

QUARTERLY REPORT
OCTOBER-DECEMBER 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 addresses human rights violations against Azerbaijani Turks in Iran during the fourth quarter of 2024 (October, November, and December). The first section focuses on the detention of 12 individuals, some of whom have been released on bail pending the completion of legal proceedings.

The second part of the report discusses 17 individuals who have been sentenced, detailing various prison terms and fines. It also provides updates on an individual previously sentenced and currently serving their imprisonment. The third part focuses on an exiled individual who refuses to comply with exile laws and has been fined.

The next part of the report describes the execution of 45 Azerbaijanis by the Iranian government between October and November 2024, including five women. This harsh and extensive use of the death penalty highlights the Iranian government's systemic reliance on inhumane and irreversible punishment as a tool for control and suppression. These executions, often following unfair trials, are carried out in prisons across the country and disproportionately target vulnerable populations. The 'Denial of Medical Care' section highlights the urgent health needs and mistreatment of imprisoned Azerbaijani activists, previously detailed in Part Two for their charges and accusations, with a focus on those who have been intentionally denied access to medical care.

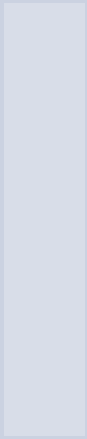
The 'Restrictions on Issuance of ID Certificates for Children' section examines the systematic denial of identification documents for children, particularly those from marginalized ethnic groups such as the Baluch and Azerbaijani communities. It highlights specific cases where families encountered obstacles in registering culturally significant names, emphasizing the broader human rights implications of this discriminatory practice.

The 'Recommendations' section urges the Iranian government to immediately halt inhumane execution sentences, particularly for non-violent crimes. It calls for international pressure on Iran to uphold fundamental rights, end arbitrary detentions, and release political prisoners. The international community is urged to hold the Iranian government accountable, demand fair trials, and advocate for the abolition of the death penalty as a tool of political repression.

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Part One

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Introduction

1.1 Introduction

This report highlights human rights abuses, focusing on the Azerbaijani provinces in Iran. It draws attention to the alarming lack of focus by human rights organizations on Azerbaijani-populated cities. Despite overwhelming evidence, the Iranian administration continues to deny the existence of human rights violations in the country. By publishing these quarterly reports, we aim to raise awareness and strengthen efforts to support those subjected to extreme injustice.

The Iranian government has never published official demographic statistics on ethnic and linguistic groups. Azerbaijani Turks represent the largest ethnic minority in Iran, with estimates of their population ranging from 23% to 37%¹. Iranian authorities have also acknowledged the size of the Turkic ethnic group in the country. During his official visit to Turkey in January 2011, former Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Salehi stated, “Forty percent of Iranians speak Turkish. We speak almost the same language. This is a significant link between Turkey and Iran.” of reprisal.

Azerbaijani Turks and other non-Persian ethnic groups in Iran have faced systematic discrimination since the establishment of the Pahlavi dynasty in 1925, marking the beginning of an exclusive nation-building process. This systemic inequality has manifested through cultural repression, a lack of education in their native languages, and limited political representation. These grievances persisted after the Islamic Revolution of 1979, becoming increasingly complex as the new government intensified efforts to forge a unified national identity.

¹Secretary of the Council of Public Culture Mansour Va'ez, Islamic Republic of Iran, Asgharzadeh, A. (2008). Iran and the challenge of diversity: Islamic fundamentalism, nationalism, and the state. Palgrave Macmillan.

As a result, non-Persian groups continue to grapple with long-standing injustices and new forms of repression, striving for recognition and rights within the broader Iranian state.

Many individuals, particularly from marginalized communities, have faced severe consequences for exercising their rights to peaceful assembly and free speech due to systemic discrimination. The Iranian government frequently responds to criticism with punitive measures such as arbitrary incarceration and economic sanctions against activists, creating a hostile environment that discourages people from speaking out or supporting social justice initiatives.

1.2 Methodology

The primary aim of this report is to highlight specific instances of human rights violations experienced by Azerbaijani Turks in Iran. It documents a range of abuses, including detentions and releases, forced exiles, and disproportionately severe punitive measures such as executions. Beyond documentation, the report provides actionable recommendations to address these violations, focusing on promoting accountability, justice, and the protection of fundamental human rights. By emphasizing these issues, the report seeks to contribute to a broader discourse to rectify the injustices faced by Azerbaijani Turks, advocating for their rights and dignity.

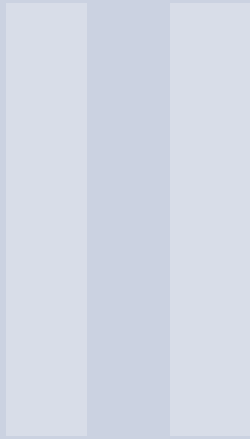
The findings in this report result from extensive efforts by a network of Azerbaijani human rights activists within and outside Iran. This network meticulously collected firsthand accounts, testimonies, and documented evidence of human rights abuses. To ensure the accuracy and reliability of these findings, the data underwent rigorous validation by the network and review by recognized human rights experts.

A meticulous process was followed to verify the authenticity and reliability of the data. Multiple reliable sources, including eyewitness testimonies, credible news reports, public records, and family accounts of victims, were consulted and cross-referenced. This multi-faceted approach enabled the corroboration of information and established its authenticity. The data collection process involved the efforts of 16 dedicated Azerbaijani human rights activists within Iran, who played a crucial role in gathering and disseminating information on violations in Azerbaijani-populated regions. Their work was complemented by the contributions of protesters and victims' families, providing firsthand narratives and insights into the human rights situation.

The collected data underwent a detailed analysis and classification process to ensure a comprehensive understanding. The information was structured into sections, each focusing on specific human rights violations. This systematic approach allowed for a clear and organized presentation of the challenges faced by Azerbaijani Turks in Iran. The Foundation for Inclusive Society employed rigorous verification methods to ensure the credibility of the data. Cross-referencing multiple sources and channels helped establish consistency and accuracy. By adopting this meticulous approach, the Foundation sought to present an accurate portrayal of the violations faced by Azerbaijani Turks.

Through thorough analysis and categorization, this report offers a comprehensive overview

of the human rights situation in Azerbaijani-populated regions, shedding light on the violations and their impacts. The collaborative efforts of the Foundation for Inclusive Society, the network of Azerbaijani human rights activists, and human rights experts enhance the credibility and integrity of the findings 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 remains a pervasive issue. Human rights activists, political figures, journalists, religious minorities, and members of marginalized communities are frequently targeted for arrest, as the government perceives them as threats to the regime. Detainees often endure harsh interrogations, face dubious charges, and are held for prolonged periods without formal charges or access to fair trials. While some are released due to insufficient evidence and/or international pressure, many remain imprisoned, frequently subjected to mistreatment and torture. This ongoing pattern highlights the systemic suppression of freedom of expression and the persistent violations of human rights in Iran.

On December 15, IRGC intelligence forces raided the home of Azerbaijani civil activist **Ali Radmanesh**. In his absence, they arrested his son, Nima Radmanesh, in an apparent attempt to pressure Ali Radmanesh into surrendering himself to the intelligence department. Ali Radmanesh is known for his peaceful civil activities, which have drawn the attention and retaliation of security forces. Detaining his son appears to be a tactic aimed at coercing the activists to comply with their demands.

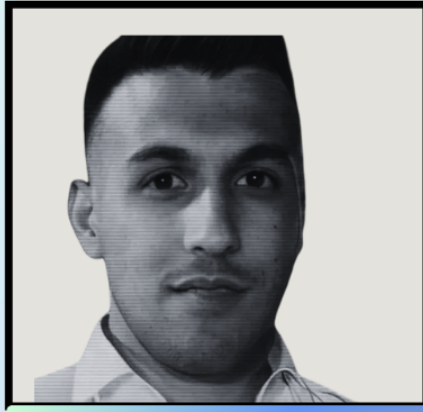
On December 15, IRGC intelligence forces stormed the home of Azerbaijani activist **Hossein Esmailzadeh** in Tabriz, detaining him and transferring him to an unknown location. This action is part of the ongoing pressure and repressive measures against activists in Iran. The IRGC also targeted his workplace in Tabriz, intensifying their efforts to suppress his activities.

On December 3, **Vahid Abhari** was detained by unidentified forces in Tabriz. Witnesses reported that at least seven individuals were involved in the arrest, during which he was subjected to severe physical assault, including being beaten with a baton. Abhari was blindfolded, his hands tied behind his back, and forcibly placed into a vehicle, where further abuse occurred, resulting in injuries such as a dislocated thumb and elbow. Despite visible injuries, no medical attention was provided to Vahid Abhari during his detention at the Khoshk prison facility. He spent a week in solitary confinement under intense interrogation before being released on bail. His personal belongings were confiscated, including his car, work tools, phone, and other valuables. This incident raises serious concerns about the excessive use of force and the denial of medical care during detentions. As a civil activist, Abhari was likely detained due to his peaceful activism.



Nima Radmanesh

East Azerbaijan- Tabriz



Hossein Esmailzadeh

East Azerbaijan- Tabriz



Vahid Abhari

East Azerbaijan- Tabriz



Reza Tabrizi

East Azerbaijan- Tabriz



Armita Pavir

East Azerbaijan- Tabriz



Javid Nazmi

East Azerbaijan- Tabriz



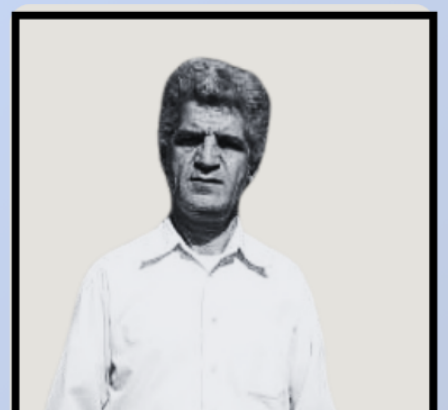
Negar Dabbaghi

East Azerbaijan- Tabriz



Yusuf Kari

Ardabil- Ardabil



Ebrahim Asamani

East Azerbaijan- Tabriz

On November 29, **Reza Tabrizi** was arrested by the intelligence forces. Civil activists have expressed concerns about his physical health, emphasizing the urgent need for immediate attention to his well-being amidst allegations of abuse suffered by inmates during and after detention. Tabrizi, a rapper and composer, is well-known for his socially and politically charged tracks. His album Vatan, which refers to Iranian Azerbaijan, addresses issues surrounding the rights and struggles of the Azerbaijani community.

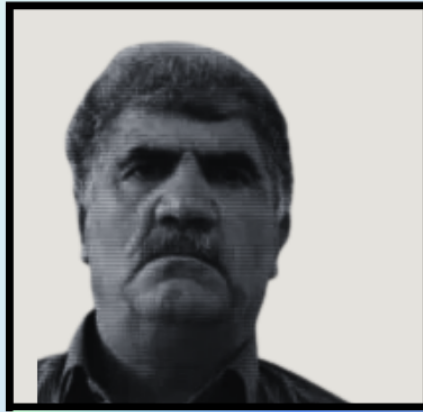
November 26, **Javid Nazmi**, was arrested by the IRGC Intelligence and later transferred to Tabriz Central Prison. He was subsequently released on bail. Nazmi is a civil activist who has been detained multiple times due to his peaceful activities.

Negar Dabbaaghi, a 17-year-old from Tabriz, was detained on November 13 on charges including propaganda against the regime, insulting Islamic sanctities, encouraging acts against internal and external security, and insulting officials and leaders of the Islamic Republic. Reports indicate that her arrest was based on 'forced confessions' and the contents of her mobile phone. She was held for nearly two weeks in Tabriz Central Prison on these security-related allegations before being released on November 26 after posting bail.

On October 28, Azerbaijani civil activist **Yusuf Kari** was detained by security forces and transferred to Police Station 14 in Ardabil, where he was beaten by officers, including Sergeant Reza Hossein Zadeh. Kari, who lost his job due to his activism and turned to street vending for survival, has been repeatedly targeted by authorities. After his arrest, he was taken to a forensic office but, instead of having his injuries documented, he was sent to a psychiatric room. Human rights advocates view this as part of a 'madness-labeling' strategy, in which the government attempts to discredit activists by labeling them mentally unstable. Following this, Kari was brought to the Public and Revolutionary Prosecutor's Office in Ardabil. Deputy Prosecutor Hossein Salari asked him to seek a pardon in exchange for his release. Kari refused, stating, 'I have committed no illegal act. The security forces beat and tortured me, and in this case, I am the victim, not the accused.' In response, the Deputy Prosecutor insulted him and ordered security officers to handcuff him to the railings in the cold courtyard of the prosecutor's office for hours as punishment.



Ovchoo Mohammadian
Alborz-Karaj



Jabraeil Pakrouh
East Azerbaijan- Tabriz



Vadud Asadi
Rasht-Rasht



Afshin Naziri
Tehran-Tehran



**Mohammadreza
Faghihi**
Tehran-Tehran



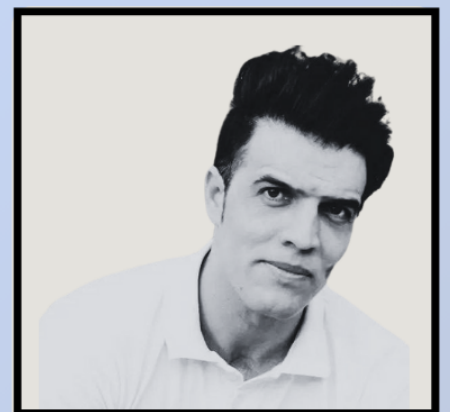
Morteza Parvin
Tehran-Tehran



Taher Naghavi
Tehran-Tehran



Araz Aman
Tehran-Tehran



Bagher Hajizadeh
Tehran-Tehran



Amir Badri
Tehran-Tehran



Narges Mohammadi
Tehran-Tehran



**Abdulaziz Azimi
Ghadim**
Tehran-Tehran



Hossein Piri
Tehran-Tehran



Salar Taher Afshar
West Azerbaijan- Urmia



Ayaz Seyfkhah
Tehran-Tehran

When Kari protested this inhumane treatment, he was further beaten and exposed to tear gas by security forces. According to family reports, one officer inflicted additional violence during this incident. He was later transferred to the Ardabil Intelligence Department's detention center, where he underwent a medical examination to assess injuries from baton strikes to his head and forehead. On November 21, Mr. Kari was ultimately released on bail from Ardabil Central Prison.

On November 2, **Amirhossein Faraji**, a young supporter of the Tractor Azerbaijan football team, was arrested by security forces during the match between Tractor Azerbaijan and Esteghlal Tehran. He was later released.

On October 14, **Ali Razizadeh** was released from Evin Prison after serving a one-year sentence. He had been sentenced by Branch 15 of the Tehran Revolutionary Court to two years of imprisonment, along with a two-year ban on membership in groups and a two-year travel ban, on charges of 'membership in a group opposing the regime with the intent to disrupt national security.' In October of last year, the Tehran Provincial Court of Appeals upheld his sentence, suspending one year of the two-year prison term for five years.

Ebrahim Asamani was arrested by intelligence agents during the funeral of Azerbaijani writer Zohre Vafaei and interrogated for several days at the Tabriz Intelligence Office before being transferred to the Central Prison. He was later released on bail. In a phone call to his family from Tabriz Prison, Asamani disclosed that he had been tortured during the interrogations, resulting in injuries to his leg.

On December 12, Tabriz student activist **Armita Pavir** was freed from Tabriz Central Prison after completing her 15-month sentence. During her imprisonment, Pavir, an expelled student from Azerbaijan Civil University, went on several hunger strikes to protest mistreatment by the authorities. Previously, on June 28, 2023, Pavir, a biology student at Madani University, was apprehended by security forces. The reasons for her arrest or details of her circumstances at the time remained unknown.

This was not her first detention; on October 31, 2022, she was initially arrested in front of Madani University by intelligence forces. After posting bail, Pavir was released on December 8, 2022, with the condition that she would attend all judicial proceedings until their conclusion. During her detention, starting November 22, 2022, Pavir began a hunger strike to protest the lack of transparency and due process in her case. She was regularly transferred between Tabriz Central Prison and the Tabriz Intelligence Department for questioning. Throughout her detention, Pavir was denied the right to visit her family and the right to make phone calls, highlighting the harsh conditions and mistreatment she endured.

Sentenced Individuals

3.1 Sentenced Individuals

In Iran, many individuals receive formal sentences after being convicted in court. These sentences, determined by the judiciary, can include imprisonment, fines, community service, probation, and/or other penalties. The severity of the sentences varies depending on the details of each case and the political climate at the time of sentencing. This practice reflects the ongoing challenges to justice and human rights in the country, as those convicted are often human rights activists, political figures, journalists, and other marginalized groups.

On May 15, **Ovchoo Mohammadian** was arrested by intelligence forces at his residence in Karaj. He was unlawfully detained for 30 days before being released on June 15 after posting bail. Later, the Karaj Revolutionary Court sentenced him to six months of imprisonment on charges of 'propaganda against the regime.' This sentence was upheld in full by the Alborz Provincial Court of Appeals. On November 25, Mohammadian was re-arrested by intelligence forces and transferred to Kachouei Prison in Karaj to serve his six-month sentence.

Jabraeil Pakrouh has been sentenced to six months in prison by Branch 109 of the Second Criminal Court of Tabriz on charges of spreading false news on social media. The verdict, issued in absentia, marks the latest development in a series of legal and physical ordeals Pakrouh has endured. Previously, on May 13, 2024, Pakrouh was arrested by police security forces in Tabriz, East Azerbaijan. He was released the following day, on May 14, after posting bail from Tabriz Central Prison. This arrest followed an earlier court summons on April 25, when Pakrouh was ordered to appear before the first branch of the General and Revolutionary Prosecutor's Office of Tabriz within five days to defend against the charges. Before this, Pakrouh had received a threatening phone call from the cyber police of East Azerbaijan-Tabriz. He had already suffered severe injuries from prior incidents of violence inflicted by officers from the 1st Intelligence Base of Tabriz. These assaults caused significant health issues, including head injuries that necessitated three surgeries. As a result, Pakrouh faced long-term complications, such as blurry vision, balance problems, hearing loss, a drooping right eye, muscle weakness, and difficulty performing daily activities. He required multiple admissions to the neurology department of Razi Hospital in Tabriz due to the severe impact on his health and well-being.

In an earlier incident, Pakrouh was assaulted by intelligence officers and subsequently detained at the 14th Police Station in Tabriz. He was held for a day without access to medical care or legal representation. After his release, Pakrouh filed a complaint against the offending officers, and the case was forwarded to Branch 9 of the Tabriz General and Revolutionary Prosecutor's Office for examination. It was eventually transferred to Branch 108 of the Tabriz Criminal Court, presided over by Gholamreza Mokhtari Sarai. Despite the court confirming acts of violence by three police officers—Youssef Safarian Choplujah, Mohammed Alinejad, and Saeed Kurd Oladi—and ordering them to pay fines, Pakrouh continued to face threats. This pattern of mistreatment and intimidation has further compounded the harm inflicted upon him, reflecting ongoing systemic issues in the handling of such cases.

On October 29, **Afshin Naziri**, an Azerbaijani civil and environmental activist, was transferred to Evin Prison to serve his sentence. Naziri is widely recognized for his tireless efforts in responding to natural disasters across Azerbaijan and for protesting the pollution

of the Araz River. Previously, on August 28, 2023, he was arrested by Ministry of Intelligence forces at his father's house in Tehran and transferred to Evin Prison. During the arrest, Naziri was beaten in front of his family, exemplifying the harsh treatment he has endured due to his activism.

Karam Mardaneh, currently imprisoned in Evin Prison, has been sentenced by Branch 15 of the Tehran Revolutionary Court to 5 years in prison, with 2 years of the sentence suspended. This ruling is part of a broader wave of recent convictions targeting Azerbaijani activists in Iran.

Branch 36 of the Tehran Court of Appeals has upheld the five-year prison sentence, a two-year disqualification from practicing law, and a two-year travel ban issued against Azerbaijani lawyer **Mohammadreza Faghihi** by Branch 15 of the Tehran Revolutionary Court. The case has now been referred to the Execution of Sentences Office for implementation. Faghihi was initially arrested on October 12, 2022, by security forces during a gathering of lawyers protesting the "violation of the rights of protesters and Article 27 of the Constitution" outside the Central Lawyers' Association in Argentina Square, Tehran. He was released on bail on October 25, 2022, pending the conclusion of the legal proceedings. In a subsequent ruling, Branch 29 of the Revolutionary Court sentenced Faghihi to more than 10 years of imprisonment and occupational and social exclusions. This sentence was upheld in its entirety by Branch 36 of the Tehran Court of Appeals. On October 19, 2023, despite the investigator at Branch 7 of the Evin Prosecutor's Office recommending a restraining order, Faghihi's case was forwarded to Branch 15 of the Tehran Revolutionary Court on charges of assembly, collusion, and disturbing public order.

According to his defense lawyer, Mahmoud Behzadi Rad, the investigator at Branch 7 of the Shahid Moghdas Courthouse had initially issued a non-prosecution order after Faghihi's final defense. However, the case was not closed. Judge Salvati of Branch 15 requested Faghihi to submit a letter of commitment and an expression of remorse. While Faghihi complied, pledging to abide by the country's laws and regulations as he had in the past, the court rejected the letter, claiming it lacked an explicit expression of remorse. Consequently, the case remains under investigation.

Previously, on October 10, 2023, Faghihi had been summoned to Branch 15 of the Revolutionary Court to defend against impeachment charges, as well as charges of assembly, collusion, and disturbing public order. Despite the legal proceedings and rulings, his case continues to highlight the broader systemic issues faced by lawyers and activists in Iran. Morteza Parvin has been sentenced to six years in prison and two years of social rights deprivation by the Tehran Revolutionary Court. He was convicted on charges of 'association and conspiracy to commit a crime against internal and external security' and 'propaganda against the system.' Parvin is currently in the ninth month of his detention at Evin Prison. Following his objection to the court's ruling, the case is set to be reviewed by the Court of Appeals.

Taher Naghavi, a lawyer, was sentenced by Branch 15 of the Revolutionary Court to five years in prison on charges of conspiracy and collusion, one year for propaganda against the system, and an additional two-year travel ban and deprivation of social rights, including membership in political parties. Following Naghavi's objection to the ruling, the case will be reviewed by the Court of Appeals.

On October 16, Branch 15 of the Revolutionary Court, presided over by Judge Abolghasem Salavati, issued prison sentences for several individuals. **Araz Aman Zeynabad, Bagher Hajzadeh, and Ayaz Seyfkah Kalankesh** each received thirteen years in prison, while Abdulaziz Azimi Ghadim was sentenced to six years. Hossein Piri was sentenced to five years, Salar Taher Afshar to five years, Kamal Nouri to three years with two years suspended, and Vadud Asadi to five and a half years. They were convicted on charges of 'assembly and collusion to commit crimes against internal and external security,' 'propaganda against the Islamic Republic,' and 'espionage.' These heavy and unjust sentences reflect the court's harsh stance under Judge Salavati. Following objections to the rulings, All the cases will be reviewed by the Court of Appeals. Sina Yousefi, an Azerbaijani lawyer with many years of experience in similar cases, stated the following regarding the unfair sentence faced by Azerbaijani activists:

"According to the principle of territorial jurisdiction, the competent authority to handle a case is the location where the accused committed the alleged crime. In this case, none of

the detained activists are residents of or based in Tehran, nor have they engaged in activities in Tehran that would justify legal prosecution. Therefore, the Tehran court lacks jurisdiction to hear this case. Additionally, none of the exceptions to the principle of territorial jurisdiction, such as the nature of the charge, additional jurisdiction, or referral, are applicable in this matter. As a result, the trial of these individuals in Branch 15 of the Revolutionary Court, presided over by Judge Salavati, is without legal basis. The detained individuals are well-known activists recognized for their peaceful and lawful activities. These individuals, residing in various cities such as Tabriz, Urmia, Rasht, Karaj, and Qom, have consistently engaged in political, civil, cultural, and linguistic activities within the bounds of the law. However, the charge of collusion and assembly brought against them is fundamentally baseless. These activists hail from different cities in Azerbaijan, with many meeting each other for the first time in detention. Therefore, attributing such a charge to them contradicts the nature of the alleged crime, as the material element of the offense—which involves gathering and agreeing to commit a specific crime against national security—is entirely absent.

Furthermore, the court has unjustly imposed the maximum penalty without providing legal justification. Some of these activists have also been held in temporary detention for nearly nine months despite the completion of preliminary investigations, amounting to punishment prior to trial, which disregards all legislative regulations." Amir Badri was sentenced to pay a fine on charges of anti-government propaganda for publishing content on social media. This student activist from the South Azerbaijan national movement was convicted, during a session at the First Branch of the Revolutionary Court in Tabriz. He was fined as an alternative to a three-month prison sentence due to publishing images and content on social media critical of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The court's ruling was not directly communicated to him via the judicial notification system but was instead conveyed through a copy by his lawyer.

On December 4, **Narges Mohammadi**, Nobel Peace Prize laureate and prominent human rights activist, posted bail and was temporarily released on medical leave for 21 days to prevent the execution of her prison sentence.

Her release was based on a decision by the Tehran Prosecutor's Office, following a recommendation from the Forensic Medicine Organization. Mostafa Nili, her attorney, explained that Mohammadi's medical condition, including recovery from a bone graft and tumor removal surgery performed 21 days earlier, necessitated her release. While the tumor was benign, she requires ongoing medical evaluations every three months.

Mohammadi has long faced systemic denial of medical care. On multiple occasions, she was prevented from undergoing necessary procedures such as angiography and other health evaluations. Despite her breast tumor, heart issues, and chronic back pain, she was only sent from Evin Prison to the hospital for treatment on October 27, 2024.

A leading advocate for freedom and justice in Iran, Mohammadi has faced relentless legal persecution over the years. In May 2021, after being released from Zanjan Prison under a sentence reduction law, she was convicted by Branch 1177 of the Criminal Court Two, Qods Judicial Complex, Tehran. She was sentenced to 30 months in prison, 80 lashes, and two fines for a case opened during her prior imprisonment. Later that year, in October 2021, she was rearrested during a memorial for Ebrahim Ketabdar, a victim of the November 2019 protests. Branch 26 of the Tehran Revolutionary Court sentenced her to 8 years in prison, 74 lashes, two years of exile, and additional social restrictions.

Her legal challenges continued in 2022 and 2023. In September 2022, she received a 15-month prison sentence and additional penalties from Branch 26 of the Tehran Revolutionary Court for a case initiated during her detention. In August 2023, the court issued another one-year prison sentence. In December 2023, she was further sentenced by Branch 26, presided over by Judge Iman Afshari, to 15 months in prison, two years of exile outside Tehran and neighboring provinces, a two-year travel ban, a prohibition on political and social group membership, and a ban on smartphone use, all under charges of "propaganda against the regime."

The pressure on Mohammadi intensified in 2024 with new convictions. In May, Branch 29 of the Tehran Revolutionary Court sentenced her to an additional year in prison for propaganda against the regime. In September, following protests by women prisoners in

Evin Prison after the execution of Reza Rasai, she faced a new case. The Criminal Court Two, Qods Judicial Complex, sentenced her to six months in prison for "resisting officers and disobedience."

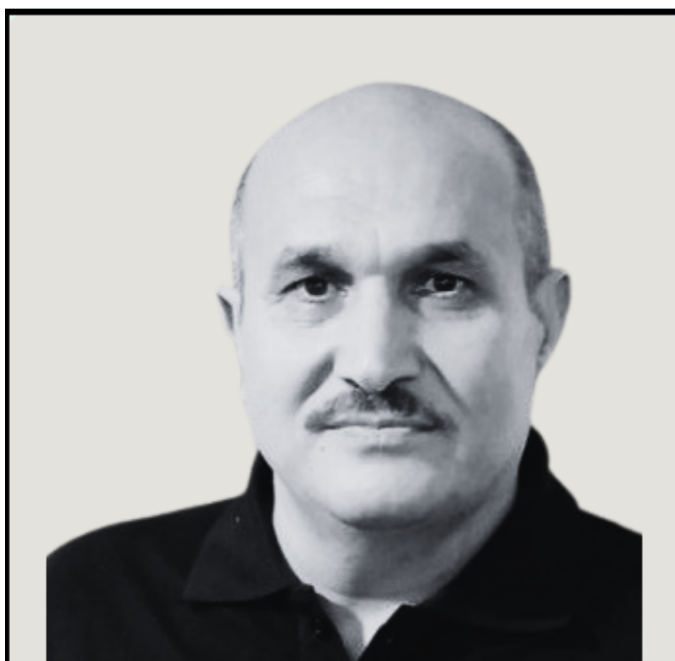
Exiled Individuals

4.1 Exiled Individuals

The Iranian government frequently employs the tactic of banishing prominent human rights advocates and activists to remote regions of the country. This strategy effectively diminishes their influence in civil society by severely restricting their ability to participate in or oversee social initiatives. By relocating them to distant, often isolated areas, the government limits their access to critical support networks and undermines their capacity to advocate for justice and human rights. Additionally, this forced isolation from family and loved ones erodes their morale, compounding the emotional and psychological toll of their activism. This approach underscores the state's ongoing efforts to suppress dissent and maintain strict control over social and political discourse.

On October 10, **Abbas Lesani** received a summons from the Revolutionary Court's Execution of Sentences Branch in Ardabil, notifying him of a monetary penalty related to his case. Lesani, an Azerbaijani civil activist from Ardabil, was first arrested

on January 15, 2019, and sentenced to 10 years in prison and two years of exile in Yazd City by the Revolutionary Court. He was charged with "founding or leading an organization aimed at disrupting national security," "acting against national security," and "inciting and encouraging Turks in West Azerbaijan Province through speeches and media interviews critical of the regime." After serving



four years and two months in Unit 7 of Ardabil Prison, Lesani was transferred to Yazd on February 21, 2023, to begin his two-year exile.

On August 31, 2024, Lesani was arrested again and transferred to Yazd to continue serving his exile. However, only hours after his transfer, he left Yazd and returned to his hometown of Ardabil, defying the court's mandatory residence order. Lesani has repeatedly stated that the punishment is unjust and intended to silence his activism by isolating him from his community.

Individuals Subjected to Capital Punishment

5.1 Individuals Subjected to Capital Punishment

Capital punishment is widely regarded as an inhumane and irreversible form of punishment, with organizations like Amnesty International leading global efforts to abolish it. Amnesty International has strongly condemned the use of the death penalty in Iran and has called for the repeal of all execution verdicts. This position contrasts with government claims that many executions are carried out for crimes such as drug smuggling and murder.

Ethnic minorities in Iran are disproportionately targeted by the death penalty compared to other groups. According to research by the Iran Human Rights Organization, at least 171 Baloch inmates were executed in 2023, accounting for 21% of all executions in the country. This disproportionate application of capital punishment reflects the state's use of executions as a weapon to suppress advocacy and silence dissent within marginalized communities.

On December 25, **Habib Pournaghi** and **Sadegh Jouhari** were executed in the prisons of Tabriz. Sadegh Jouhari had been sentenced to death by the judiciary of the Islamic Republic of Iran on charges of drug trafficking, while Habib Pournaghi faced execution on charges of premeditated murder.

On December 11, at the Central Prison of West Azerbaijan-Miandoab, **Sajjad Azizi** and **Ebrahim Valizadeh** were executed after being sentenced to death for premeditated murder. The Miandoab Criminal Court had found both individuals guilty of the crime and issued their death sentences.

At the Central Prison of Tabriz, the death sentences of **Rasoul Ebrahimi**, convicted of drug-related offenses, and **Khalil Hassanzadeh** and **Abdullah Panahi**, both found guilty of premeditated murder in separate cases, were carried out. The Iranian judiciary sentenced Rasoul Ebrahimi to death after four years of detention, Abdullah Panahi after six years, and Khalil Hassanzadeh after nearly three years in custody.

On December 7, **Ameneh Alipour**, a female prisoner convicted of premeditated murder, was executed at the Central Prison of Zanjan.

On December 4, **Sina Shamselahi**, a prisoner from East Azerbaijan Province convicted of premeditated murder, was executed at the Central Prison of Miandoab.

On November 27, **Morteza Pashaei**, who had been sentenced to death for drug-related offenses, was executed at Tabriz Central Prison.

On November 20, **Majid Talebian** and **Morteza Daneshvand**, who had been sentenced to death for drug-related offenses, were executed at Tabriz Central Prison.

On November 17, **Alireza Yarmohammadi**, a resident of Hamadan Province, was executed at the Central Prison of Hamadan after being convicted of premeditated murder.

On November 17, **Faraj Sarmadi**, a prisoner convicted of rape, was executed at the Central Prison of Zanjan.

On November 13, **Ali Abedini** and **Salar Shamipour Zardkhaneh**, had been convicted of premeditated murder in separate cases by the Islamic Republic of Iran's judiciary, were executed at Tabriz Central Prison.

On November 10, **Mahrokh Khani**, a woman convicted of drug-related offenses, was executed at Tabriz Central Prison.

On November 10, **Kazem Babaei**, convicted of drug-related offenses, was executed at Tabriz Central Prison.

On November 7, **Soleiman Abbaspour** and On November 8, **Ezzat Seyedi**, who had been sentenced to death for premeditated murder, were executed at Zanjan Central Prison. Apparently, Soleiman Abbaspour was under 18 at the time of the alleged crime and was executed in Zanjan Central Prison.

On November 6, **Yousef Ramazani**, a prisoner sentenced to death for drug-related offenses, was executed at Ahar Central Prison.

On November 4, **Ali Momeni** and **Ramin Kazemalilou**, who had been sentenced to death for premeditated murder, were executed at Urmia Central Prison.

On October 31, **Abolfazi Shahbazi**, a prisoner sentenced to death by the Islamic Republic of Iran's judiciary for premeditated murder, was executed at Tabriz Central Prison.

On October 27, **Taher Ganjkhanelou** and **Mohammadreza Nemati**, who had been sentenced to death in separate trials for premeditated murder, were executed at Zanjan Central Prison.

On October 22, **Mohammadreza Hajikhani** and **Mehran Soltani**, who had been sentenced to death for premeditated murder, were executed at Zanjan Central Prison.

On October 19, **Javad Ebrahimi** and **Behzad Ghafari**, who had been detained three years ago on drug-related charges in a joint case, were executed at Tabriz Central Prison.

On October 20, four individuals sentenced to death for premeditated murder—**Nasrin Firoozi, Hassan Yousefi, Siamak Molaee, and Mohammad** (last name unspecified)—were executed at Tabriz Central Prison.

On October 16, **Yusef Shirvani** and **Jafar Samaei** were executed at Zanjan Central Prison, respectively, on charges of premeditated murder and rape.

On October 10, **Hamed Jafari** and **Ali Maroofkhani** were executed at Qazvin Central Prison after being sentenced to death for drug-related offenses.

On October 9, **Hadi Fallah**, a prisoner sentenced to death for drug-related offenses, was executed at Tabriz Central Prison.

On October 6, **Younes Pirouzi**, a resident of Ardabil who had been sentenced to death for premeditated murder, was executed at Ardabil Central Prison.

On October 1, **Akhtar Ghorbanlou** was executed at Ahar Prison after being sentenced to death by the Islamic Republic of Iran's judicial system for the premeditated murder of her husband. Ghorbanlou was a victim of child marriage, which ultimately contributed to the circumstances leading to her conviction.

On October 1, **Zahra Feizi** was executed at Tabriz Central Prison after being sentenced to death for premeditated murder.

On October 1, **Mostafa Kavandi** and **Ali Bahrami** were executed at the Central Prison of Zanjan after being sentenced to death for drug-related offenses.

Summoned Individuals

6.1 Summoned Individuals

The Iranian government frequently uses informal summonses as a tactic to intimidate and suppress human rights advocates, aiming to stifle their activities and diminish their impact. While official procedures require summonses to be issued in writing, intelligence officials often bypass these regulations. Instead, they rely on informal methods, such as verbal warnings or phone calls, to pressure and frighten activists without leaving a paper trail. This approach serves as a key tool for suppressing dissent while evading accountability.

These summonses are viewed as part of the broader campaign of pressure against cultural and national activists in Iran. Human rights advocates and civil society activists have condemned these actions as violations of freedom of expression and cultural activities, expressing deep concern over the continued use of such practices.

On November 13, **Peyaman Ebrahimi Dinvar**, a civil activist, was summoned by Branch 7 of the Criminal Enforcement Court of the Public and Revolutionary Court of Tabriz. The summons, issued via the judicial electronic notification system, pertains to the execution of a sentence related to 'displaying actions contrary to public morals and societal decency,' specifically Azerbaijani dance.

According to the notification, Ebrahimi Dinvar must report to the relevant authorities within five days from November 19, 2024, to carry out the sentence. Failure to comply will result in legal action under judicial regulations. It is worth noting that Ebrahimi Dinvar was previously arrested on September 27, 2023, by intelligence officers. During his detention, he was subjected to physical abuse and held incommunicado for two months before being released on bail.

Denial of Medical Care

7.1 Denial of Medical Care

Political activists are regularly denied medical care by the Iranian government as a form of punishment, endangering their lives and health. In addition to being a form of cruel and degrading treatment, this wilful disregard breaches the fundamental right to health protected by international human rights law. Because of untreated illnesses, injuries from torture, and/or protracted hunger strikes in protest of their abuse, activists—especially those from marginalized populations like Azerbaijani Turks and Baluch people—frequently suffer from worsening health conditions while incarcerated.

The suffering of detainees is often exacerbated by additional forms of abuse, including physical violence, psychological intimidation, and solitary confinement, which frequently accompany the denial of adequate medical care. The systemic nature of this cruelty is evident in reports of Azerbaijani activists being denied access to life-saving treatments or specialized care. This brutal approach not only endangers the lives of incarcerated individuals but also underscores the Iranian government's broader strategy to suppress dissent through psychological and physical coercion.

These violations urgently require international attention and advocacy to hold the Iranian government accountable and to ensure the safety and well-being of political prisoners.

Activists **Ayaz Seyfkhah Kalankesh**, **Babak Hajizadeh**, **Taher Naghavi**, **Morteza Parvin** and **Araz Aman** are in poor physical condition due to severe colds. Araz Aman, in particular, is suffering from intense fever and chills but has been denied essential medications. In protest, activists have called on the authorities to grant temporary release on bail to ensure access to proper medical care.

Azerbaijani activist **Taher Naghavi**, who suffers from prostate issues as well as spine, hand, and knee problems, continues to be denied adequate medical attention. Notably, Naghavi, a lawyer and activist imprisoned in Evin Prison, went on a hunger strike after an altercation with a prison officer who subjected him to threats and pressure. According to reports from his family, while visiting the prison dentist, Naghavi had an altercation with a prison officer who had previously assaulted him. The officer initiated the confrontation and threatened Naghavi. In response to this mistreatment and intimidation, Naghavi began a hunger strike in protest and filed a formal complaint with the prison authorities.

Similarly, **Morteza Parvin**, who suffers from herniated disc complications and other related ailments, has not received proper treatment despite promises from prison officials. His physical condition is reported to be critical. Abdulaziz Azimi Ghadim, a 51-year-old Azerbaijani activist currently imprisoned in Evin Prison, is facing severe health issues, including advanced arthritis in his back and neck. The substandard prison conditions, particularly inadequate bedding, have worsened his physical condition. Despite experiencing intense pain and an urgent need for specialized medical care, Ghadim has been denied proper treatment, a blatant violation of the basic rights of prisoners.

Ban on Issuing Birth Certificate

8.1 Ban on Issuing Birth Certificate

Denying children identification cards in Iran is a significant human rights violation, particularly impacting marginalized groups such as the Baluch and other ethnic minorities. This systematic practice violates international conventions that guarantee the right to identification, a fundamental right critical for accessing essential services. Without identification documents, children are deprived of healthcare, education, and social protection, leaving them vulnerable to exploitation, poverty, and social exclusion.

This issue disproportionately affects communities already marginalized by political and socioeconomic discrimination. In regions like Sistan and Baluchistan, where poverty and underdevelopment are pervasive, the refusal to issue identification documents exacerbates existing inequalities and perpetuates cycles of deprivation. Beyond the harm to individual children, this denial hinders the broader development of these communities and entrenches systemic marginalization.

Addressing this issue requires urgent legislative and regulatory reforms to ensure that all children, regardless of their ethnicity or background, have access to identification documents. Guaranteeing these rights is essential not only for the well-being of the affected children but also for fostering equality, social inclusion, and the sustainable development of marginalized communities.

A couple attempted to register their children's birth under the name "Sevgi, Elshan and Elnoor" but officials refused, stating that such names were not permitted and insisting they choose a different name. "Sevgi," simply means "love," and is a peaceful and non-political name. Yet it was unjustly deemed unacceptable. The parents faced a five-month struggle, during which they resisted the authorities' demands and engaged in civil action to assert their right to name their child. These triplets have been without birth certificates for four months.

Morteza Nourmohammadi was arrested last year after being summoned by the Civil Registration Office in Soufiyan due to his efforts to secure a birth certificate for his son. His persistent attempts to register his child led to his detention, during which he was held in solitary confinement for 80 days before being released on bail. After months of struggle, Nourmohammadi proudly announced that he had successfully obtained a birth certificate for his son, Hunay.

Recommendations

Fundamental rights, such as the right to a fair trial, freedom of expression, and freedom from torture, are systematically violated by the Iranian government's harsh tactics, including arbitrary detentions, physical abuse, and mistreatment, as demonstrated in recent cases. While some detainees have been released on bail or due to international pressure, many still endure ongoing legal battles, harsh detention conditions, and constant threats. The repeated pattern of arrest and release highlights the pervasive atmosphere of fear and repression faced by political activists in Iran. International pressure must be intensified to urge the Iranian government to respect its citizens' rights, release political prisoners, and end the cycle of arbitrary detention and mistreatment.

Governments and international organizations must pressure Iranian authorities to end the use of exile as a punitive measure and restore the rights of those exiled, allowing them to return to their homes without fear of further persecution. The international community must also continue providing support to those affected by these abuses and hold the Iranian regime accountable for its systematic persecution of activists and human rights defenders.

The global community must urgently act to pressure Iran to cease executions, especially for non-violent crimes such as drug-related offenses. The application of the death penalty in Iran constitutes a grave human rights violation, compounded by procedural abuses such as forced confessions, unfair trials, and inadequate legal representation. Special attention should be given to the execution of women and ethnic minorities, as these cases further highlight the government's discriminatory policies and its use of capital punishment as a tool for political repression.

In addition, the international community should demand transparent and independent investigations into executions, stronger sanctions against the judiciary, and accountability for those directly involved in carrying out death sentences. Solidarity with victims' families and advocacy for comprehensive reforms in Iran's legal and judicial systems are crucial to ensuring justice and accountability.

The systemic persecution and harassment of cultural and national activists, such as Peyman Ebrahimi Dinvar, for expressing their cultural identities and engaging in peaceful activities like Azerbaijani dancing must end immediately. Such repression violates international laws that protect essential rights, including freedom of expression and assembly. The Iranian government must release all detained cultural activists, safeguard their rights, and allow cultural expressions to flourish without fear of intimidation or violence.

International human rights organizations must continue monitoring the treatment of detainees in Iran and holding the government accountable. Pressure should be applied to ensure transparency in the treatment of prisoners, the right to medical care, and the establishment of independent monitoring systems to protect the well-being of incarcerated individuals, particularly those suffering from severe health conditions exacerbated by violence, torture, or hunger strikes.

The Iranian government must urgently end the practice of denying identification certificates to children, particularly those from marginalized communities like Azerbaijanis, Baluch, and other ethnic minorities. This denial of fundamental rights perpetuates cycles of poverty, exploitation, and social exclusion, constituting a clear violation of international human

rights agreements. Legislative and regulatory reforms are necessary to guarantee that all children, regardless of social or ethnic background, can access identification documents. Providing these documents will protect their right to basic services such as healthcare, education, and social protection and promote equity and social inclusion. The international community must monitor this issue, pressure the Iranian government to address it, and support activists and civil society organizations advocating for the rights of these under-represented groups.

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