

## At a Glance

### Weekly report on Human Rights Violation in Iran 17 June 2018

#### International Condemnation of Violation of Human Rights in Iran

##### Arrest of Iranian Human Rights Lawyer Nasrin Sotoudeh

Press Statement

Heather Nauert

Department Spokesperson

Washington, DC

June 14, 2018

<https://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2018/06/283240.htm>



We are deeply concerned by reports that Iranian human rights lawyer Nasrin Sotoudeh has been arrested again. Ms. Sotoudeh was reportedly arrested today at her home and taken to Evin Prison, the notorious prison the U.S. Department of Treasury designated last month in connection with its involvement in the Government of Iran's human rights abuses. Ms. Sotoudeh most recently represented women unjustly detained for protesting Iran's mandatory hijab law. First arrested in 2010, Ms. Sotoudeh has spent the past several years harassed by the Iranian regime and has been routinely placed behind bars for daring to defend the rights of those in Iran. We applaud Ms. Sotoudeh's bravery and her fight for the long-suffering victims of the regime. We call on Iranian authorities to release her immediately, along with the hundreds of others who are currently imprisoned simply for expressing their views and desires for a better life.

##### EP Vice President and Chair of Subcommittee on Human Rights call for immediate release of Sakharov laureate Nasrin Sotoudeh

14-06-2018 - 10:05

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20180614IPR05802/ep-vice-president-and-droi-chair-call-for-immediate-release-of-nasrin-sotoudeh>

Following the arrest of Ms Nasrin Sotoudeh, EP Vice President Heidi Hautala (Greens/EFA, FI) and Chair of the Subcommittee on human Rights (DROI), Pier Antonio Panzeri (S&D, IT), stated:

"Yesterday Ms Nasrin Sotoudeh was arrested in her home in Tehran, Iran, and was reportedly transferred to Evin prison. We strongly condemn her arrest and call on the Iranian authorities to immediately and unconditionally release her.

Ms Sotoudeh is a tireless and outspoken human rights lawyer who has pursued her fully legitimate and peaceful professional activity, defending her clients with determination and courage. She had already paid a high price for her human rights work in previous years, including an unfair and unjustified prison sentence between 2010 and 2013, as well as a travel ban and limitations on her professional activity. The European Parliament awarded Ms Sotoudeh the Sakharov Prize in 2012 for her work and highly valued commitment to human rights. The Parliament stands by her and expects Iranian authorities to guarantee her full rights

in line with international standards, including her physical, moral and psychological integrity and contacts with her family and lawyers.

Any new charges against Ms Sotoudeh should be clearly communicated and duly justified. Furthermore, we call on the Iranian authorities to ensure the right of all defendants to a legal counsel of their choice in all court cases without undue limitations, in line with Iran's international commitments under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)."

## **Execution**

### **Iran: Political Prisoner in Imminent Danger of Execution After His Appeal Was Rejected**

<https://iranhr.net/en/articles/3344/>

Ramin Hossein Panahi's lawyer and family announced that his appeal was rejected by Iran's Supreme Court.



**Iran Human Rights (Jun 12, 2018): Iran's Supreme Court rejected Ramin Hossein Panahi's appeal. He was sentenced to death on rebellion charges and is in imminent danger of execution.**

Ramin Hossein Panahi's lawyer and family announced that his appeal was rejected by Iran's Supreme Court.

His brother, Amjad Hossein Panahi, told IHR, "My brother's appeal has been rejected and he may get executed in the next few days or weeks. I think no matter how many times we file an appeal, he will be sentenced to death again because security agencies in Tehran decide this case."

In an interview with IHR, Hossein Ahmadi Niaz, the political prisoner's lawyer, confirmed the rejection of Ramin Hossein Panahi's appeal.

Mahmood Amiry-Moghaddam, the spokesperson for IHR, had earlier said, "Ramin Hossein Panahi has been sentenced to death by the Revolutionary Court through an unfair trial. His death penalty is not only inhumane but also illegal due to lack of a fair trial, and it should be stopped immediately."

Iran Human Rights urges Human Rights Institutions to pay special attention to Ramin Hossein Panahi's situation. Now that the judicial authorities have refused to consider his lawyer's several appeals, Ramin's only hope for being saved from execution is the international community's attention.

Ramin Hossein Panahi was shot and arrested by the agents of the Revolutionary Guard on Friday, June 23, 2017. The IRGC agents claimed that he was armed, but Ramin's family claim otherwise. This prisoner was transferred to Sanandaj central Prison on January 9, 2018, after spending 200 days in the custody of the Intelligence Organization of Army of the Guardians of the Islamic Revolution and the Ministry of Intelligence.

Ramin Hossein Panahi's trial was held on January 15, 2017. He was sentenced to death in the first session on the charge of "rebellion against the regime, acting against the national security, and being a member of Komala Party of Iranian Kurdistan." His execution was approved by branch 39 of the Supreme Court on Tuesday, April 10 after which his lawyer requested a retrial.

It should be noted that Ramadan (observed by Muslims worldwide as a month of fasting) will be over in a few days. The process of executions is usually stopped in Ramadan but it starts again after the end of the month. It is concerning that Ramin Hossein Panahi's execution may be carried out after Ramadan.

## **Family of Mohammad Salas to Pay Their Last Visit Before His Execution**

<https://iranhr.net/en/articles/3348/>

Mohammad Salas has reportedly been subjected to torture and he didn't have a fair trial. Besides being inhumane, the death sentence against Salas is unlawful and must be removed. International pressure is the only hope to save his life.



**Iran Human Rights (Jun 17, 2018): Family members of Mohammad Salas, the Gonabadi Dervish who is sentenced to death in a branch of Iranian Revolutionary Court, were informed on June 16 that they can pay their last visit to him at Rajai Shahr prison. Reportedly, Mohammad Salas' sentence will be carried out on Wednesday, June 20.**

According to a close source, on Saturday, June 16, the authorities of Rajai Shahr Prison told the family members of Yavar Mohammad Salas that they can visit him for the last time at Rajai Shahr Prison.

Yavar's daughter, Narges Salas, told IHR, "My father was arrested at 2:30 p.m. He was tortured before and after the arrest. They broke his finger after his first trial when he denied the allegations of deliberately killing police officers." She also said, "My father is currently held in solitary confinement. We ask them to give my father a chance to defend himself."

Alireza Roshan, journalist, poet, and activist for the rights of Dervishes, told IHR, "They rejected the appeal, although Mohammad Salas' lawyer specified that there are some witnesses who can testify that the bus driver was a young man." Salas is a middle-aged man.

IHR strongly urges the international community to take action to stop Mohammad Salas' execution. Mahmood Amiry-Moghaddam, the spokesperson for IHR, said, "Mohammad Salas has reportedly been subjected to torture and he didn't have a fair trial. Besides being inhumane, the death sentence against Salas is unlawful and must be removed. International pressure is the only hope to save his life. We especially call on the European Union and the Norwegian government to immediately act to stop Mohammad Salas' execution".

Mohammad Salas was arrested on February 19, 2018, after the protests of the Gonabadi dervishes. He was charged with the murder of three police officers by running over them by a bus. The third trial for Mohammad Salas was held on Sunday, March 18 and he denied the allegations against him and claimed that he didn't kill the police officers deliberately and he just wanted to drive away without an intention to kill anyone.

Branch 9 of the Criminal Court of Tehran issued the verdict after less than two months of Mohammad Salas's arrest while he wasn't in touch with his lawyer during the first trial, and during the second trial, his lawyer couldn't defend him because he had not studied the case.

Zeynab Taheri, Mohamad's lawyer, recently announced on her telegram channel that she was made to stop her social media activities. She had earlier announced that she had requested a retrial based on the pieces of evidence she had, but the Supreme Court rejected it.

## Arbitrary Murders

### Iran: Former political prisoner murdered under torture

By IranHRM\_On Jun 10, 2018

<http://iran-hrm.com/index.php/2018/06/10/iran-former-political-prisoner-murdered-under-torture/>

A former political prisoner from Oshnavieh, was killed under torture after being arrested and transferred to the Detention Center of Khoy's city. Rahman Ghorbani was arrested on Saturday June 2, 2018 by the security forces of Iran and transferred to Khoy city's Detention Center. According to an informed source, Ghorbani lost his life due to numerous electric baton strikes and heart failure during the torture. The body of this citizen, who was also a former political prisoner and held for fourteen years in the prisons of Shano (Shanwai) and Urmia, was given to his family after three days. Urmia's legal practitioner has not given a specific answer to Ghorbani's family after an autopsy.

### Activist tortured to death, family members intimidated

By IranHRM\_On Jun 12, 2018

<http://iran-hrm.com/index.php/2018/06/12/activist-tortured-to-death-family-members-intimidated/>



Intelligence agents on Saturday, May 9, arrested Mehdi Maramazi, to force his family to deny their other son, [Hatam Marmazi, had been killed under torture](#). The family was also pressured to appear on the state TV to claim their son was a terrorist affiliated to ISIS. The authorities had also arrested the parents on May 5 when they went to take their son's dead body. They forced them to commit in writing to refrain from

any public comments on his death.

The intelligence agents refused to deliver the corpse and told the family that they will inform the burial site after the funeral.

It is worth noting that the Intelligence Ministry in Ahwaz murdered Hatam Marmazi 20, under torture.

Ahwaz intelligence authorities contacted the family of Hatam Marmazi on June 5, to have them come and receive his lifeless body.

Marmazi, a political and cultural activist born in the city of Susangerd, was arrested by Ahwaz intelligence authorities on June 12, 2017, in a village while returning from the home of his relatives.

His family was kept in the dark despite the fact that they constantly sought information about his whereabouts. All security and intelligence entities denied any knowledge of his arrest.

A number of Dec/Jan demonstration protesters arrested by intelligence agents had seen Marmazi in the Ahvaz Intelligence Department and informed his family of his whereabouts at the time.

After the death of Hatam Marmazi, the state media denied his death under torture and claimed he was a member of the ISIS and was killed by Tahrir al-Sham members in Syria. His family however deny the allegations. [Faisal Marmazi](#), another family member has recently released a video file denying Hatam's dependence on ISIS in Syria, which was claimed by the state media.

"Iranian authorities are responsible for his death. The published photos are not related to Hatam. None of these photographs is true and it is a sheer lie," he said.

## Torture

### Prisoners beaten at Rajaie Shahr prison of Karaj

By IranHRM\_On Jun 15, 2018

<http://iran-hrm.com/index.php/2018/06/15/prisoners-beaten-at-rajaie-shahr-prison-of-karaj/>

A group of 30 prisoners of Rajaie Shahr prison of Karaj were beaten by the jail officers and were banished to the 9th hall in the 3rd District of the prison, known as the bloody circle.

The bloody circle in Rajaie Shahr prison is the unofficial name of a prison cell, in which most of the frequent quarrels and murders inside the prison takes place. This is due to the instrumental use of the prison's authorities in keeping a specific population of prisoners inside one cell. The prisoners have been deprived from medical care and medical attention, despite the serious deterioration of their health status in which some have broken legs and arms due to the beatings.

These prisoners are known as:

Vahid Saylani, Amir Naymati, Mohsen Salem, Hossein Golpayeganzadeh, Aydin Shariat Madari, Alireza Mirza Razi, Ahmad Bahrami, Mehdi Rashidi, Amir Hossein Datub, Hossein Ranjbarzadeh, Mohammad Hajazi, Reza Saki, Ali Baghi, Mehdi Sadeghi, Peyman Reyvandi, Ali Delavari, Mehdi Rashti, Abbas Khargir, Bahador Hedavand Aghai, Mehdi Sahrai, Abdollah Naghdi, Seyyed Hassan Jahanbin, Reza Kamel Navab, Abbas Botshekan, Parviz Beigi, Hossein Waksee, Ehsan Hatamian, Saman Kaki, Masoud Hajian, and Aref Gorgani.

## Arbitrary Arrests

### Iran: Arrest of prominent human rights lawyer Nasrin Sotoudeh is an outrage

13 June 2018, 17:29 UTC

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2018/06/iran-arrest-of-prominent-human-rights-lawyer-nasrin-sotoudeh-is-an-outrage/>



The arrest of Nasrin Sotoudeh, a prominent Iranian human rights lawyer, is an outrageous attack on a brave and prolific human rights defender, Amnesty International said today.

Nasrin Sotoudeh was arrested at her home in Tehran this morning and transferred to the prosecutor's office of Evin prison, according to her husband, Reza Khandan.



In an interview earlier today with Manoto News, a Persian language news channel broadcast from outside Iran, Reza Khandan also revealed that Nasrin Sotoudeh was told she was being arrested to serve a five-year prison sentence. However, neither he nor Nasrin Sotoudeh knew anything about this sentence.

“We call on the Iranian authorities to release Nasrin Sotoudeh immediately and unconditionally. Any action short of this must be unreservedly condemned by the international community.”

In recent weeks, Nasrin Sotoudeh has spoken out against the application of a Note to Article 48 of Iran's 2015 [Code of Criminal Procedure](#). The Note to Article 48 denies individuals facing some offences, including those related to national security, the right to access an

independent lawyer of their own choosing during the investigation of their charges. Instead, individuals can only select from a roster of pre-approved lawyers chosen by the Head of the Judiciary. The Head of the Judiciary issued a list with only 20 people pre-approved for Tehran province.

“Permitting only lawyers who are pre-approved to defend individuals accused of ‘security’ offences – who often include human rights defenders – completely undermines the right of detainees to a lawyer of their own choosing,” said Philip Luther.

In recent months, Nasrin Sotoudeh has Narges Hosseini, who was prosecuted for peacefully protesting against compulsory veiling in Iran earlier this year. Since December 2017, dozens of women have been violently attacked and arrested for peacefully protesting against [compulsory veiling](#).

In September 2010, Nasrin Sotoudeh was sentenced to six years in prison on charges of “spreading propaganda against the system” and “gathering and colluding to commit crimes against national security” for her work as a lawyer, including defending countless cases of prisoners of conscience and juvenile offenders sentenced to death. She was released in September 2013 after receiving a pardon.

In 2012, she was awarded the Sakharov Prize for her human rights work. Since her release from prison, she has continued to work as a human rights lawyer, despite attempts by the Iranian authorities to limit her work, including by rejecting many of her requests to represent individuals detained for political reasons.

## Iran: Prominent Rights Defender Arrested

Judiciary Targets Acclaimed Human Rights Lawyer

June 13, 2018 4:35PM EDT

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2018/06/13/iran-prominent-rights-defender-arrested>



(Beirut) – [Iranian](#) authorities arrested Nasrin Sotoudeh, one of the country’s most prominent human rights defenders, on June 13, 2018, Human Rights Watch said today. Iranian authorities should immediately and unconditionally release her.

Reza Khandan, Sotoudeh’s husband, [announced the arrest](#) on Facebook on June 13. [Khandan also told the Iranian Students’ News Agency \(ISNA\)](#) that the authorities who arrested Sotoudeh told him they were taking her to prison to serve a five-year prison sentence she had received in absentia, although the Iranian authorities had neither previously informed her about nor publicly announced the conviction or sentence. She had previously served three years in prison for her activism.

“Nasrin Sotoudeh is a human rights champion who should be applauded, not jailed, for her tireless defense of citizens’ rights,” said [Sarah Leah Whitson](#), Middle East director at Human Rights Watch. “Iran’s judiciary again has revealed to its citizens and the international community its disdain for and fear of people who seek to protect human rights.”

In November 2017, Sotoudeh told the Center for Human Rights in Iran (CHRI) that [the Revolutionary Court in Evin prison](#) had summoned her, but that she refused to participate in the process because she did not believe that the court would follow legal procedures and felt that she would be tried under unfair circumstances.

Over the past several months, Sotoudeh represented several women who had taken off their headscarves in public to protest Iran’s [compulsory dress code \(hijab\) laws](#). She also criticized

the judiciary's move to allow only an extremely [limited pre-approved government list](#) of lawyers to represent people charged with national security crimes.

Security forces previously arrested Sotoudeh on September 4, 2010, and in January 2011 Branch 26 of Tehran's Revolutionary Court sentenced her to 11 years in prison and banned her from practicing law for 20 years. The charges included "acting against national security," "propaganda against the state," and "membership in the Center for Human Rights Defenders," the group formed by the Nobel peace laureate Shirin Ebadi and other lawyers.

On September 14, 2011, Branch 54 of Tehran's Revolutionary Appeals Court reduced Sotoudeh's sentence to six years and reduced the legal practice ban to 10 years. In September 2013, authorities released Sotoudeh with a pardon. On August 31, 2014, and after several days of Sotoudeh [staging a sit-in outside](#) the Tehran Bar Association, the disciplinary court of lawyers rejected the prosecutor's appeal to suspend Sotoudeh's Iranian Bar Association's membership, allowing her to return to her practice as a human rights lawyer.

## Iran: Nasrin Sotoudeh prominent human rights lawyer arbitrarily detained 15/06/2018

<https://www.fidh.org/en/issues/human-rights-defenders/iran-nasrin-sotoudeh-prominent-human-rights-lawyer-arbitrarily>

**IRN 001 / 0618 / OBS 085**

Arbitrary detention /Judicial harassment  
June 15, 2018



The Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, a partnership of World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT) and FIDH, has received new information and requests your urgent intervention in the following situation in **Iran**.

### New information:



The Observatory has been informed by the League for the Defence of Human Rights in Iran (LDDHI) about the arbitrary detention and judicial harassment of Ms. **Nasrin Sotoudeh**, a prominent human rights lawyer and 2012 laureate of the European Parliament's

Sakharov Prize.

According to the information received, on June 13, 2018, security forces arrested Ms. Nasrin Sotoudeh at her home in Tehran and transferred her to the capital's Evin prison. Upon her arrest, she was presented with an arrest warrant and was told that she was being taken to serve a five-year prison sentence, which had been handed down against her in absentia. Ms. Nasrin Sotoudeh was not shown the court's ruling related to the sentence and had not been informed of the conviction or the sentence prior to her arrest. The Iranian judiciary has not disclosed neither the procedure by which the sentence was issued and communicated, nor the possibility given to Ms. Nasrin Sotoudeh to appeal. This is in flagrant contravention of domestic and international fair trial standards.

In August 2015, Ms. Nasrin Sotoudeh was summoned for interrogation following the renewal of her lawyer's licence a while after a nine-month sit-in she had been holding in protest against a three-year suspension of the licence. The summons did not specify any charges. However, she was unable to attend the interrogation due to a surgery on her foot at the time.

Her husband went to the court in her place and presented medical documents regarding her condition and her inability to respond to the summons.

She was then given three weeks to go to the Islamic Revolution Court. However, when she did go she was not allowed in, as a number of lawyers are barred from entering the court's building. Ms. Sotoudeh was also summoned to the Islamic Revolution Court on September 4, 2016, with which she complied. However, she was neither tried nor notified of any charges.

The Observatory recalls that Ms. Nasrin Sotoudeh had already been imprisoned for her peaceful and legitimate human rights activities in September 2010. Following national and international outcry over her detention, she was released in 2013 after serving more than three years of her six-year prison sentence [1]. She has spoken out about different human rights issues ever since.

The Observatory expresses its deepest concern about Ms. Nasrin Sotoudeh's arbitrary detention, which appears aimed at punishing her for her legitimate human rights activities.

The Observatory urges the Iranian authorities to immediately and unconditionally release Ms. Nasrin Sotoudeh and to guarantee her physical and psychological integrity. The Observatory further urges the Iranian authorities to ensure that all judicial proceedings against her are carried out in full compliance with her right to a fair trial.

#### **Actions requested:**

Please write to the authorities of Iran asking them to:

- i. Guarantee in all circumstances the physical and psychological integrity of Ms. Nasrin Sotoudeh, as well as of all human rights defenders in Iran;
- ii. Immediately and unconditionally release Ms. Nasrin Sotoudeh, as well as all human rights defenders detained in Iran, as their detention is arbitrary as it is merely aimed at punishing them for their human rights activities;
- iii. Put an end to all acts of harassment, including at the judicial level, against Ms. Nasrin Sotoudeh, as well as of all human rights defenders in Iran and ensure that they are able to carry out their activities without hindrance;
- iv. Ensure that all judicial proceedings against Ms. Nasrin Sotoudeh are carried out in full compliance with her right to a fair trial, as protected under international law;
- v. Conform in any circumstances with the provisions of the Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, adopted on December 9, 1998 by the United Nations General Assembly, in particular its Articles 1 and 12.2.;
- vi. Ensure in all circumstances respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in accordance with international human rights instruments ratified by Iran.

#### **Addresses:**

- Leader of the Islamic Republic, H.E. Ayatollah Sayed Ali Khamenei, Fax: + 98 21 441 2030, Email: info\_leader@leader.ir; Twitter: @khamenei\_ir
- President Hassan Rouhani, Islamic Republic of Iran, Fax: + 98 21 644 54811; Email: media@rouhani.ir; Twitter: @HassanRouhani (English) and @Rouhani\_ir (Persian).
- Head of the Judiciary, H.E. Ayatollah Sadeq Larijani, Islamic Republic of Iran, Fax: +98 21 879 6671 / +98 21 3 311 6567, Email: info@dadiran.ir / info@dadgostary-tehran.ir / info@bia-judiciary.ir
- Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mohammad Javad Zarif, Islamic Republic of Iran, Fax: +98-21-66743149; matbuat@mfa.gov.ir
- Secretary General, High Council for Human Rights, Mr. Mohammed Javad Larijani, Islamic Republic of Iran. Email: info@humanrights-iran.ir

• H.E. Mr. Javad Amin-Mansour, Ambassador, Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland, Fax: +41 22 7330203, Email: mission.iran@ties.itu.int

• H.E. Mr. Peiman Seadat, Ambassador, Embassy of Iran in Brussels, Belgium, Fax: + 32 2 762 39 15. Email: secreteriat@iranembassy.be

Please also write to diplomatic representations of Iran in your respective countries.

\*\*\*

Geneva-Paris, June 15, 2018

Kindly inform us of any action undertaken quoting the code of this appeal in your reply.

*The Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders (the Observatory) was created in 1997 by the World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT) and the FIDH. The objective of this programme is to intervene to prevent or remedy situations of repression against human rights defenders. OMCT and FIDH are both members of ProtectDefenders.eu, the European Union Human Rights Defenders Mechanism implemented by international civil society.*

To contact the Observatory, call the emergency line:

- E-mail: Appeals@fidh-omct.org
- Tel and fax OMCT + 41 22 809 49 39 / + 41 22 809 49 29

## **human rights lawyer's court was held in Arak**

By IranHRM On Jun 12, 2018

<http://iran-hrm.com/index.php/2018/06/12/iran-human-rights-lawyer-mohammad-najafi/>



On Saturday June 9, Mohammad Najafi, a human rights lawyer, was tried at branch 102 of the Criminal Court number 2 in Arak, central Iran.

He was tried on charges of disturbing public order through unrest and controversy. And also for unconventional movements such as slogans and publication of false and untrue facts in order to disturb public opinion.

Najafi was arrested on January 15, 2018, by Intelligence Ministry agents after he revealed that Vahid Heydari, 22, was beaten at the 12th Police Station in Arak before his death in early January.

Vahid Heydari died in a cell at a police station in Arak, in Iran's Central Province. Iranian authorities portrayed his death as "suicide," charging that he was "a drug addict in possession of illegal substances" at the time of his arrest.

Consequently, when a member of parliament said that Najafi has conducted research that proved Heydari was neither a drug addict, nor a dealer, the Iranian Judiciary charged the lawyer with several accusations.

Najafi was released on bail in the city of Arak on April 17, 2018.

Speaking with the Center for Human Rights in Iran on May 6, 2018, Najafi emphasized on pursuing his deceased client case, saying "I will follow up on Vahid Heydari's case within the framework of the law and if his family wants me to represent them, I will do so and defend their rights to the fullest without the slightest hesitation."

"As I'm speaking to you right now, there are four warrants against me," he added. "I have been a lawyer and writer for years and during this time I have been repeatedly charged and acquitted. The authorities themselves have told me that they are trying to grind me into oblivion."

## Novel author imprisoned in Mashhad without a lawyer

By IranHRM On Jun 15, 2018

<http://iran-hrm.com/index.php/2018/06/15/novel-author-imprisoned-in-mashhad-without-a-lawyer/>



Farhad Jafari, the author of the novel “Piano Cafe”, has been arrested in Mashhad and is currently being held in Vakilabad Prison. The father of the writer mentioned that Farhad Jafari was arrested on June 1. He added that in a meeting that he had with him today, Farhad Jafari assumed that his arrest was due to supporting the orphaned girls living in the Revolution Street and publishing lies.

According to Jafari’s father, his son still does not have a lawyer.

## Justice System

### Who Are the State-Vetted Lawyers Exclusively Allowed to Defend Detainees Facing Political Charges in Iran?

*List Not Finalized According to Judicial Official*

June 12, 2018

<https://www.iranhumanrights.org/2018/06/who-are-the-state-vetted-lawyers-exclusively-allowed-to-defend-detainees-facing-political-charges-in-iran/>

Iran’s judiciary has not released the names of the 20 state-approved lawyers exclusively allowed to represent detainees held on politically motivated charges in Iran. But some potential lawyers have dark human rights records.

According to the opposition-run Zeitoons [website](#), which has in the past provided credible news and reports on civil rights issues in Iran, the list includes:

- Hassan Tardast, who as a judge has issued hundreds of death sentences in Iran.
- Abdolreza Mohabbati, who acted as assistant prosecutor during several trials of political activists arrested and jailed for peacefully protesting during Iran’s 2009 presidential election.
- Mohammad Saedi, a supporter of conservative presidential candidate [Ebrahim Raisi](#) in Iran’s 2017 election. In 1988, Raisi was part of a committee that implemented the extrajudicial executions of thousands of political prisoners.
- Mojtaba Panahi, the head of the hardline paramilitary Basij Lawyers Association.

“When Hassan Tardast was a judge, he issued death sentences against at least 800 people and now he wants to defend political and security suspects as an attorney trusted by the judiciary?!” [tweeted](#) Toronto-based Iranian journalist Shahram Rafizadeh on June 5, 2018.

Iran’s [Constitution](#) sets no limits or conditions on the right to legal counsel and Article 35 states, “Both parties to a lawsuit have the right in all courts of law to select an attorney, and if they are unable to do so, arrangements must be made to provide them with legal counsel.”

According to Article 48 of [Iran’s Criminal Procedures Regulations](#), people also have the right to ask for and have a meeting with a lawyer as soon as they are detained. But the “Note to Article 48” makes exceptions: “In cases of crimes against internal or external security...during the investigation phase, the parties to the dispute are to select their attorneys from a list approved by the head of the judiciary.”

In January 2018, shortly after the list was issued to judicial offices in Iran, 150 lawyers called on Judiciary Chief Sadegh Larijani to stop restricting detainees' access to legal counsel. Some lawyers are contemplating [more protests](#).

On June 8, Mohammad Reza Saki, an adviser to the judiciary's legal affairs department, told the semi-official Iranian Students News Agency (ISNA) that the list hasn't been finalized.

"This list isn't final. There's the possibility that it could be changed or more lawyers could be added to it," he said.

In an [interview](#) with the Center for Human Rights in Iran (CHRI) on June 5, Nobel Peace Laureate Shirin Ebadi described the judiciary's list as the "first step" in a coming crackdown on dissent in Iran.

"Given the political situation, the regime is preparing to crack down on opposition and street protests on a wider scale in the coming months and the implementation of the Note to Article 48 is the first step in denying suspects the ability to pick their own lawyer," said Ebadi, who worked for decades as a human rights lawyer in Iran and now lives in exile.

Tehran-based human rights lawyer Nasrin Sotoudeh, a former colleague of Ebadi's, also told CHRI that the list further limits the ability of dissidents, activists, journalists and other defendants facing political charges to a fair trial and defense in Iran.

"In the past, political suspects had a limited right to defend themselves and lawyers could take up their cases and carry out their professional duties despite all the dangers they faced, but now even that limited right is being completely eliminated," Sotoudeh [said](#) on June 5.

## Prisoners of Conscience

### URGENT ACTION

#### Iranian Kurdish woman denied medical care

Further information on UA: 151/14 Index: MDE 13/8598/2018 IranDate: 15 June 2018

<https://www.amnesty.org/download/Documents/MDE1385982018ENGLISH.pdf>



Iranian Kurdish woman Zeynab Jalalian is being subjected to torture by the Iranian authorities, who are deliberately blocking her access to specialized medical care, despite her deteriorating health in Khoy prison, West Azerbaijan Province. She has several medical conditions, including a heart problem and a severe dental infection.

Critically ill Iranian Kurdish prisoner Zeynab Jalalian is being denied access to urgently required dental treatment outside Khoy prison, West Azerbaijan Province, where she is serving a life sentence following a grossly unfair trial. The medical staff at the prison have requested her transfer to a dental clinic outside the prison to receive treatment for a severe dental infection, which she has had for three months. Despite this, the authorities have denied the request, citing the "security" nature of her case as justification.

Zeynab Jalalian also has heart, intestinal, and kidney problems, as well as an oral thrush condition that has caused painful white bumps on her tongue and interferes with her ability to eat and swallow. She is at risk of losing her eyesight in prison as she is being denied surgery for a worsening eye condition called pterygium, which is impairing her vision and causing her severe discomfort. The right side of her body is numb, the reason for which remains unknown,

as she has not received any diagnostic tests. Additionally, she is experiencing dips and spikes in her blood pressure, which the prison doctor has said is linked to the stress and psychological pressure she is under. She has repeatedly asked the prison authorities to take her to a hospital outside the prison for specialized testing and treatment for her health problems but the authorities have either rejected outright her requests or have accepted them on the condition that she make videotaped “confessions”. She has been refusing all medication since March 2017 in protest at the authorities’ refusal to provide her with adequate medical care. Following a meeting with the head of Khoy prison around the beginning of June 2018, she said that, if the authorities continued to deny her access to a dentist, she would escalate her protest, without specifying what measures she would take.

In a letter written from inside prison on 11 June, Zeynab Jalalian says: “I have been forced to endure intense pain... As a political prisoner, I have no rights... The authorities have not taken me to see a doctor but have lied to the media by telling them that I have seen one.”

Please write immediately in English, Persian, or your own language, calling on the Iranian authorities to:

vImmediately provide Zeynab Jalalian with the specialized medical care she needs outside prison, including eye surgery and dental treatment, and protect her from further torture and other ill-treatment, including through the denial of adequate medical care;

vImplement the recommendation of the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, which calls for Zeynab Jalalian to be released immediately and accorded an enforceable right to compensation;

vOrder a prompt, independent and impartial investigation into her allegations of torture and other ill-treatment, bringing to justice anyone found responsible, including those with superior responsibility, in fair trials and without recourse to the death penalty.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 27 JULY 2018 TO:

Prosecutor General of Iran	Head of the Judiciary	And copies to:
Mohammad Jafar Montazeri	Ayatollah Sadegh Larijani	Permanent Representative to the UN in
Office of the Prosecutor General of Iran	Number 4, Deadend of 1 Azizi	Geneva
Khayyam Street (opposite Behesht	Above Pastour Intersection	Mohsen Naziri Asl
Street), Tehran, Iran	Vali Asr Street, Tehran, Iran	Chemin du Petit-Saconnex 28
Email: info@dadsetani.ir	Salutation: Your Excellency	1209 Geneva, Switzerland
Salutation: Your Excellency		

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please insert local diplomatic addresses below:

Name Address 1 Address 2 Address 3 Fax Fax number Email Email address Salutation Salutation

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date. This is the third update of UA 151/14. Further information:  
<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/7005/2017/en/>

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Since 2014, doctors have recommended surgery to remove the pterygium, a wing-shaped growth of tissue that starts on the white of the eye and spreads across the cornea if left untreated. Zeynab Jalalian requires surgery on her eyes for this condition; however, the authorities have refused to transfer her to a hospital outside prison to receive the surgery, and have only given her eye drops, which do not treat her condition. She refuses to take medication in protest at the false claims made by the authorities to the UN that she is in perfect health and receives regular medical care, as well as their tampering with her medical records to make it appear that she undergoes weekly check-ups.

Zeynab Jalalian was arrested in March 2008 for her social and political activities with the political wing of the Party for Free Life of Kurdistan (PJAK), which aimed at the empowerment of women belonging to Iran's Kurdish minority and Kurdish self-determination. PJAK is a Kurdish political opposition group which also has an armed wing. She was held in solitary confinement for eight months without access to a lawyer. She has said that, during this period, intelligence officials tortured her including through flogging the soles of her feet, punching her in the stomach, hitting her head against a wall, and threatening her with rape. She was sentenced to death in early 2009 on the charge of "enmity against God" (moharebeh). Her trial was grossly unfair and lasted no more than a few minutes. Branch One of the Revolutionary Court in Kermanshah Province claimed that she had

"taken up arms against the state" despite the absence of any evidence linking her to the armed activities of PJAK. Noting her "alleged membership in the political wing of PJAK" and her movement between Iran and Iraq, the court reasoned that "she may have been indeed involved in terrorist operations but is refraining from telling the truth." Zeynab Jalalian's lawyer, whom she had only been allowed to appoint a few weeks prior to the trial, was denied the opportunity to represent her at the trial, as he was not informed of the date for which it had been scheduled. Her death sentence was upheld on appeal in May 2009 but was commuted to life imprisonment in December 2011 after she was granted clemency by Iran's Supreme Leader.

Since her arrest, Zeynab Jalalian has been under pressure from the authorities to make videotaped "confessions". In May 2016, she was featured in a state television programme called *The Shadow of Terrorism*. It denounced PJAK as a "deadly terrorist group" bent on "brainwashing" and recruiting "gullible" youths and children and killing women and children. The programme referred to reports about Zeynab Jalalian's denial of access to medical care as "a typical propaganda tactic by the terrorist PJAK to take advantage of a victim". Zeynab Jalalian was shown in the programme saying: "The reports about me having lost my sight, my life being at risk or that I am sick are not true. I have had some medical problems but they have been minor." This account was reinforced with lengthier interviews with the head of Khoy Prison, a prison social worker, and a woman introduced as Zeynab Jalalian's cell mate, whose face was blurred. They claimed that Zeynab Jalalian had had full access to medical care and her eye pain had been resolved with the use of eye drops. Her sister has since told Amnesty International that Zeynab Jalalian has retracted her statements in this programme, saying that she was coerced into making them.

In April 2016, the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention called on Iran to release Zeynab Jalalian immediately as she had been detained only for peacefully exercising her rights to freedoms of expression and association through “her activities as a social and political activist for the rights of Kurdish women” and “her involvement in political activism... with the non-militant wing of the PJAK”. The Working Group stated that she had been denied the right to a fair trial and that her treatment violated the prohibition of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. The refusal of authorities to provide prisoners with medical care constitutes torture if such deprivation is intentional and inflicts “severe pain or suffering” for such purposes as punishment, coercion or intimidation, obtaining a “confession”, or for any reason based on discrimination of any kind. See Amnesty International's report: Health care taken hostage: Cruel denial of medical care in Iran's prisons, 18 July 2016, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/4196/2016/en/>.

## **Reza Shahabi Released by the End of His Sentence**

*Posted on: 22nd May, 2018*

<https://www.en-hrana.org/reza-shahabi-released-end-sentence>



HRANA News Agency – A prominent labor activist, Reza Shahabi, was released from Evin Prison by the end of his sentence. During his jail time, he went through several strokes and hunger strikes.

According to the report of Human Rights Activists News Agency in Iran (HRANA), Reza Shahabi, a prominent labor activist and member of the board of the syndicate of Bus Drivers Company was released from Evin Prison on March 13.

According to the verdict of Branch 36 of the Appeals Court, and pursuant to Article 134 on accumulating sentences, his sentences were accumulated and he was released.

Also, according to the same ruling, Reza Shahabi has to pay a fine of about 70 million IRR, and for two years, he has been prohibited from any union activity and presence in parties and groups.

It should be recalled that Reza Shahabi, 45-year-old bus driver, was arrested in June 2010 due to labor activities in the form of the “Syndicate of Workers of Tehran and Suburbs Bus Company”, and was charged with propaganda against the regime, gathering and collusion with the intention of acting against national security, and by decree of Branch 15 of Tehran Revolutionary Court was sentenced to six years imprisonment and five years of deprivation of social activities.

He used to suffer from dislocation of neck and back vertebrae and twice has undergone surgery. After a hunger strike in Evin and Rajai Shahr prison, he was sent on medical leave to follow his treatment, on a bail of 2 billion IRR on October 6, 2014.

Judicial officials told Reza Shahabi that his leave would be counted as his conviction and he would not be returned to jail again. At the same time, the Islamic Republic's representatives announced his conditional release and return to work, to the World Labor Organization, in 2015.

Despite the promises made by the authorities and the official report to the World Labor Organization that Mr. Shahabi had been released, the judiciary summoned Reza Shahabi to prison after 3 years, with the argument that Reza Shahabi had not served three months of his imprisonment, when he was on medical leave. Reza Shahabi went to Rajai Shahr prison in

Karaj, after receiving a bail notice, on August 9, 2017. He was later transferred to Security Ward 209 of Evin Prison.

## **A Report about the Quarantine of Amir Abad Prison of Gorgan**

*Posted on:* 23rd May, 2018

<https://www.en-hrana.org/report-quarantine-amir-abad-prison-gorgan>

HRANA News Agency – Prisoners detained in the quarantine of Amir Abad prison in Gorgan are in distressed and poor health condition. Lack of healthy water and inappropriate nutrition of prisoners have caused many of them suffer from digestive and kidney diseases. In the quarantine of this prison, there is only one telephone booth for the prisoners which does not work often. The extra-judicial exposure of prison authorities which is sometimes accompanied by violence and beatings, has created difficult conditions for prisoners.

According to the report of Human Rights Activists News Agency in Iran (HRANA), Amir Abad Prison in Gorgan has had several political prisoners and prisoners of conscience in previous years, including political prisoners; Roozbeh Gilasian and Nima Saffar, who are currently serving their sentences in this prison.

The quarantine of the Amir Abad prison in Gorgan has 20 rooms, there are no entrance doors at the quarantine rooms, and in each of the rooms there are 4 double bedrooms.

According to the statistics, the quarantine of Amir Abad prison in Gorgan, has a capacity of 160 prisoners, and a room dedicated to clerics convicted of political and nonpolitical reasons.

In the quarantine of this prison, the law of the separation of crimes does not apply between rooms and prisoners of general crime, robbery etc. are kept together.

The health status of prisoners in the quarantine of this prison, has been described as inappropriate, so that prisoners' drinking water is provided from non-sanitary water, causing gastrointestinal and renal diseases among prisoners.

The quarantine infirmary also lacks medical professionals, and sometimes by prescribing wrong medication, causes a serious risk for prisoners' health.

In the quarantine of Amir Abad prison in Gorgan, there are only two showers for prisoners, and all prisoners have to use the two showers, while the water is very cold.

The quarantine of this prison is without a kitchen and a fridge, and prisoners have to use low quality and poor food. Also, because of lack of refrigerator, prisoners do not have access to dairy products, meat and healthy eating.

A prisoner who was recently released from the quarantine of the Amir Abad prison in Gorgan told HRANA's reporter: "The case worker does not deal with the situation of the prisoners and treats the prisoners selectively."

In the quarantine of the Amir Abad prison in Gorgan, there is only one phone booth for prisoners which often does not work and this has limited the prisoners' access to telephone.

The behavior of the prison authorities is described to be very violent, as reported, authorities do not hesitate to abuse and beat prisoners.

The quarantine's yard is 60 meters long and 15 meters wide, and prisoners are forced to stay in the yard during the prayers' time in cold weather in winter and in hot summer weather in a poor condition.

The air conditioner is in fault in the quarantine of this prison, and inmates often breathe dust-filled air.

This ward has only one TV in the chapel hall where prisoners just as an encouragement at the discretion of the authorities, are able to watch their favorite programs.

## **Afshin Baymani; Serving Since 17 Years Ago**

*Posted on: 24th May, 2018*

<https://www.en-hrana.org/afshin-baymani-serving-since-17-years-ago>



HRANA News Agency – Afshin Baymani, a prisoner in Rajai Shahr prison in Karaj, has been imprisoned since about 17 years ago. He was sentenced to death in 2000 on charge of Moharebeh which was confirmed in the appeal court but was reduced to life imprisonment after six years.

According to the report of Human Rights Activists News Agency in Iran (HRANA), Afshin Baymani, a political prisoner at Hall 10 of Rajai Shahr prison in Karaj, has been in jail for more than 17 years.

The long period of imprisonment for Afshin Baymani who is the father of two children, in addition to physical problems like heart disease and kidney stone, has caused many problems for his family.

This prisoner who has suffered severe physical and mental illness after many years of imprisonment in inappropriate condition of prison, suffered a heart attack in July last year.

An informed source, regarding Mr. Baymani's condition, told HRANA's reporter: "Afshin found a bad physical condition, especially chest pain, in relation to heart problems, including suffering from coronary artery disease, for many years. For this reason, he was transferred to the Prison infirmary by his inmates. Following the examinations, such as taking ECG, and blood pressure of the prisoner, a medical doctor, Fazell Moshtari, ordered him to be sent to hospital. But with the intervention of the Prison Guard officer, because of the refusal of the prisoner to wear handcuffs and shackles, this referral was cancelled."

Mr. Baymani, political prisoner in Hall 10 of Raja'i Shahr prison, in Karaj, was arrested and sentenced to death on September 5, 2000, on charge of helping his brother, Mehdi Baymani, who was a member of the People's Mojahedin organization, to escape. The verdict was confirmed in the appeal court, but after six years, his sentence was reduced to life imprisonment.

## **Sufi Detainees Tried En Masse in Iran as Some Launch Hunger Strike Against Denial of Due Process**

June 12, 2018

<https://www.iranhumanrights.org/2018/06/sufi-detainees-tried-en-masse-in-iran-as-some-launch-hunger-strike-against-denial-of-due-process/>

Eight detained members of the Sufi Gonabadi Order have gone on hunger strike at the [Great Tehran Penitentiary](#) (GTP) to protest prison conditions and the state's ongoing restrictions on the leader of their faith.

The detainees who are refusing food are Mohammad Ali Karami, Mostafa Shirazian, Zafarali Moghimi, Mohsen Azizi, Hossein Fakhimi, Mohammad Bagher Moghimi, Alireza Ghasemi and Hossein Hashemi.



“Among the hunger strikers Zafarali Moghimi is in serious condition and Mohammad Ali Karami is experiencing problems because he has a heart condition,” Niloufar Dowlatshah, the wife of hunger striker Mohsen Azizi, told the Center for Human Rights in Iran (CHRI) on June 11, 2018.

Dowlatshah added that Moghimi’s condition is of particular concern because he has been on hunger strike for

65 days.

The mass hunger strike is taking place as an estimated 300 Sufis who were arrested in a [clash](#) between dervishes and police and security forces in Tehran February 19th-20th, 2018, are being tried in groups by Branch 15 of the Revolutionary Court presided by Judge Abolqasem Salavati and Branch 26 of the Revolutionary Court presided by Judge Mashallah Ahmadzadeh.

Both judges are known for issuing harsh sentences in cases involving defendants facing politically motivated charges.

“So far, verdicts have been issued against 60 of them,” Dowlatshah told CHRI. “The sentences include multiple years in prison, flogging, travel bans and exile.”

“All the dervishes have been charged with ‘disturbing public order’ and ‘assembly and collusion against national security,’” she said. “Some of them have also been charged with carrying different kinds of weapons. In recent days, seven dervishes per day were sent to the Revolutionary Court to face trial without their lawyers present.”

“The families of the detained dervishes have chosen 14 lawyers but none of them have been able to see their clients or study the cases or defend them on the days of their trials,” Dowlatshah added. “We have been explicitly told that the defendants do not have the right to a lawyer because they are facing national security charges.”

Dowlatshah continued: “But the dervishes are not political. What they have done is not a security crime. All they did was protest the police’s siege of their leader Nour Ali Tabandeh’s home. They gathered in front [of his home] to call for an end to the restrictions against him and demanded the release of some of their fellow dervishes from detention.”

Dowlatshah said her husband Mohsen Azizi was tried on June 3 at Branch 26 of the Revolutionary Court for the charges of “assembly and collusion against national security” but that his lawyer was prevented from entering the courtroom. Judge Ahmadzadeh said he would issue a verdict in 20 days.

The dervishes were arrested during their protest in Tehran after police opened fire on them while they were demanding the release of a detained follower at the police station in the Golestan St. neighborhood of Tehran, sending some 170 dervishes to the [hospital](#) according to Sufi reports.

At least one of them—[Mohammad Raji](#), a former commander of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and Iran-Iraq war veteran—died in custody.

Three policemen also died after a bus allegedly driven by a dervish ran over them.

The alleged driver [Mohammad Salas](#) was sentenced to death for the deaths despite insisting that he was [tortured in custody](#) and forced to make a confession.

“All the dervishes who were arrested on the night of February 19 and the following morning were severely beaten,” Dowlatshah told CHRI. “My husband’s nose was broken when he was struck with a baton in detention.

“They sent him to prison without getting stitched and that left a scar on his head and his nose became crooked,” she added. “All of them were in such a bad condition that we were not allowed to visit them for a month and a half.”

According to Dowlatshah, the detainees have been forced to sleep on the floor and buy [bottled water](#) (piped water is not drinkable in the GTP) from the prison commissary at two or three times higher than the retail price.

“Their families had agreed to collect some money and buy some medicine, air conditioners and hygienic products for the detainees but the prison officials have refused to deliver any of them,” she said.

### **Sunni prisoner deprived of family visit**

By IranHRM On Jun 13, 2018

<http://iran-hrm.com/index.php/2018/06/13/sunni-prisoner-deprived-of-family-visit/>



Sunni prisoner Hamzeh Darvish who has been on hunger strike protesting his illegal transfer to another ward, at Rajaei Shahr Prison, is currently banned from any visit. He does not even allowed to use the prison phone to contact his family.

The Sunni inmate who suffers from psychological problems, is being kept in a ward with potentially violent offenders, since March 17, in violation of Article 69 of

Iran’s State Prisons Organization’s regulations.

That article states: “All convicts, upon being admitted to walled prisons or rehabilitation centers, will be separated based on the type and duration of their sentence, prior record, character, morals and behavior, in accordance with decisions made by the Prisoners Classification Council.”

### **Prominent Attorney Nasrin Sotoudeh Detained Amid Iranian Judiciary’s Crackdown on Human Rights Lawyers**

June 13, 2018

<https://www.iranhumanrights.org/2018/06/prominent-attorney-nasrin-sotoudeh-detained-amid-iranian-judiciarys-crackdown-on-rights-lawyers/>



Iranian human rights attorney Nasrin Sotoudeh previously served three years in prison for her defense of dissidents, activists, journalists and minorities in Iran after being convicted of national security charges.

***Sotoudeh Informed of Five-Year Sentence For Unknown Charges Shortly After Announcing Sit-In Against List of Vetted Lawyers***

June 13, 2018—The Iranian Judiciary should immediately release Nasrin Sotoudeh, a prominent Iranian human rights attorney who was arrested in her home by unidentified agents on June 13, 2018, and taken to Evin Prison in Tehran.

Her husband Reza Khandan, who wrote about Sotoudeh's arrest on his Facebook page, informed CHRI that the agents told Sotoudeh that she must serve a five-year prison sentence without providing further details. He added that he and Sotoudeh were unaware of any sentence that had been issued against her.

"The Iranian Judiciary should cease its cowardly and unlawful actions of jailing and harassing human rights lawyers and immediately release Nasrin Sotoudeh," said Hadi Ghaemi, the executive director of the Center for Human Rights in Iran (CHRI).

"The arrest of this distinguished attorney, who has dedicated her life to defending detainees held on politically motivated charges, reveals the state's fear of those who defend due process and the rule of law in Iran," he added.

The high-profile attorney has been detained amid a [state crackdown](#) on human rights lawyers that includes a judiciary-issued [list](#) allowing only 20 state-approved lawyers to take on cases involving activists, dissidents and anyone else targeted for political reasons by the state. Sotoudeh previously told CHRI she and other lawyers were organizing a [sit-in](#) to protest the list.

Her arrest comes a day after Judiciary Chief Sadegh Larijani defended the list, claiming it is in the "public interest." Speaking in an interview with the judiciary's official news service, Mizan, on June 11, Larijani also criticized lawyers who have [spoken out against the list](#), claiming it "prevents attempts to let suspects escape justice in security cases."

"I once told agents in the interrogation room, 'Out of all the things that a state should be doing for the country, you only know how to nab people,'" wrote Sotoudeh's husband Reza Khandan in his Facebook post on his wife's arrest.

Sotoudeh, who previously served three years in Evin Prison for peacefully engaging in the legal profession in Iran, is one among several defense attorneys who have [criticized](#) the Iranian Judiciary's list.

"In the past, political suspects had a limited right to defend themselves and lawyers could take up their cases and carry out their professional duties despite all the dangers they faced, but now even that limited right is being completely eliminated," Sotoudeh [told](#) CHRI on June 4.

Iran's Constitution sets no limits or conditions on the right to legal counsel and Article 35 states, "Both parties to a lawsuit have the right in all courts of law to select an attorney, and if they are unable to do so, arrangements must be made to provide them with legal counsel." According to Article 48 of Iran's Criminal Procedures Regulations, people also have the right to ask for and have a meeting with a lawyer as soon as they are detained.

However, the "Note to Article 48" makes exceptions: "In cases of crimes against internal or external security...during the investigation phase, the parties to the dispute are to select their attorneys from a list approved by the head of the judiciary."

Sotoudeh previously [refused](#) to appear in court after being summoned in November 2017.

"I have also used my [right of] freedom of expression to speak about my cases, within the boundaries of the law, on Facebook," Sotoudeh told CHRI at the time. "But it really doesn't matter what I am accused of. I know I will not be treated fairly by the judiciary."

Another human rights attorney, [Mohammad Najafi](#), is currently facing national security charges and could be jailed for years in Iran for telling media outlets that local police in the city of Arak were concealing the true cause of death in custody of his client, [Vahid Heydari](#), who was arrested during Iran's December 2017/January 2018 [protests](#).

"Iran has a documented history of harassing and jailing lawyers who have taken on politically sensitive cases," said Ghaemi.

Well-known human rights lawyer [Abdolfattah Soltani](#) is currently serving a 13-year sentence in Evin Prison for the charges of “being awarded the [2009] Nuremberg International Human Rights Award,” “interviewing with media about his clients’ cases,” and “co-founding the Defenders of Human Rights Center.”

Human rights attorney Hadi Esmailzadeh was imprisoned twice before he died from a heart attack in February 2016 after being sentenced to four years in prison in July 2014 by a Revolutionary Court for the charges of “propaganda against the state” and “membership in the Center for the Defenders of Human Rights.”

In 2010, Sotoudeh was sentenced to 11 years in prison for the charges of “acting against national security,” “collusion and propaganda against the regime,” and “membership in the Defenders of Human Rights Center.” An appeals court later reduced her sentence to six years in prison and she was granted early release in September 2013 after serving three years.

In August 2014, the Lawyers’ Court at the Tehran Bar Association overturned the ban on Sotoudeh’s legal practice that had been issued by the state punitively for her human rights work.

## University Student Activists Sentenced to Prison After Being Arrested by President Rouhani’s Intelligence Ministry

June 14, 2018

<https://www.iranhumanrights.org/2018/06/university-student-activists-sentenced-to-prison-after-being-arrested-by-president-rouhanis-intelligence-ministry/>



University of Tehran student activists Sina Darvish Omran and Ali Mozaffari were each sentenced to eight years in prison on June 11, 2018, by Branch 15 of the Revolutionary Court in Tehran for allegedly joining [protests in Tehran](#) earlier in the year.

“The judge issued the maximum sentence of eight years in prison but when the sentences are combined, only the five-year sentence for ‘assembly and collusion against national

security’ will be applied,” a student activist told the Center for Human Rights in Iran (CHRI) on June 12, 2018.

“The court’s verdict was on the basis of reports given by Intelligence Ministry’s interrogators who forced the suspects to make confessions in the absence of legal counsel,” the source added. “The court did not pay attention to statements by the suspects in their defense.”

The two university students were convicted of the charges of acting against “national security” and waging “propaganda against the state.”

Judge Abolqasem Salavati, known for issuing harsh sentences in cases involving politically motivated charges, also issued a two-year ban that prohibits the students from traveling abroad, engaging in political activities and posting on the internet.

German language translator Sina Darvish Omran and anthropology major Ali Mozaffari were student activists at the University of Tehran when they were arrested by Iran’s Intelligence Ministry during street protests on December 30 and 31, 2017, respectively.

They were held in solitary confinement, interrogated without the presence of their lawyers and released on bail, said the source who requested anonymity for security reasons.

Street [protests](#) broke out in Mashhad, northeastern Iran, on December 28, 2017, against inflation and unemployment and spread to cities and campuses throughout the country.

More than 90 [university students](#) were arrested by the Intelligence Ministry, which operates under President Hassan Rouhani, even though several said they never attended the protests.

The detained students were prosecuted by Branch 15 and 26 of the Revolutionary Court in Tehran, whose judges have a documented history of colluding with the arresting authority before handing down sentences.

In early March 2018, Judge Mashallah Ahmadzadeh of Branch 26 also sentenced three Tehran University student activists for allegedly attending the protests.

Anthropology student Leila Hosseinnejad was given a six-year prison sentence and banned from traveling for two years, theater set design student Mohsen Haghshenas got two years in prison, and sociology student Sina Rabiei received a one-year prison sentence and a two-year travel ban.

## **Yaresan women brutally beaten up in Qarchak Prison**

Created: 14 June 2018

<https://women.ncr-iran.org/iran-women-news/5255-yaresan-women-brutally-beaten-up-in-qarchak-prison>



Yaresan women imprisoned in Qarchak Prison of Varamin were badly beaten up and brutalized on Wednesday, June 13, 2018, by special prison guards using batons and shockers.

The incident happened after a number of inmates jailed on ordinary crimes were incited by prison officials to cause tensions and prepare the grounds for subsequent quarrels.

The families of Yaresan women (Gonabadi Dervishes) have been gathering outside Qarchak Prison in Varamin but have not been allowed to visit or contact their relatives.

Eleven [Yaresan women](#) were transferred to Qarchak Prison on February 20, 2018, after the bloody crackdown of the peaceful demonstration and gathering of Gonabadi Dervishes in Tehran. Although the arrested women had been badly injured and needed urgent medical care, the prison's medical staff refused to provide them care.

Sepideh Moradi, Sima Entesari, Shima Entessari, Avisha Jalaeddin, Shokoufeh Yadollahi, Maryam Farsiani, [Nazilla Noori](#), Maryam Barakouhi, Elham Ahmadi and Sedigheh Safabakht have been detained since February 20, 2018, in Qarchak Prison under inhuman conditions.

Ms. [Sepideh Moradi](#) suffered injuries in the hand, elbow and fingers while being arrested during the Yaresan protest in Tehran. Her legs got burnt due to security forces' use of tear gas, the scars of which still remain after three months. Ms. Moradi has been denied medical care.

Ms. [Shokoufeh Yadollahi](#) was badly brutalized during arrest and subsequently under torture as a result of which she has lost her sense of smell and needs to be treated urgently.

Ms. [Shahnaz Kian Asl](#) (Kiani) was transferred to the dispensary of Qarchak Prison of Varamin on Saturday, May 19, 2018, upon insistence of inmates, but was returned to the ward

without receiving medical care. She had been offended and humiliated in the clinic by the doctor and nurse.

Amnesty International issued an [Urgent Action](#) on March 29, 2018, condemning the arbitrary arrest and ill-treatment of 11 women from Gonabadi Dervish religious minority.

## **Imprisoned Yaresan women have started a hunger strike**

Created: 17 June 2018

<https://women.ncr-iran.org/iran-women-news/5260-imprisoned-yaresan-women-have-started-a-hunger-strike>



Imprisoned Yaresan women have started a hunger strike in Qarchak Prison of Varamin on Sunday, June 17, 2018, in the wake of their being attacked and beaten up on Wednesday, June 13, 2018.

Families of imprisoned Yaresan women gathered outside Qarchak Prison in Varamin on June 14 and 15, 2018, protesting the brutalization of the imprisoned Yaresan women and demanding to visit them. Their requests have not

been accorded, yet.

[Yaresan women imprisoned](#) in Qarchak Prison of Varamin were badly beaten up and brutalized on Wednesday, June 13, 2018, by special prison guards using batons and shockers. Some of these women are reportedly in critical conditions and have been transferred individually to different prison wards. They had already been deprived of having any telephone contact with their families for three weeks.

In addition to the families of imprisoned Yaresan women, a number of dervishes imprisoned in wards 2 and 3 of the Greater Tehran's Penitentiary held a sit-in protest on June 14 and 15, 2018, in protest to the beating of Yaresan women imprisoned in Qarchak Prison. They demanded end to violence against Yaresan women in Qarchak and their immediate release from prison.

Husbands and other members of the families of imprisoned Yaresan women are generally imprisoned in the Greater Tehran's Penitentiary. Prison guards have disconnected the phones to prevent the imprisoned men from obtaining news of their wives and sisters.

Eleven [Yaresan women](#) were transferred to Qarchak Prison on February 20, 2018, after the bloody crackdown of the peaceful demonstration and gathering of Gonabadi Dervishes in Tehran. Although the arrested women had been badly injured and needed urgent medical care, the prison's medical staff refused to provide them care.

Sepideh Moradi, Sima Entesari, Shima Entessari, Avisha Jalaledin, Shokoufeh Yadollahi, Maryam Farsiani, Nazilla Noori, Maryam Barakouhi, Elham Ahmadi and Sedigheh Safabakht have been detained since February 20, 2018, in Qarchak Prison under [inhuman conditions](#).

According to Judiciary and State Security Force officials as well as Yaresan sources, more than 300 dervishes have been arrested and incarcerated during the bloody crackdown on their peaceful protest in Tehran on February 20, 2018. So far, some 150 of them have received short and long-term prison sentences.

## Women's Rights

### Iran: US official says state-backed group behind acid attacks on women

Created: 10 June 2018

<https://women.ncr-iran.org/iran-women-news/5244-iran-us-official-says-state-backed-group-behind-acid-attacks-on-women>

#### US official says state-backed group behind acid attacks on women

Ansar-e Hezbollah has been behind acid attacks on women in Isfahan (central Iran), said an undersecretary of the U.S. Treasury Department.



Sigal Mandelker, the Under Secretary for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence at the U.S. Treasury Department, was cited by [USAdarFarsi](#) (the U.S. State Department's Facebook in Farsi) on June 7, 2018, as saying this.

Ms. Mandelker said those who were contemplating trade with Iran must understand that the regime not only foments violence in the Middle East through

terrorism and other destabilizing activities, but it also does not care about its own people through gross violations of human rights against women, political dissidents and others.

She said, for example, the Ansar-e Hezbollah which is a state-backed institute attacks and persecutes the Iranian people and has been linked to the acid attacks against women in Isfahan. They splashed acid on numerous women whose clothing did not comply with the regime's standards, seriously injuring them and creating an atmosphere of fear. ([USAdarFarsi](#), June 7, 2018)

In October 2014, a wave of [acid attacks](#) was carried out against women in Tehran and Isfahan after incitement by Friday prayer leaders and took toll on dozens of women.

### Women Cheer Iran's Win at the World Cup in Russia—But Still Can't at Home

June 16, 2018 12:00AM EDT

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2018/06/16/women-cheer-irans-win-world-cup-russia-still-cant-home>



St Petersburg—Travel to Russia, even with lost luggage and long layovers, couldn't dampen the excitement of my first [World Cup](#).

After I posted a photo on social media of myself with my FIFA-issued fan ID hanging around my neck, comments began pouring in from my friends back in [Iran](#). Several of my Iranian female friends—die-hard football fans who have been trying to get to stadiums for years in Iran commented—"Wonderful, I wish I was there.... Think of me when you are there!" How could I not, as for years I also wanted to be able to watch football in stadiums, something that is still [forbidden for women](#) in Iran.

As a 31-year-old Iranian woman, I was thrilled at my first chance to see in-person my national team—Team Melli!—playing in a stadium.

When Iran won—1-0, defeating Morocco—the [crowd of men and women celebrated and cheered](#) together in the stadium. This would not have been possible in Iran.

I remember the first time I begged my dad to sneak me into a football match. It was 2002, and long-time rivals Iran and Iraq were facing each other for the FIFA World Cup qualifying match at Azadi Stadium in Tehran. There was no doubt that the stadium would be filled to maximum capacity. My father and all our male family friends were going to watch the game, and I was ready to do anything to join them.

I had even brought a hat and a sweater along as we were dropping my dad off at the stadium, hoping to convince him to let me sport my makeshift disguise to cheer on Team Melli. But alas, my dad, always the (wisely) cautious one, was too afraid of the risks to let me go. Instead, like all the other girls and women, I watched that game, and many other Iranian football matches, only on television.

Until today in Saint Petersburg, Russia. Over the past 16 years, Iranian women have fought back against this discrimination by [campaigning](#), lobbying lawmakers, and even [disguising themselves as men](#) to get into stadiums.

In the days since I arrived in the city, you could hear Iranians—men and women—chanting happily in support of Team Melli across the city. I met dozens of women who had come from Iran and abroad with their families and friends to experience a right that was taken away from them in their home country.

Among the national teams playing in the World Cup in Russia, Iran is the only country that bans women from watching certain men's sports games, including football [and volleyball, in stadiums](#). Over the past 40 years, Iranian authorities have thrown out an array of shallow justifications for the ban, ranging from religious grounds to problems with ensuring security and gender-specific facilities.

In March, police arrested some 35 women who were gathered in front of Azadi Stadium to watch a game between two popular Tehran teams, Esteghlal and Persepolis, and detained them for several hours. As an inauspicious start to FIFA's new [Human Rights Policy](#), FIFA president Gianni Infantino was present at this very stadium during the game while the police arrested Iranian women outside of it for wanting to enjoy the same rights as the 100,000 men attending.

Following criticism from right activists and a [group of Iranian women who have been campaigning to remove the ban](#), the FIFA chief announced in a subsequent statement that President Rouhani had told him that there are plans to allow women to attend football matches in the country "soon." Yet, more than three months have passed, and Iran has done nothing to allow women to attend stadiums to watch games.

Despite the dug-in intransigence of Iranian government hardliners to maintain the ban on women in stadiums for men's sports matches, Iranian societal views on it have swung in the opposite direction. Not only do activists back overturning the ban, so do sizable segments of Iranian society, and several acclaimed athletes, including the captain of Iran's national team, [Masoud Shojaei, support lifting the ban](#), but several members of the Iranian parliament and President Rouhani himself have spoken about the need to allow women back into stadiums.

Yet when I was in St. Petersburg preparing to cheer inside the stadium, Iranian activists tweeted that authorities canceled announced plans to finally let women into Azadi stadium to (virtually) watch the Iran-Morocco match, yet again dashing the hope of dozens of Iranian women who wanted to cheer with their families.

FIFA, which has pledged to uphold non-discrimination as a fundamental principle in the tournaments it oversees, has a responsibility to use its leverage and push Iran in the right direction. Iranian women have the right to share the joy of shouting the Team Melli slogan, ["80 Million People, One Nation, One Heart Beat" in front of their team!](#)

## Let Her Sing: The Trials and Tribulations of Iranian Female Singers in Iran

June 11, 2018

<https://www.iranhumanrights.org/2018/06/let-her-sing-the-trials-and-tribulations-of-iranian-female-singers-in-iran/>



[Sepideh Jandaghi](#) is a professional singer who's unable to perform solo in Iran because she's a woman. The Islamic Republic's laws and customs also makes it extremely difficult for her to produce and promote albums or concerts. But Sepideh remains hopeful about the future. "Women's voices in Iran are silent voices. I hope that one day these silent voices will be heard."

## Two women were arrested in Mashhad for tattoo training

Created: 13 June 2018

<https://women.ncr-iran.org/iran-women-news/5248-two-women-were-arrested-in-mashhad-for-tattoo-training>

Two women were arrested in Mashhad for tattoo training. The Public Security Police of Khorasan announced this news, adding that the managers of tattoo centers in Mashhad, the second largest city of Iran, had been identified by monitoring of the social media.

Col. Iraj Sharifi, supervisor of the Public Security Police of [Razavi Khorasan](#) Province, announced on June 10, 2018, that "the said persons had attempted to teach and train tattoo techniques in the cyber space in an illegal manner." Those arrested included a man and two women. (The official IRNA news agency – June 21, 2018)

The public and moral security police in Iran arrest people and prevent them from earning their living under various pretexts, including modelling, hairdressing, etc. while none of these jobs are considered illegal by any standard. Tattoo training has been added to this list as two women were arrested in Mashhad for tattoo training.

Dozens of women engaged in the [modelling](#) business have already been arrested in Mashhad, capital of the Khorassan Razavi Province in northeastern Iran. Dozens of others have been arrested in Tehran, Qazvin, [Zahedan](#), [Shiraz](#), and [other places](#) for similar reason. Modelling was subsequently [banned](#) in Iran.

Also in the Sistan and Baluchistan Province, in southeastern Iran, the chief of public security police, announced that the director of a women's hairdressing salon had been arrested and her business sealed. (The state-run ISNA news agency – October 25, 2017)

Tehran's Moral Security Police also arrested a number women and men in November 2017, who were attending a mixed-gender hairdressing class in northwest Tehran. They were training on wigs and mannequins.

## Kurdish women were banned from wearing traditional dress in public

Created: 13 June 2018

<https://women.ncr-iran.org/iran-women-news/5249-kurdish-women-were-banned-from-wearing-traditional-dress-in-public>

Kurdish women were banned from wearing traditional dress in public. This was announced by the Security Council of [Oshnavieh](#), West Azerbaijan Province in northwestern Iran, following a traditional feast in Kurdistan called the Cherry Feast.

After a joint meeting of the Security Council, the Department of Intelligence and the Revolutionary Guard Corps in Oshnavieh, the agencies issued a warning according to which Kurdish women were banned from wearing traditional dress in public and in the Cherry Feast.

The Department of Intelligence and the IRGC have also instructed the Governorate of Oshnavieh to prevent citizens from speaking Kurdish in public places.

The measure aims at suppression of Kurds through suppression of their mother tongue, culture and traditions.

The Cherry Feast is a local traditional celebration of the people of Oshnavieh where they sell their garden products. Men and women of Oshnavieh used to participate in this feast with their folklore and traditional outfits but they were prevented from doing so this year.

## **As World Cup kicks off, FIFA urged to fight Iran's ban on women in stadiums**

by [Heba Kansa](#) | [@hebakanso](#) | Thomson Reuters Foundation

Thursday, 14 June 2018 15:28 GMT

<http://news.trust.org/item/20180614152817-3on3m/>

BEIRUT, June 14 (Thomson Reuters Foundation) - An Iranian football fan demanded that FIFA's president put pressure on her home country to overturn a ban on women attending stadium matches as the World Cup kicked off in Russia on Thursday.

Maryam Qashqaei hopes the world's biggest single-event sporting competition will galvanise support for an online petition she plans to present to FIFA President Gianni Infantino.

The Islamic Republic has long barred women from attending male soccer matches and other sports fixtures, partly to protect them from hearing fans swear.

"This is a very basic right - how embarrassing is this for our nation and society," Qashqaei told the Thomson Reuters Foundation by phone from Moscow, where she is cheering on her country's team.

"As an Iranian woman, I've never seen a single game played in my home country. Women are passionate sports fans just like men, and deserve to cheer on their teams in the stadiums."

Infantino said in May Iranian President Hassan Rouhani had told him there were plans to allow women to attend football matches in the country soon.

Qashqaei's [petition](#) has so far attracted more than half the target of 100,000 signatures - the number of seats in Tehran's Azadi stadium.

"I hope FIFA can put pressure and create this change. Iranian women inside Iran just want to go and watch football - they risk everything to do it," said Qashqaei, who is using a pseudonym to protect her identity for fear of reprisals.

In April, female football fans donned fake beards and wigs to attend a major match in the Azadi stadium.

The Iranian group OpenStadiums, which is campaigning for the right of women to attend sports fixtures in the Islamic Republic, said some women were arrested near the stadium in March during the Esteghlal-Persepolis match.

Qashqaei said she had seen many Iranian women in Russia for the World Cup, which left her feeling very proud but also frustrated.

She said Iran was the only country in the tournament that barred women from stadiums.

Saudi Arabia last year overturned a ban on women watching sporting events, one of a series of reforms in the deeply conservative Sunni Muslim kingdom.

(Reporting by Heba Kanso @hebakanso, Editing by Emma Batha and Claire Cozens. Please credit Thomson Reuters Foundation, the charitable arm of Thomson Reuters, that covers humanitarian news, women's rights, trafficking, property rights, and climate change. Visit [www.trust.org](http://www.trust.org))

## Elimination of images of women led to widespread outrage in Iran

Created: 16 June 2018

<https://women.ncr-iran.org/iran-women-news/5257-elimination-of-images-of-women-led-to-widespread-outrage-in-iran>



Elimination of images of women, and especially Iranian women not covering their hair, from the state media reports and publicities on the participation of the Iranian national football team in the [World Cup in Russia](#) made headlines in Iran.

On the sidelines of the game between national football teams of Iran and Morocco, the Iranian state-run television prepared a report from Russia in which they only broadcast the images of women who had covered their hair. None of the Iranian women who were not wearing a scarf were shown in the report.

A number of these women protested the regime's news censorship and the elimination of images of women who did not cover their hair.

At the same time, supporters of the Moroccan team in the stadium held up a placard which read, "Let Iranian women enter their stadiums."

Earlier, the Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) had installed a billboard in downtown Tehran on the Iranian national football team's participation in the World Cup games in Russia which outraged the general public.

The billboard depicting only men of various Iranian nationalities led to extensive outrage against elimination of images of women from the picture. The IRGC had to back down and later changed the billboard.

The Iranian regime has so far arrested dozens of women for their attempts to enter sports stadiums in Iran. The regime does not officially allow women in sports stadiums but women have strongly opposed this decision. In recent months, a number of young [women wore men's make-up](#) and managed to walk in the stadiums and watch the game. They posted video clips of themselves from [inside the stadium](#) on the internet to international enthusiasm and support.

In November, one of the regime's top clerics, Nasser Makarem Shirazi said women's entry into sports stadiums is "a deviation.

"The issue was tabled by the previous government but the Supreme Leader and other religious authorities opposed it. Unfortunately, however, some people are seeking to pass a bill despite having knowledge (of such opposition)," stated Mullah Makarem Shirazi and added, "It is a

deviation to bring up this issue, again.” (The state-run ISNA news agency – November 29, 2017)

## Freedom of Expression

### Press freedom violations recounted in real time January 2018

June 13, 2018

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



#### 12.06.2016 - Judicial persecution of three citizen-journalists

Without any legal grounds, the intelligence ministry has blocked the conditional release of three young citizen-journalists – **Mohammad Mohajer, Alireza Tavakoli and Mohammad Mehdi Zaman Zadeh** – [who have been held since September 2016](#). Convicted in April 2017 of “insulting [Supreme Leader] Ali Khamenei and Ruhollah Khomeini, the Islamic Republic’s founder,” “insulting what is most sacred in Islam” and anti-government propaganda, they were given 12-year jail sentences that were reduced to five years on appeal.

According to the information obtained by RSF, harassment of the three detainees has intensified during the past two months in Tehran’s Evin prison. The prison director has banned them from receiving medicine and clothes, and Mohajer was prevented from leaving the prison to see a doctor although a prosecutor had given his written approval.

-----

#### 11.06.2018 - Telegram channel managers facing jail terms

The Iranian judiciary’s spokesman, Gholamhossein Mohseni Ejei, announced at a press conference on 27 May that the justice system has requested sentences ranging from 91 days to five years in prison for 14 people who managed news and information channels on the messaging app Telegram. There are other cases in which the prosecution has not yet decided on the sentence it will seek, Ejei added.

They include **Hamidreza Amini**, who was arrested in December and could be facing a death sentence. As the manager of several Telegram channels, he has already been sentenced to a fine of 4 million tomans on a charge of “*publishing false information liable to disrupt public opinion.*” But, according to his lawyer, he is also charged with “insulting the Prophet of Islam and the Holy Shia Imams” and “*insulting government institutions and officials*” although the offending comments were posted by subscribers to the channels, not by Amini himself. His trial on these charges is due to begin on 25 June.

RSF has meanwhile also learned that **Said Ali Bighi**, a citizen-journalist who supports the controversial former President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, has been sentenced to five years in prison and a two-year ban on social network activity because of his Telegram activities and for “*insulting government institutions and officials*” in articles and reports posted online.

-----

#### 29.05.2018 - Deep concern about Soheil Arabi’s condition

Reporters Without Borders (RSF) is extremely concerned about the state of health of **Soheil Arabi**, an imprisoned photographer who was awarded last year’s RSF Press Freedom Prize in the citizen-journalist category. After waiting outside “Great Tehran” prison for five hours yesterday, his mother was told by prison officials that he was not allowed to receive any

visits. She finally learned from other detainees that he had been taken to hospital after a suicide attempt. He is now reportedly back in his cell but his family has not yet been given any official information about his condition.



RSF calls for Soheil Arabi's immediate and unconditional release and points out that inhuman and degrading treatment of prisoners of conscience, including journalists and citizen-journalists, constitutes a gross violation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Iran is a party. Many detainees have died in Iran as a result of such mistreatment.

-----  
**18.05.2018 - *Majzooban Noor* journalists complete third month in detention**

Reporters Without Borders (RSF) condemns the appalling way that the Iranian authorities are treating 13 detained journalists and citizen-journalists employed by the independent Sufi news website *Majzooban Noor*, who will complete their third month of detention this weekend. They continue to be denied their fundamental rights, in violation of Iran's laws and regulations as well as international law.

The ten men – **Reza Entesari, Kasra Nouri, Mostafa Abdi, Saleh Moradi, Sina Entesari, Amir Nouri, Mohammad Sharifi Moghadam, Mohammad Reza Darvishi, Abass Dehghan and Poriya Nouri** – are being held in Tehran's Evin prison while the three women – **Sepideh Moradi, Avisha Jalaledin and Shima Entesari** – are now held in the notorious Gerchak women's prison. All of them are being denied the right to visits and the right to medical care.

When arrested on the night of 19 February, they were badly beaten by police and plainclothes militiamen and most of them sustained hand or head fractures. According to the information obtained by RSF, they were then badly tortured by police and intelligence officials at Shahpour police station in south Tehran (which is notorious for torturing ordinary detained suspects) and in Section 209 of Evin prison (the section run by the intelligence ministry).

The authorities have just begun to secretly try them before revolutionary courts on charges of "plotting against national security," "disobeying police orders" and "collaborating with the *Majzooban Noor* website." They are not being defended by their lawyers at these trials.

-----  
**28.02.2018 - Badly injured *Majzooban Nor* journalists transferred to prison**

Reporters Without Borders (RSF) has learned that *Majzooban Nor* news website journalists **Reza Entesari** and **Kasra Nouri** were transferred to Greater Tehran Prison on 23 February after recovering consciousness. They were arrested on the night [of 19 February along with other contributors](#) to the website including **Mostafa Abdi, Avisha Jalaledin, Saleh Moradi, Sina Entesari, Shima Entesari, Amir Nouri, Mohammad Sharifi Moghadam, Mohammad Reza Darvishi** and **Sepideh Moradi**. The journalists were badly beaten by police and plainclothes militiamen, [as seen in this video](#), posted by the website's editor, showing violence being used to arrest members of a Sufi religious order called the Gonabadi Dervishes.

-----  
**01.02.2018 - Photographer Soheil Arabi badly beaten during prison transfer**

Reporters Without Borders is concerned about the physical condition of [Soheil Arabi, an imprisoned photographer who was awarded the RSF Press Freedom Prize](#) in the citizen-journalist category last November. After beginning a hunger strike in Tehran's Evin prison on 25 January, he was transferred to Greater Tehran Prison, on the south side of the capital, four days later.

He reported to his mother on 30 January that he was badly beaten by guards at the time of his transfer. "Thirteen people grabbed me and beat me, but I am continuing my hunger strike," he said. He began the hunger strike to protest against the transfer of two women political prisoners to a prison for ordinary inmates.

Arabi has been in prison since December 2013. After his arrest, he was mistreated and subjected to solitary confinement for two months to force him to confess to involvement in creating a Facebook network that "blasphemed" Islam and criticized the government. A long 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 he was sentenced to seven and a half years in prison instead.

-----

### **31.01.2018 - Another citizen-journalist arrested**

Reporters Without Borders (RSF) has learned that **Omid Delfani**, a citizen-journalist who managed a channel called *Bahar e Moghavemat (Springtime of Resistance)* on the popular encrypted messaging app Telegram, was arrested in the southwestern city of Khorramabad on 29 January after his home was searched in his absence. There is no official word on the reason for his arrest but Delfani is linked to those who support the controversial former president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. The authorities have yet to say where he is being held. Delfani is the second citizen-journalist to be arrested in Khorramabad in recent weeks.

-----

### **24.01.2018 – Two journalists freed**

Reporters Without Borders (RSF) has learned with relief that **Afarin Chitsaz**, a journalist with the daily newspaper *Iran*, was freed on 22 January on completing a two-year jail term. One of the victims of [a wave of arrests in November 2015](#), she was originally sentenced to ten years in prison in March 2016 on charges of anti-government propaganda, conspiring against officials and insulting officials. But a Tehran appeal court reduced the sentence to two years in prison and a two-year ban on working as a journalist after her release.

RSF has also learned that tech journalist **Arash Zad**, the editor of the *Weblogina* and *ArashZad.net* blogs, was freed on 25 decembre 2017 after being held for more than two years. Revolutionary Guard intelligence operatives arrested him at Tehran international [airport on 31 July 2015](#) as he was about to depart at the end of a visit to Iran. His family chose to say nothing while he was held in Tehran's Evin prison. He announced his release in a tweet.

-----

### **23.01.2018 – Arrests of citizen-journalists using Telegram**

Reporters Without Borders (RSF) condemns the detention of **Yousef Hassani Tabar**, a citizen-journalist based in in the southwestern city of Khorramabad who edits a news channel called **Seh Noghteh (Three Points)** on the popular encrypted messaging app Telegram.

Three weeks after being arrested, charged and then freed on bail, Tabar was arrested again at his home by plainclothes members of the Revolutionary Guards and was taken to an unknown location, where he went on hunger strike until he was transferred to Khorramabad's main prison. Plainclothesmen searched his workplace and his father's home on 13 January, seizing all the mobile phones of his family and colleagues. The Seh Noghteh channel has announced its closure.

On 8 January, [the prosecutor in the southeastern](#) city of Kerman announced the arrests of eight people who edit news channels that use Telegram. RSF is currently verifying all of these cases. According to various sources, around 3,700 people have been arrested since the start of a wave of protest in more than 100 cities throughout Iran. Many citizen-journalists are among those arrested.

-----

### **16.01.2018 - Telegram accessible again in Iran**

The Iranian authorities unblocked access to the encrypted messaging app Telegram on 13 January, two weeks after rendering it inaccessible because its founder, [Pavel Durov](#), refused to shut down all the opposition channels using it during a major wave of anti-government protests. Telegram is very popular in Iran, where it has an estimated 40 million users. By using VPNs, many of them continued to access it during the blocking.

At the same time, the government and above all state radio and TV have tried to promote Iranian apps such as [Soroush](#), a "national" app [based on the source code](#) of the French app [Linphone](#) that has been approved by the [Cyberspace Supreme Council](#). Created at Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei's behest in March 2012 to oversee the Internet, this body is headed by senior politicians and military officers.

The government has also unblocked other apps such as Instagram and WeChat, a Chinese social media app that cooperates closely with [the Chinese government](#). Facebook and Twitter continue to be inaccessible in Iran, and the Internet as a whole continues to suffer frequent disruptions.

-----

### **10.01.2018 - Four citizen-journalists released**

Reporters Without Borders (RSF) has learned that four citizen-journalists who work for the pro-Sufi news website Majzooban Nor – Mohammad Sharifi Moghadam, Mohammad Reza Sharifi, Faezeh Abdipour and Kasra Nouri – were released provisionally yesterday after pressure from families, friends and supporters, who staged a sit-in outside Tehran's Evin prison. The four citizen-journalists had been taken to Evin and Rajai Shahr prisons following their [arrests by intelligence ministry agents on 31 December](#).

The families of hundreds of detainees have been gathering outside prisons throughout Iran, including the notorious Evin, because of concern about the fate of their loved-ones.

-----

### **09.01.2018 - Journalists interrogated in several provinces**

Reporters Without Borders (RSF) yet again condemns the persecution of journalists in Iran. Many journalists and citizen-journalists have been summoned and questioned by intelligence ministry officials in Tehran and in the provincial cities of Isfahan, Machhad, Kermanshah and

Mahabad. **Khosro Kurdpour**, the editor of the news website *Mokeryan*, was summoned twice on 31 December and again yesterday and was interrogated for several hours about his site's coverage of protests in the western province of Kurdistan. Officials told him that the protests were illegal and that it was therefore illegal for the media to cover them. Kurdpour [was already jailed for four years](#) in connection with his journalistic activities, from November 2013 to September 2017.



At least 25 people have been killed and more than 3,700 people, including many citizen-journalists, have been arrested in the wave of protests in cities throughout the country that began on 28 December. [According to several sources](#), at least three young protesters were killed while detained in Arak, Dezful and Tehran's Evin prison. The regime claims that these detainees "committed suicide."

## Labor and Guilds' Rights

### 60 Steelworkers Arrested in Iran For Demanding Three Months Back Wages

June 14, 2018

<https://www.iranhumanrights.org/2018/06/60-steelworkers-arrested-in-iran-for-demanding-three-months-back-wages/>



More than 60 workers at the Iran National Steel Industrial Group (INSIG) in Ahvaz, Khuzestan Province, have been arrested for demanding their salaries, which have not been paid to them for the last three months, according to an independent Iranian labor organization.

The Free Workers Union of Iran [reported](#) that on the night of June 11, 2018, security forces carried out a "barbaric raid" against strikers and

arrested close to 50 workers. About 15 steelworkers were also arrested the next day at a rally in front of the Khuzestan Governor general's office.

Workers at the manufacturing plant have gone on strike numerous times in recent weeks to demand back pay. Their latest action began on June 10, 2018, when workers rallying in front of provincial government buildings and with of members of Iran's Parliament, chanting, "they don't pay salaries, death to America," "workers will die but will not be humiliated," and "we don't want inept lawmakers."

On June 12, Khuzestan Governor Gholamreza Shariati [told](#) the semi-official Iranian Labor News Agency (ILNA) that he was making inquiries about the workers' mass arrests and seeking to send fresh funds to the financially troubled company.

In 2011, INSIG was [taken over](#) by the Iranian Judiciary after its owner was convicted of financial fraud. Despite having about 4,000 workers on paper, only about 400 of them are currently on the job as most of the plant has been shut down due to a lack of raw materials.

Those arrested include Hassan Javid Hamoudi, Peyman Shajarati, Mohammad Naghizadeh, Ali Jama'ati, Rahman Samak, Karim Sayyahi, Ali Aghabeh, Ali Taheri, Mostafa Zargani, Behzad Alikhani, Mohammad Mousavi, Amir Shabani, Razagh Mousavi, Hadi Vaeli, Farzad

Gharaji, Younes Amiri, Ali Moradi, Nourali Khan Mohammad, Amir Harizavi, Ahmad Afravi, Hossein Afari, Ebrahim Farsi, Mohammad Alawi, Javad Mousavi, Alireza Mohrab, Javad Eskandar, Ali Daghaghaleh, Ebrahim Boroumandnia, Ali Hazinipour, Faisal Sari, Shahin Baba Ahmadi and Kazem Heydari.

## **Member of the Isfahan Trade Union Teachers' Association arrested**

By IranHRM On Jun 15, 2018

<http://iran-hrm.com/index.php/2018/06/15/member-of-the-isfahan-trade-union-teachers-association-arrested/>



Iraj Tobeiha Najafabadi, a trade union activist and a member of the Isfahan Trade Union Teachers' Association, was arrested by the intelligence forces of Najaf Abad on Monday, June 11, 2018.

Holding illegal meetings and participating in the May 10th gathering of cultural figures are among the charges he has been arrested for.

Iraj Najafabadi is 63 years old and has retired from Najaf Abad Education.

According to a source, the intelligence forces inspected Mr. Najafabadi's home and confiscated his son's computer, laptop, and mobile and subsequently transferred him directly to the third branch of the Najaf Abad Judicial Inquiry.

## **Ethnic Minorities' Rights**

### **Arab citizens arrested in Khuzestan on the eve of Eid al-Fitr**

By IranHRM On Jun 15, 2018

<http://iran-hrm.com/index.php/2018/06/15/arab-citizens-arrested-in-khuzestan-on-the-eve-of-eid-al-fitr/>

On Wednesday, June 13, 2018, a number of Arab residents in Kouye Alavi and Molashisheh, Ahwaz were arrested by the intelligence forces and transferred to an unknown location.

In a procedure that has frequently been repeated in the recent years, Arab activists in Ahwaz and other cities, on the first and second day of Eid al-Fitr, rally and pray (local ceremony), on the occasion of Eid al-Fitr with the families of the executed political and Arab prisoners. This process has been dealt more sensitively every year by the security system.

Names of detainees:

Seyyed Mehdi Mousavi, 27 years old / Ali Savari, 31 years old / Hossein Savari, 28 years old / Kazem Zabi, 25 years old / Ali Halichi, 25 years old / Khaled Savari, 38 years old / Tariq Zabi / Ahmad Chaldawi / Fazel Savari / Seyyed Hamad Mousavi / Abdul Rahim Khosraji, 33 years old / Ahmad Sailavi, 25 years old / Hamza Badavi, 30 years old / Hossein Masoudi, 30 years old / Abbas Badavi, 23 years old / Adnan Sailavi, 24 years old / Meysam Badavi, 26 years old.

## **Religious Minorities' Rights**

### **Baha'i Student Expelled From Iranian University One Year Before Graduation**

June 14, 2018

<https://www.iranhumanrights.org/2018/06/bahai-student-expelled-from-iranian-university-one-year-before-graduation/>



Soha Izadi was expelled from a university in the Iranian city of Zanjan, 207 miles west of Tehran, in March 2018 because of her Baha'i faith, a source close to the 21-year-old student's family informed the Center for Human Rights in Iran (CHRI) on June 11, 2018.

“On March 14 [2018], when winter semester exams were being held, the university's training department contacted Ms. Izadi and told her that they had received a letter from the Education Evaluation Organization's

ethics division that said she is not able to continue her studies,” the source who requested anonymity for fear of reprisals told CHRI.

“Her name was removed as a student at the university and she could no longer access its website,” added the source.

After being accepted at the Institute for Advanced Studies in Basic Sciences in 2015, Izadi earned 150 credits from the university and had aimed to receive her undergraduate degree in 2019.

Izadi, whose parents were also prevented from attending university in Iran during their youth because of their Baha'i faith, were told by university officials that the only way she could continue her studies was by renouncing her Baha'i faith.

Article 1 of Iran's Supreme Cultural Revolution Council's [Student Qualification Regulations](#), approved by Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei in 1991, bars Baha'is from attending university. Article 3 also states that a student will be expelled if he or she is identified as Baha'i after enrolling in a university.

Iran's [Constitution](#) does not recognize the Baha'i faith as an official religion. Although Article 23 states that “no one may be molested or taken to task simply for holding a certain belief,” followers of the faith are denied many basic rights as one of the most severely persecuted religious minorities in the country.

In November 2017, [three expelled Baha'i university students](#)—Rouhieh Safajoo, Sarmad Shadabi, and Tara Houshmand—were sentenced to five years in prison each by Judge Mohammad Moghisseh of Branch 28 of the Revolutionary Court in Tehran for demanding the right to pursue higher education as Iranian citizens.

In April 2018, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif denied that Baha'is are persecuted in Iran for their religious beliefs.

“Being a Baha'i is not a crime [in Iran],” he [told](#) an audience at the Council on Foreign Relations in New York.

He continued: “We do not recognize somebody as a Baha'i, as a religion, but that's a belief. Somebody can be agnostic; somebody can be an atheist. We don't go—take them to prison because they are an atheist. So this is the difference that you need to make. But being—also, being a Baha'i does not immunize somebody from being prosecuted for offenses that people may commit.”

## **The Case of Babak Beheshti: Deprived of Education, Sentenced to Five Years in Prison for Teaching Baha'i Students**

June 15, 2018

<http://iranpresswatch.org/post/19299/bihe-instructor-5-years-prison-teaching-bahai-students/>

Source: [www.iranwire.com](http://www.iranwire.com)

By Kian Sabeti



“Babak Beheshti Vadeghan” was among [several Baha’i citizens whose homes were targeted in a coordinated series of raids](#) on May 22, 2011, by security forces of the Ministry of Intelligence. These citizens were targeted for their work with the [Baha’i Institute for Higher Education \(BIHE\)](#), an on-line virtual university, also known as the Scientific Free Institute. During the raids, all

equipment and documents related to the [BIHE](#) were seized. Four of the houses were sealed due to having classroom set-ups for scientific and educational classes. A large number of Baha’i professors and students were arrested and/or interrogated, and cases were set up for each of them.

The [BIHE](#) was founded in 1987 to provide higher education to Baha’i students, who are banned from attending University in Iran. [BIHE](#) is supported by volunteers who serve as teachers and staff.

In 2000, Beheshti had been [barred](#) from taking the national University Entrance Exam and attending university, due to his Baha’i Faith. So, he turned to the [BIHE](#), through which he was able to pursue his studies in Mathematics. He received his BA in 2005, and immediately began serving as a mathematics teacher for the [BIHE](#). He was still serving as a teacher at the time of the 2011 raids.

In his account of the raid of on his home, Beheshti shared, “At around 6 am on May 22, 2011, some of the intelligence Ministry agents, who initially introduced themselves as Gas Company’s workers, rang the house bell.” Beheshti’s father opened the door. When the agents presented the warrant, his father asked to be allowed to wake the family members before the agents entered. The agents refused and, according to Beheshti, “They first entered the bedrooms while we were all asleep. This act shocked my sister immensely who was asleep. I woke up from the noise in the room, and when I opened my eyes, I just saw a few strangers walking around my bed and looking through my belongings.”

It was two years before Beheshti’s case came to trial. In 2013 Branch 28 of the Islamic Revolutionary Court of Tehran, headed by Judge [Moghiseh](#), charged him with teaching Baha’i youth through the [BIHE](#). As Beheshti had recently emigrated to Canada to attend the University of West London, Ontario, he was sentenced in absentia to a five-year prison term.

Prior to trial, Babak Beheshti along with several other Baha’i professors and students were summoned by phone for interrogation to the Office of the Ministry of Intelligence on the Vali Asr Road. While there Beheshti was charged with having been “illegally educated and trained in the Illegal Baha’is Science-open Institute.” His interrogators asked him to write his autobiography in full detail, and demanded he provide a list of the names and personal information of his Baha’i students. Beheshti refused, stating the names and personal information of the students were unrelated to his case. The interrogators threatened to keep him detained if he continued to refuse to comply. He continued to refuse and finally, after approximately three hours, he was released.

On March 12, 2013, ten Baha’i professors, including Babak Beheshti, were summoned to the “Shaheed Moghaddas Court” in Evin Prison. “In the courtroom, the prosecutor charged me with acting against national security because of being a Baha’i or, according to him, because of membership in the misguided Baha’i cult and being active in the illicit Baha’i University.”

At this time an interrogator asked Beheshti to accept the charges and sign an affidavit that he would no longer work with the [BIHE](#). He explains, “I did not accept any of his requests. I did finally agree to write that I did not have any hostility against the Islamic Republic regime, and so far, I have not done anything against this regime, and my goal is to teach at the [BIHE](#) to serve youth who otherwise would be deprived of University education. It was interesting to note that during the interrogation, two or three anonymous individuals were sitting behind me, constantly interjecting comments and asking me unrelated and religious questions throughout my conversation with the interrogator. The interrogator showed no reaction to their behavior.”

At the end of the day, Beheshti and six other Baha’i professors, who had also refused to sign a commitment to no longer work with the [BIHE](#), were released on bail of 500 million rials<sup>[i]</sup>. In the ensuing months the Islamic Revolutionary Tribunal of Tehran sentenced all seven to either four or five years imprisonment for allegedly acting against national security.

Of those seven convicted, [Nasim Bagheri](#), [sentenced to four years, completed her sentence this May of 2018, and has been released](#). Four other Baha’i professors, [Payman Kashkabaghi](#), [Azita Rafizadeh](#), [Negin Ghedamian](#) and [Hasan Momtaz](#), remain in prison serving their sentences. Tolo Golkar had emigrated from Iran before her sentence was executed. Beheshti also emigrated from Iran to Canada, in July 2013, to pursue his education at the University of Western London, Ontario.

A few months after Beheshti’s departure from Iran, the office of the Revolutionary Prosecutor of Tehran informed his father that his son had been tried and convicted in absentia and sentenced to a five-year prison term.

Beheshti believes that the attacks of May 2011 on the [BIHE](#) failed to have any adverse effect on the continuing activities of this institution, with no classes or academic discipline having been closed. The [BIHE](#) did take action to function with greater care and caution in order to maintain the safety of the institute, its students and its volunteers. For example, prior to May 2011, the professor or the class organizer would publish the classroom location on the Institute’s website. Following the May 2011 raids, class locations were no longer published on the website, and students were notified of class dates and locations in a more secure manner.

Beheshti personally experienced no negative impact on his educational activities, even after the interrogation.

“In July 2013, I migrated to Canada to continue my studies at the University of Queens, Ontario, and started studying mathematics,” said Beheshti, about his current academic status and his relationship with the [BIHE](#). “After two years, I received my master’s degree. I am currently a Ph.D. student in mathematics at the University of Western London, Ontario, and I hope that my education will be completed in two years.”

He goes on to say the best years of his life, in terms of satisfaction and inner happiness, was the period in which he taught at [BIHE](#). “Like any other Iranian, I love my homeland, and I wish to return to Iran one day, but with the decree issued for me, I do not think that day will come soon.”

## **Baha’is in Sorkhroud Mazandaran Barred from Buying or Selling Land**

June 15, 2018

<http://iranpresswatch.org/post/19303/bahais-sorkhroud-mazandaran-barred-buying-selling-land/>

Source: [shahrvand-yar.com](http://shahrvand-yar.com)



Seyyed Mohammad Mehdi Mousavinejad

It may be hard to imagine such an act of apartheid: In an official letter to all real estate agents, the mayor of a city issued an order as follows: “At the command of the Governorate, Baha’is do not have the right to buy or sell land.” He ended this order by calling the Baha’i Faith a “deviant sect”.

Remember the name of this mayor: Seyyed Mohammad Mehdi

Mousavinejad

Below is the text of the letter:

“Respectfully, based on letter 37 of the honorable Sorkhroud district, dated 05/03/2018, and in line with the framework put forth in letter 216, dated 03/09/2018, by the respectable Governorate of Mahmoudabad City, a prohibition regarding any sale or purchase of land to or from the deviant sect of Baha’i is submitted. Please take all necessary action in this regard. Seyyed Mohammad Mehdi Mousavinejad, Mayor”



### Soheil Keshavarz, Baha’i Citizen, Begins Prison Sentence

June 15, 2018

<http://iranpresswatch.org/post/19313/soheil-keshavarz-bahai-citizen-begins-prison-sentence/>

Source: [www.hra-news.org](http://www.hra-news.org)



According to HRANA, the Human Rights Activists’ News Agency in Iran, Soheil Keshavarz, a Baha’i citizen residing in Qazvin, has been taken to the Qazvin Prison to begin serving his six-month sentence after the security forces searched his house on Saturday, June 9, 2018. Mr. Keshavarz was originally arrested by the Qazvin Information Office in December 2016 during a raid on his home. He was detained and interrogated for a period of 25 days before being released on bail await trial.

Baha’i citizens in Iran are systematically deprived of freedoms related to religious beliefs. This systematic deprivation is in direct contradiction to Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and Article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), both of which Iran is signatory, “all persons have the right to religious freedom, the right to change their religion or belief, and the freedom to express their belief individually or collectively in public or private.”

Iran’s Constitution only recognizes Islam, Christianity, Judaism and Zoroastrianism, and does not recognize the Baha’i Faith as a religion. The Regime has used this to justify systematic denial and violation of the civil rights of the Baha’is over the years.

As the Iranian Regime has forced the Baha’i community to disband its administrative bodies, it is difficult to accurately assess the number of Baha’is in Iran. However, based on unofficial sources, it is believed there are over 300,000 Baha’is currently living in Iran.