

Appendix V

Violations of Recommendations Prohibiting Discrimination and Persecution against Ethnic and Religious Minorities and Protecting Freedom of Religion

V.1 In January 2014, ICHRI reported that the charges against two Kurdish prisoners on death row, Zanyar Moradi and Loghman Moradi, had been changed: under pressure from human rights groups, the authorities changed the original charges of moharebeh (enmity with God) to murder charges so that the two men can still be executed under Qisas (or retribution) Law. The two men, as well as family members of the prisoners, have consistently stated that they were forced under torture to confess to murder.

<http://www.iranhumanrights.org/2014/01/moradi-qisas/>

V.2 Four Christian converts (Sara Rahiminejad, Majid Sheidaee, Mostafa Nadri, and George Issaian) were assaulted, arrested, and had their personal belongings confiscated, at Issaian's home in Fardis village of Karaj, outside Tehran, on December 31, 2013. As of January 10, 2014, the families of the detainees had not been able to gain any information regarding their conditions or the charges. Several other Christian converts (Ahmad Bazyar, Faegheh Nasrollahi, Mastaneh Rastegari, Amir Hossein Nematollahi, and a man by the last name of Hosseini) were arrested in a house church in Eastern Tehran on Christmas day. Two weeks after their arrests, no detailed information was available about their conditions, other than that they are currently in IRGC's Ward 2-A inside Evin Prison. Separately, the Karaj Revolutionary Court sentenced Hossein Saketi Aramsari, a Christian convert, to one year in prison. Mohabbat News, the Iranian Christian News Agency, reported that Hossein Saketi is currently at Ward 7 of Central Karaj Prison. In addition, Persian-speaking Christians have been barred from entering Tehran's Sacred Peter Church, one of Iran's Evangelical Churches.

<http://www.iranhumanrights.org/2014/01/christian-new-year/>

V.3 Christian convert and pastor Saeed Abedini, arrested in July 2012, remains in prison, on an 8-year sentence, which has been upheld. Iranian courts convicted him of "undermining national security," and waging a "soft war" against the Iranian government through the practice of Christianity in informal house churches. His condition is not known but in an ICHRI interview with his wife Naghmeh Abedini in August 2013, she reported that he was beaten and suffered internal hemorrhaging in prison. He has not been allowed phone calls or in-person visits with his family for over a year. http://www.iranhumanrights.org/2013/08/saeed_abedini-2/

V.4 Raids on house churches (unofficial places of Christian worship in people's private homes that have emerged in response to the government's refusal to license new churches and its closing of major churches) continue: The Christian converts Parham Farazmand, Sara Sardisian, Sedigheh Kiani, and Mona Fazli were arrested, physically abused, and transferred to an unknown location during a raid on a house church in western Tehran in August 2013 by security forces, according to a credible local source interviewed by ICHRI.

http://www.iranhumanrights.org/2013/08/christian_arrests/

V.5 In August 2013, ICHRI reported that Branch 26 of Tehran Revolutionary Court had recently sentenced Mostafa (Mohammad Hadi) Bordbar, a Christian convert, to 10 years in prison. http://www.iranhumanrights.org/2013/08/christian_arrests/

V.6 According to credible local sources interviewed by ICHRI in August 2013, throughout the spring and summer of 2013, security forces intensified attacks on Christian converts, persecuting and arresting increased numbers of Christian converts in the Khuzestan, Tehran, Fars, and Isfahan provinces in particular. For example, news agencies reported the arrests of Sedigheh Amirkhani, Mahnaz Rafiee, and Mohammad Reza Peymani, three Christian converts in Isfahan. Repeated inquiries regarding the condition and whereabouts of the detainees by the detainees' families to Iranian police and judicial authorities remain unanswered. Only one of the detainees, Sedigheh Amirkhani, has been able to make a telephone call to her family to inform them of her health and her detention and interrogation inside a security organization. http://www.iranhumanrights.org/2013/08/christian_arrests/

V.7 On August 7, 2013, the JARAS news outlet (source: <http://www.rahesabz.net/story/73998/>) published a note by Farshid Fathi, an imprisoned Christian pastor who is currently serving a six-year prison sentence inside Evin Prison, in which he detailed his torture, degradation and threats whilst in solitary confinement inside the detention center. His wife has previously repeatedly reported that Fathi was tortured by the authorities in prison. http://www.iranhumanrights.org/2013/08/christian_arrests/

V.8 In July 2013, the Supreme Court upheld the death sentences of four Ahvazi men, Ghazi Abbasi, Abdolreza Amir Khanafareh, Abdolamir Majdami, and Jassem Moghaddam, who had been sentenced to death for their peaceful protest against state confiscation of agricultural land. Prior to the ruling, ICHRI received a copy of a letter from the four prisoners, detailing their torture and forced confessions. In April 2012, the four men were sentenced to death on charges of "moharebeh" [enmity with God] and "corruption on earth through armed confrontation" and the ruling was upheld on February 13, 2013. The brief trial reportedly lasted one hour, during which effective defense was not allowed. Three other suspects in the case, Hadi Albokhnafar Nejad, Sami Jadmavi Nejad, and Shahab Abbasi, were sentenced to exile in Ardebil. http://www.iranhumanrights.org/2013/07/ahvazi_execution/

V.9 Security forces arrested, beat, and transferred to the Intelligence Office Detention Center two Ahvaz Arab activists, Adel Seymari and Majid Bavi, on April 21, 2013. Mohammad Jaberi was arrested on April 23 in Zargan area of Ahvaz. As of July 2013, there was still no information about these individuals' charges, case details, and detention conditions. Authorities have summoned and arrested dozens of Arab activists in Hamidieh, Fallahieh (Shadegan), and Khalaf Abad. The crackdown and arrests peaked in April, on the threshold of the eighth anniversary of the April 15, 2005 unrest. In addition, the conditions of five Arab prisoners on death row (Jaber Alboshookeh, Mokhtar Alboshookeh, Hadi Rashedi, Hashem Shabani Nejad,

and Mohammad Ali Amouri Nejad) are reportedly alarming, and Ali Chibshat, Salman Chayan, and Seyed Yasin Mousavi, three prisoners detained inside the Ahvaz Intelligence Office, have embarked on a hunger strike to protest conditions and severe torture, and are reportedly in serious condition as well. http://www.iranhumanrights.org/2013/07/ahvazi_activists/

V.10 The lawyer and university professor Massoud Shamsinejad, who has represented many Kurdish political prisoners, was arrested and transferred to Orumiyeh Central Prison on May 9, 2013. In July 2013, he was charged with “supporting Kurdish parties,” “contacting foreign media,” “organizing anti-execution protest gatherings in Orumiyeh in 2010,” and “contacting the offices of the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights,” and then released on bail of about USD \$330,000. The case against him dates back to the parliamentary elections of 2012, when he supported Kurdish political parties. http://www.iranhumanrights.org/2013/07/kurdish_un/

V.11 In July 2013, three Christian converts, Mohammad Reza Farid, Saeed Safi, and Hamid Reza Ghadiri, were arrested, and there has been no information released regarding their detention conditions or their charges. On May 26, security forces and plainclothes agents arrested Pastor Robert Asserian, a leader from Tehran’s Assemblies of God Church, during a worship ceremony. http://www.iranhumanrights.org/2013/07/christian_convertts/

V.12 The arrests of Sunnis continued to intensify over the spring of 2013, and have been concentrated in towns where Iranian Sunnis reside, such as Javanrood, Javansar, Saghez, Baneh, Bukan, Sardasht, Mahabad, and Piranshahr. As of June 2013, there were about 170 Sunni prisoners from various provinces with large Sunni populations, such as Kurdistan, Kermanshah, and West Azerbaijan, in the Rajaei Shahr Prison. About 20 of them are facing death sentences, and many have been in prison for years without a court trial or a verdict. In June eight of these prisoners were forced under torture to make videotaped false confessions. They are Mohammad Baraei, sentenced to ten years in prison; Kaveh Vaisi, who has been in prison for four years without being issued a sentence; Namegh Deldel with a three-year prison sentence; Adel Gholami, with a three-year sentence; Osman Radbai with a three-year sentence; Moaz Hakimi with a three-year sentenced t; Jamal Soleimani, sentenced to 11 years in prison; and Pourya Mohammadi, sentenced to death. They are charged with acting against the state and “moharebeh” (enmity with God). http://www.iranhumanrights.org/2013/06/sunni_rajaei_shahr-2/

V.13 In a June 2013 ICHRI interview, a former inmate reported that the 20 Sunni Prisoners at Rajaei Shahr Prison in Karaj (who were tortured and forced to make confessions) are reportedly singled out for ill treatment and humiliation because of their religious beliefs. (The prisoners are: Edris Nemati, Taleb Maleki, Behrouz Shahnamaki, Bahman Rahimi, Mokhtar Rahimi, Yavar Rahimi, Shahram Rahmati, Keyvan Rahimi, Omid Peyvand, Mohammad Zarrini, Pourya Mohammad, Varia Ghaderi, Kaveh Veisi, Kaveh Sharifi, Farzad Shahnazari, Kamal Mollaei, Hamed Ahmadi, Hadi Hosseini, Seddigh Mohammadi, and Jamshid Dehghani.) They face charges such as “acting against national security” for their proselytizing activities, have been convicted of “moharebeh” (enmity with God), which is a capital crime in Iran. About 170

Sunni prisoners from predominantly Sunni-residing regions of Iran such as Kurdistan, Kermanshah, and Western Azerbaijan, have been transferred to this prison. These twenty face death sentences and many have remained in prison for years without charges or trial.

http://www.iranhumanrights.org/2013/06/sunni_rajaeeshahr/

V.14 On May 26, 2013, Iran's oldest and largest Persian-language Protestant church, the Central Assemblies of God in Tehran was shut down by the authorities, and one of its pastors, Robert Asseriyani, was taken to Evin Prison. His charges have not been announced, nor was he told his charges at the time of arrest. There are concerns that Asseriyani is being kept in solitary confinement because at least four Christian prisoners inside Evin Prison's General Ward 350 have said that they have not seen him there. Prior to his arrest, Intelligence officials closed the church's Friday hours to discourage participation, required worshipers to present their National ID Cards, and threatened the pastors with imprisonment or execution if they did not close the church. Persian-language churches in Mashhad, Western and Eastern Azerbaijan, Arak, Shiraz, and Ahvaz have been shut down.

<http://www.iranhumanrights.org/2013/06/churchshutdown/>

V.15 Mahabad security forces arrested more than ten Kurdish students in February 2013 and transferred them to the Intelligence Office Information Unit Detention Center. As of May, months after the arrests, two of the known detainees, Farough Samani and his cousin Reza Samani, remained in "temporary detention," and another of the detainees, cultural activist and former political prisoner Khedr Rasoul Morovat, remained in the custody of security forces.

<http://www.iranhumanrights.org/2013/05/mahabadcrackdown/>

V.16 Continuing a pattern of excessive and unlawful force used by security forces and border agents against couriers, in May 2013 the Arak Police Special Forces Unit shot and killed Nabi Abdollahi Nasab during the pursuit, beating and arrest of his brother, a Kurdish tradesman.

<http://www.iranhumanrights.org/2013/05/savehighway/>

V.17 In a May 2013, ICHRI reported that Kasra Nouri, 22, a Shi'a Gonabadi Dervish imprisoned at Adel Abad Prison in Shiraz, was sentenced to four years and four months in prison. The harsh sentence and court ruling indicated the authorities' aim of dissuading others, especially youth, from joining the Dervish sect. Nouri and another imprisoned Dervish, Saleh Oradi, embarked on a hunger strike in January 2013 to protest the transfer of their lawyers to Evin Prison's Ward 209. The hunger strike lasted 90 days, until the lawyers were transferred back to Evin's General Ward. <http://www.iranhumanrights.org/2013/05/dervishsentence/>

V.18 In an April 2013 ICHRI interview with Naim Sobhani, the son of Riaz Sobhani, a 67-year-old Baha'i citizen imprisoned since June 2011, Naim reported the serious physical deterioration of Riaz, who suffers from acute heart ailments. Riaz Sobhani was sentenced to four years for providing financial assistance to the Baha'i Institute of Higher Education (BIHE). Riaz Sobhani's first lawyer, Abdolfattah Soltani, is currently in prison himself.

<http://www.iranhumanrights.org/2013/04/riazsobhani/>

V.19 In April 2013 ICHRI reported that Orumiyeh and Mahabad Intelligence Offices had summoned, detained, harassed, and searched the homes of several Kurdish former political prisoners (including Shirzad Beigzadeh, and Zeinab Bayazidi) without any explanation.

http://www.iranhumanrights.org/2013/04/former_prisoners_kurdish/

V.20 Forces from the Orumiyeh Intelligence Office arrested at least ten Kurdish and Azeri citizens in February 2013 on political charges, including Behrouz and Hassan Brokanlou, Mohammad Hassan Asadi, Mir Hadi Mousavi, Amir Hassan Behrouz, Afshin Mirzaei, Aziz Dalay Milan, Farzad Salamat, Abdolsalam Bahavar, and Khosrow Badavi. In the intervening months, they have been interrogated and transferred to various prison wards, including the ward for violent criminals. <http://www.iranhumanrights.org/2013/04/kurdish-orumiyeh/>

V.21 In March 2013, an Orumiyeh Penal Court convicted a Kurdish political prisoner, Ali Ahmad Soleiman, of murdering two Revolutionary Guards members, although no evidence, witnesses, or confessions were presented in the case. The prisoner had previously completed a six-year prison term on political charges in November 2011, but had not been released. He was then sentenced to an additional one year in prison on charges of contacting Kurdish media abroad, human rights organizations, and UN human rights bodies such as the UN's Office of the Special Rapporteur from inside the Orumiyeh Central Prison. Soleiman, along with Kurdish political prisoners Ahmad Tamouee, Yousef Kakeh Meimi, Jahangir Badouzadeh, and Mostafa Ali Ahmad, were transferred to Orumiyeh Intelligence Office Detention Center on October 11, 2012 (where they were tortured) and then to Orumiyeh Central Prison, according to local sources. http://www.iranhumanrights.org/2013/04/soleiman_qisas/

V.22 Six Arab-Iranian prisoners went on hunger strike at Ahvaz's Karoon Prison on March 3, 2013 in order to protest their sentences: Five were sentenced to death, and the sixth to 20 years in prison, due to their participation in an organization that promotes Arabic language and culture. They were arrested between February and March 2012. The six prisoners are: Mohammad Ali Amouri; Hadi Rashedi; Hashem Shabani Nejad; Jaber Alboshokeh; Mokhtar Alboshokeh; and Rahman Asakereh. http://www.iranhumanrights.org/2013/03/arab_execution/

V.23 Kurdish Iranian businessmen Behrouz Ghobadi and his colleague Rahmatollah Moadi were arrested in Sanandaj on November 3, 2012. While Ghobadi was released a few weeks later, Moadi remained in Evin prison at the time of this March 2013 ICHRI report, with no details regarding charges or his condition released to his family.

http://www.iranhumanrights.org/2013/03/rahmatollah_moadi/

V.24 In March 2013 there were large scale arrests of Kurdish journalists and activists in Mahabad and of labor activists in Sanandaj, including Farzad Samani, his brother Farough Samani and his cousin, Rasoul Khezr Morovat, student activist Ghasem Ahmadi, journalist Khosrow Kordpour, and labor activists Khaled Hosseini, Hamed Mohammad Nejad, Behzad Farajollahi, Vafa Ghaderi, and Ali Azadi.

http://www.iranhumanrights.org/2013/03/kurds_mahabad/