise domestic violence, and, the draft proposal for this that was forwarded in 2012 remains suspended. The legal age of marriage for girls remains to be 13. Fathers and grandfathers can apply for permission from court to arrange marriage of their girls who are under 13.

All women who apply for the position of presidency are being disapproved by the Guardian Council. Compulsory veiling opens the hands of the police and Basij forces to humiliate and arrest women for improper veiling, heavy make-up, and tight dressing. Women who campaign against compulsory veiling are systematically slandered and attacked by the government.

The civil law prohibits women from transferring Iranian citizenship to children from foreign husbands, a right that men have who have married foreign women. Authorities control and limit the travel of women rights activists into and from the country.

Discrimination against handicaps

Some of the negligence that people with mental and physical disabilities face are lack of facilities in official buildings, work and the environment. Reports point to forced hospitalisation of handicaps and unsatisfactory medical treatments of people who have been accused disable according to their sexual identity and orientation.

Capital punishment

Each year hundreds of people are executed. Their trials are unfair and often takes a very short time. Some of the executions are carried out in public. The authorities continue to portray peaceful campaigns against execution as “non-Islamic”, and harass or throw into prison anti-execution activists.

Most executions are said to have been related to drug crimes, but the authorities often execute political prisoners under the cover of drug crimes. Execution as the form of final punishment is carried out for a wide range of drug-related crimes.

The Amnesty International confirmed execution of four people who committed offence while they were under 18. Also, it acknowledged the file of 92 teenager who risk execution. Other statistics are probably much higher. The spread of information and anti-execution campaigns forced the authorities to postpone at the last minutes a few executions.

The authorities continue to execute people on the charge such as “humiliating the Prophet”, “enmity with God”, “the mischievousness on the earth”, none of which are clearly defined.

The Islamic punishment law regards stoning as a way of execution and continues to prescribe for some offences. Certain sexual relationship, especially those among homo-sexual people, are punished by execution via stoning.

The Guardian Council, which monitors the activities of the Parliament to ensure the legislations are made in accordance with the Sharia law, rejected the draft law amendment bill on determining the citizenship of children from marriage of Iranian women with foreign men. The legal condition of children from Iranian women's marriage with foreign men are critical. More than one million with this condition lack national identity.

The Guardian Council stated the proposed draft has no difference with the current law. The jurists of the Council, not their legalists, believe that the Article 1 of the Bill omitted the security issues. Previously, the Council had stated, the grant of citizenship and residency to foreign spouse of Iranian women involves "risk" that would jeopardise "national security", and, would be in violation of Clause 5 from Article 3 of the Constitution that warn about "foreign intrusion". According to this Article, the state must mobilise all its efforts to "completely reject colonialism and prevent foreign intrusion". The Bill on determining the citizenship of children from Iranian women with foreign men adopted in 2006, until they reach the age of 18 there is not protecting provision for them.

According to a figure, there are more than 100,000 children without identity just because they were born from Iranian women with foreign men. Not a thorough research has been conducted on the critical conditions of children without identity and many questions about this phenomenon remain unanswered.

This phenomenon is much more serious in areas suffering from unemployment, poverty, and drug addiction.



THE ANALYTIC REPORT OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN IRAN IS THE RESULT OF GATHERING, ANALYZE AND FORMING DATA TO DOCUMENTS FROM DIFFERENT REPORTS OF HUMAN RIGHTS CONDITION PUBLISHED BY NEWS SOURCES IN PAST YEARS.

