

QUARTERLY REPORT
APRIL-JUNE 2024

IRAN: A HUMAN
RIGHTS REPORT
ON THE AZERBAIJANI
TURKS IN IRAN

About the Foundation for Inclusive Society

The foundation for Inclusive Society (FIS), a nonprofit based in the United States, is dedicated to studying and empowering minority groups. Through conducting analyses and publishing reports on human rights and environmental issues, FIS strives to meet the needs of marginalized communities. Visit our official website, www.inclusivevision.org, to access our latest reports and publications. For inquiries, feel free to reach out to us at secretary@inclusivevision.org.

Summary

This report documents human rights violations against Azerbaijani Turks in Iran, particularly in the Azerbaijani region, for the second quarter of 2024, encompassing April, May, and June. It highlights the lack of access to human rights organizations in cities with Azerbaijani populations and the Iranian government's denial of any abuses.

During this period, 15 individuals were detained by authorities. Some of these detainees were subsequently released on bail pending the outcome of their legal cases. Additionally, 15 individuals faced various penalties for their participation in civil activities, with updates provided on previously sentenced cases. This report also includes an update on a previously arrested individual exiled to a remote area, highlighting the ongoing use of exile to suppress dissent.

Tragically, at least six individuals were executed by hanging under capital punishment sentences. Security forces summoned 11 individuals for questioning or interrogation, reflecting the pervasive climate of intimidation. Furthermore, one civil activist faced suspension from his activities. In a disturbing development, one individual reported receiving direct threats from security and police forces, further illustrating the coercive measures employed to stifle activism and instill fear among the Azerbaijani Turk community.

Overall, the second quarter of 2024 witnessed a continuation of severe human rights abuses, demonstrating the persistent and systematic targeting of Azerbaijani Turks in Iran. This report calls for increased international attention and intervention to address and mitigate these violations.

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Part One

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Introduction

1.1 Introduction

During this period, the report discusses the arbitrary arrest and release of individuals, and their challenges such as restricted access to legal representation, due process, and inadequate access to human rights organizations. It also discusses the Iranian government's strategy of relocating prominent human rights defenders and activists to remote areas, curbing their involvement in civil society initiatives.

Capital punishment in Iran is both a legal recourse and a subject of intense debate. This report discusses the contentious practice of capital punishment in Iran. The report examines societal and political factors that weaponize the use of capital punishment due to its application in cases related to political dissent and social activism.

The report also collects a list of individuals subjected to unlawful summoning practices orchestrated by Iranian Intelligence agents, which are strategically employed to intimidate political and social activists. The severe repercussions faced by organizations and individuals perceived as opposition or anti-government entities result in various forms of suspension that severely curtail freedom of expression and association. The report also addresses the frequent instances of government-initiated threats against individuals.

In conclusion, the report presents a set of recommendations aimed at addressing human rights violations in Iran, aiming to cultivate a society where citizens can freely exercise their rights without fear of reprisal.

1.2 Methodology

The primary aim of this report is to draw attention to specific instances of human rights violations experienced by the Azerbaijani Turks in Iran. It sheds light on a spectrum of violations, including detentions and subsequent releases, forced exile cases, and instances where punitive measures, such as executions, were disproportionately severe.

Additionally, the report extends beyond mere documentation by offering recommendations to address the documented human rights violations, targeting the promotion of accountability, justice, and the protection of fundamental human rights. By highlighting these violations and proposing actionable recommendations, the report aims to contribute to a discourse aimed at rectifying the injustices faced by the Azerbaijani Turks in Iran, advocating for the protection and promotion of their fundamental human rights, underscoring the urgent necessity for action to safeguard their rights and dignity.

The information presented in this report results from extensive efforts by a network of Azerbaijani human rights activists both inside and outside Iran. This network has meticulously collected firsthand accounts, testimonies, and documented evidence of human rights abuses against Azerbaijani Turks in Iran. The information has been rigorously validated by the network and further reviewed by recognized human rights experts to ensure the accuracy and reliability of the findings.

A meticulous process is followed to ensure the accuracy and reliability of the gathered data. Multiple reliable sources, including credible news reports, public records, and other reputable sources, are consulted and cross-referenced. This multifaceted approach helps corroborate the information and establish its authenticity.

The data collection process for this report involved the effort of the network of Azerbaijani human rights activists inside Iran, comprising 16 dedicated individuals. These activists played a crucial role in collecting and disseminating information on human rights violations occurring in the Azerbaijani region of Iran.

Various sources were used to collect data, including eyewitness testimonies, accounts from the families of victims, published reports, and narratives shared by the protesters. These sources provide firsthand information and personal experiences, enabling a comprehensive understanding of the human rights situation.

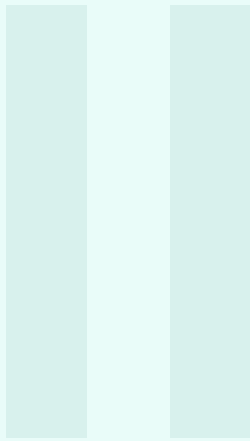
To provide a comprehensive understanding of the human rights violations faced by the Azerbaijani Turks in Iran, the collected data underwent a meticulous analysis and classification process. This ensured the information was structured, allowing for a thorough overview of the violations.

The collected data was carefully examined and organized into distinct sections, each focusing on a specific human rights violation. This classification enabled a clear and comprehensive presentation of the violations experienced by Azerbaijani Turks in Iran.

To ensure the authenticity and reliability of the collected information, the Foundation for Inclusive Society employed rigorous verification methods. This involved cross-referencing the data from different sources and channels to establish consistency and accuracy. By adopting this meticulous approach, the Foundation for Inclusive Society aimed to present a reliable and accurate portrayal of the human rights violations faced by Azerbaijani Turks in Iran.

Through the analysis and categorization of data, the report offers a comprehensive overview of the human rights situation, shedding light on the various violations and their impact. This systematic approach strives to comprehensively understand the challenges and injustices the Azerbaijani Turkish community faces in Iran.

The collaborative efforts of the Foundation for Inclusive Society, the network of Azerbaijani human rights activists, and human rights experts, and the careful verification process contribute to the credibility and integrity of the data presented in this report.



Part Two

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Detained and Released People

2.1 Detained and Released People

In Iran, the cycle of detention and release is a recurrent issue. Individuals frequently targeted for arrest include human rights activists, political activists, journalists, religious minorities, and members of marginalized communities. The government often perceives these individuals as threats to the regime. Upon detention, they typically undergo intense interrogation, face various charges, and endure extended periods of detention without formal charges or access to fair trials. Although some detainees are released due to insufficient evidence or international pressure, many remain imprisoned, often facing mistreatment or torture. This ongoing pattern of arrests and releases highlights the continuous struggles for freedom of expression and human rights in Iran.

On April 8, 2024, Arash Johari, an Azerbaijani labor activist sentenced to seven years of prison was conditionally released after serving three years and six months in Evin prison. Mr. Johari was being convicted on charges of “founding or leading an organization that aims to disrupt national security,” “assembling and colluding to act against national security,” and “propaganda against the state”. In January 2021, Branch 26 of the Tehran Revolutionary Court, presided over by Judge Iman Afshari, initially sentenced him to ten, five, and one year in prison, respectively. However, after an appeal, his sentence was reduced to seven years and six months. Due to conditional release, he has served half of his sentence.

Previously, on October 4, 2023, the plea for conditional release submitted on behalf of Arash Johari, was denied. According to the statements of his relatives, interference from security institutions in the case resulted in Arash Johari being deprived of his fundamental rights, as judicial security officials’ opposition to his conditional release extended his incarceration without leave. During his imprisonment period starting from October 21, 2020, this Azerbaijani labor rights activist was not granted any form of furlough.

On April 27, 2024, Jafar Ebrahimi was released after serving his imprisonment. Earlier, on October 31, 2023, this Azerbaijani teacher and member of the Tehran Teachers’ Union, had been granted medical leave due to his deteriorating physical condition and worsening blurred vision. He was temporarily released for medical evaluation and treatment. Ebrahimi was deprived of essential medical care and was denied transfer to a specialized hospital for treatment for a long time. Then on November 31, 2023, Jafar Ebrahimi returned to Ghezel Hesar prison upon completing his medical leave.

On September 3, before being sent on medical leave, despite urgent medical needs, Ebrahimi was transferred, along with 12 other Evin prisoners, to a security cell in Ghezel Hesar Prison, housing prisoners of serious crimes. Despite the pressing need for hospitalization and specialized medical attention, he was being kept in poor conditions within the prison.

Ebrahimi’s health deteriorated to the extent that he was required to transfer to the prison’s health center. Subsequently, he sought a brief conversation with his wife to relay information about his condition from the central guard officer’s room. However, he endured

severe beatings and verbal abuse from the deputy officer and multiple prison staff members. The physical repercussions of the assault were evident, manifesting as injuries to his neck, shoulder, body, wrist, and forehead. Despite receiving a letter from the Ghezel Hesar Health Center highlighting the worsening state of Ebrahimi's physical health and urgently recommending his transfer to a specialist doctor to mitigate the risk of blindness stemming from complications of his illness, prison officials persisted in denying the essential medical intervention required.

Jafar Ebrahimi was apprehended by security agents on April 30th, 2022, and initially confined to the Ministry of Intelligence's detention center within Evin prison (Wing 209). Despite his relatives posting bail for his release, security forces impeded any possibility of his temporary release. By early November 2022, he received a five-year prison sentence, accompanied by a two-year prohibition on engaging in activities or affiliating with groups, alongside a travel restriction. These penalties were levied against him for charges including "Assembling and colluding to act against national security" and "propaganda against the state".

On April 23, 2024, Vahid Asghari was released from the Central Prison of Tabriz by posting bail until the end of the proceeding process. On March 6, 2024, Mr. Asghari, a 12th-grade student living in Sahand city- East Azerbaijan, was arrested by the security forces in Sahand city. There is no further information about the reason for the arrest and potential charges.



Arash Johari

Tehran - Tehran



Jafar Ebrahimi

Tehran - Tehran



Vahid Asghari

East Azerbaijan - Sahand



Ferangis Fathi

East Azerbaijan- Malekan



**Akram
Kookhian**

East Azerbaijan- Malekan



**Jabrael
Pakrouh**

East Azerbaijan- Tabriz



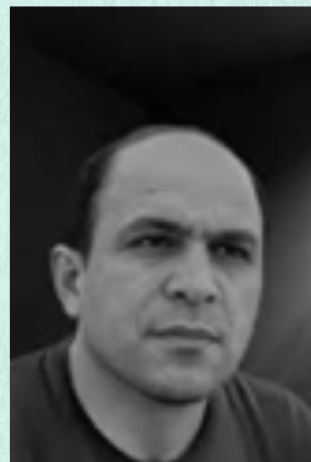
**Sayyad
Mohammadian**

Alborz - Karaj



**Akbar
Yousefi**

East Azerbaijan- Malekan



**Ali Reyhani
Kejavar**

East Azerbaijan- Tabriz

On May 12, 2024, Ferangis Fathi and Akram Kookhian, the mother and sister of Mehdi Kookhian, an Azerbaijani civil activist living in Germany, were released on May 13, 2024. They were arrested by the security forces in Malekan, East Azerbaijan. Security institutions have threatened and arrested relatives of political activists who live outside Iran as a tool to put pressure on activists abroad and try to hinder their activities.

On May 13, 2024, Jabrael Pakrouh was arrested by police security forces in East Azerbaijan, Tabriz. He was released on May 14 after posting bail from Tabriz Central Prison. On April 25, Jabrael Pakrouh was summoned by the court to appear in the first branch of the General and Revolutionary Prosecutor's Office of Tabriz within the next five days to defend the charge against him.

Earlier, Jabrael Pakrouh received a threatening phone call from the cyber police of East Azerbaijan-Tabriz. Prior incidents of violence inflicted injuries severe enough to necessitate three surgeries, primarily due to assaults by officers and blows to the head. Subsequently, Pakrouh required multiple admissions to the neurology department of Razi Hospital in Tabriz. Even after a relatively long time, he still has blurry vision, trouble balancing when standing and walking, hearing problems, a drooping right eye, weak muscles, and difficulty living normally. This harsh treatment has seriously affected Pakrouh's health and well-being.

Earlier, Jabrael Pakrouh was arrested simultaneously after being assaulted by officers from the 1st intelligence base of Tabriz and then transferred to the 14th police station of Tabriz. He was detained for a day without access to medical services or legal representation. Following his release and subsequent filing of a complaint against the offending officers, his case was brought to the 9 Branch of Tabriz General and Revolution Prosecutor's Office for examination. Eventually, it was forwarded to the 108th branch of Tabriz Criminal Court under the chairmanship of Gholamreza Mokhtari Sarai.

Despite confirming the acts of violence committed by three police officers named Youssef Safarian Choplujah, Mohammed Alinejad, and Saeed Kurd Oladi against this citizen and sentencing him to pay fines, this citizen was threatened.

On June 15, 2024, Sayyad Mohammadian was released from Karaj Central Prison after posting bail until the end of the preceding process.

On May 15, 2024, Sayyad Mohammadian, a civil activist, was arrested by the security forces in the city of Karaj. There is no detailed information about the reasons for the arrest or the title of the possible charge of this Azerbaijani activist.

On May 20, 2024, Akbar Yousefi was arrested by the security forces in Malekan city in East Azerbaijan. He was released after an hours-long interrogation in the intelligence department in Malekan city.

On May 23, 2024, Ali Reyhani Kejavar was arrested and transferred to the central prison of Tabriz due to the reaction to the death of the president of Iran, Mr. Raisi.

On May 23, 2024, the interrogation session of Yilmaz Mehralibiglou with charges of “Invitation to rally, disturbing the public opinion, ethnic and panturkist measures” was held in the first investigation branch of the General and Revolutionary Prosecutor’s Office of Jolfa City.

On June 2, 2024, Alireza Asadpour was released from Germei prison in Ardabil after posting bail. On May 24, 2024, Alireza Asadpour, an Azerbaijani civil activist, was arrested by the security forces in Jafarabad city of Ardabil province.



**Yilmaz
Mehralibiglou**

East Azerbaijan - Jolfa



Taib Lotfi

East Azerbaijan- Tabriz



**Ali Rezaei
Havastan**

Tehran-Tehran



Ehsan Faridi

East Azerbaijan- Tabriz

On June 1, 2024, Taib Lotfi, one of the leaders of the Tractor Azerbaijan soccer team, was arrested by the security forces of Tabriz city. There is no further information whereabouts and the potential charges.

On June 3, 2024, Vali Zahrabi was released from Miandoab prison in West Azerbaijan after posting bail until the end of the proceedings. Vali Zahrabi was arrested on May 23, 2024, by the security forces in Qoshachai city. The details of the arrest and charges issued against this Azerbaijani activist are not known.

In June 2024 Ali Rezaei Havastan was released after serving his 18 months prison charge from Evin prison.

He was sentenced by the 15th branch of the Tehran Revolutionary Court, headed by Judge Salvati, to five years in prison for the charge of “assembly and collusion against national security” and to one year in prison for the charge of “propaganda against the state”, for a total of 6 years in prison.

The release of Mr. Rezaei Havastan is related to the reduction and commutation of punishment related to the Eid of Ghadir Khome.

On June 21, 2024, Ehsan Faridi was arrested by the security forces in East Azerbaijan-Tabriz. He is a student of construction and production engineering at Tabriz Technical College.

This Azerbaijani student was previously arrested by the security forces in Tabriz on March 8, 2024, and after a month, he was temporarily released from prison after posting bail.

Sentenced Individuals

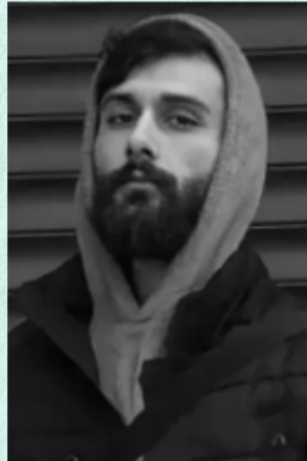
3.1 Sentenced Individuals

In Iran, numerous individuals face formal sentencing following their conviction in court. These sentences, determined by the judiciary, can range from imprisonment and fines to community service, probation, or other penalties. Sentences are handed down with varying degrees of severity, influenced by the specifics of each case and the prevailing political climate. This practice highlights the ongoing challenges to justice and human rights within the country, as many of those convicted are often human rights activists, political activists, journalists, and other marginalized individuals.



Esmail Ahmadi

East Azerbaijan - Varzeqan



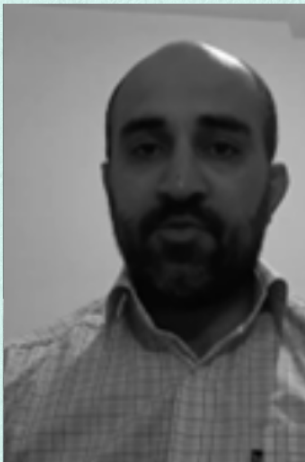
**Milad Jalili
(Elshan)**

East Azerbaijan- Tabriz



**Salar Taher
Afshar**

West Azerbaijan-Urmia



**Jamshid Azizi
Nenekaran**

Gilan-Astara



**Karim
Bostanchi**

West Azerbaijan- Urmia



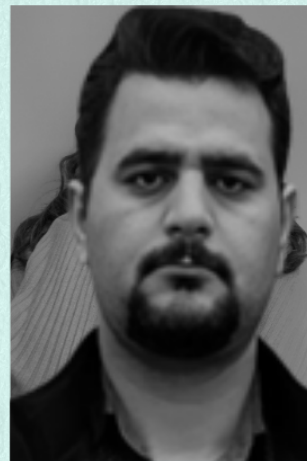
**Asghar
Faraji**

Tehran-Tehran



**Maryam
Bayramian**

East Azerbaijan-Tabriz



**Morteza
Nourmohammadi
Nadarlou**

East Azerbaijan-Shabestar

On April 7, 2024, the conviction of Esmail Ahmadi, a resident of Varzeghan, who was sentenced to 9 months in prison and 70 lashes after being charged with multiple offenses including “insulting the Islamic sanctities”, “inciting people to commit crimes/crimes against internal/external security” through “connections with enemy media outlets”, “spreading lies”, and “propaganda against the state” upon the decision of court dated February 10, 2024, was upheld by the Appeals Court of East Azerbaijan Province.

Earlier, on November 14, 2023, Ahmadi was summoned to appear at Branch 101 of the Criminal Court of Varzaghan.

On August 21, 2023, this Azerbaijani labor rights activist was detained by security forces in Varzaghan. This followed Ahmadi’s previous arrest for protesting the working conditions of miners in the Sungun copper mine in East Azerbaijan. He was released on August 24 from Ahar prison, facing charges of “disturbing public order” and “insulting the officials of the copper company” during the hearing in the prosecutor’s office.

On April 27, 2024, Karim Esmailzadeh, who had previously been sentenced to 6 months in prison upon the decision of the second branch of the Court of Appeal of East Azerbaijan dated March 12, 2024, was transferred to the hospital due to the deterioration of his physical condition.

He is serving his prison because, on March 12, 2024, the second branch of the Court of Appeal of East Azerbaijan province confirmed Karim Ismailzadeh’s sentence of 6 months in prison. Mr. Ismailzadeh was sentenced to six months in prison for the charge of "inciting and inviting people to violent acts in cyberspace".

On June 5, 2024, Milad Jalili (Elshan) went to prison to serve his 8-month sentence. The conviction of Milad Jalili (Elshan), was confirmed by the second branch of the Revolutionary Court of Tabriz, in the 32nd branch of the Court of Appeal of East Azerbaijan province. Milad Jalili (Elshan) was acquitted of the charge of "acting against national security by inciting people to riots and war and killing people". However, in initial court, he was sentenced to 8 months in prison for "propaganda activity against the Islamic Republic of Iran through the performance of political rap music for the benefit of Panturkist-separatist convicts". He was released on January 29, 2024, after posting bail until the end of the proceeding process. Before this, on November 28, 2023, Jalili was arrested in Tabriz on charges of "action against national security by inciting people to riots and war and killing people", as well as "propaganda activity against the Islamic Republic of Iran system through the performance of political rap music for the benefit of Panturkist-separatist convicts".

Jalili, known as a rapper in Azerbaijan, faced intimidation and physical violence during his arrest. On December 1, 2023, a group of rappers from Tabriz gathered in a city park to support Elshan and other detained Azerbaijani activists, demanding their release through rap performances.

On June 5, 2024, Salar Taher Afshar commenced serving his 6-month term of imprisonment. The charge brought against him was "assisting in propaganda activities against the Islamic Republic of Iran". The conviction of Salar Taher Afshar, issued by the second branch of the Revolutionary Court of Tabriz, was further upheld by Branch 32 of the Court of Appeal of East Azerbaijan province. The mentioned sentence followed his arrest by intelligence forces in Urmia - West Azerbaijan on February 6, 2024, at which time he was released on February 28, 2024, after posting bail until the end of the proceedings and a summons to the Tabriz Intelligence Center for alleged "propaganda against the system".

His history of encounters with authorities includes previous arrests and imprisonments. Prior to this, Salar Taher Afshar was released on bail on December 23, 2023, after being arrested on December 19, 2023. On July 16, 2020, he was detained after being summoned to the Intelligence and Security Police of Urmia City (9 Pilleh) due to the protests against the aggression of the Armenian army into the Republic of Azerbaijan. Additionally, on October

3, 2022, he was arrested by security forces in Kermanshah, reportedly while serving his military service there.

The cases of three fans of Tractor Azerbaijan, Samad Heydari, Amin Taghizadeh, and Hadi Gozli, were investigated by the 15th branch of investigation of Tabriz General and Revolution Prosecutor's Office, and a suspension of prosecution was issued for these people for one year. They were arrested while leaving the Sahand Stadium in Tabriz on March 13, 2024, after a match of the Azerbaijani football team, Tractor in which the team secured a victory. The day after they were released on bail.

On May 7, 2024, Jamshid Azizi Nenekaran was arrested after referring to the Astara city sentence enforcement branch and was transferred to the central prison of Astara.

Mr. Azizi Nenekaran was sentenced to 3 years, 6 months, and one day for the charge of "assembly and collusion to commit a crime against the security of the country" and 7 months and 16 days for the charge of "propaganda activity against the Islamic Republic of Iran".

This civil activist was arrested by the security forces on 15 April 2024 and was transferred to the intelligence detention center of Astara city, after 40 days of interrogation, he was released on bail. The family of this activist has refused to inform us about his condition due to threats from the security forces.

On May 24, 2024, the sentence of Karim Bostanchi, an Azerbaijani teacher, to imprisonment and payment of a fine was upheld by the Court of Appeal of West Azerbaijan province. He was charged with propaganda against the Islamic Republic system during nationwide protests in 2022.

Mr. Bostanchi was also demoted by one rank and forced into early retirement due to his support for teachers' unions, his posts on his personal Instagram page, and his criticism of government officials.

On June 8, 2024, Reza Shahabi, an Azerbaijani labor activist imprisoned in Evin prison and a member of the board of directors of the workers' union of Tehran Bus Company, was transferred to the hospital due to the deterioration of his physical condition and recurrence of lumbar disc disease.

Earlier, on December 17, 2023, Reza Shahabi was transported to the hospital due to a deterioration in his health. After being examined by the prison doctor and experiencing high blood pressure and severe headaches, he was transferred to Taleghani Hospital for further evaluation.

Following medical assessments and examinations by hospital doctors, Shahabi was subsequently returned to Evin prison. On October 17, 2023, despite the medical commission's confirmation that Reza Shahabi required urology and cardiac examinations, as well as spine surgery, authorities failed to authorize his transfer to the hospital for necessary medical procedures.

In a report submitted in support of this activist by the workers' union, it stated: "The surgeon specializing in spinal surgery informed the medical commission that due to the protrusion of the 5th and 4th vertebrae and the narrowing of the spinal canal, Shahabi needs urgent surgery. The medical commission also announced in a letter from the prison health department that to complete the medical file for surgery, they need the examination of a urologist and cardiologist at Rasool Akram Hospital".

Previously, this prominent Azerbaijani political prisoner and labor activist penned a letter to the labor representatives at the International Labor Organization summit. In this letter, he urged for the expulsion of the representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran from the summit.

Arrested on May 2nd, 2022, by security forces and later transferred to Evin prison in Tehran, Reza Shahabi was convicted by the Revolutionary Court and sentenced to six years behind bars. The charges against him included "propaganda against the system and society and collusion with the intent to commit a crime against national security".

Moreover, he received additional penalties, such as a travel ban, prohibition from political party membership, restriction from using social networks, and a mandate to refrain from residing in Tehran and its adjacent provinces for two years. This verdict was upheld by the Tehran Province Appeals Court.

On June 13, 2024, Asghar Faraji was sent on a 3-day leave from Ward 8 of Evin Prison after 2 years from the time he was transferred to prison to serve his 5-year sentence. This Azerbaijani political prisoner was deprived of specialized medical services and sent to the hospital for the treatment of his illness in Evin prison. He has previously requested parole, which has been opposed by the intervention of the security institutions from accepting the request for release of this civil activist.

Asghar Faraji, who was charged in Branch 26 of the Islamic Revolution Court in Tehran with the charges of "Assembling and colluding to act against national security", "Membership in the illegal and anti-regime group of GAMAJ", "Propaganda activity against the regime of the Islamic Republic of Iran through the distribution of the book. He was tried and sentenced to 17 years and 4 months of imprisonment and 2 years of compulsory residence in the "Dehsalam" area of Nahbadan in South Khorasan province. After protesting against the first sentence, in the appeals court, this sentence was reduced to 5 years of imprisonment.

On 22 June 2024, Maryam Bayramian was sentenced to two years in prison. Maryam Bayramian is still in prison in Tabriz prison after a year of being detained by the security forces. Ms. Bayramian, 45 years old, is the mother of 2 children and the head of the household.

Insulting the authorities and acting against national security were the charges brought against this protesting citizen of Azerbaijan, and he was sentenced to 2 years in prison by the Revolutionary Court of Tabriz.

On June 22, 2024, Hossein Nikasa, was arrested and transferred to Tabriz Central Prison to serve the prison sentence. Mr. Nikasa, a citizen of Azerbaijan, was sentenced to 8 months in prison by the Revolutionary Court of Tabriz for the crime of propaganda against the regime.

On June 25, 2024, Morteza Nourmohammadi Nadarlou a civil Azerbaijani activist- was sentenced to three months and one day in prison by the Revolutionary Court of Justice of Shabestar because of choosing an Azerbaijani-Turkish name for his child.

On May 28, 2024, Morteza Nourmohammadi Nadarlou was summoned and interrogated for a few hours during a phone call to the Security Police Department of Shabestar, East Azarbaijan.

Previously, On November 28, 2023, Morteza Nourmohammadi Nadarlou was released after posting bail, pending the conclusion of legal proceedings.

The sequence of events leading to Morteza Nourmohammadi Nadarlou's arrest began on September 9th, 2023. He was initially summoned to the registration office in Sofian City to address the process of obtaining an ID for his child. Upon his arrival at the registration office, however, he was unexpectedly detained by security forces. Subsequently, security forces accompanied him to his residence where a search was conducted, resulting in the confiscation of personal belongings, including books. He was held in intelligence detention until September 28, after which he was transferred to Tabriz Central Prison.

It's worth noting that before his arrest, Morteza Nourmohammadi Nadarlou had encountered opposition from the registration office in Sofian regarding the issuance of an ID for his child named "Hoonay," with officials objecting on the grounds of the chosen Turkish name for his child. He was sentenced to prison because of choosing a Turkish name for his child.

Exiled People

4.1 Exiled People

The Iranian government frequently resorts to exiling prominent human rights defenders and activists to remote regions within the country. This tactic serves to curtail their ability to engage in and oversee social activities, significantly reducing their influence in civil society. By relocating these individuals to distant and less accessible areas, the government effectively diminishes their role and impact, isolating them from their support networks and limiting their capacity to advocate for human rights and social justice. This practice underscores the ongoing suppression of dissent and the lengths to which the regime will go to maintain control over political and social discourse.

On May 18, 2024, Behnam Sheikhi went to Masjed Soleyman City of Khuzestan province to serve the sentence of 2 years of compulsory residence and presented himself to the execution branch of the General and Revolution Prosecutor's Office in this city.

This Azerbaijani activist is living in exile while his sentence of two



years of compulsory residence has been completed, but due to his non-attendance at the various stages of the compulsory residence in the city where he was exiled, the court in an illegal ruling extended the period of compulsory residence by another 6 months.

In March 2014, Behnam, alongside several other activists, was apprehended for participating in the observance of International Mother Language Day in Nasim Shahr city, Tehran. Later he was granted temporary bail until the completion of his trial, which allowed him to be released from custody.

In 2015, this activist was given a verdict of 10 years of imprisonment and two years of exile to Masjed Soleyman in the Khuzestan province. The charge against him was "participating in the formation of a crowd with the intent to disrupt the security of the country," as issued by the first branch of the Revolutionary Court in Baharestan city. However, during the appeal stage, the sentence was reduced to two years of imprisonment and an additional two years of exile.

security forces apprehended Behnam at his workplace in Tehran on July 21, 2020, and he was immediately transferred to the Evin prison to serve his sentence. He was informed of a conditional release in August 2022 while he was on temporary leave.

Individuals subjected to capital punishment

5.1 Individuals subjected to capital punishment

Government news agencies often assert that individuals executed in Iran were those who had been convicted of serious charges such as drug smuggling and murder, striving to legitimize their execution. However, Amnesty International has strongly condemned the use of the death penalty, deeming it an inhumane form of punishment and advocating for the complete abolition of execution sentences in Iran.

Ethnic minorities in Iran face a disproportionately high rate of executions compared to other regions. Research and monitoring by the Iran Human Rights Organization reveal that in 2023, at least 171 Baloch prisoners were executed, accounting for 21% of all executions in the country. This stark disparity highlights the systemic targeting and discrimination faced by ethnic minorities within Iran's judicial system.

On May 2, 2024, Yaghoub Amiri was executed in Ardabil Central Prison. Yaghoub Amiri, 4 years ago was arrested for drug-related charges and sentenced to death by the judicial system of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

On May 18, 2024, the death sentence of Fardin Mousazadeh and Mehdi Khadem, who were previously sentenced to death for drug-related crimes, was executed in Ardabil Central Prison.

Fardin Mousazadeh 5 years ago and Mehdi Khadim 4 years ago were arrested for drug-related charges and sentenced to death by the judicial system of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

On June 22 2024 The death sentence of Nategh Hosseini, who was previously sentenced to death for the charge of "murder". Nategh Hosseini was charged with murdering someone three years ago. At that time, Nategh got into a fight with the victim during the house transaction and accidentally hit the victim's head on the wall and died.

It should be noted that the victim's family requested that the 7-year-old son of Natiq be present during the execution of the sentence. His family took the child with them, hoping that the child's presence would increase the likelihood of satisfaction. Finally, this prisoner was executed in front of his young child.

On June 12, 2024, the death sentence of Homayoun Salami, who was previously sentenced to death for drug-related crimes, was executed in Hamadan Central Prison.

On June 15, 2024, the death sentence of a prisoner identified as Farhad Masoudian, who was previously sentenced to death for drug-related crimes, was executed in Zanzan Central Prison.

Farhad Masoudian was arrested three years ago on charges related to drug crimes and was sentenced to death.

Summoned People

6.1 Summoned People

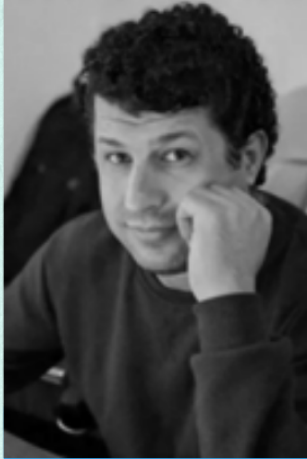
Summoning human rights activists to the intelligence department maintains importance in the Iranian government's means of stifling their activities. Although, according to national legislation, the summons have to be delivered in written form, Iranian Intelligence agents, common facilitators of this practice, resort to informal methods such as phone calls or verbal invitations.

On April 8, 2024, Alireza Farshi Dizaj Yekanli was summoned to the Marand City Revolution Prosecutor's Office in East Azerbaijan province. The charge of this Azerbaijani civil activist is "propaganda against the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran".

Previously, on February 5, 2024, Alireza Farshi Dizaj Yekanli was summoned to the first investigation branch of Baharestan City, Tehran province, to defend himself against the charge of 'propaganda against the regime'. Subsequently, on March 5, 2024, he received electronic notification from the Judiciary stating the closure of the remaining portion of his 2-year mandatory residence sentence in Baghemolk City, Khuzestan province, inclusive of amnesty provisions.

On December 25, 2023, Yekanli revealed that the intelligence department had initiated a new case against him, and charged him with "propaganda against the Islamic Republic of Iran". This case was opened in the first investigation branch of the General and Revolutionary Prosecutor's Office of Baharestan, Tehran province.

On September 4th, 2023, Yekanli also received a phone call summoning him to the Cyber Police in Marand, East Azerbaijan. The officers from the Cyber Police in Marand requested his presence at the Marand Police Intelligence, under the command of Sergeant Rasti. Farshi refused to comply with the summons, citing perceived illegality.



Alireza Farshi

East Azerbaijan-Marand



**Suleyman
Mohammadi**

Ardabil-Ardabil



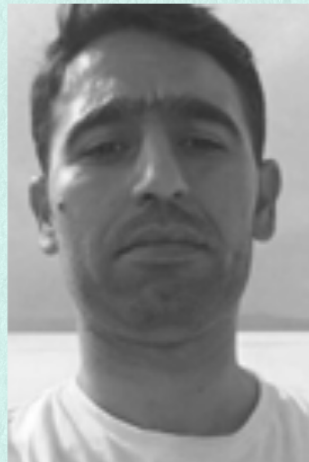
Vadood Asadi

Gilan-Rasht



**Ebrahim
Rashidi**

Ardabil- Meshgin Shahr



Said Minaii

East Azerbaijan-Bonab



Davood Shiri

East Azerbaijan - Tabriz

It's worth noting that Alireza Farshi Dizaj Yekanli was released from Evin Prison after serving three years and three months of his four-year sentence, as part of the "Amnesty and Reduction of Public Punishment" order. Initially, he was sentenced to two years of imprisonment and two years in exile by the 54th branch of the Tehran Court of Appeal. This sentence stemmed from his participation in the "World Mother Language Day" ceremony in Baharestan City, Tehran. Additionally, he received a three-year and six-month prison term from Branch 36 of the Court of Appeal of Tehran Province, on charges of "gathering and collusion against national security" and "propaganda against the regime". His arrest occurred on July 21, 2019, leading to his incarceration in Evin Prison.

On April 17, 2024, Suleyman Mohammadi was summoned to the 5th investigation branch of the Public and Revolutionary Prosecutor's Office of the 33rd Shahid Moghaddis district of "Tehran Security".

Suleyman Mohammadi, upon arrest, was transferred to the detention center of the Intelligence Department located in Evin Prison. He faces charges of "Association and conspiracy to commit a crime against internal/external security". He was released after posting bail until the end of the preceding process.

On April 17, Vadood Asadi and Said Minaii were summoned to the 5th branch of the investigation of the General and Revolutionary Prosecutor's Office of the 33rd District Tehran Security. In the subpoena issued by the Fifth Investigation Branch of the General and Revolutionary Prosecutor's Office of the 33rd Martyr of "Tehran Security", Mr. Vadood Asadi and Said Minaii requested to submit a final defense within five days regarding the charge of "gathering and colluding against the country's security" to appear to mention the branch.

On May 12, 2024, Vali Zohrabi, a civil activist from Azerbaijan, was summoned to the Miandoab Security Police Department during a phone call and was interrogated for several hours. He was released after hours.

On May 13, 2024, Ebrahim Rashidi, an Azerbaijani journalist and activist, was summoned to the first branch of the Public Prosecutor's Office of Meshgin Shahr to present his last defense. Then, he was released. The charge against this Azerbaijani civil activist was stated in the notification sent as "spreading false news (to disturb the public opinion)" and he was asked to appear at the mentioned branch within five days.

His arrest on December 30, 2023, by intelligence forces marked another instance of harassment due to his civil activities, a pattern he has endured with previous summonses, threats, and arrests.

After completing interrogation on January 15, 2024, Rashidi was transferred to the Intelligence Department's detention center in Ardabil City, following initial charges of "propaganda against the state". Officials from the General and Revolutionary Prosecutor's Office of Meshgin Shahr cautioned Rashidi's family against reporting his case. They warned that doing so could exacerbate his situation and advised against publicizing any news about him.

On February 22, 2024, Ebrahim Rashidi was released from Meshgin Shahr prison after posting bail, pending the conclusion of legal proceedings.

On June 2, 2024, Hamid Purvali, another Azerbaijani civil activist, was summoned to Branch 108 of the Tabriz Criminal Court on charges of "disturbing public order through participation in illegal gatherings."

On June 1, 2024, Jalal Dehghani was summoned to Branch 108 of the Criminal Court of Tabriz to deal with the charges. The charge against this Azerbaijani civil activist is a "complaint against him regarding disturbance of public order and disruption of public order through participation in illegal gatherings."

On June 4, 2024, Mohammad Ali Rezaei was summoned by the second branch of the Revolutionary Court of Tabriz. The reason for the summon remains unknown.

On June 12 Davood Shiri was summoned by the second branch of Tabriz Revolutionary

Court. His charges were mentioned in the summons issued as “Propaganda against the system of the Islamic Republic and gathering and conspiring to commit a crime against internal/external security (starting gathering and colluding to commit a crime against internal security) and indulging in the opposing populations of the country (membership in separatist groups)”

On May 18, 2023, he was arrested by the security forces after one month they were temporarily released on bail until the end of the proceedings.

On June 15, 2024, Behzad Khodabandelu was summoned by 103 the branch of the criminal court of Miandoab city. Mr. Khodabandelou’s charges were mentioned in the summons issued as “propaganda in favor of groups and organizations opposing the Islamic Republic of Iran”, “disturbing the public opinion” and “propaganda against the state”.

Threatened

7.1 Threatened

Mahmoud Ojaghrou, after serving 19 months of his sentence, remains deprived of leave and is currently held in Ward 4 of Evin Prison. Recently, he has also faced threats of new charges being fabricated against him by security forces.

Mahmoud Ojaghrou received five years in prison for the charges of "assembly and collusion to commit a crime" and "being a member of one of the opposition groups to disrupt the security of the country". Additionally, he was sentenced to another five years in prison for the charge of "inciting people to war and killing each other to disrupt the security of the country" and one year for "propaganda against the regime".

Arrested on December 11, 2022, Mahmoud Ojaghrou was also verbally informed of additional penalties, including a two-year prohibition on "membership in political parties, groups, and organizations" and "activity in cyberspace, media, and press". Moreover, he faces a two-year travel ban.

Recommendations

Based on the documented human rights violations against Azerbaijani Turks in Iran during the second quarter of 2024, the international community and human rights organizations must intensify their efforts to monitor and report on these abuses. There should be stronger advocacy for the immediate and unconditional release of detainees held for peaceful activism and expression. Additionally, international pressure must be exerted on the Iranian government to adhere to fair trial standards, halt the practice of arbitrary detention, and ensure that all individuals, particularly those from marginalized communities, are granted their fundamental human rights. Furthermore, specific attention should be given to the provision of adequate medical care for imprisoned activists and the cessation of retaliatory measures against the families of activists abroad. Enhanced diplomatic engagement and targeted sanctions against those responsible for these violations could also serve as effective measures to address and mitigate the ongoing human rights abuses in Iran.

To address the human rights violations against sentenced individuals in Iran, particularly Azerbaijani Turks, it is essential to enhance international monitoring and advocacy to ensure fair trials and legal protections. Condemnation of torture and inhumane treatment

must be unequivocal, with urgent attention to medical neglect in prisons. Long-term efforts should focus on legal reforms to decriminalize activism while supporting released individuals through robust reintegration programs. Highlighting the disproportionate targeting of ethnic minorities and leveraging diplomatic engagement can further promote justice and equality, emphasizing the importance of cultural and ethnic diversity within Iran.

Furthermore, the Iranian government must abolish the death penalty and exile charges and impose a moratorium on all executions. Capital punishment and exile sentences flagrantly violate fundamental human rights, undermining the inherent dignity and right to life of every individual. Abolishing the death penalty and exile sentences are essential for promoting and upholding human rights standards in Iran and fostering a more just and humane society.

Contact Information

www.inclusivevision.org

Email: secretary@inclusivevision.org

