

## NCRI Human Rights Center Weekly Bulletin

October 23, 2017

### Systematic violations of the right to life

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

#### Execution

##### **Prisoner hanged in Rasht Central Prison**

<https://iranhr.net/fa/articles/3098/>

A prisoner sentenced to death for murder was executed on Saturday, October 14, in the Rasht Central Prison. He was identified as Hamid-Reza Khoshbakht.

According to informed sources, Hamid Reza, who was born in 1993, committed murder about four years ago when he was 20 years old. (Iran Human Rights Organization - October 15, 2017)

##### **435 people executed in just 10 months in Iran**

<https://iranintl.com/%D8%B3%DB%8C%D8%A7%D8%B3%D8%AA/%D8%A7%D8%B9%D8%AF%D8%A7%D9%85-%DB%B4%DB%B3%DB%B5-%D9%86%D9%81%D8%B1-%D8%AF%D8%B1-%D8%A7%DB%8C%D8%B1%D8%A7%D9%86-%D8%B7%DB%8C-%DB%B1%DB%B0-%D9%85%D8%A7%D9%87-%DA%AF%D8%B0%D8%B4%D8%AA%D9%87>

Iran's Human Rights Organization said on Tuesday, October 10, on the International Day against Execution, that from the beginning of 2017, Iran had executed 435 prisoners including five minor offenders.

From these execution, only 83 were announced by the official media. 219 executed prisoners were sentenced to death for drug related charges. During this time, five prisoners who were under 18 when convicted, were hanged in various prisons in Iran. (Iran Human Rights Organization - Oct. 10, 2017)

#### Death sentence

##### **UN rights experts urge Iran to halt imminent execution of juvenile Amirhossein Pourjafar**

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=22258&LangID=E>

GENEVA (18 October 2017) – UN human rights experts\* have made an urgent appeal to Iran to halt the execution of Amirhossein Pourjafar, who was 16 years of age when he was sentenced to death...



“The Iranian authorities must immediately halt the execution of this juvenile offender and annul the death sentence against him in compliance with

their international obligations,” the experts said. “International standards unequivocally forbid imposing the death sentence on anyone under 18 years of age.” However, Iran has executed at least four juvenile offenders since January, and at least 86 more are known to be on death row, although the actual figure may be higher.

A few months ago, Iran executed Alireza Tajiki, who was arrested in 2012 when he was 15 years old. Prior to his execution, he had spent four years on death row amid reports of torture and violations of his right to a fair trial.

Amirhossein Pourjafar was sentenced to death in September 2016 after being convicted of the rape and murder of a seven-year-old girl. The court said he had attained “mental maturity” at the time of the crime and had understood the nature and consequences of his actions. The Supreme Court the sentence in January 2017.

### **Man might be hanged for drinking alcohol**

<http://www.aryanews.com/News/120171016170251685>

<http://www.jamnews.ir/detail/News/837272>

A young man was tried on October 15 in the 9th Branch of the Tehran Penal Court on the charge of being arrested for the fourth time for drinking alcohol.

Article 179 of the Islamic Penal Code stipulates that “whoever drinks alcohol numerous times and is punished after every time, upon the third time, he will be executed”. After hearing the defendants statement, the judges said they would shortly issue their verdict. (Aria state-run News Agency, Jam News - Oct. 16, 2017)

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

### **Man degraded and paraded by police in Khorasan**

<http://www.mehrnews.com/news/4113956>

The Asfarayan Chief of Police announced the arrest of a convict in this town located in Khorasan Province and said that he was paraded in this town by the police.

“The man identified as Kh.S has a history of criminality”, Javid Mehri said.

Mehri cited the convicts arrest saying that he was arrested in a surprise attack yesterday and was transferred to this town. (Mehr state-run News Agency - Oct. 14, 2017)



### **Judiciary amputates man's hand in Mashhad**

<http://khorasannews.com/Newspaper/Page/19657/13>

The Prosecutor of Central Khorasan Razavi announced that the hand of a thief who had stolen from a goldsmith's safe was amputated in Mashhad.

"According to the court ruling, M.N, who was 25 at the time of the incident, was sentenced to hand amputation and his younger brother (complicit in the robbery), who was 22, was sentenced to 10 years of prison and 74 lashes... The ruling was finally confirmed by the Supreme Court and the case of the goldsmith's robbers was referred to one the branches of the Implementation Department of the Public and Revolutionary Court", Judge Gholamali Sadeghi stated.

"Immediately after the procedures of the implementation of the sentence were provided, the divine sentence was carried out for M.N last Thursday with the presence of doctors, the judges of the implementation department and other relevant authorities in the Central Mashhad Prison", he added. (Khorasan News state-run Website - Oct. 14, 2017)

### **Young man sentenced to 100 lashes**

<http://press.jamejamonline.ir/Newspreview/2996612372870339150>

A 35-year-old man identified as Saied was tried by the 8<sup>th</sup> branch of the Tehran Penal Court for harassment and abuse. At the end of the trial, the judges sentenced him to 100 lashes for having an illegitimate relationship, 18 months of forced residence in a remote city and 180 hours of public services for the municipality. (Jam-e-Jam state-run Daily - Oct. 18, 2017)

### **Security forces arrest porters and strip them of their goods and clothes**

<http://kurdistanhumanrights.net/fa/?p=4346>

Dozens of Kurd porters were arrested by government forces and after their goods were confiscated, they were stripped and then released.

"On the night of October 14, six Kurd porters were directly shot at by forces in the Kaperan Base. After one of the porters, identified as Kamran, was wounded, the other porters were arrested and after their goods were confiscated, they were undressed and released into the mountains", a porter said. (Kurdistan Human Rights - Oct. 18, 2017)

## Prison

### Prison conditions

#### **Letter of political prisoner jailed for going to Israel**

<https://www.hra-news.org/letters/a-427/>



Political prisoner Mohammad Kahkesh has been imprisoned since August 2017. He wrote a letter from Evin prison describing his plight.

This letter reads in part:

I am Mohammad Kahkesh. I was born in 1987 in Khuzestan and currently live there. I am an official trainer of the Iranian Fitness and Bodybuilding Federation, a sports consultant for more than 10 gyms in Khuzestan, and a coach and consultant for one of the national juvenile teams in Iran.

In 2015, I was invited to the Grand Prix of Israel for the first time by the Federation of the Bodybuilders of Israel, which is under the auspices of the International Federation for Bodybuilding.

On August 7, 2017, I came to Tehran from Khuzestan after I received a summons from the Ministry of Intelligence and was arrested by this institution. I spent 10 days in solitary confinement in Evin Prison's Section 209 where I was interrogated by the Ministry of Intelligence.

After ten days of interrogation and strict conditions, my case was referred to Ali Ghenatkar, the investigator at the first branch of the Moghadas Court.

He got the name and password of my Facebook, and Telegram account and my phone and investigated them.

He asked me why I had committed blasphemy and why I had insulted the leader... I was then transferred to Section 7 in Evin Prison's Hall 12, where they kept spies.

I have gone before Judge Salavati twice without a lawyer. They have officially accused me of:

1. Starting sports cooperation with the Zionist regime
2. Promoting the Zionist regime
3. Insulting the Supreme Leader
4. Blasphemy

Now, my question from everyone and the authorities is, what crime did I commit? Mohammad Kahkesh Evin Prison ". (Human Rights Activists in Iran - Oct. 15, 2017)

### Political prisoner asks for help after 81 days of hunger strike



<https://amadnews.org/1396/07/26/%D9%85%D8%AD%D9%85%D8%AF-%D9%86%D8%B8%D8%B1%DB%8C-%D9%BE%D8%B3-%D8%A7%D8%B2-%DB%B8%DB%B1-%D8%B1%D9%88%D8%B2-%D8%A7%D8%B9%D8%AA%D8%B5%D8%A7%D8%A8-%D8%BA%D8%B0%D8%A7-%D8%A8%D8%B1%D8%A7%DB%8C-%D8%B1/>

Political prisoner Mohammad Nazari, who has been imprisoned for 24 years, has been on hunger strike for more than 81 days. According to prison physicians, his condition is critical

and he is in serious danger and could go into a coma at any moment.

Nazari wrote a letter from prison on October 18. This letter reads in part:

"I am the loneliest prisoner in this city! Despite 81 days of hunger strike, no one has listened and helped me in this city...

My name is Mohammad Nazari, and I have been behind bars in Mahabad Prison, Orumieh Prison and currently in Rajaie Shahr Prison for 24 years... My parents and brother have all passed away in Bukan and I have no one expect you, the people. I have been on hunger strike for 81 days. A hunger strike for a very simple request. I want neither liberty nor a leave; I want the law to be enforced. According to the law, I should have been released four and a half years ago. But the invisible hands of power and security have prevented the implementation of this law. Now, after 24 years in prison, while I am completely alone and left with nothing, I have no choice but to go on hunger strike...

Help me; help me so that my voice would be heard because now death is my only option to free myself from the torment of prison and my hunger strike.

Help me reach my legal right to freedom that they have deprived me of. Anything other than my release, and I will continue my strike until I too pass away and I am

buried in Bukan cemetery where my family is.

Mohammad Nazari

Wednesday, October 18

Rajaie Shahr Prison "

Political prisoner Mohammad Nazari was arrested in the city of Bukan in 1994 and has not received a leave for the past 24 years. He was not even allowed to participate in his mother's funeral. (Amadnews - Oct. 18, 2017)

### **Political prisoner transferred to Rajaie Shahr Prison after his picture was published**

<https://persian.iranhumanrights.org/1396/07/arash-sadeghi-exile-to-rajai-shahr-prison-in-karaj/>



An informed source said that detained civil rights activist Arash Sadeghi was banished to Karaj's Rajaie Shahr Prison after a picture was published on October 18 of him in Evin Prison. Mohammad Seifzadeh, a lawyer, said the transfer to a prison outside of the prisoner's city of residence is considered an increase in penalty and any increase of penalty after the sentence has been finalized is illegal.

Arash Sadeghi has been sentenced to 15 years in prison for civil nonviolent activism and for defending the rights of political prisoners and has been in Evin Prison since 2016. (Iran Human Rights Campaign - Oct. 18, 2017)

### **Ailing prisoner harassed by prison officials for not being able to pay for medical test**

<https://www.hra-news.org/2017/hranews/a-12826/>

A death row prisoner in Zahedan Prison, who was suffering from severe eye pain, was transferred to the quarantine section in this prison where he was abused on orders of prison officials because he was not able to pay the 23.300 dollars for a medical test.

Shamsoddin Baji Zehi, charged with murder, has been detained in the Central Zahedan Prison for the past four years. (Human Rights Activists in Iran - Oct. 17, 2017)

### **Rajaie Shahr Prison political prisoners write letter to UN Secretary General**

[http://hrdai.blogspot.co.uk/2017/10/blog-post\\_16.html](http://hrdai.blogspot.co.uk/2017/10/blog-post_16.html)

Political prisoners in Rajaie Shahr Prison (Gohardasht Prison) wrote a letter to the UN Secretary-General and a number of other human rights institutions calling for the Iranian government to comply with human rights standards.

This letter reads in part:

On average, each of us political prisoners in Gohardasht Prison has been in jail for more than a year. We have been dissatisfied as to why we are deprived of the conditions and facilities given to ordinary prisoners. Facilities such as making telephone calls, leaves, medical facilities and other such things... Now the situation is such that even the most minimum things are taken away from us and despite a change in management and promises made to us, nothing has improved, except for the fact that we have even been deprived of air because they have turned the political prisoners' section into an iron cage. They have closed even the smallest crevices. The air has become polluted and unhealthy because the only gap from which air comes in has been turned into a waste collection site.

After they confiscated our minimum living facilities like our dishes and utensils... because of the of the Prison Organization's cruelty (and the head of the prison, Mohammad Mardani), not only was nothing returned to us and not only has no one heard our complaints, but now they are forcing prisoners into writing that they have received their belongings and no longer have any complaints, when they only receive a few of their belonging and their clothes. Unfortunately, no lawyer has been willing to pursue this matter (because of threats by the Judiciary and the Prison Organization) ...

This is the method used by the Judiciary and the Prison Organization to make political prisoners feel despair. Political prisoners have still been denied the right to their chosen lawyer, the right to be informed about the contents of their cases and even the right to know the date of their trial and where they are being taken when transferred.

With this brief introduction, we, the political prisoners of the Gohardasht prison in Karaj, call on all human rights institutions, and in particular all democratic governments and the UN Secretary General, to place the observance of human rights and minimum rights and dignity as a condition for relations with this government.

Obviously, a government that does give even its citizens rights and opportunities to claim their rights is unlikely to recognize the rights of the international community. A government that has never been seriously criticized for the massacre of prisoners in 1988 is unlikely to stop the wave of current executions and the pressures on

political prisoners...

Therefore, we again call on all human rights institutions, and also the member countries of the League of Nations and the Secretary General of the United Nations to consider the observation of human rights, as a condition for its trade and diplomatic engagement with this regime, as extremely serious and critical.

Political Prisoners of Gohardasht Prison in Karaj

October 19, 2017 ". (Human Rights and Democracy Activists in Iran - Oct. 19, 2017)

### **Political prisoners punished for publishing 2 pictures from prison**

<https://www.radiofarda.com/a/iran-arash-sadeghi-exiled-from-evin-prison-to-rajaeeshah-prison-karaj/28804633.html>



After images of political prisoners Arash Sadeghi, Sohail Arabi and Ismail Abdi in Evin Prison's Section 350 courtyard were published, this section was closed and its prisoners were transferred to other sections.

According to reports, because of these images were published, prison guards stormed this section and after

confiscating cellphones, transferred Soheil Arabi to Section 8 and banished Arash Sadeghi to Rajaie Shahr Prison. (Radio Farda - Oct. 19, 2017)

### **Detained member of Elite Foundation goes on hunger strike**

<https://www.radiozamaneh.com/364291>



Alireza Golipour, a member of the National Elite Foundation and a Ph.D. student of electrical engineering in Germany, who has been imprisoned in Evin prison since 2012 for security related crimes, started a hunger strike eight days ago.

This news was announced by his lawyer Azita

Gharibiglo, on Friday, October 20.

According to Gharibiglo, Alireza suffers from many medical complications, including heart and liver complication, and internal bleeding. He has gone on hunger strike in protest the authority's failure to pay attention to the doctor's

assessment about him not being able to tolerate detention.

His attorney has also said that he has lost 7kg and his pressure has dropped by five points. Alireza Golipour was arrested in 2012 by the Ministry of Intelligence and Revolutionary Guards Corps on charges of moving confidential information out of the country and was repeatedly interrogated.

On April 18, 2016, the 15th Branch of the Revolutionary Court sentenced him to 39 years and 9 months of prison and 164 lashes. Golipour, who is now 31 years old, was arrested before this during the 2009 uprising. (Radio Zamaneh - Oct. 20, 2017)

### **Political prisoner in critical condition was taken to hospital**

<http://www.kurdpa.net/farsi/idame/71546>



Mohammad Nazari, a political prisoner detained in Rajai Shahr prison in Karaj, was transferred to the hospital after 82 days of hunger strike. According to an informed source in prison, Mohammad Nazari's medical condition is very critical and his vital signs are alarming.

“The prisoner has lost more than 25kg due to his hunger strike, and can barely walk or talk. Prison authorities have injected him with fluids several times but Mohammad

Nazari has not been willing to break his hunger strike”, the source added. (Kurdpa - Oct. 20, 2017)

### **Letter of Maher Kaabi from prison to UN Special Rapporteur Asma Jahangir**

<http://sahba.news/2017/10/20/7373/>



Maher Kaabi, an Arab-Iranian political prisoner who is serving his prisoner sentence in exile in Ardabil prison, wrote a letter to the UN Special Rapporteur, detailing the regime's pressures on his family.

This letter reads in part:

With greetings and respect to Dr. Asma Jahangir the United Nation Human Rights Special Rapporteur on Iran. I am Maher Kaabi, a 19 year old political prisoner. I'm a

construction major and of the Arab Iranian minority. I was arrested in 2011 by the Intelligence Ministry for my human rights activities. After the interrogations, where I was tortured (my front teeth were smashed and I was threatened to give forced interviews and give forced confessions to Press TV) I was sentenced to 10 years of

prison which I had to serve in the Central Ardabil prison. During the six years of imprisonment, I was constantly and severely abused by the authorities and prison managers.

I was 19 when I was arrested and now that I am over 25 years of age, I have not once seen outside of the prison.

Apart from me, my older brother has also been sentenced to 15 years of prison, which he is also serving in exile in the Central Kerman Prison of on charges of spreading propaganda against the government. Ahmad Kaabi, 27 years old, suffers from spinal complications and unfortunately nothing has been done for his devastating state. Like me, Ahmad has also been in exile for six years.

I will now explain something to you that has severely pained me for a couple of days. My mother, Sharife Faraj-Allah Kaabi, is 48 years old. She has constantly received threatening phone calls by the Intelligence Ministry's agents. The last telephone call was on Tuesday October 17 and had a heart attack. I thank God that my father got to her on time and saved her life. She was hospitalized for two days and now her condition is stable.

Is this justice?

My plea to you Dr. Jahangir is that you take urgent measures into this issue and by putting pressure on the the regime, help us regain our rights.

Thank you very much,

Maher Kaabi, political prisoner

October 18, 2017

Central Ardabil Prison – Section 7

(Sahba News – Oct. 20, 2017)

### **Prison sentences**

#### **Female supporters of mysticism group sentenced to prison terms**

<https://humanrightsiniran.com/1396/51683/>



The Judiciary has sentenced four supporters of the Erfan Halgheh mysticism group to overall eight years of suspended prison terms. They have been identified as Zahra Shafiei Dehaghani, Melika Kavandi, Zahra Sadat Ebrahimi and Raha Davoudian.

The four citizens were arrested on August 28. Raha Davoudian and Zahra Sadat Ebrahimi, were released after they were tried last week. (Human Rights in Iran - Oct. 16, 2017)

## Arbitrary arrests

### Social arrests

#### **Civil rights activists summoned by Tehran court**

<https://humanrightsiniran.com/1396/51645/>



The 6th Branch of the Tehran's District 21 Court summoned 23-year-old Shima Babaei, for "insulting agents". According to a summons issued on October 12 for this civil rights activist, Shima Baba'i, has to go to this court district within five days for investigation into the charge

of "insulting agents".

She was arrested before this on August 19, following a summons to the Tehran's security police along with her father, Ibrahim Babaei. They were then taken to court where she was charged with "spreading propaganda against the government" and "disturbing public order". Shima was temporarily released on bail. (Human Rights in Iran - Oct. 15, 2015)

#### **RGC forces violently arrest student in dorm**

<https://www.hra-news.org/2017/hranews/a-12825/>

A student in Sanandaj was beaten and arrested in his dormitory by agents affiliated with the Revolutionary Guards Corps.

Mostafa Zahednia was arrested on Monday October 16 without an arrest permit. (Human Rights Activists in Iran - Oct. 17, 2017)

#### **Party organizers arrested in Damavand**

<https://www.mashreghnews.ir/news/788197>

Mohammad Reza Sharifi, the Damavand Public Security Police said that three important gangs that organized night parties in one of the villages in Damavand were identified and destroyed.

"These people advertised on the internet and invited people to the villages of Mehrabad, and we were able to prevent their spread... In some cases, there were cases such as hookah smoking and somewhat unconventional games. Seventeen of these units were shut down", he added. (Mashregh News state-run Website - Oct. 19, 2017)

#### **15-year-old girl arrested by Ministry of Intelligence in Abadan**

<https://www.radiozamaneh.com/364116>

On Wednesday, October 18, the Abadan Intelligence Department arrested a 15-year-old girl, identified as Maeideh Shabani Nejad. She was arrested in her high school and was transferred to the Ahvaz Intelligence Detention Center. The Abadan Intelligence Department has told her family that the order to arrest their daughter has come from Ahwaz. (Radio Zamaneh - Oct. 19, 2017)

## Basic freedom and rights abused

### 90% of child laborers are sexually abused

<http://www.ilna.ir/%D8%A8%D8%AE%D8%B4-%D8%A7%D8%AC%D8%AA%D9%85%D8%A7%D8%B9%DB%8C-5/546186-%D8%AF%D8%B1%D8%B5%D8%AF-%DA%A9%D9%88%D8%AF%DA%A9%D8%A7%D9%86-%DA%A9%D8%A7%D8%B1-%D9%85%D9%88%D8%B1%D8%AF-%D8%A2%D8%B2%D8%A7%D8%B1-%D8%AC%D9%86%D8%B3%DB%8C-%D9%82%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%B1-%D9%85%DB%8C-%DA%AF%DB%8C%D8%B1%D9%86%D8%AF>

Reza Ghadimi, the Managing Director of the Tehran Social Services Organization, responded to a question about child workers and that most of them were Afghans and their families were forced to send them to work due to poverty.

“In most cases, the parents of these children are not even living inside Iran and they are sent inside Iran... Maybe Welfare Centers do not have enough facilities, but it’s better for them (the children) than to be in the corner of streets in the cold, especially in light of the fact that 90% of them are sexually abused”, he said. (ILNA state-run News Agency - Oct. 14, 2017)

### 80% of blind people unemployed in Iran

<http://www.mehrnews.com/news/4114541>



Hussein Nahvi Nejad, the deputy director of the Rehabilitation Department of the Welfare Organization, said that blind people had many problems in transportation.

“This is because offices and other buildings have not been adapted to these peoples’ needs and we also have problems in terms of equipment”, he added.

The rehabilitation deputy of the Welfare Organization said that there were 150,000 blind and partially blind people in the country.

“30,000 of these people are severely sightless and among them 65% are male while 35% are female”, he added.

“The unemployment rate among the blind is more than in other people to the extent that 80% of the blind are unemployed... On the other hand, the problem with

hiring blind people is that the questions they are asked during the work interviews are very difficult to prevent them from being hired. Therefore, many blind people with high education levels are not currently employed”. (Mehr state-run News Agency - Oct. 15, 2017)

### **Head of Iran’s soccer Federation said that 9 soccer players were arrested for smoking hookahs**

<https://www.tasnimnews.com/fa/news/1396/07/25/1548590>



The Head of Iran’s Soccer (football) Federation said that report of its players smoking the hookah was on his desk.

Pictures of these players, smoking the hookah were published on social media.

"This is one of two issues. One is that the report is currently on my table and the second is that these

images were made with Photoshop”, Mahdi Taj said.

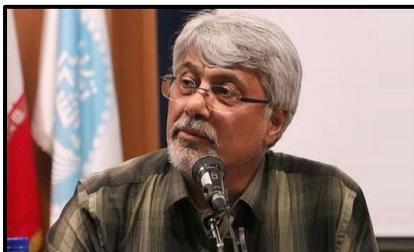
“If the Ethics Committee determines that it’s been photoshopped, the person responsible will be sentenced to both flogging and detention... We have now summoned a number of Club managers to the Ethics Committee... they will be dealt with and they are caught up with the Judiciary”, he added.

"There are cafés in our country now, where people are smoking the hookah," he added.

“This should be prevented and after its been prevented, it will be implemented in the clubs and in soccer. Other than this, if there are reports of players using (the hookah), the Ethics Committee will definitely deal with this issue”.

In answer to whether the players will be fined, the head of the Soccer Federation said that they have been arrested and that there were currently 8-9 people in prison. (Tasnim state-run News Agency - Oct. 17, 2017)

### **Journalist prevented from leaving Iran**



<http://www.dw.com/fa-ir/%D8%A7%D8%B2-%D8%AE%D8%B1%D9%88%D8%AC-%D8%B9%DB%8C%D8%B3%DB%8C-%D8%B3%D8%AD%D8%B1%D8%AE%DB%8C%D8%B2-%D8%A7%D8%B2-%D8%A7%DB%8C%D8%B1%D8%A7%D9%86-%D8%AC%D9%84%D9%88%DA%AF%DB%8C%D8%B1%DB%8C-%D8%B4%D8%AF/a-40984175>

Isa Saharkhiz, a journalist and member of the Journalists' Association, was planning to travel to Europe for a cultural trip on Tuesday October 17 following a prison term and a 13-year ban on leaving Iran. However, security forces escorted him out of the plane and confiscated his passport.

This is while his passport had been stamped and his luggage was on the plane. (Deutsche Welle - Oct. 17, 2017)

### **Iran's water resources go bankrupt due to mismanagement**

<http://www.isna.ir/news/96072312792>

Isa Kalantari, the head of Iran's Environmental Organization, said that the silence of experts on the implementation of misguided water policies had caused the country to go bankrupt in the water sector.

According to Kalantari, 88 billion cubic meters of water is produced per year in the country, but the annual consumption is 97 billion cubic meters.

"Today we are using 110% of the country's renewable water sources and this is appalling", he said referring to the state of extraction of water resources.

"We no longer have any living lagoons or lakes in the country and we are surprised as to why pollution has increased in the country", he said regarding Iran's wetlands. (ISNA state-run News Agency - Oct. 15, 2017)

## **Religious and ethnic minorities**

### **Baha'i resident of Rasht arrested by security forces**

<https://www.hra-news.org/2017/hranews/a-12809/>

On October 15, Nazila Khanipour (Herawi), a Baha'i resident of Rasht, was arrested and taken to an unknown location on orders of the Prosecutor. Her home was searched by security forces some time ago.

Security forces have not given an explanation on her arrest. There is still no news on her exact location and fate. (Human Rights Activists in Iran - Oct. 16, 2017)

### **Guardian Council official says suspension sentence for Zoroastrian City Council member was legally binding**

<http://shahrvand-newspaper.ir/News:NoMobile/Main/115443>



In an interview with Shahrvand Daily, Abbasali Kadkhodaie, the spokesman of the Guardian Council, said that the suspension of Sepenta Niknam, a

Zoroastrian member of the Yazd City Council, was legally binding. The Guardian Council has stated that religious minorities should not be council members of cities where Muslims constitute the majority of the population.

In the interview, the spokesman was asked whether Niknam could remain a member of the City Council.

"This opinion is the opinion of the jurists of the Guardian Council and is binding. There was a vote in the meeting of the jurists and they voted that this was against sharia law", he replied. (Shahrvand state-run Daily - Oct. 18, 2017)

### **Nine Baha'i men and women arrested in Kermanshah**

<https://humanrightsiniran.com/1396/51775/>

At least nine Baha'i citizens in Kermanshah were arrested on Wednesday October 18 by security agents. They were all taken to an unknown location.

These men and women have been identified as Peiman Ghiami, Ezzatollah Shahidi, Forouzan Amini, Kambiz Moradipour, Sepideh Ahrari, Amrullah Islami, Nematollah Shadabi, Sino Rasooli and Amir Kadivar.

Security forces also searched the detainees' homes.

It should be noted that Sepideh Ahrari is pregnant and stress and detention conditions will lead to numerous health issues for her. (Human Rights in Iran - Oct. 20, 2017)

## **Violence against women**

### **Girls under 15 forced into marriage**

<http://www.isna.ir/news/96072211693>

According to statistics released by the Women and Family Affairs Department, in 2013, 0.4 percent of males and 5.4 percent of girls under the age of 15 were married. This figure has risen to 5.6% for girls in 2014, and has risen again in 2015 to 5.4% and again in 2016 to 5.5%.

In the first nine months of this (Iranian) year, the figure shows 0.05 for boys and 5.5% for girls.

According to the State Registry Organization, 2014 had the highest rate of child marriages compared to the last five years.

The number of children aged 10 to 14 who got married in that year reached 40,228 (5.6 percent). In 2015, 5.4 percent (36,938 children) got married in that age group.

### Marriage of children under 10

Statistics show that in 2011, 220 children, in 2012, 187 children, in 2013, 201 children, in 2014, 176 children, and in 2015, 179 children under the age of 10 were married. This is while these official statistics only include registered marriages and might increase if the marriage of children without birth certificates or polygamy marriages were also officially registered. (ISNA state-run News Agency - Oct. 14, 2017)

### **Mental disorder on rise among Tehrani women**

<http://bazarnews.ir/fa/news/31941>

The head of the Welfare Organization said that mental disorders among Tehrani women was more than in men

“Poverty, gender, age and education are among the factors that contribute to these disorders”, Anooshirovan Mohsini Bandpi said.

“According to a research, 37.9 percent of women and 27.6 percent of men in Tehran are exposed to mental disorders”, he added. (Bazaar News - Oct. 16, 2017)