

NCRI Human Rights Center Weekly Bulletin

April 22, 2017

Systematic violations of the right to life

Executions, arbitrary killings, deaths in custody, and death sentences

Execution

Three people hanged in Rasht

<http://www.ion.ir/News/206118.html>

Three prisoners detained in the Lakan Prison in the town of Rasht were hanged at dawn. Gilan's Chief Justice, Ahmad Siavosh, announced that a 38 year old man was hanged on charges of participating in narcotics possession.

"A 46 year old man was also hanged on the charge of possessing heroin. Another man, aged 37, was also hanged today in Rasht for the crime of heroin possession. He had no previous records", he added. (Iran Online state-run website - Apr. 15, 2017)

Prisoner hanged in Mashhad Prison

<http://bit.ly/2ojarik>

A 22 year old man detained in Mashhad Prison was hanged. He was charged with stabbing a 26 year old man in defense of his brother. The death sentence was carried out at dawn on April 16. He was identified only by his first name as Meghdad. (ROKNA state-run News Agency - Apr. 17, 2017)

Two prisoners executed in Tabriz Prison

<https://www.hra-news.org/2017/hranews/a-10452/>

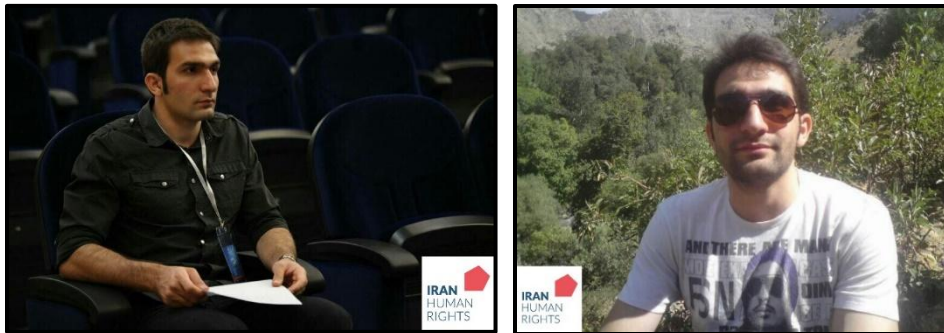
Two people were hanged in Tabriz Prison on April 18. They were both charged with murder and were identified as 28 year old Vahid Fatollah Astani and Ali Akbar. (Human Rights Activists in Iran - Apr. 18, 2017)

7 prisoners hanged in Rajaie Shahr Prison

<https://iranhr.net/fa/articles/2847/>

Seven prisoners were hanged in Karaj's Rajaie Shahr Prison. Three of these prisoners have been identified as Mohsen Babaie, Farzad Ghahreman, and Siamak Shafiei. Babaie was 28 years old and married. These executions were not reported by state-

run media. The pictures below are that of Mohsen Babaie. (Human Rights in Iran – Apr. 19, 2017)



Two prisoners hanged in Shiraz and Bandar Abbas prisons; hand of prisoner amputated 10 days before execution

<https://iranhr.net/fa/articles/2846/>

<https://www.hra-news.org/2017/hranews/a-10454/>

A prisoner in Shiraz's Adel Abad Prison who was charged with robbery and murder, had his hand amputated before being hanged. He was hanged on the dawn of Saturday April 18. The amputation, which was part of his sentence was carried out around 10 days before the execution.

He was identified as Hamid Moieni and was charged with killing a sister and brother in 2014 and stealing their gold.

According to other reports, another prisoner with drug related charges was hanged in the Bandar Abbas Central Prison on Sunday April 16. He was identified as 37 year old Mohammad Sajedin. (Human Rights in Iran – Apr. 18, 2017)

Prisoner hanged in Borojurd Prison

<https://www.hra-news.org/2017/hranews/a-10473/>

On the dawn of Thursday April 20, a prisoner identified as Mahmoud Torabi was executed in Borojurd Prison on murder charges. Torabi has been detained for the past eight years. (Human Rights Activists in Iran – Apr. 20, 2017)

Arbitrary killing

Security forces attack border porters killing one person and severely wounding others

<http://www.kurdpa.net/farsi/idame/70286>

On Saturday April 15, security forces attacked porters in Sardasht and severely injured four porters. The identities of the porters are 18 year old Siamnad, Rahmat, Mahmoud Hamzezi and Ahmad Mam Qader. Mam Qader passed away from the severity of his injuries and two of the other victims have been hospitalized. (Kurdpa website - Apr. 16, 2017)

Security forces fatally shoot young man in Baluchistan without prior warning

<http://www.balochcampaign.info/?p=11058>



A young Baluch man was killed after security forces opened fire on his car in the Jalegh-Saravan road in Sistan and Baluchistan. He has been identified as 25 year old Abdolrahman Derazehi. According to informed sources he was in driving in the car with his cousin and did not have anything with him when security forces opened fire on them without prior warning.

The bullet hit him in the head and he died instantly. When the security forces realized that he had been killed, they immediately left the scene. (Maf News website - Apr. 18, 2017)

Death sentence

Judicial official underlines the importance of execution for drug related crimes

<http://www.farsnews.com/13960127001498>

The first deputy of Iran's Chief Justice cited criticism regarding a number of executions of criminals in a press conference.

“Recently in Bandar Abbas, two people identified as Behrouz Shirin Zaban and Mohammad Nourmalah were executed for carrying and moving narcotics”, Mohseni Ejeie said.

“Or in Kerman two people identified as Abdulhamid Hossein Zehi and Faramarz Kohkan, who were active in a drug trafficking ring, were hanged... or in Karaj a person was sentenced to death for carrying drugs... what else can we do with these people except execute them?”, he stressed.

“At any rate, we will act according to our laws... and will not show leniency”, he added. (Fars state-run News Agency - Apr. 16, 2017)

Iran: Halt imminent execution of two men arrested as teenagers

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2017/04/iran-halt-imminent-execution-of-two-men-arrested-as-teenagers/>

The Iranian authorities must urgently stop the imminent execution of two long-time death row prisoners who were children at the time of their arrest, Amnesty International said today.

One of the men, Mehdi Bahlouli, is due to be executed tomorrow morning in Karaj's Raja'i Shahr Prison, after more than 15 years on death row. He was sentenced to death by a criminal court in Tehran in November 2001 for fatally stabbing a man during a fight. He was 17 at the time of the crime.

The execution of the second man, Peyman Barandah, is scheduled to take place just three weeks later, on 10 May, in Shiraz Central Prison, Fars Province. He was arrested at the age of 16 and spent nearly five years on death row, after being convicted in August 2012, also for stabbing a teenager to death during a fight. "Carrying out the executions of these two young men would be an outrageous breach of international human rights law that would cement Iran's position as one of the world's top executors of juvenile offenders," said Philip Luther, Amnesty International's Research and Advocacy Director for the Middle East and North Africa.

"Mehdi Bahlouli has spent his entire young adult life on death row. His shocking ordeal epitomizes the cruelty of Iran's juvenile justice system which regularly sentences juvenile offenders to death in violation of international human rights law and then subjects them to prolonged periods on death row. The anguish and torment of living their lives in the shadow of the gallows also amounts to cruel and inhuman treatment."

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Inhumane treatment and cruel punishments Amputation, flogging, torture and humiliation

Man sentenced to prison and lashing

<http://www.iran-newspaper.com/Newspaper/BlockPrint/179393>

A man was sentenced to 15 years of prison and 74 lashes, by the Tehran Penal Court for kidnapping a 5 year old girl and molesting her. (Iran state-run Daily - Apr. 15, 2017)



Robbers sentenced to lashing and prison

<http://bit.ly/2okwMvP>

Five men who were charged with robbing a store that sold gold in Khani Abad were sentenced to overall 23 years of prison, 306 lashes and confiscation of property. David and Daniel were each sentenced to 10 years of prison while Ali was sentenced to seven years. Mehrdad and Yahya were also each sentenced to three years of prison. All the culprits were sentenced to 74 lashes each and confiscation of property. (ROKNA state-run News Agency - Apr. 11, 2017)

Detained brothers severely beaten by Isfahan Prison guards

<https://humanrightsiniran.org/1396/39307/>

On Friday Aprils 14, prison guards in the Dasgerd Prison in Isfahan severely beat Mehrdad and Moslem Khosravi, two brothers who have been sentenced to death. The brothers were severely injured in the hands and feet and both their noses broke as a result of the beatings. (Human Rights in Iran - Apr. 18, 2017)

Six men sentenced to flogging for theft

<http://bit.ly/2pO1cM4>

The members of a robbery network who had robbed the house of the wealthy son of a businessman were sentenced to prison, flogging and confiscation of property. Akbar, 25, Sadegh, 30, Amir, 24 and Nima, 22 were found guilty of robbery, while Saied was found guilty of complicity in robbery. Forty five year old Iraj was found guilty of buying the stolen goods. Sadegh and Amir were each sentenced to 4.5 years of prison and 74 lashes while Nima was sentenced to three years of prison and 74 lashes. Saied was sentenced to six months of prison and 10 lashes and Iraj was sentenced to three years of prison and 74 lashes. (ROKNA state-run News Agency - Apr. 19, 2017)

Two men sentenced to lashing in Tehran

<http://bit.ly/2oSN8iN>

Two young men identified as Farzin and Meghdad were sentenced to 99 lashes each, exile and overall 120 hours of forced labor for harassing a young girl in Tehran. (ROKNA state-run News Agency – Apr. 18, 2017)

Prison

Prison conditions

Female political prisoner denied medical leave

<https://humanrightsiniran.org/1396/38976/>

Political prisoner Zeinab Jalalian who is detained in Khoy Prison is in danger of losing her eyesight due to an eye disease but prison officials have prevented her from receiving medical attention outside of prison. She has been sentenced to life in prison but has not received a prison leave despite serving nine years of her prison term. (Human Rights in Iran – Apr. 15, 2017)



Hunger striking female human rights activist in poor health in Evin Prison

<https://www.hra-news.org/2017/hranews/a-10430/>



Human rights activist Atena Daemi who is detained in Evin Prison is on her ninth day of hunger strike in protest to her family's prosecution. She is suffering from kidney issues and the Evin medical clinic has told her that an infection has spread to her digestive system. (Human Rights Activists in Iran – Apr. 16, 2017)

Ailing prisoner gets 20 days of solitary for accidentally kicking guard while in convulsion

<http://www.balochcampaign.info/?p=11064>

Baluch prisoner, Hayatollah Toni Zehi, who is detained in Zahedan Prison received 20 days of solitary confinement because his foot came in contact with a guard while he was in a state of convulsion. (Baluch Prisoners Campaign – Apr. 18, 2017)

Detained prisoner suffering from MS due to prison conditions

<https://humanrightsiniran.org/1396/39477/>

Detained musician Mehdi Rajabian is suffering from multiple sclerosis because of the lack of medical facilities in prison.

According to reports, he can no longer walk properly. He has been detained for the past 319 days in Evin Prison.

Rajabian was arrested for his artistic activities. He went on a hunger strike in protest to not being allowed a medical leave.

Despite his critical condition, the Revolutionary Guards Forces have not allowed him to go on a medical leave for medical treatment. (Human Rights in Iran – Apr. 20, 2017)



Prison sentences

Kurd political activist sentenced to prison

<http://www.kurdpa.net/farsi/idame/70291>

The 2nd Branch of the Orumieh Revolutionary Court sentenced Kurd political activist Bashir Pir Mavaneh to five years of prison.

Bashir was interrogated for 12 days in the Intelligence Detention Center. (Kurdpa website – Apr. 18, 2017)

Arbitrary arrests

Social arrests

Security forces attack private party in Isfahan

<http://abanpress.ir/social/3171/1396/01/27>

Security forces in Isfahan arrested around 30 young men during a party in a villa.

One of the people who was able to escape said that security forces stormed the party at around 9pm. The eye witness said that security forces shot in the air and beat the partygoers. According to the eye witness, none of the detainees have been released even after 3 days. Isfahan officials have yet to show a reaction to these reports. (Aban Press state-run news website – Apr. 16, 2017)

Security forces arrest more than 10 Arab Iranians in Ahwaz

<https://www.hra-news.org/2017/hranews/a-10420/>

In the past few days, at least 10 Arab Iranians from Ahwaz were arrested by security forces. On Thursday April 13, five people identified as Hamzeh Chaldavi, 24,

Abdolnasser Abiat, 38, Hashem Heidari, 35, Sadegh Heidari, 34 and Jafar Heidari, 19 were arrested and taken to an unknown location.

On Thursday afternoon, Khaled Chayan, 35, was also arrested by Revolutionary Guards Corps Intelligence Forces.

On Friday, two other men identified as 37 year old Khalil Ghafeli and 38 year old Mostafa Savari were arrested by intelligence agents.

During last week two others were arrested. They have been identified as Kazem Sorkhi, 45 and one of his relatives, Amir Sorkhi who is 25 years old. (Human Rights Activists in Iran - Apr. 15, 2017)

Basic freedom and rights abused

28% increase of work related fatalities in Tehran

<http://www.irna.ir/fa/News/82494465/>

The Director General of the Tehran Medical Examiner-Coroner's Office said that 359 people passed away in the last Persian year as a result of work related accidents.

"The number of deceased people as a result of work place accidents has raised 28 percent compared to the year before", Massoud Ghadi Pasha said.

"From these people who were deceased in the past 11 months, 353 were men and six were women", he added. (IRNA state-run News Agency - Apr. 16, 2017)

Telegram voice calls deactivated in Iran with judicial orders

<http://bit.ly/2oKeCFR>

Telegram voice calls which were activated last Friday in Iran, were deactivated today.

The Ministry of Communications and other organizations have not offered any explanations in this regard but a number of sources in the Ministry of Intelligence have confirmed that this service was blocked by judicial orders. (Ightesad Online state-run Website - Apr. 17, 2017)

Cleric calls for ban of all concerts in Iran

<http://bit.ly/2oyyERU>

The Mashhad Friday Prayer, Ahmad Alamolhoda, on April 18, referred to music in a speech in the Free Islamic University of Mashhad and said that he did not agree with holding concerts in Iran.

"Concerts kill art", he said.

"In other countries, concerts are a show of art and not a tool for entertainment and revelry", he stressed. (ILNA state-run News Agency - Apr. 19, 2017)

People in Kermanshah town forced to use muddy water

<http://www.mehrnews.com/news/3958187>

The Friday Prayer head of the town of Hersin In Kermanshah said that the people in this town use muddy water and are angry with this issue.

“According to figures, in the past five years, more than 6,000 people have left Hersin. That means that more than 1,200 a year have left and this is very worrying and regretful”, Rohollah Bagheri said.

“According to figures, more than 7,000 people are unemployed in Hersin”, he added. (Mehr state-run News Agency – Apr. 20, 2017)

Religious and ethnic minorities

Eight Baha’i citizens arrested in Iran

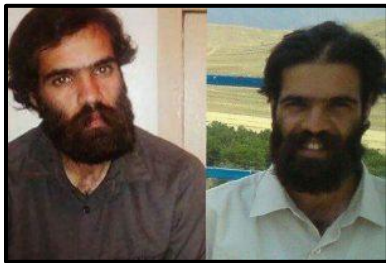
<http://www.bahainews.today/index.php/news-1/featured/item/1106-bahai-iran-humanrights>

On Tuesday April 18, eight Baha’i citizens were arrested in the towns of Bandar Abbas, Qeshm and Shiraz by security forces and were transferred to Intelligence Detention Centers.

The have been identified as Mahnaz Jansar (f), Maral Rasti (f), Farhad Amri (m), Arash Rasekhi (m), Mehraleh Afshar (f), Omid Afaghi (m) and Nasim Ghanavatian (f). Security forces confiscated their personal belongings while searching their homes. (Baha’i News website – Apr. 18, 2017)

Two Kurd brothers torch themselves in protest to government cruelty

<http://mafnews.net/?p=15199>



Two Kurd brothers, identified as Ehsan and Mehdi Fozuni, who followed the Yaresan (Ahl-e Haqq) faith, torched themselves to death simultaneously on Saturday April 13 in protest to the government’s discrimination and constant cruelty to Yaresani people.

(Maf News website – Apr. 17, 2017)

Head of Guardian Council demands candidate disqualification of religious minorities for upcoming city council elections

<http://bit.ly/2nZuCGM>

The head of the Guardian Council, Ayatollah Janati, issued an official statement on preventing the qualification of city council candidates who are religious minorities.

“We have received information that in some regions in the country that was predominantly Muslim, people who are not Muslim have volunteered as members of the Islamic City Council... this is contrary to religious rules”, he said in part. (ILNA state-run News Agency – Apr. 18, 2017)

