

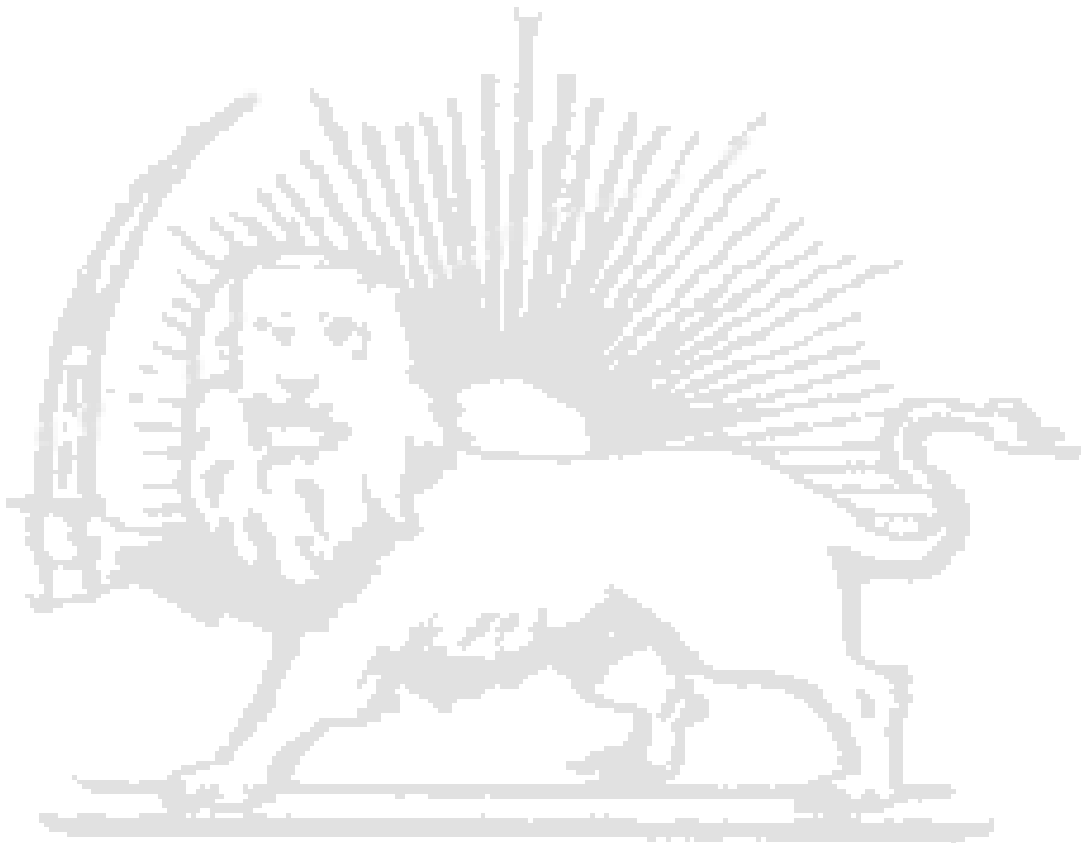


# Monitoring Human Rights in Iran

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Comprehensive report

Period: April 2005 to March 2006



Compiled by Human Rights Working Group,  
National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI)  
<http://www.ncr-iran.org>

## Resolutions, Positions and Declarations

### **Amnesty warns of political executions in Iran**

*Amnesty International, Feb. 25* – The human rights group Amnesty International announced that it had “grave concern” about the “alarming rate” of executions in Iran, in particular highlighting the cases of a number of political prisoners, several of whom are on death row. “One of those recently executed was a political prisoner, Hojjat Zamani, a member of the People’s Mojahedin Organization of Iran (PMOI), who was abducted from Turkey in 2003 and sentenced to death in 2004”, Amnesty said in a statement on Friday, adding that it took Iranian officials two weeks to announce his execution. “Hojjat Zamani’s execution has fuelled fears that other political prisoners may be at risk of imminent execution”, the rights group said. It said that there had been reports circulating since the start of February that “a number of political and other prisoners who are under sentence of death have been told by prison officials that they would be executed if Iran should be referred to the UN Security Council over the resumption of its nuclear programme”. “These are said to have included other members of the PMOI”, it said, adding, “It was the PMOI that was the source of evidence in 2002 revealing Iran’s nuclear programme to the outside world”. “Among those feared to be at risk are Sa’id Masouri, a PMOI member who has been held in solitary confinement in Section 209 of Evin Prison since late 2004; Khaled Hardani, Farhang Pour Mansouri and Shahram Pour Mansouri, all three of whom were involved in hijacking a plane in 2001 when Shahram Pour Mansouri was aged only 17; Gholamhossein Kalbi and Valiollah Feyz Mahdavi, both PMOI members, and Alireza Karami Khairabadi”, Amnesty said

### **Amnesty calls on Iran to end child executions**

*Amnesty International, Jan. 16* – Amnesty International called on Iran to end the execution of child offenders after death sentences were handed down to two teenage girls for crime they allegedly

committed when they minors. It called on Iran to suspend the execution sentence of 18-year-old Nazanin who was accused of stabbing to death one of three men who attempted to rape her and her 16-year-old niece in a park in Karaj in March 2005. She was seventeen at the time. “Another child offender, 19-year-old Delara Darabi, was sentenced to death by a court in the city of Rasht for a murder committed when she was 17 years old. She denied the killing but the sentence was upheld by the Supreme Court at the beginning of January, though her lawyer is reportedly appealing the decision”, Amnesty International reported.

### **EU rips Iran’s human rights abuses**

*EU Presidency, Dec. 20* – The European Union on Tuesday criticised Iran’s abysmal human rights record. In a statement issued by the UK Presidency of the EU, the 25-nation block expressed concern that human rights abuses had increased in the Islamic Republic in recent years“. The EU is deeply concerned that the human rights situation in Iran has not improved in any significant respect in recent years, and in many respects has worsened.” It said that death penalties were frequently carried out, “including for minor crimes, and executions are often carried out in public.” Iran executed more child offenders in 2005 than in any recent year, the statement said . “Freedom of expression is still severely restricted; censorship of the internet and press is widespread”, it added . The EU described the June elections in Iran which brought hard-line Mahmoud Ahmadinejad to the Presidency as “not democratic.” The 25 nations said that they continued to receive reports of torture in Iran, while underlining their “great concern” over Tehran’s treatment of “religious and ethnic minorities.”

### **UN censures Iran’s human rights violations**

*UN, Dec. 17* - The United Nations General Assembly adopted on Friday a resolution censuring widespread human rights violations in Iran. The Assembly expressed its serious concern over the continuing

harassment, intimidation and persecution of human rights defenders, non-governmental organisations, political opponents, religious dissenters, journalists, and students through undue restrictions on freedoms of assembly, press and expression, arbitrary arrests, as well as the disqualification of large numbers of prospective candidates during the June 2005 presidential elections. It called on Iran to end the persecution of political opponents and human rights defenders . It went on to say that Iran must “eliminate the use of torture and other cruel, inhuman punishments, end impunity for violations of human rights, abolish public executions, particularly those who were under the age of 18 at the time of their offence, and eliminate all forms of discrimination and violence against women and minorities.”

#### **Iran has executed eight child offenders this year: Amnesty**

*Amnesty International, Dec. 13* – Amnesty International issued a statement saying that it was “outraged” that Iran had recently carried out the execution of another juvenile offender, who was convicted of a crime committed before he was 18 years old. The statement highlighted the case of Rostam Tajik, a 20-year-old Afghan national, who was executed in public on 10 December – “ironically, the day which the UN has marked annually as Human Rights Day” - for an offence committed when he was 16 years old. “Nevertheless, Iran has executed at least eight juvenile offenders so far this year, two of whom were still under 18 at the time they were executed”, Amnesty International said. “The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, which monitors states’ implementation of the CRC, in January 2005 urged Iran to immediately stay all executions of people convicted of crimes committed when they were under 18, and abolish the use of the death penalty in such cases .”

#### **EU registers concerns about rights violations in Iran**

*EU-Presidency, Nov. 24* – The European Union criticised on Wednesday violations of freedom of speech in Iran and called on Tehran to adhere to its international obligations and commitments to human rights. The British Embassy in Tehran, in its role as the European Union (EU) Presidency, in a statement said that the

Islamic Republic had violated “rights of freedom of expression and freedom of association”. “Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights provides for the right to hold opinions without interference and the right to freedom of expression. Recent cases have cast doubt over the Iranian authorities’ commitment to these obligations”, the statement said.

#### **UN passes resolution on human rights violations in Iran**

*AFP, Nov. 18* - The UN General Assembly on Friday passed a resolution expressing "serious concern" about human rights violations in Iran, including the use of torture and public executions, and called on Tehran to end the abuses. The resolution expressed "serious concern at the continuing use of torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment “of detainees as well as "public executions, violations of the human rights of ethnic and religious minorities and intimidation and persecution of human rights defenders."

#### **Religious freedoms in Iran concern US State Department**

*US State department, annual report, Nov. 09* – The United States Department of State in its 2005 annual International Religious Freedom Report designated Iran as “Country of Particular Concern” for “severely violating religious freedoms. The report released by the U.S. State Department’s Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labour highlighted the treatment of religious minorities as a particular concern. “Members of the country's religious minorities--including Sunni and Sufi Muslims, Baha'is, Zoroastrians, Jews, and Christians--reported imprisonment, harassment, intimidation, and discrimination based on their religious beliefs. Government actions created a threatening atmosphere for some religious minorities, especially Baha'is, Jews, and evangelical Christians”, it said.

#### **Amnesty International rips Iran for child executions**

*Amnesty International, Oct. 20* – Amnesty International condemned Iran on Thursday for handing down death sentences to minors

and said it was "outraged" at the sentences. "Iran has executed at least seven juvenile offenders in 2005 including two minors who were under 18 at the time of their execution", Amnesty said in a statement. Amnesty said that a draft law currently under consideration fell "far short" of the measures which Iran had to fulfill to meet its international obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). Amnesty International also expressed concern at a stoning to death sentence recently handed down to a woman called Soghra.

### **Iran has world's highest opiate addicts proportion - UN**

*Washington Post, Sep. 23 – [excerpts] -* According to the U.N. World Drug Report for 2005, Iran has the highest proportion of opiate addicts in the world -- 2.8 percent of the population over age 15. Only two other countries -- Mauritius and Kyrgyzstan -- pass the 2 percent mark. With a population of about 70 million and some government agencies putting the number of regular users close to 4 million, Iran has no real competition as world leader in per capita addiction to opiates, including heroin. A government poll shows almost 80 percent of Iranians detect a direct link between unemployment and drug addiction. Iran's government regularly fails to produce the 1 million jobs needed each year to accommodate the new workers entering the labor force from a baby boom still coming of age. "We haven't reached the peak," said Roberto Arbitrio, head of the U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime in Tehran. "Unfortunately, there's room for increase." "I believe this is the policy of the state, to make all the youth addicted," said Hamid Motalebi, 22, a police officer on duty in a south Tehran park almost overrun by junkies sleeping on the grass or staggering like zombies. "It's the lack of policy and management. If they could create enough jobs, enough entertainment, why would people turn to drugs?" The director of Iran's National Center for Addiction Studies estimates 20 percent of Iran's adult population is "somehow involved in drug abuse." The estimate includes half a million dealers, each selling to three or four people.

### **Farmer tortured, sentenced to death**

*Amnesty International, Urgent Action, Sep. 27 – [excerpts]* Farmer Moussa Esfandiari Mehni was sentenced to death in October 2004, apparently convicted of smuggling firearms and opium. He is alleged to have confessed under torture. He was allegedly tortured after he was arrested: this included burning, beatings and fake executions, in order to force him to confess. He is now held in Baft prison.

### **EU condemns Iran's hanging of teenagers**

*Associated Press, July 26, Brussels, Belgium \_* The European Union on Tuesday condemned the public hanging last week of two Iranian teenagers who rights activists say were only 16 and 18, and called on Tehran to cease such executions. In 2004, Iran told the EU it would not execute or flog anyone under 18. The EU said Tuesday it hoped "a law abolishing such punishments will be adopted soon," and urged Tehran to respect a moratorium until then.

### **Judiciary continues to stall in Kazemi case, two years after her death**

*RSF(Reporters Without Borders), Jul 08 -* "For two years now, Zahra Kazemi's family has been waiting for her body to be exhumed and repatriated to Canada, and press freedom activists throughout the world have waiting for justice to be done, but the Iranian authorities have decided otherwise," the organisation said. "The international community must support Canada's initiatives and force Iran to give a full account of the circumstances of Kazemi's death," Reporters Without Borders added. "Instead of justice, the Iranian authorities organise so-called explanation sessions," the Kazemi family's lawyer, Nobel peace laureate Shirin Ebadi, told Reporters Without Borders. "I think those who are guilty are playing for time."

**United States Commission on International Religious Freedom censures Iran's violations of religious freedoms**

*USCIRF Annual Report, May 2* - The government of Iran engages in systematic, ongoing, and egregious violations of religious freedom, including prolonged detention, torture, and executions based primarily or entirely upon the religion of the accused. Over the past year, the Iranian government's poor religious freedom record deteriorated, particularly for Baha'is, Evangelical Christians, and Muslim dissidents, all of whom have faced intensified harassment, detention, arrests, and imprisonment. Since the 1979 Iranian revolution, significant numbers from all religious minority communities have fled Iran for fear of persecution.

**Amnesty International censures Iran rights abuses**

*Amnesty International Annual Report, May 25* - The London-based international human rights watchdog, Amnesty International, in its 2005 annual report, released today, strongly criticised Iran's theocratic regime for its continuing gross violation of human rights. "Scores of political prisoners, including prisoners of conscience, continued to serve prison sentences imposed following unfair trials in previous years", the report noted. "Scores more were arrested in 2004, many in connection with press articles or publications both in print and on the Internet which were alleged to 'endanger national security' or defame senior officials or religious precepts. Many of the families of

those arrested also faced intimidation", the rights groups said.

**European Parliament censures Iran rights abuses** Fri. 29 Apr 2005

*European Parliament resolution on the Annual Report on Human Rights in the World 2004 and the EU's policy on the matter (2004/2151(INI)), Thursday, Apr. 28 - Excerpts on Iran:*

The European Parliament,

31. Calls on Iran to engage positively in the human rights dialogue with the EU; is very concerned that the human rights situation has deteriorated in the last two years and calls on the Iranian authorities to make a serious commitment to reversing this trend; condemns the serious increase in human rights violations, particularly the increasing number of reports of public executions, and floggings;... is concerned at the large number of arrests, particularly of women and young people, on the basis of unclear or minor charges; expresses its deepest concern, that a minor was recently executed for sexual misconduct; condemns Iran's abject policy of arrests and imprisonment of journalists and cyber-dissidents and the stifling of press and media freedom; calls on Iran to cease support for terrorist organizations;

153. Is alarmed at the high number of executions in Iran, in particular of minors, and Iran's refusal to release official statistics on the death penalty;

# Systematic violations of the right to life

## Executions and death sentences

### **22-year-old man hanged in prison**

*ISNA, Feb. 24* – A young man from the town of Ardebil, north-western Iran, was hanged in prison, ISNA reported. The man who was 22 years old and from the town of Meshkin Shahr was hanged in Ardebil Prison on Monday (20 Feb.) for allegedly stabbing to death another young man in a village near his hometown, ISNA reported. The hanging took place in front of judicial official and police.

### **A woman sentenced to death**

*ISNA, Feb 22* – A 40-year-old woman who has been accused of killing her husband with poison, was sentenced to death by the 71<sup>st</sup> branch of Tehran's criminal court.

### **Death sentence upheld for dissident**

*Radio Farda (RFE/RF), Feb. 20* – In a report from Kurdistan Human Rights Organisation, the death sentence for Mostafa Rasouli-nia, one of the people arrested last summer in the city of Mahabad, has been upheld by a higher court.

### **Dissident executed**

*Peik-e-Iran (website), Feb. 20* – Iran's minister of intelligence, in an exclusive report announced the execution of Khaled Hardani. Hardani was one of the accused in the Foker100 airplane hijacking from Ahwaz to Bandar-abbas. Khaled Hardani and other family members were involved in the hijacking.

### **A death sentence upheld**

*Khorasan newspaper (state-run), Feb. 20* – Death sentence for a man who had killed a member of the paramilitary forces was upheld by the Supreme Court, Khorasan newspaper reported.

### **Three death sentences for one man upheld**

*Javan newspaper (state-run), Feb. 19* – Supreme Court judges upheld the verdict of an expelled worker from a hygiene production company, who had killed his friend and a young couple. He had been sentenced to three times executions by the criminal court's 71<sup>st</sup> branch.

### **Two men hanged**

*Radio Farda (RFE/RF), Feb. 18* –. According to news agencies, two men accused of kidnapping and rapes were hanged in Dezfoul's prison on Friday. This brings the number of executions in the past two months to 19.

### **Man sentenced to death**

*ISNA (state news agency), Feb. 18* – A man accused of killing his wife over a moral dispute was sentenced to death by the 71<sup>st</sup> branch of Tehran's criminal court.

### **Two men hanged in southern city**

*ISNA (state-run news agency), Feb. 17* – Two men accused of murder were hanged in the southern city of Shiraz, ISNA reported on Friday. The two men were only identified as Ayat Kh. and Mehdi A.

### **Iran sentences seven to death in volatile region**

*The Daily Iran (state-run), Feb. 15* – An Iranian court sentenced seven individuals to death for allegedly playing a role in twin bombings in the south-western city of Ahwaz that occurred in January, the daily Iran reported on Wednesday. The report quoted Iran's Minister of Justice Jamal Karimi-Rad as saying that a number of other individuals also received prison sentences.

### **Iran sentences 15-year-old school boy to death**

*Iran Focus(opposition web site), Feb. 15* – A 15-year-old schoolboy has been sentenced to death accused of murder, government-run websites announced on Wednesday. The teenage boy, only identified by his first name Mohammad, was originally sentenced by the Supreme Court to serve five years behind bars and pay blood-money for allegedly stabbing to death a friend after a scuffle. An appellate court, however, raised his sentence to death by hanging.

### **Court upholds death sentences for two teenagers**

*IRNA (Islamic Republic News Agency), Feb. 14* – Iran's Supreme Court upheld a death by hanging sentence against two teenagers in Tehran, IRNA reported on Tuesday. The report quoted Nasser Seraj, head of Penal Courts in Tehran, as saying that the two 18-year-old men, only identified by their initials A. N. and A. K., were convicted of rape.

### **Iran executes opposition activist**

*United Press International, Feb. 15, Tehran -*

A political prisoner and member of the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran in Gohardasht prison in Karaj, west of Tehran was hanged Feb. 7. He was under torture and pressure since 2001, for five years. Zamani, 31 at the time of hanging, underwent the most severe physical and psychological torture. The clerical regime's henchmen sought to break his morale and compel him to express remorse and surrender. To this end, they sent him to the cell block where ordinary and very dangerous prisoners were held. Zamani protested against this condition and went on hunger strike several times in 2004 and 2005. His conditions were a cause of concern in recent years, protested to by international human rights organizations and reflected in the media.



### **18-year-old sentenced to twice death**

*Khorasan (state-run newspaper), Feb. 6 -* An 18-year-old man, Mohammad Hassan, accused of killing two brothers 16 and 13 years old was sentenced to death, Khorasan newspaper reported. The judge, Aziz Mohammadi, referring to existing evidence said the crime was definite and sentenced the man to twice executions, the report said.

### **Three hanged in north-east Iran**

*Khorasan, Feb. 06* – Iranian authorities hanged three men in the north-eastern town of Sabzevar, Khorasan newspaper reported. The three, dubbed “trouble-makers”, were charged with threatening national security, according to the paper.

### **A man sentenced to twice death**

*Hamshahri (state-run daily), Feb 2,* Judges in the city of Isfahan issued two death sentences for a 25 year-old-man, named Mohammad, who was accused of being involved in a bank robbery and killing the bank manager, Hamshahri newspaper reported.

### **A man hanged in south of Iran**

*Etemaad (state-run daily), Feb. 1 -* A 32-year-old man of Qatari origin who had been sentenced to death by a court in the southern city of Bandar-Abbas for committing murder was hanged in city's prison, Etemaad newspaper wrote. He had an Iranian nationality and had murdered a 75-year-old man and injured his wife with an axe in a marriage dispute, according to the paper.

### **Man hanged in north east of Iran**

*Ghods (state-run newspaper), Feb. 1 -* A man who had been sentenced to death for committing a murder was hanged in the central prison of the city of Mashhad, Ghods newspaper reported. Hojjat Zamani

### **A “Trouble-maker” hanged in public**

*ISNA (state-run news agency), Feb. 01* – Iranian authorities hanged in public an individual accused of being a “trouble-maker” in the central city of Kerman, ISNA reported. The unnamed individual who was hanged in a one of the city's public squares was charged with being involved in armed clashes with the security forces, creating “insecurity and trouble”, and kidnapping.

### **Two people hanged**

*IRNA, Jan 25 -* Two smugglers named Ali Khani and Hassan Ghanbari, accused of carrying a ton of drugs, were hanged in public this morning in the city of Ghom.

### **A death sentence**

*Hamshahri newspaper (state-run), Jan. 23 -* The death sentence for a young man was confirmed by the Supreme Court, Hamshahri newspaper reported. The 24-year-old man identified by his first name “Mohammad Reza”, was accused of killing a house care taker named Hamid over a finical dispute.

### **Hanging in Public**

*Fars News agency (state-run), Jan. 23 -* A 27-year-old man from Isfahan called Arash Sh.

will be hanged on Tuesday morning (Jan. 24), Fars News agency reported. He had been convicted of stabbing a man to death in 2004, according to the report.

#### **Two men and a woman hanged**

*Iran daily (state-run), Jan. 21* - Two men and a woman were hanged in Evin prison on Wednesday morning, Iran daily reported. The paper identified the victims as a man named Ahmad and a couple named Rahele and Babak. They were charged for various crimes including rubbery and murder, according to the report.

#### **Young man sentenced to death**

*Etemaad (state-run newspaper), Jan 15* - Five judges of Tehran's criminal court sentenced a young man to death after his claims of being mentally ill was rejected by the court's medical expert, Etemaad wrote. The man identified by his first name Morteza had stabbed his cousin to death in 2003, according to the report.

#### **Another death sentence**

*Hamshahri (state-run newspaper), Jan. 08* - The Supreme Court upheld the death sentence of a man who was accused of the killing of his brother. The accused man called Farhad who is 36 years old had stabbed his brother in a dispute some months ago. The death sentence was confirmed by the Supreme Court and will be carried out soon.

#### **Death sentence for a man**

*Sharq newspaper, Jan 08* - The daily Sharq wrote that a fifty-year-old man was sentenced to death for the killing of his wife. His daughter told the inspectors that her father had stabbed her mother to death, the paper wrote.

#### **Young man sentenced to death**

*Sharq newspaper, Jan. 08* - A man who had killed his room mate will be executed after the Supreme Court upheld his sentence, Sharq newspaper reported. Hassan Gholi, 27, was accused of the killing of his room mate. Judges of Tehran's criminal court had sentenced Hassan Gholi to death and now after the Supreme Court upheld his sentence he is one step from his execution, the paper wrote.

#### **A blind and deaf man hanged**

*IRNA (Islamic Republic News Agency), Jan. 06* - A 22-year-old man named Behrouz

Soltanpour, who had killed his aunt and cousin in a dispute four years ago was finally hanged today. This young man who was 18 years old when he committed the crime, suffered from seeing and hearing problems.

#### **Three people hanged in Iran prison**

*Javan newspaper (state-run), Jan. 05* - Three people sentenced to death, were hanged early yesterday morning in the Evin prison, Javan newspaper reported. The first man was called Majid Bagherzadeh, the second was Amirreza Sabihi and the third man was an afghan called Gholamali Ahmadi, the paper wrote.

#### **A man sentenced to death**

*Sharq newspaper (state-run), Jan. 03* - A man who had killed the husband of a woman will be hanged after the Supreme Court upheld his verdict, Sharq newspaper wrote. After the confessions of the man, Ablodreza, and the woman, Zahra, judges voted in a majority for the execution of Abdolreza and 15 years prison for Zahra. Abdolreza's verdict was upheld yesterday by the Supreme Court and he will be hanged soon.

#### **Two young men hanged in public in Iran**

*IRNA News Agency, Dec. 29* - Iranian authorities hanged two young men in public in the cities of Ilam, western Iran, and Taibad, eastern Iran, IRNA reported. Yar-Mohammad Samadi, 20, was hanged in a public square on Wednesday after being convicted of committing murder in 2003. A second man, Eskandar Morajei, 30, was hanged in public at dawn on Thursday in the city of Ilam. He was also accused of murder.

#### **Iran hangs two men in public in volatile city**

*IRNA News Agency, Dec. 28* - Two men were hanged in public in the volatile city of Ahwaz, southwest Iran, the official state news agency reported on Wednesday.

The two men, identified only by their first names as Naeem-Abdollah and Jaleel, were accused of being "mohareb" - waging war on God. The two men were hanged at dawn in one of the city's main squares.

#### **Iran hangs young man in troubled region**

*Iran Focus,, Dec. 27* - Iranian authorities hanged a young man in the Kurdish town of Saqqez, a Persian-language opposition website reported on Tuesday.

Hambastegi Meli reported that 23-year-old Farhad Saleh-Pour was hanged in the restive town. Kurdistan Province has been a hotbed of anti-government protests and clashes over the past year. Iranian authorities have launched a crackdown in Kurdish areas to quell the unrest.

#### **Iran's top court upholds death by hanging sentence**

*Hamshahri, Dec. 26* – Iran's State Supreme Court upheld a death sentence for a man in the town of Varamin, near Tehran, according to a report by the daily Hamshahri. Hamshahri wrote on Sunday that a man, only identified by his first name Aghil, was sentenced to death by hanging. The sentence is expected to be carried out soon.

#### **Iran executes Kurdish political prisoner**

*Iran Focus, Dec. 25* – Iran has executed a political prisoner who had been jailed since 1996 for allegedly killing an agent of the notorious Ministry of Intelligence and Security, Iran Focus has learnt. The man known as Aziz was a Kurdish activist being held in Orumieh Prison. Aziz was originally from a village called Biouran in the western province of Kurdistan. He was hanged inside the prison on 18 December.

#### **Three young men hanged in public**

*Fars News Agency (state-run) Dec. 20* – Iranian authorities publicly hanged three men all in their twenties in the town of Sabzevar, north-east Iran, Fars news agency reported. Two of the men, whose identities were not made clear, were aged 25 while the third man was 21 years old, the report said. They were hanged in public Tuesday morning, accused of various crimes including injuring an agent of the State Security Forces.

#### **Iran hangs young prisoner in capital**

*The daily Iran (state-run), Dec. 19* – Authorities hanged a young man in Tehran's notorious Evin Prison, the daily Iran reported on Monday.

The young man, only identified by his first name Mohsen, was hanged at dawn on Sunday, according to the daily. He was accused of killing his employer in April 2003.

#### **Iran executes man in capital**

*ISNA News Agency, Dec. 18* – Authorities hanged a man in the Iranian capital Tehran

Sunday morning, ISNA agency reported. The unidentified man was accused of killing his brother after a dispute, the report said. The man reportedly said that he had no intention of killing his brother. *[The man was identified as Ali Babai-Pour in a report by the daily Iran, December 19].*

#### **Iran publicly hangs Afghan for crime committed as minor**

*Iran Focus, Dec. 12* – Monday's edition of the state-run daily Hamshahri carried the photo of a young Afghan who was hanged in public on Saturday 10 December for a



crime he was alleged to have committed as a minor. Rostam Tajik, 20, was hanged in a public park in the central Iranian city of Isfahan, the state-run news agency reported on Saturday. The sentence was carried out in the presence of judicial officials. Tajik was sentenced to death for the murder of a woman on May 13, 2001, when he was 16 years old. On Friday, Philip Alston, the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, had urged Tehran not to proceed with the execution of Tajik.

#### **Three men sentenced to death**

*Jomhuri Islami (state-run daily), Dec. 15* – Jomhuri Islami wrote on Thursday that three men were sentenced to be hanged in the holy city of Qom, south of Tehran, and a fourth man was sentenced to prison time and 50 lashes on drug trafficking charges.

#### **Death sentence for a man**

*Hamshahri (state-run newspaper), Dec. 15* – The State Supreme Court in the central Iranian city of Isfahan upheld a death sentence for a young man and ordered two other men to be lashed in public, the daily Hamshahri reported on Thursday. The man sentenced to be hanged was only identified by his first name Habib and was accused of rape. Ali-Reza and Saeed, allegedly two of his accomplices, were each sentenced to 99

lashes. The report said that the sentences would be carried out shortly.

#### **Iran sentences two youths to execution**

*Hamshahri* (state-run newspaper), Iran, Dec. 13 – Iran's State Supreme Court upheld sentences for two young men to be hanged in the Iranian capital Tehran, the daily *Hamshahri* reported on Tuesday. The two, who were only identified by their first names Hossein and Shir-Agha, were 27 and 23 years old respectively. The pair were accused of separate instances of murder. The report said that the sentences would be carried out shortly.

#### **A young man hanged**

*ISNA*(state-run news agency), Dec. 10 – A young man was hanged in the Iranian capital Tehran, according to a report from ISNA. The man, only identified as Gholam S., was accused of stabbing a friend to death in April 2003 after a dispute over money. The report said that Gholam, 24 years old, was executed "a few days ago" inside Tehran's notorious Evin Prison in front of prison and judicial officials.

#### **A woman hanged in prison**

*Khorrasan* (state-run newspaper), Dec. 08 – A young Iranian woman was hanged in prison in the north-eastern town of Shirevan, the daily *Khorrasan*.

The woman was accused of having killed an older woman in December 2001, when she was an 18-year-old girl, the daily wrote. The death sentence was carried out at dawn on Wednesday in front of the religious prosecutor and judge, according to the report. [ISNA news agency identified the woman as Akram N., December 10]

#### **Two young men hanged in public**

*IRNA*(Islamic Republic News Agency), Dec. 07 – Two young men were publicly hanged Wednesday morning near the central city of Arak, IRNA reported. Abdolreza Akbari-Diba, 28 years old, and Farhad Akbari-Diba, 22 years old, were executed in a road leading to Arak in front of a large crowd, the report said. The two men, who were from the western town of Hamedan, were charged with a variety of crimes including murder.

#### **Iran court sentences woman to hanging**

*Iran Focus*, Nov. 23, Tehran – Iran's State Supreme Court upheld a death sentence against a woman, state dailies reported on Wednesday. The unidentified woman was accused of murdering the son of her second husband. An Islamic court in Tehran convicted her of murder last year and issued a sentence for her to be hanged. She now faces imminent execution after the Supreme Court upheld the verdict.

#### **Woman sentenced to death by hanging**

*Fars News* (state-run news agency), Nov. 14 – Iran's State Supreme Court upheld a death sentence against a woman who had been accused of murdering her abusive husband, *Fars* news agency reported on Monday. The woman, only identified by her first name Fatemeh, had previously been found guilty of stabbing her husband, identified as Mojtaba, in June 2004, though throughout her trial she defended her motives. Fatemeh said that her abusive husband repeatedly mistreated her children.

#### **Iran hangs three men**

*Iran daily*, Nov. 21 –Iran daily reported that three men, identified only by their first names, Youness, Hossein, and Ruhollah, were hanged at dawn in Diesel-Abad Prison in the city of Kermanshah on Friday. They were accused of kidnappings and rape.

#### **Iran hangs man in public**

*Iran daily*, Nov. 15 - A man was publicly hanged in the town of Qazvin, west of the Iranian capital Tehran, *Iran daily* reported. The unnamed man was accused of running a brothel and producing pornographic videos along with his wife, the daily wrote. The man's sentence was carried out in front of the judge that sentenced him in one of the town's squares on Monday morning.



### **Iran hangs two young homosexuals**

*Kayhan*, Nov. 13 – *Kayhan* daily wrote that two young men were hanged in a public square in the northern city of Gorgan after being found guilty of 'lavat', or homosexual relationship. The two men, identified as Mokhtar N. and Ali A., were aged 24 and 25 years old respectively. They were hanged in public in Shahid Bahonar Square in Gorgan.

### **27-year-old man hanged**

*Iran daily (state-run)*, Nov. 12 – *Iran* daily reported on Saturday that a 27-year old man from the central city of Isfahan was hanged. The man, only identified by his first name Majid, was charged for stabbing another man identified as Abdol-Rasoul, *Iran* wrote. In his hearing, Majid said that he had acted in self-defence.

### **Young man hanged in public**

*Kayhan (state-run daily)*, Nov. 08 – A young man was publicly hanged in the northern Iranian town of Sari, *Kayhan* daily wrote. 22-year-old Ahmad Norouzian was publicly hanged in Khazar Square. Norouzian was accused of rape and his sentence had been upheld by Iran's State Supreme Court and approved by the country's Judiciary Chief Ayatollah Mahmoud Hashemi Shahroudi, the daily reported.

### **A death sentence for a man**

*Etemaad*, Nov. 07- Iran's Supreme Court upheld the death sentence against a man, identified by his first name, Mohammad Ali, *Etemaad* reported. He was accused of killing his own partner in Tehran.

### **42-years-old man sentenced to death**

*Etemaad (state-run newspaper)*, Nov. 01 - A 42-years-old man identified by his first name, Habib was sentenced to death by the court for killing three women and a young physician whose bodies were hidden in a cell in Kohin Ghazvin area, *Etemaad* reported. His death sentence was upheld by the Supreme Court.

### **Iran's Supreme Court gives go-ahead for execution of woman**

*Iran Daily (state-run)*, Oct. 26 - Iran's State Supreme Court upheld the death sentence against a 35-year-old woman, the *Iran* daily reported on Wednesday. The woman, identified only by her first name Shahla, was accused of killing Leila Saharkhizan, the wife

of Iran's football star Nasser Mohammad-Khani in Tehran in October 2002. According to the prosecutors, Shahla befriended Mohammad-Khani and the footballer took her as his second wife. The prosecutors said Shahla was so jealous of Mohammad-Khani's other wife that she eventually killed her. Shahla denied the accusation and proclaimed her innocence throughout the trial.

### **Twice the execution**

*Javan newspaper (state-run)*, Oct. 19 – Judges in Tehran's criminal court sentenced a young man to twice the execution. He had killed two young men with the aid of his wife.

### **Woman sentenced to execution**

*Javan newspaper (state-run)* Oct. 18 – An Iranian woman was sentenced to execution in the Iranian capital on Monday, *Javan* newspaper reported on Tuesday. The woman, only identified by her first name Raheleh, was found guilty of murdering her husband, whom she had accused of having an affair with a younger woman, the paper wrote. Raheleh had said that she was threatened by her abusive husband each time she asked him to end his affair. She said that she had never meant to kill her husband, but just "teach him a lesson". Hojjatoleslam Kouh Kamarei, (the Islamic cleric who presided over the case, sentenced Raheleh to execution on Monday, the report added.

### **22-years-old shot dead by police for "eating during Ramadan"**

*AFP*, Oct 17, *TEHRAN* - Iranian police have been accused of shooting and killing a motorist after he failed to stop when spotted eating during the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan, a press report said Monday. The victim, identified as 22-year-old Seyed Mostafa, was shot dead in Tehran on Saturday. He was also playing loud music with his car stereo, the state-run *Iran* newspaper said. "Even if the police claim is right, is eating during the fasting month punishable by death?" the victim's brother was quoted as saying.

### **Man sentenced to death**

*Etemaad daily*, Oct. 16 – The death sentence for a young man who had killed his wife in a domestic dispute was upheld by the Supreme Court.

### **Death sentence for a young man**

*Etemaad daily (state-run), Oct. 15* – Death sentence for a 22-years-old youth who had killed his friend in a street fight was upheld today, Etemaad wrote. The man is hoping to try to delay the sentence being carried out, the daily reported without giving any more details.

### **Man sentenced to death**

*Hamshahri daily (state-controlled), Oct. 05* – A man who had committed murder during a dispute over a car deal was sentenced to death. The 20-years-old man admitted in his defense to have stabbed the victim but said that he did not intend to kill him.

### **19-years-old sentenced to execution**

*Iran daily (state-run), Oct. 05* – A 19-years-old man who had stabbed a car seller to death was sentenced to execution. He said that he had a dispute over money with the victim and told the court he was sorry and regretted his act.

### **Young man sentenced to death**

*ISNA (state-run news agency), Oct. 03* – A young man who had killed his friend while he was drunk was sentenced to death and 80 lashes. The sentence for 'Esmael' who is 22-years-old was upheld by the Supreme Court.

### **Young man flogged and hanged in public**

*IRNA, Sep. 25, Tehran* – A young man was publicly hanged at a riverside in the Iranian town of Kashan, south of the capital, on Sunday evening, IRNA reported. The 26-year-old man, who was identified as Esmail Hashemi, was lashed in public before the death sentence was carried out using a rope which was tied to the arm of a forklift, according to IRNA. Hashemi had been accused of rape.

### **Man hanged in northern Iran**

*Kayhan daily (state-controlled), Sep. 25* – A man was hanged in the city of Sari, capital of the northern Mazandaran Province, on drug charges, Kayhan daily reported on Sunday. Nabi Paykoufteh had been arrested last year, according to the daily which quotes the Sari Prosecutor, Ali Khanlari.

### **Man publicly hanged in southern Iran town**

*IRNA (official news agency), Sep. 17, Tehran* – An Iranian man was hanged in public in the volatile town of Ahwaz, southwest Iran, on

Saturday morning, IRNA reported. Jassem H., also known by his nickname Abbass Khosreji, was accused of being "Mohareb", or waging war on God.

### **Youth hanged in central Iran prison**

*Etemaad, Sep. 17* - A young Iranian man was hanged in a penitentiary centre in the city of Yazd, central Iran, a Etemaad daily reported on Saturday. Mohammad-Reza F. was hanged on Friday morning after a court had convicted him of murder, the daily wrote. No other details were given regarding the execution.

### **A man hanged in prison in the city of Yazd**

*Jomhuri Islami, Sep. 15, Tehran* – An Iranian man was hanged in a prison in the city of Yazd, central Iran, Jomhuri Islami wrote. The daily reported that Ali Fasahat had been accused of murdering a man last year. Fasahat was hanged in front of a crowd inside Yazd Prison at dawn on Wednesday.

### **Young man hanged in public for teenage crime**

*Etemaad (state-run daily), Sep. 13* – A young man was hanged in public in the southern town of Kazeroun, in Fars Province, for a crime he had committed when he was a minor, Etemaad reported on Tuesday. The unidentified man was 22 years old and from the village of Doost-Iran-Nodan. He had been found guilty of rape in the year 2000 when he was 17 years of age, the daily wrote. He was hanged in public in Shohada Square at 8 am on Monday.

### **Three men to be executed in public**

*Iran daily (state-run), Sep. 12* – Iran daily reported that death sentences were issued for three persons. The men Identified only by first names as Mohsen (20), Ali and Hatam are to be executed in public in Tehran soon, according to the daily.

### **19-year-old mother to be hanged**

*Jomhuri Islami, Sep. 12, Tehran* – A young Iranian mother was sentenced to execution in the town of Langaroud, northern Iran, Jomhuri Islami reported. The young woman was identified as 19-year-old Hajar Vafi from the nearby town of Lahijan. She has a two-year-old infant. She was sentenced to execution after an Islamic court in Langaroud

convicted her of murdering her aunt earlier this year following a dispute over money.

#### **Young woman sentenced to death**

*Etemaad daily, Sep. 11* - The judges of Tehran's criminal court sentenced a young woman to death, *Etemaad daily* reported. The woman was accused of murdering her addicted husband in the middle of the night. After the end of the trial the judges of 74<sup>th</sup> branch of criminal court conferred with each other and sentenced the young woman to death, the daily wrote.

#### **Two Kurdish activists hanged in prison in Iran**

*Iran Focus, Sep. 07, Tehran* – Two Iranian Kurdish activists were hanged in a prison in the town of Orumieh, northwest Iran, for their opposition to the Iranian regime, opposition websites reported on Wednesday. Esmaeil Mohammadi, a 38-year-old father of five, was a Kurdish activist who supported the Kurdish Komala organisation and had been arrested in the western Iranian town of Boukan in 2002. Mohammadi was reported tortured while in prison. The second political prisoner executed was Mohammad Panj-Bini who was a member of separate Kurdish group.



Esmaeil Mohammadi

#### **Man sentenced to death**

*Iran daily, Sep. 04* - A young man who had killed his friend in a dispute over paying the petrol for their car was sentenced to death. After hearing the witnesses of the crime and Mohammad Reza's claims, the judges found him guilty of killing his friend and sent him to death.

#### **Man hanged in south-east city**

*Jomhuri Islami (state-run daily), Sep. 4* - An Iranian man was hanged in the town of Iranshahr, in Iran's south-eastern Baluchistan Province, *Jomhuri Islami* reported. The man, identified as Houshang Bameri, was hanged at 9 am Saturday morning. He was accused of killing two para-military security agents.

#### **17-year-old musician to be hanged in Iran capital**

*Etemaad daily, Aug. 24* – A seventeen-year-old musician in Iran is facing imminent execution in public after his death sentence was upheld by Iran's Supreme Court,

*Etemaad daily* reported. The teenage boy, identified by his first name Sina, was found guilty of murdering another individual after a dispute over cannabis last October, the daily added. Sina told the Islamic court that he suffered from drug addiction and had gone to a park in Tehran on the day of the incident to procure some cannabis. He got into a fight with a drug dealer and stabbed him to death. The young musician, who teaches wind instruments in Tehran, said that he was under the influence of drugs at the time of the scuffle and tried to defend himself after being beaten up badly by the drug dealer.

#### **16-year-old schoolboy to be hanged**

*Etemaad daily, Aug. 24* – Iran's Supreme Court has given the green light for the hanging of a 16-year-old schoolboy in Tehran, *Etemaad daily* reported. The boy, identified only by his first name Mostafa, was convicted of killing a man in a scuffle that began when the boy tried to save a girl who was being harassed by the drunken man, the daily wrote. Mostafa, who had no criminal record, told the Islamic judge that when he saw the drunken man insult and harass a young girl near his home in Tehran Pars district, he intervened and tried to save the girl, but the foul-mouthed man began to beat him. In the brawl that followed, Mostafa killed the man.

#### **Four men aged between 17 and 23 hanged**

*Kayhan daily, Aug. 23* – Four young men between the ages of 17 and 23 were hanged in public in the port city of Bandar Abbas, southern Iran, on Tuesday, according to *Kayhan daily*. The four were identified only by their initials. Two of them received 74 lashes in public before their execution, the daily reported. All four were accused of sex offences and theft. The daily quoted an unnamed Justice Ministry official as saying that the reason why young men were committing so many sex offences was that "they are not aware of the punishment for their offences under Islamic laws".

#### **Another execution in Iran**

*AFP, Aug. 20, Tehran* - An Iranian man convicted of armed robbery, drug trafficking and kidnapping was hanged in a prison in the southern port of Bandar Abbas, the *Jomhuri Islami* newspaper reported Saturday. The man was identified as Mousa Mohsenipour. No further information was given.

### **Young man hanged in Iran prison**

*Javan newspaper(state-controlled), Aug. 18 -* A 21-year old prisoner from the southern port city of Bandar Abbas who had tried to escape from prison was hanged, *Javan* daily reported. The young man, identified as Farshid Farighi, was hanged in prison after he was convicted of murder.

### **Young man hanged in public, another on death row**

*Fars News Agency (state-run), Aug. 14 -* An Iranian man was hanged on Sunday morning in front of a crowd at a public square in the city of Arak, central Iran, *Fars News Agency* reported. The man, identified by his first name Mehdi, was 21 years old at the time of his arrest on homicide charges. Another prisoner, identified by his first name Yaghoub, will be hanged in public in Arak in the coming days, according to *Fars*.

### **Iran to hang young woman for teenage crime**

*Sharq daily, Aug. 11 -* Iran's Supreme Court upheld a death by hanging sentence for a young woman accused of killing a man as a teenager, a *Sharq* daily reported. The young woman, only identified by her first name Fakhteh, will be hanged in the coming days, according to a judiciary spokesman. Fakhteh was accused of murdering a man in December 2001 and then fleeing the scene, according to the daily. The young woman professed her innocence throughout the proceedings and appealed the original verdict that was handed down by Judge Mohammad-Sultan Hemmatyar.

### **Three people hanged in Iran**

*AFP, Aug. 10, TEHRAN -* Three Iranian men convicted of drug trafficking have been hanged in the western city of Hamedan, the *Etemaad* daily reported Wednesday. The men only identified as Hamid Reza, Nosratollah and Reza were hanged Tuesday by the Hamedan revolutionary court for possession and sale of more than 10 kilos (22 pounds) of opium and heroin, the report said without specifying whether the hangings took place in public.

### **21-year-old man hanged for crime committed as minor**

*AFP, Aug. 01 TEHRAN -* An Iranian man convicted of murdering and robbing five men

when he was a minor has been hanged in the southern city of Bandar Abbas, the *Khorasan* daily reported Monday. Farshid Farighi, 21, was hanged at the city prison after he was convicted of stabbing to death five men in separate incidents after they gave him a lift in their car. The first murder was carried out in 1998, when Farighi was believed to be 14 years old, and he was arrested in 2000. His sentence included 74 lashes.

### **Man hanged in Iran's southern port city**

*Aftab Yazd (state-run daily), Jul. 27, Tehran -* An Iranian man was hanged at dawn on Tuesday in a prison in the southern port city of Bandar Abbas, *Aftab Yazd* daily wrote today. The man only identified as Farshid F. was convicted of murdering five drivers between the years 1998 to 2000 in an attempt to steal their belongings. The paper reported that Farshid also known as Daryoush had been sentenced to receive 74 lashes as well.

### **Iran hangs two boys, one under 18**

*ISNA(state-run news agency), Jul. 19 -* A young man and a minor were hanged in public on Tuesday in Iran's second largest city, *ISNA* reported. The two, only identified by their initials M.A and A.M., were convicted of "sodomy by coercion" (sexual assault) on a 13-year-old boy by the Islamic Tribunal of Mashad. Ruhollah Rezazadeh, the lawyer for one of the two hanged men, said that his client was under the age of 18. Iranian newspapers reported each of the men was lashed 228 times before being hanged at 10 am (local time) in Edalat (Justice) Square in downtown Mashad.



### **Man publicly hanged in northwest Iran**

*Etemaad daily, July 16 -* The daily *Etemaad* reported that Eyvazali Hosseinzadeh was hanged in public in the town's Gaz Square

killing a man in 1999. Hosseinzadeh was himself from the nearby village of Hachakandi.

#### **Iran hangs man in public square**

*Kayhan daily, Jul. 14* – A young Iranian man was hanged in public in the town of Poldokhtar, in Lorestan province (western Iran), yesterday for killing a security officer in Iran's State Security Forces, according to Keyhan daily. The daily wrote today that 20-year-old Ali Saffarpour Rajabi was publicly hanged in Bassij Square after a court found him guilty of murdering Hamid Enshadi in Poldokhtar. Saffarpour was hanged at dawn in the presence of judicial officials and officials from the ideological-political bureau of the State Security Forces and local SSF commanders, the paper added.

#### **Man publicly hanged in northwest Iran**

*Sharq daily(state-run), Jul. 07* – A man was publicly hanged at dawn on Tuesday in the town of Salmas, northwest Iran, accused of rape, according to Sharq daily. The daily identified the man by only his first name, Hajan, and said that he was from a village called Mafanjouq. He was hanged in public at Kargar Square in Salmas.

#### **Three men publicly hanged in northeast Iran**

*IRNA(Islamic Republic News Agency), Jul. 06* – Three men accused of armed robbery were hanged in public this morning in the north-eastern Iranian city of Mashad, the state-run news agency reported. The three, identified as Ali Adelzadeh, Arash Gholamian-Khorrasani, and Davoud Daliran, were accused of robbery.

#### **Young couple hanged in central Iran prison**

*Iran Daily (state-run), Jul. 05* – An Iranian couple accused of murder were hanged today at dawn in the main prison in Isfahan (central Iran), Iran daily reported. The daily wrote the husband and wife had been found guilty of the murder of an engineer after a scuffle at his house in 1999. [Etemaad newspaper in its July 6 edition identified the couple as Roya, 28 and Mohammad, 30]

#### **Two death sentences**

*Etemaad daily, Jun 24* – Teheran's criminal court sentenced a woman and a young man who together had killed the women's elderly husband, to death. The two have been in

prison for one year and were both convicted of murder.

#### **Man public hanged in southeast Iran city**

*IRNA(State-run news agency), June 12* - A man was publicly hanged in the city of Zahedan this morning, southeast Iran, charged with murder. Yagoubali Mirshekar, who was originally accused of a string of road-trucker murders, was handed down nine death sentences. The sentences were subsequently upheld by the State Supreme Court.

#### **Two hanged**

*Etemaad daily(State-run), June 6* - Ahmad Salleki and Morad Salleki were arrested with quantities of opium in the city of Kerman (southern Iran) and hanged in prison on Saturday.

#### **Iran hangs three Afghans convicted of rape**

*AFP, June 1* - Three Afghans convicted of raping an Iranian woman and stealing a sheep have been hanged in the southern town of Ravar in Kerman province, the state news agency IRNA reported Wednesday. The three men -- identified as Nazar Mohammad, Kheyrollah, and Besmellah -- were reported to have been in the Islamic republic illegally. Before being strung up, the trio was also given 74 lashes each. An accomplice, identified as Jilan, was sentenced to three years in prison and 164 lashes.

#### **20-year-old hanged for sexual charges**

*IRNA(State-run news agency), May 31* – Rahmatollah Ghanbarzehi, 20 years and married, who was convicted for sexual charges, was condemned to 50 lashes and execution in public. The sentence, issued by 9<sup>th</sup> branch of Zahedan Court and upheld by the Supreme Court, was carried out.

#### **Man publicly hanged in southern Iran town, another sentenced to death**

*Iran Focus, May 25, Tehran* - A young man was hanged in public in the southern Iranian city of Ahwaz, accused of armed robbery and disturbing the peace.

The original sentence of the man, only identified as Akbar M., had been upheld by the State Supreme Court, according to state-run news agency IRNA.

The state-run daily Javan reported yesterday that another man by the name of Mohammad

Reza was sentenced to execution, accused of murdering a 37-year-old man.

#### **Death sentence of four upheld**

*Sharq daily(State-run) May 23* - The death sentence of four accused of murder that was issued by the 71 branch of the Tehran Criminal Court was upheld by the Supreme Court.

#### **Three death sentences**

*Etemaad daily, May 23* – Death sentence to a mother-in-law who in a violent act had killed her husband's son was upheld by the Supreme Court. A 17-year-old boy who had killed his friend because of flirting with a girl will face death by hanging. The boy named Satar, had stabbed his friend Mohammad to death some time ago. The Supreme Court approved the death sentence for a young boy who had killed a 70-year-old man with a drinking bottle.

#### **Man sentenced to execution**

*Iran Focus, May 18, Tehran* - A man, identified as Hossein Gholi, was sentenced to death by execution in Tehran, for the murder of a friend whom he suspected of having an affair with his wife. Hossein Gholi denied that he had murdered his friend; however the court ruled that he was guilty and sentenced him to execution.

#### **Three convicted murderers publicly hanged in Iran**

*IRNA, May 12, Tehran* - Three Iranian men were hanged in public yesterday in the southern town of Susangerd, in the Iranian province of Khuzestan, IRNA reported. The young men were identified as Nasser Ch., Aref S. and Ali S.

#### **Man hanged in Iran, convicted of murder**

*AFP, May 10, Tehran* - An Iranian man convicted of murder has been hanged in prison in the Caspian Sea town of Noshahr, the Jomhuri Eslami newspaper reported on Tuesday. Quoted by the paper, a judiciary official in the port city said 23-year-old Majid Alghosi was executed for killing Siavosh Abassian in a family feud some four years ago. No further details were given.

#### **5 hanged in Iran cities in one day**

*Iran Focus, May. 4, Tehran* – One man was publicly hanged in the southern Iranian city of

Ahwaz, while four other prisoners were executed in the Iranian capital today, charged with armed robbery or murder. Reza H. was hanged in public in Ahwaz in the early hours of the day. The four other men identified as Hatam Gorgi, Ali-Reza Hojabri, Mohammad Faranaki, and Ali-Reza Akbarian were all executed in Tehran's notorious Evin Prison. Fanaki was charged with armed robbery while the other three were accused of murder.

#### **Young man hanged, two sentenced to death**

*IRNA, May 2, Tehran* - On Monday morning a man, only identified as Yaqoub R., was executed in Karoon Prison in the southern Iranian city of Ahwaz, according to IRNA. He was accused of murder.

#### **Young man hanged for acting against the state**

*Iran daily(State-run), May 2* - A young man was hanged in public in the northeastern Iranian town of Bojnourd for "acting against the state", according to Iran daily. Hadi Safdari was accused of creating public disorder and acting against the state.

#### **22-year-old sentenced to death**

*Etemaad daily, Apr. 28* – A 22-year-old man, identified by his first name Ismail, was given a death sentence by Judge Ismaili of the Teheran's criminal court on April 27.

#### **A melon seller sentenced to death**

*Etemaad daily, Apr. 28* – A 50-year-old melon seller was sentenced to death by Branch 74 of the punitive court today.

#### **Man sentenced to death**

*Fars news agency(state-run), Apr. 27* – Mohsen Khoshdel, a 33 year old man was sentenced to death by the 74<sup>th</sup> Branch of the Tehran Penal Court today.

#### **Man hanged in public**

*Jomhuri Islami daily, Apr. 20* – Khodabakhsh Bijarzehi, charged with armed robbery and killing a soldier of State Security Forces, was hanged in public yesterday. The sentence was issued by the Islamic Revolutionary Court and endorsed by country's Supreme Court.

### **Teenager facing execution for crime committed as minor**

*Ettemad daily(state-run), Apr. 15, Tehran* - A teenager was sentenced to death for a crime he is alleged to have committed when he was 17 years old, according to Etemaad daily. The boy who was only identified by his first name Saeid is to be executed shortly, the daily reported. He was accused of stabbing another 17-year-old boy, who later died of his injury, near a Pool centre in Islamshahr two year ago, west of the capital. The State Supreme Court upheld the initial death sentence handed down to Saeid by a Tehran court, and he is facing imminent execution.

### **Iran hangs serial bank robber**

*AFP, Apr. 14, Tehran* -Iran on Thursday publicly hanged a serial bank robber who killed a policeman during a clash with security forces, the afternoon daily Kayhan reported . Ghobad Siah-Mansour was found guilty of several armed bank robberies in the central city of Ispahan and was hanged in the neighbouring town of Najaf-Abad.

### **17-year-old boy and father to be hanged**

*Iran daily (state-run), Apr. 13, Tehran* - A father and his 17-year-old son will be executed by hanging on Saturday, Iran daily reported today. The execution of Mousa Ali-Mohammadi and his son Rasoul will take place at dawn on Saturday before which each will receive 74 lashes, the daily wrote. Mousa Ali-Mohammadi is due to be hanged in public, while his son will be simultaneously hanged in Isfahan prison. Iran daily wrote yesterday that a man, only identified as Abdollah, would be hanged in public in Tehran next week. The execution will take place using a crane, it added. Two young prisoners, aged 18 and 22, will also soon be publicly hanged in Kerman (southern Iran), according to Iran daily's April 11 issue.

### **Two men hanged in Iran**

*AFP, Apr. 13, Tehran* - Two Iranian men were hanged in prison on Monday in Yasooj, southwestern Iran, Hambastegi daily reported Wednesday. [They were] Hatam Jarideh Kish, 38, and Ali Fath Hemati, 50.

### **Political prisoner facing imminent execution in Iran**

*Iran Focus, Apr. 9, Tehran* – Iran's Supreme Court has upheld the death sentence against a longtime political prisoner in Iran, making his execution imminent.



Hojjat Zamani, 29 years old, has been imprisoned in the notorious Evin Prison in Tehran since the year 2000 for being a member of the main Iranian opposition group, the People's Mojahedin Organisation of Iran (PMOI).

Zamani reportedly endured severe torture in Evin Prison, later escaping and fleeing to Turkey. He was arrested however and turned over to agents of Iran's Ministry of Intelligence and Security (MOIS). Zamani was sent back to Iran where Amnesty International reported he was once again subjected to torture.

### **Two hanged in public**

*Jomhuri Islami(state-run daily), Apr. 7* – Incoming reports indicate that the two convicted Ahmad B. and Sohrab Mohammad E. who were sentenced to death, charged with murder were finally hanged. They were in Toyserkan prison (northern Iran) since 2002. The sentence was issued by branch 101 of punitive court and was carried out in public after being endorsed by country's Supreme Court.

# Inhuman treatments and cruel punishments

## Stoning, amputations, floggings and humiliations

### **Man receives 74 lashes in public**

*Jomhuri Islami (state-run newspaper), Feb. 27* – A man accused of being a “trouble-maker” was flogged in public by police in the northern Iranian city of Rasht, *Jomhuri Islami* newspaper reported. The man, only identified as Farshid N., received 74 lashes in Shik Street, the paper wrote. A court in Rasht had convicted Farshid of “causing trouble” and “frightening people in public places”, according to the report.

### **Man sentenced to amputation of a hand**

*Iran daily (state-run), Jan. 02* – A court in Iran sentenced a young man to amputation of his hand, *Iran daily* reported. “The Tehran Court judge sentenced a young man who had rubbed 72 homes in Tehran district to amputation of a hand”, the paper wrote. The court also sentenced the man to 40 lashes in public and three to six months in prison, according the report.

### **Woman sentenced to stoning**

*Iran daily (state-run), Jan 21* – *Iran daily* reported that a woman was sentenced to stoning for adultery. The woman identified only by her first name “Masoumeh” was charged with adultery and was also accused of aiding her husband in several killings.

### **Three men flogged in public for drinking**

*Etemaad (state-run newspaper), Dec. 28* – Iranian authorities flogged three men in public in the southern town of Jahrom, the daily *Etemaad* reported. The three unnamed men were flogged 300 times for “drinking” and “unruly behaviour”, according to the daily. The sentence was carried out in the town’s Velayat Square in the presence of a number of judiciary officials.

### **Three men sentenced to stoning, one man to amputation of fingers**

*Jomhuri Islami (state-run daily), Dec. 27* – Iran’s State Supreme Court upheld stoning and amputation sentences for four men and jail terms for several dozen other members of a gang in the north of the country, the daily *Jomhuri Islami* reported. The men, who had been arrested in January in the

town of Nowshahr in the northern province of Mazandaran, were all part of a gang called the “Wild West”, according to the report in *Jomhuri Islami*’s Sunday edition. Three of the men – Eskandar M. (also known as Abbasi), Jamshid E., and his unnamed brother – were each given two death by hanging sentences and one death by stoning sentence. Another man, identified only as Afshin R., was sentenced to have his fingers amputated and receive prison time. Abbasi’s brother, son, and father were sentenced to five, seven, and one year in prison respectively. Altogether, some 40 members of the gang were sentenced from one to 15 years prison time. The report quoted the top religious judge from the town of Sari, Hojjatoleslam Moussavi, as saying that the State Supreme Court had upheld all the sentences and that they were all “definite.” The men were accused of armed robbery and murder among other charges.

### **Iran sentences woman to death by stoning**

*Hamshahri (state-run newspaper), Dec. 11* – An Islamic court in Tehran sentenced a woman to stoning for adultery in the town of Varamin, near Tehran, *Hamshahri* newspaper reported. The woman, only identified by her first name, Massoumeh, was given prison sentence for aiding her husband Ismaeil in the murder of a brother and sister, the daily wrote. She was condemned to stoning for adultery, the paper added.

### **Iran cuts off right hand, left foot of prisoner**

*Iran Focus, Nov. 29, Tehran* – Iran’s Islamic judiciary cut off the right hand and the left foot of a prisoner in the volatile town of Ahwaz, southwest Iran, state-run dailies reported Tuesday. The individual was identified only as Adel A. and had been charged with armed robbery. An Islamic court in the town of Mahshahr handed down the sentence of amputation of Adel’s right hand and left foot in public. Iran’s State Supreme Court upheld the sentence, which

was carried out inside Karoon Prison in Ahwaz.

### **Iran sentences three youths to flogging, jail**

*Kayhan (state-run daily), Nov. 21* – Three youths were sentenced to flogging, jail time, and being street-paraded, Kayhan reported on Monday. The three young men, identified only as Hamed Z., Mostafa A., and Kamran N., were accused of drinking alcohol, racketing, “creating trouble”, and breaking windows, the daily wrote. Their sentence includes 74 lashes to the back each and six months in prison. The court also ruled that they should each be street-paraded in various neighbourhoods by police.

### **Iran’s police use humiliation to punish young men**

*Iran Focus, Nov. 13* – Iran’s para-military policemen paraded seven handcuffed men around for several hours for making trouble, the country’s state-run press reported on Sunday. The youths, who were paraded on foot in their local residences of Tonkabon, Nashtaroud, Abbas-Abad, and Salman-Shahr, were accused of various crimes including spreading fear in society and “causing trouble”.

### **Iran street-parades 22-year-old man**

*Kayhan daily, Oct. 25* – A 22-year-old man from the town of Varamin, southern Tehran, was streetparaded and sentenced to lashes for instigating trouble, Kayhan daily wrote on Monday. The young man, only identified as Hashem M. (a.k.a. Hashem Sagi), was accused of “causing trouble”, drinking alcohol, disrupting national security, and taking part in scuffles, the daily wrote. It quoted the Varamin Police’s intelligence deputy as saying, “In accordance with the urgent plan to increase national security, which is going on from October 10 to November 9, seditious elements in this town are being rounded up”. The individuals are ordered by a court to be paraded in streets by police so that it “teaches a lesson to other such trouble-makers”. Hashem was also sentenced to 74 lashes, three years in prison, and five years in exile by a Varamin court, the town’s police intelligence chief said. His body was full of “vulgar tattoos”, the daily added.

### **Men flogged in public in Iran capital**

*Kayhan daily (state-run), Oct. 02* – A group of Iranian men were flogged in public in the Iranian capital and sentenced to several years in prison, a Kayhan daily reported. The men were each flogged 74 times and sentenced to between two to seven years in prison for armed robbery, Kayhan daily wrote. The daily did not state the number of people in the group, but added that they were also sentenced to pay a fine.

### **Iran sentences woman to death by stoning for adultery**

*Etemaad daily, Oct. 15, Tehran* – A court in Iran sentenced a woman to death by stoning for adultery and an Afghan man to execution and 100 lashes on charges of murder, Etemaad daily reported. The woman, identified by her first name Soqra, was accused of adultery and aiding the Afghan man, identified as Alireza, in the murder of her husband, also from Afghanistan. Soqra maintained her innocence throughout the trial, the daily wrote. A Tehran court sentenced Soqra to be stoned to death for adultery and she also received a 15-year jail sentence for her part in the murder, while, Alireza was sentenced to death for the murder and to 100 lashes for adultery, while, Etemaad reported. Her son testified that he had witnessed the Afghan man commit the murder. Soqra had said that her parents had forced her to marry an Afghan man against her will. The pair had two children and Soqra said that her husband beat her repeatedly.

### **Police street-parade young man near Iran capital**

*Iran focus, Oct. 14, Karaj* – An Iranian youth from the city of Karaj, west of Tehran, was publicly paraded by State Security Forces (SSF) in the city centre for several hours on Tuesday. The SSF tied the hands of Akbar Samavat to a stick in the shape of a cross



and hanged several waterpots around his neck. They also put a pacifier in his mouth. Police injected him with a high dosage of the drug morphine so that he would not resist. In a bid to mock and disgrace him, Samavat was paraded between the hours of 10 am and 2 pm in Ferdis district in Karaj. He had been accused of “causing trouble”. The Iranian authorities frequently parade youths, forced to sit backwards on donkeys, in their local neighborhood so as to embarrass and humiliate them.

### **Iran’s Supreme Leader orders unprecedented crackdown**

*Jomhuri Islam, Sep. 13* – Iran’s Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has ordered the head of the country’s judiciary to deal “decisively” with “elements creating disruption in society” and sentence them to “the most severe punishment that God has prescribed”, Jomhuri Islami wrote. “Following a report by the Tehran Prosecutor’s Office to the chief of the judiciary which was later presented by him to the Supreme Leader, the Leader issued an order to deal decisively with trouble-makers”, the daily quoted the head of Tehran’s Justice Department, Abbas-Ali Alizadeh, as saying. “We must not even give these people the right to life”, Alizadeh said of those he called “trouble-makers”. He said special tribunals had been set up to deal expeditiously with these persons.

### **Iran sentences woman to flogging and jail, man to execution**

*Iran Focus, Sep. 06, Tehran* – A court in Iran sentenced a woman to 100 lashes and 15 years jail time and an Afghan man to execution on charges of murder, Persian-language websites reported on Tuesday. The woman, identified by her first name Soqra, was accused of aiding the Afghan man in the murder of her husband, also from Afghanistan. Soqra maintained her innocence throughout the trial, according to the report.

### **Dissidents to be flogged for anti-government protest**

*IRNA, Aug. 11* – More than a dozen protestors arrested in the city of Ahwaz, southern Iran, during a demonstration in July were sentenced to serve prison time and to be flogged in public, IRNA reported. A court

in Ahwaz sentenced the 15 individuals to flogging and jail time for “creating mayhem and disrupting public order”. They had all been arrested during anti-government protests on July 27, IRNA wrote.

### **Photos of Kurdish man killed by security forces in northwest Iran**

*Iran Focus, Jul. 14* – Iran Focus has obtained several before-and-after photos of Shoan Qaderi, a young Iranian Kurd from the north-western town of Mahabad, who was gunned down by State Security Forces and then hung from the back of a Toyota jeep which was driven in nearby streets on Sunday. According to witnesses the act was carried out because Qaderi was active in anti-government protests and authorities wanted to intimidate the local population to prevent further demonstrations in the volatile city.



### **Iran’s Judiciary Chief calls for speedy execution of criminals**

*Iran Focus, Aug. 30, Tehran* – The head of Iran’s Judiciary on Monday called harsh and speedy punishments for individuals convicted of a variety of organised crimes, many of which carry the death penalty. Ayatollah Seyyed Mahmoud Hashemi Shahroudi was speaking at a gathering of senior judicial officials a day after the shooting of a judge in the Iranian capital. “In the present circumstances, criminals have formed at different levels and they must be rooted out more meticulously”, Shahroudi

said, adding that they must be dealt with "harshly".

#### **Iranian court orders man to be blinded**

*The New Zealand Herald, June 28* - An Iranian court has sentenced a man to have his eyes surgically removed for a crime he committed as a teenager 12 years ago. Amnesty International has condemned the sentence, reported in the Iranian daily Etemaad. The daily says the accused, identified only as Vahid, was 16 when he threw a bottle of acid at another man during a fight in a vegetable market in 1993. The top opened - Vahid insists accidentally - and blinded his victim in both eyes. The paper said the sentence was to pour acid on Vahid's eyes, but an appeals court ruled it should be done surgically so as not to harm other parts of his face. Amnesty described the sentence as "cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment amounting to torture". It called for a change of sentence.

#### **Executions and amputations handed out in Iran**

*Kayhan daily(state-run), June 6* - A court in the city of Ahwaz (southern Khuzestan province) announced that three individuals charged with "armed robbery" from a group of thirteen were sentenced to execution, Kayhan daily reported. The same court also sentenced two individuals to have "the fingers on their right hands and their left feet amputated", and seven other individuals to 10 years imprisonment and 74 lashes each.

#### **Woman sentenced to death by stoning**

*Etemaad daily (state-run), May 17* - An Iranian woman was sentenced to death by stoning in Tehran, according to Etemaad daily. The young woman, only identified by her first name Fatemeh, 25 years old, was given two



death sentences, for murder and having an affair. The daily reported that a Tehran court found Fatemeh guilty of strangling to death a 22-year-old neighbour, whom she allegedly also had an affair with. The court also sentenced her husband to prison time for taking part in the murder. The first death sentence was issued for the murder, while the stoning to death sentence was issued for the alleged affair.

#### **Iran to amputate prisoner's arm and leg for theft**

*Hambastegi daily(state-run), Apr.13, Tehran* - A young man in Iran is to have his right hand and left leg amputated today for theft, Hambastegi daily reported.

The young man identified only as Mohammad B. is currently being held in Karoon prison in the south-western town of Ahwaz. Hambastegi daily reported today that Mohammad's right hand and left leg will be amputated in the early hours of the day

#### **Iranian secret police tortured woman to death, says doctor**

*The Times, Apr. 1, Ottawa* - A Canadian woman photographer who died in Iranian custody after taking pictures of a protest outside the notorious Evin prison in Tehran, was beaten, tortured and raped, an Iranian doctor who fled to Canada said yesterday. Zahra Kazemi, 54, a Canadian citizen born in Iran, was arrested by secret police in June 2003. Shahram Azam said that he examined her at a hospital in the capital four days later. She was in a coma and died several days later without regaining consciousness. Ms Kazemi was the victim of "a very brutal rape", her skull was fractured and her nose broken and there were strange markings all over her body, Dr Azam said. "The backs of both legs, where the skin had come off, indicated a flogging."

## Freedom of expression and opinion

### **Restriction on Private party films**

*IRNA, Jan. 25* – The deputy of State Security Forces in Hormozgan province, Colonel Mehdi Yarandi on Wednesday said that: "To receive photo and film making services, people must only sign agreements with government approved agencies". He also warned the public about making copies of private party films such as marriages and birthday parties and the distribution of it to relatives and friends.

### **Female journalist stabbed**

*Tabriz news (website), Oct. 05* - A female journalist, was found severely injured under a bridge in Zabriz, North West of Iran. Masoumeh Babapour was stabbed 9 times before being thrown under an abandoned bridge south of Tabriz. Her husband, Hassan Zadeh Bagher, told Tabriz news in a phone interview that his wife had been receiving threatening phone calls from strangers. She was then kidnapped on the street by four men two days before she was found stabbed.

### **Four Iranian web-loggers protest being forced to confess**

*AFP, May 2, Tehran* - Four Iranian web-loggers arrested during a crackdown last year have written to the judiciary head to complain of having been subjected to "physical and moral pressure" that forced them to confess, the official news agency IRNA said Monday. "During our detention, (we were) subjected to physical and moral pressure and all of our confessions were false and have no legal value," wrote Mahbubeh Abbas-Golizadeh, Fereshteh Ghazi, Massud Ghoreyshi and Hanif Mazruwi. They appealed to the head of the judiciary, Ayatollah Mahmud Hashemi Shahrudi, to intervene because the "confessions of several of those accused were extracted by force." A group of around

20 Internet writers and technicians working for pro-reform websites were arrested in a crackdown that began in September last year on possible charges of "propagating against the regime", "insulting religious values" and "disturbing public order".

### **Student to be jailed, flogged for demonstrating**

*AFP, Apr. 26, Tehran* - An Iranian student detained for taking part in anti-regime demonstrations has been sentenced to 18 months behind bars and 76 lashes, his lawyer told the ISNA news agency Tuesday. The lawyer said an Islamic revolutionary court had found Farab Samimi guilty of "propagating against the regime" and "disturbing public order" for taking part in an illegal gathering on July 9, 2003. The lawyer, Mohammad Sharif, told ISNA that his client would appeal.

### **8 students handed jail terms for insulting Iranian president**

*AFP, Apr. 19, Tehran* - Eight students have been handed suspended prison terms for insulting President Mohammad Khatami and acting against Iran's national security, a leading reformist student union member said Tuesday. "Four students from Sistan-Baluchistan (in southeast Iran) received suspended prison terms of a year each," said Abdollah Momeni, head of the Office of Consolidating Unity (OCU), told AFP. "Another four students from Tabriz Sahand University (northwest Iran) received a collective suspended prison term of 99 months and are barred from studying for a year," said Momeni. He did not give details on the charges.

## Women's situation

### Institutionalised discriminations, psychological, sexual and physical violations

#### **300 thousands prostitutes**

*ILNA (State-run news agency), Jan. 23* - Mr Gharayi Moghadam, a sociologist, while saying that no woman would like to become a prostitute if she didn't have to, stressed that at current stage there are 300 thousands prostitutes only in Tehran. He added that there are 4 million unemployed people, 5 million drug addicts and 9 million unmarried boys and girls in the country that all result to expansion of prostitution in the country.

#### **Iran's Islamist rulers want sex segregation on pavements**

*Iran Focus, Jan. 07* – The government of radical Islamist Mahmoud Ahmadinejad plans to segregate Iran's pedestrian walkways on gender basis, according to Fatemeh Alia, a deputy in Iran's Majlis (Parliament) and one of Ahmadinejad's closest allies. Since Ahmadinejad took office as president, new measures have been enforced to, in his words, "return the Islamic Republic to the days of the [1979 Islamic] revolution". As part of the government plan called "Increase the hejab (veil) culture and female chastity", the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development has received orders to construct separate pedestrian walkways for men and women, according to Alia. "This plan is the most advanced and complete plan regarding the hejab. In the next two weeks its final considerations will be complete and it will start to be implemented". Previously, when he was Mayor of Tehran, Ahmadinejad ordered all the buildings belonging to the municipality to have separate elevators for men and women. "The Ministry of Housing and Urban Development will have an obligation to construct apartments in a special way ... which would be in line with the culture and atmosphere of an Islamic society. The Ministry of Roads and Transport must pay special attention to the walkways, roads, railways, and transportation routes so that we no longer get reports of mal-veiling in these routes", the hard-line Majlis deputy

said. Alia added that special provisions also had to be made for tourists who travel to Iran so that they also adhere to Islamic regulations.

#### **Iran's Islamists terrorise young women with acid**

*Iran Focus, Jan. 04, Tehran* – In the latest "acid attack" by radical Islamists on young women accused of ignoring the country's strict dress regulations, two female university students had acid splashed on their faces in the town of Shahroud, north-eastern Iran. The two women, aged 21 and 22, study geography in Shahroud's Open University. Unidentified assailants travelling on a motorbike moved next to them in Ferdowsi Street and threw acid on their faces as they were walking. The attackers immediately left the scene and have not been arrested. Radical Islamists operating under the umbrella of the paramilitary Bassij force and Ansar-e Hezbollah have stepped up their campaign against the "malveiling" of women and girls since the election of hard-line President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. The Iranian President regularly addresses meetings of these Islamic vigilantes and praises their efforts "to purify the Islamic Republic of the vestiges of corrupt Western culture".

#### **An 18-year-old girl to be hanged for killing a rapist**

*Etemaad (state-run newspaper), Jan. 07* – An Iranian court has sentenced a teenage rape victim to death by hanging after she weepingly confessed that she had unintentionally killed a man who had tried to rape both her and her niece, Etemaad newspaper reported. The paper wrote that the 18-year-old Nazanin confessed to stabbing one of three men who had attacked the pair along with their boyfriends while they were spending some time in a park west of the Iranian capital in March 2005. Nazanin, who was 17 years old at the time of the incident, said that after the three men started to throw stones at them, the two

girls' boyfriends quickly escaped on their motorbikes leaving the pair helpless. She described how the three men pushed her and her 16-year-old niece Somayeh onto the ground and tried to rape them, and said that she took out a knife from her pocket and stabbed one of the men in the hand. As the girls tried to escape, the men once again attacked them, and at this point, Nazanin said, she stabbed one of the men in the chest. The teenage girl, however, broke down in tears in court as she explained that she had no intention of killing the man but was merely defending herself and her younger niece from rape, the report said. The court, however, issued on Tuesday a sentence for Nazanin to be hanged.

#### **Selection of Iran's leader to remain a men-only domain**

*Iran Focus, Dec. 19* – A powerful cleric rejected the notion of women taking up posts in the assembly of theologians who choose the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic. Speaking in the holy city of Qom, south of Tehran, Abdol-Nabi Namazi, a senior Shiite cleric and a member of the Assembly of Experts, said, "According to Islamic law, the presence of women in institutions such as the Assembly of Experts is not necessary, even if they were religious scholars." The Assembly of Experts, an exclusively clerical body, designates the country's all-powerful Supreme Leader. Namazi said that under Islamic law women had to stay at home to raise children as a priority to all other work. "The most important reason for the prevalence of moral corruption in society is the weak role played by mothers in families", Namazi said. "If we give other jobs to women, that will weaken the families."

#### **Iran to hang teenage woman for crime she denies**

*State Security Forces (Iran's paramilitary police), Dec. 27* – Iran's State Supreme Court has upheld the death sentence for a teenage woman accused of murdering another woman despite her repeatedly denying that she had committed the crime, according to a wire report from the country's State Security Forces(SSF). The 19-year-old woman, only identified by her first name Delara, was accused of stabbing to death a relative in the year 2003 when she was 17 years old. Delara denies she committed the

murder, insisting that she had originally taken responsibility for her boyfriend's crime after he had told her that girls who are minors could not receive the death sentence. Upon learning that her boyfriend, Amir-Hosseini, had lied to her, she withdrew her statement to the SSF.

#### **Iran's Ansar-e Hezbollah vows to root out mal-veiling**

*Ansar-e Hezbollah Weekly (state-controlled), Nov. 11* – The radical group Ansar-e Hezbollah pledged to Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad that it would root out the "virus" of mal-veiled women. The Islamist group, loyal to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei wrote in its weekly journal that the "virus of mal-veiling and lack of faith" inside the country was more dangerous than the explosion of a nuclear bomb. The group warned that cultural invasion was a far greater threat than a military invasion of Islamic nations. The weekly carried a pledge to Ahmadinejad that the group would combat mal-veiling and lack of faith.

#### **Iran police confiscate mannequins in new crackdown**

*IRNA (Islamic Republic News Agency), Oct. 31* – Police in the north-eastern town of Bojnourd have launched a new crackdown on alluring mannequins in clothes stores and the main bazaar, the town's prosecutor-general told IRNA on Monday. Moussa-al-Reza Pirgazi announced that thus far 262 clothes stores had been inspected and 65 feminine mannequins had been rounded up. He said that in accordance with the country's Islamic trade laws, stores found to be violating the dress code on mannequins would be shut down for a period of 10 to 90 days. "The use of vulgar mannequin – whether male or female – is an affront to public moral and is considered to be a crime", Pirgazi said, adding that the display of properly veiled mannequins which adhere to the national dress code would not be considered a crime.

#### **Two-thirds of Iran women victims of domestic abuse: official**

*AFP, Oct 31, TEHRAN* - Two thirds of Iranian women have suffered domestic violence and a quarter are unhappy with their gender, a social welfare official said Monday. Sociologist Jaleh Shaditalab of

Iran's National Welfare Organisation said most of the victims were in forced marriages and that abuses also included mental torment, humiliation and being prevented from working. She said the figures were drawn from a national survey of the problem.

### **Get home by dusk, Iran tells female civil servants**

*Reuters, Oct. 11, TEHRAN* - Female civil servants at Iran's Culture Ministry and female journalists at the state newspaper and news agency must be out of the office by dusk to be with their families, a directive said on Tuesday. The directive was issued by Culture Minister Mohammad Hossein Saffar-Harandi, one of a batch of hard line cabinet ministers brought in by President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad who won a landslide election in June. "Owing to the sensitive role of women in the family and raising children, women employees are banned from staying at the office after 6 p.m.," the Tosea newspaper quoted the directive as saying.

### **MP urges greater crackdown on women**

*Iran Focus, Oct. 10, Tehran* – A Majlis (Parliament) deputy from the central city of Isfahan told reporters that there was an urgent need to act against “corruption and mal-veiling” by women in society, state media reported on Monday. “In recent years we have seen a great number of violations [of the dress code]. How longer do we have to witness such behaviour?”, Hojjatoleislam Mohammad-Taghi Rahbar said. He said authorities should immediately deal with violators of the dress-code starting in the holy Muslim month of Ramadan which began last Tuesday.

### **Senior Iran cleric: Prostitutes must be hanged**

*Jomhuri Islami (state-run daily), Oct. 10* – A senior Iranian cleric in the city of Qom called for death sentences to be handed down to prostitutes, Jomhuri Islami daily reported. “Those who try to spread prostitution, corruption, and sins in society must be dealt with”, Ayatollah Nasser Makarem-Shirazi, one of the highest-ranking clerics in the holy city, said. Shirazi said that drug dealers were among those who were spreading corruption in society, according to Jomhuri Islami. “These people are ‘corruptors on

earth’ and must be dealt with under Islamic law”, the senior Ayatollah said. “If everyone feels responsibility for the orders of Islam, no one will dare to spread prostitution”, he was quoted.

### **Iran says women unfit to manage restaurants**

*Iran Focus, Sep. 9* - Female restaurant managers in Iran will be required to name a man as the person who will carry out the management on their behalf, or else their businesses will be shut down, the country's police force announced on Friday. According to the Public Places Inspection Office of the para-military police, Iranian restaurants must be managed by men to prevent “social corruption”. The new announcement was confirmed by the head of Union of Restaurant Owners, who claimed that apart from the regular license required, if a man was not appointed as manager, the restaurant would not be given a government approval permit and would face closure.

### **Iran to speed up flogging of women for “bad” veil**

*Iran Focus, Sep. 6, Tehran* – Women who violate Iran's strict Islamic dress code will be flogged immediately, prosecutor's offices in provincial centres announced on Tuesday. In the central Iranian city of Shahin-Shahr, the prosecutor's office posted huge notices on billboards and shop windows warning women that dress code violators will appear before an Islamic judge immediately after arrest to receive a sentence, usually 100 lashes in public. The prosecutor will be demanding maximum penalties, the notice warned.

### **Police to step up crackdown on Iranian women**

*Iran Focus, Sep. 4* - The commander of Iran's State Security Forces in the city of Orumieh, northwest Iran, threatened on Sunday that police would crackdown “forcefully and decisively” on women who were not properly veiled. Speaking to reporters, Colonel Rasoul Khorshidi-Far said, “The main aim of the State Security Forces in combating mal-veiling is to build [Islamic] culture in society. If any opposition is witnessed in this regard, it will be decisively dealt with”. Colonel Khorshidi-Far added that if any woman refuses to obey the

instructions of the police in covering herself with a veil, she would have to appear in court to face prosecution.

### **Iran's new Justice Minister vows harsher crackdown on women**

*Iran Focus, Aug. 20, Tehran* – The man designated by Iran's hard-line President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad as his Minister of Justice vowed on Saturday that "improperly-veiled women" will be treated as if they had no Islamic veil at all. Jamal Karimi-Rad told the local press, "Being improperly veiled and not wearing a veil are no different. When it is clear from the appearance of a woman that she has violated the law, then the crime is obvious and law enforcement agents can take legal measures against her".

### **Female textile workers attacked**

*Green Left Weekly, August 10<sup>th</sup> issue* - On July 27, a 100-strong protest of mostly women textile workers in the south-eastern province of Kerman was brutally attacked by security forces. The workers at the Asia Wool-Spinning Company are owed up to 3 million Tomans (about \$3500) in unpaid wages. The workers blocked the main road outside the factory to highlight their protest. A pregnant woman was dragged on the road and kicked in the back. Another worker had her leg injured when it was caught under the wheel of a vehicle, which had been ordered to move by the security forces.

### **Iranian woman barred from work following husband's complaint**

*AFP, Aug. 07, Tehran* - A Tehran court has barred a young woman from working after her estranged husband complained she was only allowed to be a housewife, local media reported Sunday. The female half of the unnamed couple left her husband and started working two years ago because he "deceived me and treated me badly", she told the court. But her husband charged that "she started working without my permission and I want her to be barred from having a job," the court heard. "Although their marriage certificate defines the wife's profession as 'housewife', she left her husband two years ago and worked in a private company without his permission," the court ruled. When there is no clause in the marriage certificate allowing the wife to work outside, the husband can bar her, the verdict

said. Iranian women face a number of legal restrictions in Iran's male-dominated society. They receive half the inheritance and blood money given to men, and they are also not allowed to be court judges. If married, a woman needs her husband's permission to travel abroad or work outside home.

### **Kurdish women's rights activist arrested in Iran**

*Rooz (Website), August 4* - A prominent women's rights activist in Iranian Kurdistan was arrested



during a gathering organised in protest against the murder of a young Kurd by Iran's State Security Forces, a Persian-language website reported. The website *Rooz* reported that Roya Toloui, the editor of *Rassan*, a monthly based in the Kurdish city of Sanandaj, was arrested after being summoned by the intelligence unit of the SSF on several occasions in the past few months on charges of "disturbing the peace" and "acting against national security". She had also been accused of "inciting ethnic division". On several occasions the authorities had warned Toloui not to carry out interviews with foreign radio stations.

### **Woman immolates self to avoid return to Iran jail**

*Iran Focus, July 26* - A 30-year-old woman set herself on fire outside a justice department office in southern Iran on Monday evening, eye-witnesses reported. The unidentified woman was on temporary parole from prison in the southern city of Marvdasht and had gone to the justice department to request an extension of her prison leave. When her application was rejected, she attempted to commit suicide by setting herself on fire. She is reportedly in critical condition. A Marvdasht resident reached by telephone said it was rumored in town that the woman had been brutally treated by prison guards.

**Most runaway girls in Iran raped within first 24 hours - official**

*BBC, Jul. 12* – Most runaway girls in Iran are raped within the first 24 hours of their departure, according to an Iranian government official speaking to the BBC. Dr. Hadi Motamedi, the head of Social Ills Prevention Unit of the Health Ministry, said that the majority of such victims are rejected by their families if they choose to return after having been raped.

**Women not admitted to Iran hospital without chador**

*Iran Focus, July 4* - A hospital belonging to the Revolutionary Guards in the Iranian capital is refusing entry for women not wearing the head-to-toe covering known as chador, according to local residents. Security guards outside the main entrance of Baqiyatollah Hospital were seen turning away women who were not wearing the chador.

**Human trafficking not being combated in Iran: US State Dept**

*U.S. Department of State, June 6* - Iran is a source, transit, and destination country for women and girls trafficked for the purposes of sexual and labor exploitation, according to the 2005 annual Trafficking in Persons Report released by the United States' Department of State. The DoS Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons noted that "the Government of Iran does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking." "Internal trafficking of women and girls for sexual exploitation and children for forced labor also takes place," it said, adding that such practices are fueled by an increasing number of vulnerable groups, such as runaway women, street children, and drug addicts.

## Situation in prisons

### **The number of prisoners doubled**

*Voice of America TV, Feb. 5* - Human Rights activists and news sources reported that the number of prisoners have been doubled in Evin prison since mid January, 2006. A report indicates that the number of prisoners in Evin prison has reached to 2500 people; the same report added that bus driver workers who were arrested and held in ward 240 in Evin are still in hunger strike.

### **Iran's Judiciary Chief orders harsher prison terms**

*Kayhan daily, Oct. 20* – Iran's Judiciary Chief Ayatollah Mahmoud Hashemi Shahroudi ordered a ban on prison leave for "enemies of the Islamic Republic", including political prisoners and "trouble-makers", *Kayhan daily* reported. Under the new order prisoners can no longer be granted temporary prison leave for various reasons, the daily wrote. The daily quoted Mohammad-Reza Foulad-Amoli, the chief prosecutor in the northern province of Mazandaran, as saying, "This decree will be carried out in order to prevent new corruption in society"

### **Iran acknowledges widespread prison abuses**

*AP, Jul 24, TEHRAN* - In an unprecedented report, Iran's hard-line judiciary acknowledged widespread human rights violations in prisons, including the use of torture, state-run media reported Sunday. The report said prison guards and officials in detention centers have ignored a legal order banning torture. It also said police have made several arrests without sufficient evidence and held suspects in undeclared detention centers. The report, which was broadcast on state-run radio and appeared on the front page of several newspapers, said a judicial investigation had discovered human right violations including the "blindfolding and beating" of defendants, a 13-year-old boy jailed for stealing a hen, a woman who was imprisoned because her husband was a fugitive and a man who has been in prison since 1988 without a verdict in his case.

### **Dutch diplomat sheds light on notorious Iran prison**

*Iran Focus, Jul 21, Tehran*– A diplomat from the Dutch embassy in Tehran has revealed that political prisoners locked up in one of Iran's most notorious prisons were being systematically tortured and deliberately harassed for their opposition to Iran's clerical leadership. The report by Loes Bijnen, which first appeared in a Persian-language website, provides a shocking account of the treatment of political prisoners in Rajai-Shahr Prison in Karaj, a major city west of the Iranian capital. The website of the Royal Netherlands Embassy in Tehran identifies Ms. Bijnen as a second secretary in the embassy's political department. "Going to [Rajai-Shahr Prison in] Karaj is a harsh punishment. When someone sets foot there, all humanity disappears", the Dutch diplomat wrote after making an investigation into the state of the prison. Ms. Bijnen noted in her report that "mysterious deaths" were common in Rajai-Shahr Prison. She mentioned a number of prisoners were treated with singular brutality. Arjang Davoudi, a 49-year-old engineer, teacher, and poet was sentenced to 15 years in prison and 70 lashes for aiding foreign journalists secretly produce a documentary about the Canadian-Iranian photojournalist Zahra Kazemi, who died under torture in Evin Prison in the summer of 2003.

### **Violent raid on Iran's political prisoners reported**

*Iran Focus, Jul. 06, Tehran* – Guards in Tehran's notorious Evin Prison, where political prisoners are held, carried out a raid on cells in Ward 350 on Tuesday, injuring prisoners and confiscating personal belongings and written materials. The raid was carried out at 6 a.m., when prison guards led by an officer called Abbasi charged into the ward. Some political prisoners were injured in the raid, including Mohammad Moussavi and Mostafa Jo'kar.

# Lack of freedom of press

## Imprisoned journalists, closure of newspapers

### **Media watchdog blasts Iran as worst violator in region**

*RFS, Oct. 21* – The international media watchdog, Reporters without Borders (RSF), in a report ranked Iran as the worst violator of press freedoms rights in the Middle East. RSF ranked Iran at 164 out of 167 in its 2005 annual Press Freedom Index. "Iran (164th) once again has the region's worst record of press freedom, with seven journalists in prison and four others provisionally free and in danger of being returned to jail at any moment", the top media watchdog said. It highlighted the cases of dissident journalist Akbar Ganji and cyber-dissident Mojtaba Saminejad, who are both currently serving prison terms. The international press freedoms group frequently criticised media censorship and violation of journalists' rights in Iran.

### **Foreign Movies to be banned in Iran**

*BBC Farsi (website), Oct. 20* – The Supreme Council of Cultural Revolution chaired by Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has adopted a policy for allowance of foreign movies and music to be shown in Iran. According to this motion, movies that promote ideas such as secularism, liberalism, nihilism or feminism are destroying the culture of religious societies and are therefore forbidden.

### **Iran tightens Web control**

*AP, August 23* - The Iranian government has tightened its control over the Internet, increasingly blocking content in its national language of Farsi and restricting what citizens can publish through Web journals, Western researchers say.

### **Reporters Without Borders condemn crackdown on journalists in northwestern Iran**

*RSF, August 12* - The authorities in Sanandaj have ordered that three journalists arrested at the start of August for covering the disturbances of the past few weeks in Iran's Kurdish-dominated northwestern region should be kept in custody for two months.

"We condemn the provisional custody orders issued for Roya Tolou, Ejlal Ghavami and Said Saedi, and we call on the authorities in Sanandaj to stop persecuting journalists who are courageous enough to cover demonstrations," Reporters Without Borders said.

### **Journalist sentenced to 3 months in prison**

*Iran Focus, Jun. 22, Tehran* – A court in Iran's holy city of Qom has sentenced a journalist to 91 days in prison for having insulted both the President and the head of the State Expediency Council, a state-run news agency reported. Farid Modarressi was found guilty of "writing insulting material" against incumbent President Mohammad Khatami and SEC chief Ayatollah Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani. Modarressi is set to be tried separately on Friday for writing "illegal material" in a weblog.

### **Iran's web censorship among world's strictest**

*AFP, June 22* - Iran has among the strictest Internet censorship in the world, blocking access to sexual content, political websites, information on women's rights and "blogs," a study by Internet researchers showed. The OpenNet Initiative, a partnership of researchers from Harvard University, the University of Toronto and University of Cambridge, noted that Iran uses technology from the US company, Secure Computing, calling the firm "complicit" in the censorship. But they said that Internet content controls "have support at the highest levels of the Iranian state." The researchers found some 34 percent of tested websites blocked... "Iran has put in place one of the world's most extensive and sophisticated Internet censorship regimes," said John Palfrey, executive director of the Berkman Center for Internet and Society at Harvard.

### **Iran bans four dailies over election rigging charges**

*Iran Focus, June 20* - Four Iranian dailies were suspended today by Tehran's Public

and Revolutionary Prosecutor for carrying the text of a letter by defeated presidential hopeful Mehdi Karroubi to the Islamic Republic's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, charging that Friday's first-round elections were rigged.

The dailies Eqbal, Aftab-e Yazd, Hayat-e No, and Ettemad were all banned from publishing today, on the orders of Prosecutor Saeed Mortazavi. It remains unclear how long the suspension will last.

#### **Iran jams TV channels**

*AFP, June 7* - Switch on your satellite television receiver in Tehran nowadays and something is amiss - "No Signal", the otherwise fuzzy television screen says for much of the day and night. With presidential elections just over a week away, Islamic Iran's technological guardians appear to be waging a war against enemies in the airwaves - opposition-run television channels.

#### **Weblogger gets two-years prison for 'insulting' supreme leader**

*AFP, Jun. 6, Teheran* - An Iranian weblogger arrested in a crackdown against online dissents has been sentenced to two years behind bars for "insulting the supreme leader" Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, his lawyer told AFP Monday. Mojtaba Saminejad "still faces charges of insulting the prophet and spreading corruption, which could cost him more jail terms," lawyer Mohammad Seifzadeh said. Saminejad, 25, was based

in the clerical capital of Qom. His weblog, or online diary, mainly dealt with sensitive religious and political issues. In Iran, questioning the absolute power of the supreme leader is illegal.

#### **Iran parliament suspends reformist press law**

*AFP, Apr. 25, Teheran* - Hard-line deputies in Iran's parliament have voted to suspend a law passed by their reformist predecessors that was aimed at giving journalists fairer trials, it was announced Monday. The law, pushed through by reformers in 2003, stipulated that journalists in court for press-related offences should face a jury made up of press union officials and representatives of other social groups. Reformists had hoped that the law, which has never been fully implemented, would give some protection to a press frequently targeted by the hardline judiciary.

#### **Iran shuts Arabic TV over coverage of ethnic clashes**

*AFP, Apr. 18* - Iran on Monday ordered the Arabic satellite television Al-Jazeera to "temporarily close" its Tehran bureau after controversy over its coverage of ethnic clashes, officials said. "We have ordered the temporary closure of the Al-Jazeera bureau," Mohammad Hossein Khoshvaght, director general of the culture and Islamic guidance ministry, told AFP.

# Situation of religious minorities

## Arrests, trials for apostasy

### **No news on whereabouts of three prisoners of the Ahl-e Hagh minority**

*Radio Farda, Feb. 26* – There are no news about the destiny of three prisoners of the Ahl-e-Hagh minority who were sentenced to death. Bakhshali Mohamadi, Abdollah Ghasemzadeh and Jahanali Mohamadi had been in prison in the city of Oroumieh since last year. According to reports, they were taken out of the ward some days ago to be executed. They have been accused of making trouble with the security forces of the city of Mian-do-Ab.

### **Iranian Bahai dies after 10 years in prison**

*Reuters, Dec. 19* - An Iranian of the Bahai faith has died in his jail cell of unknown causes, 10 years after being imprisoned by Tehran for abandoning Islam, the Bahai International Community said on Monday. Zabihollah Mahrami, 59, had been sentenced to death by Iran's Revolutionary Court in January 1996, but the sentence was later commuted to life in prison following an international outcry. "His death comes amidst ominous signs that a new wave of persecutions has begin" in Iran, the group's UN office said in a statement. At least 59 Bahais have been arrested, detained or imprisoned so far this year, up sharply from the last several years, it said. Mahrami was a civil servant who, like many other Bahais, lost his job following Iran's 1979 revolution. More than 200 Iranian Bahais have been killed and hundreds more imprisoned since 1978, the group said. He was sentenced to death in January 1996, triggering protests from the European Parliament and numerous governments including Australia, Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, Britain and the United States. Iranian officials later said he had been sentenced to death for spying for Israel rather than following the Bahai faith.

### **Massive international pressure helps acquit Iranian Christian in court**

*WorldNetDaily, June 1* -

Hamid Pourmand, an Iranian Christian lay pastor already sentenced by a military court for converting to Christianity while an officer, has been acquitted of separate charges brought by a sharia, or Islamic law court. Under international scrutiny, an Islamic law court in Iran acquitted a Christian pastor of apostasy and proselytizing charges related to his conversion from Islam. At a hearing Saturday, the judge in the sharia court in his hometown Bandar-i Bushehr reportedly told Pourmand his case had become widely known, reported Compass Direct, a news service that monitors persecution of Christians.



### **Iranian AG Pastor to Appear Before Sharia Court**

*Christian Post, Apr. 5* - An Assemblies of God lay pastor arrested seven months ago with more than 80 other Christian leaders must appear before the Islamic court of Iran within nine days, agencies reported Tuesday. Iranian Christian Hamid Pourmand, who was arrested last Sept. 9, will be brought up before the Islamic court between Apr. 11 and 14. According to a report released today by the Compass Direct news agency, the 47-year-old lay pastor is to face charges of apostasy from Islam and proselytizing Muslims to the Christian belief. An exact court date has not been released. Pourmand spent several months in solitary confinement after his arrest on Sept. 9 when security police raided a church conference he was attending.

## Situation of Children

### **Judge vows to continue execution of minors**

*ILNA (state-run news agency), Feb. 18* – A judge at Tehran's Appellate Court announced that the Islamic Republic would continue to issue death verdicts for juvenile delinquents "without considering other available options". Execution sentences will be issued to minors without considering other options", Ahmad Mozaffari told ILNA. Mozaffari made the comments after Iranian courts issued execution sentences to a 15 year old and 16 year old, the report said.

### **Iran sentences 15-year-old school boy to death**

*Iran Focus,, Feb. 15* – A 15-year-old schoolboy has been sentenced to death accused of murder, government-run websites announced on Wednesday. The teenage boy, only identified by his first name Mohammad, was originally sentenced by the Supreme Court to serve five years behind bars and pay blood-money for allegedly stabbing to death a friend after a scuffle. An appellate court, however, raised his sentence to death by hanging.

### **Iran's judiciary summons a 4-year-old boy to court**

*Hambastegi (state-run newspaper), Nov. 13* – Iran's judiciary has summoned a four-year-old child to court to face charges of assault on a ten-year-old, Hambastegi daily reported. The boy, identified by his first name Amir-Hosseini, was accused of

throwing dirt into the eyes of his 10-year old friend, the daily wrote.

### **17-year-old boy sentenced to death**

*Iran daily(state-run), Oct. 09* – A 17-year-old boy was sentenced to death by hanging, Iran daily reported. The boy, only identified by his first name Hamid, was accused of murder after a scuffle with several individuals, according to the daily. A Tehran court found him guilty and sentenced him to execution. No details were provided on when and where the execution would take place.

### **16-year-old schoolboy to be hanged**

*Etemaad daily, Aug. 24* – Iran's Supreme Court has given the green light for the hanging of a 16-year-old schoolboy in Tehran, Etemaad daily reported. The boy, identified only by his first name Mostafa, was convicted of killing a man in a scuffle that began when the boy tried to save a girl who was being harassed by the drunken man, the daily wrote. Mostafa, who had no criminal record, told the Islamic judge that when he saw the drunken man insult and harass a young girl near his home in Tehran Pars district, he intervened and tried to save the girl, but the foul-mouthed man began to beat him. In the brawl that followed, Mostafa killed the man.

# Repression of social movements and ethnic minorities

## **Iran arrests Azeri political activists**

*Iran Focus, Feb. 27, London* – Two political activists in Iran's Azerbaijan Province were arrested for spreading anti-government propaganda leaflets in the north-western town of Ahar, according to local residents. The two were identified as Javad Hassanpour and Taher Bayani. Hassanpour and Bayani were taken to prison on Saturday by agents of the Ministry of Intelligence and Security, Iran's dreaded secret police, for distributing leaflets hostile to the Iranian government. Azeri dissidents told Iran Focus that two Shiite clerics from Azerbaijan Province, who are opposed to the ruling theocracy, were arrested in the holy city of Qom on Saturday. Hojjat-ol-Islam Azimi Qadim and Hojjat-ol-Islam Fat'hollah were nabbed by state intelligence agents from their homes. Their families have not been given any information on their fate.

## **Iran's secret police raids homes of striking bus drivers**

*Iran Focus, Feb. 02, Tehran* – Agents of Iran's Ministry of Intelligence and Security (MOIS), the country's secret police, have been conducting night raids into the homes of striking bus drivers and workers in Tehran in recent days, arresting hundreds of union activists and, in some cases, detaining family members to blackmail strikers

## **Two Kurdish activists arrested**

*Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan, Sep. 12* – Two Iranian Kurds were arrested and taken to unknown locations by Iran's State Security Forces (SSF) in the western province of Kurdistan for their opposition to the Iranian government, a Kurdish opposition group reported. The two individuals were identified as Azad Lotfpouri and Rahim Shilani, according to the Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan. Lotfpouri, a student and activist from the city of Sanandaj, took part as a speaker during an anti-government protest in front of the city's governor's office. Shilani is from the volatile Kurdish town of Boukan.

## **Crack down on dissents with hangings and jail**

*State Security Forces (SSF), Sep. 13* – One person was hanged and 13 others were imprisoned in West Azerbaijan Province, Iran's State Security Forces (SSF) announced on Tuesday. Major Rezai, chief spokesman of the SSF in the province, said, "We have been implementing the plan to remove trouble-makers in the province, and so far 13 such persons have been sent to prison". One "trouble-maker" was hanged in the town of Naqadeh, the police spokesman announced. Rezai added that with harsher sentences from judges, the problem of trouble-makers, which had increased in recent months, would be resolved.

## **Iran police arrest Kurdish activist in restive city**

*Iran Focus, Aug. 25, Teheran* – A Kurdish activist in the city of Sanandaj, northwest Iran, was arrested by State Security Forces, Persian-language websites reported on Thursday. Hiva Youssefi was nabbed on Tuesday and his family said that no reason was given for his arrest. Youssefi was active in anti-government protests by Iran's Kurdish population. On July 30, he addressed a protest demonstration outside the governorate building in Sanandaj. Youssefi's family said that officials refused to reveal his whereabouts during repeated visits to local police stations and the local offices of the Ministry of Intelligence and Security, Iran's secret police.

## **Student activist gets one year jail time in Iran**

*Iran Focus, August 22* - An Iranian student activist was sentenced to one year in prison for organizing anti-government demonstrations, the head of a student organization said on Monday. Amir-Hossein Balali, a former student activist in Amir-Kabir University of Technology, had also been accused of inciting public anger against the state during the years 1998-2001.

**Unrest in Iran's Kurdish region has left 17 dead**

*The New York Times, August 14* - Unrest has rocked Iran's northwestern region of Kurdistan in recent weeks leading to the deaths of more than a dozen civilians and several members of the country's security forces. Dozens of activists have been arrested, among them Roya Toloui, a prominent advocate for women's rights, several human rights groups said. The authorities reportedly arrested her at her home in Sanandaj on charges of disturbing the peace and "acting against national security." Two Kurdish newspapers were also shut down. The government is very sensitive about hints of ethnic strife in the country. It has refused to release detailed information about the scale of the turmoil except for several random reports about attacks on government buildings during demonstrations.

**Reports of 13 killed as Saqqez joins other Kurdish cities in protest**

*KurdishMedia (website), August 3* - On Wednesday, the residents of the Kurdish city of Saqqez in Eastern Kurdistan organised a peaceful protest to support the massive protests of other parts of Eastern Kurdistan that have been raging on for the past weeks against the Iranian state. Clashes erupted between the protestors and Iranian security forces resulting in tens of Kurdish protestors being killed. There have been reports that in total 13 protestors were killed. Locals have also said that hundreds of protestors were detained during the protests.

**Rioters detained in southwest Iran, four people shot dead**

*Al-Jazeera, July 27* - Police have cracked down on fresh protests in Iran's restive southwestern oil province of Khuzistan, home to most of the Islamic Republic's Arab minority. An Iranian official said police had restored order after 12 arrests, but a leader among the Arab protestors said four protestors were killed and many injured in clashes with authorities. "A certain number of rioters who provoked people, set fire to tires and to a branch of the Saderat Bank," local judiciary official Saeed Saadi was quoted as saying.

**Iran security forces open fire on residents in Kurdish city**

*Iran Focus, May. 3, Tehran* - A young man was injured when Iran's State Security Forces (SSF) opened fire on residents in the Kurdish city of Mahabad (Western Iran) late Saturday evening. The incident took place in the city centre and Ash-Mam Ahmad district, where officials of the SSF were seen to be pursuing unknown people. Rahmat Khakpour, a 23-year-old first year Electronics university student, was injured after being shot at as he was returning home. Khakpour was shot in the right hand side of his neck and was taken to a local hospital, but doctors have not yet been able to remove the bullet from his neck. The shooting caused panic among the city's population and no official responsibility has been taken by the SSF.

# Arbitrary Detentions

## **Young people arrested for participating in a party**

*ISNA (Iran's Student News Agency – State run), Jan. 07* - Agents of the section of fight against social immorality from the city of Isfahan were alarmed about the sound of loud music from one of the gardens in the suburb of the city and were sent the place. After inspecting the garden, 36 men and 36 women were arrested for participating in a mix party. The agents also found and confiscated five bottles of alcoholic drinks and two video tapes.

## **21,000 arrests in Tehran during nine months**

*Javan News paper (state-run), Jan. 22* - General Mahmoudi, the commander in chief of Revolutionary Guards Special Forces said: "With a well organized plan during the past 9 months, our forces in great Tehran have successfully arrested twenty one thousands people for committing various crimes."

## **Iran's "anti-vice police" arrest dozens in party raid**

*The daily Iran (state-run), Dec. 04* – Iranian State Security Forces raided a home that was hosting a youth party in the north-eastern city of Mashad, daily Iran reported. At least 18 young men and 22 young women were arrested in the raid. The 40 detained individuals have been handed over to the judiciary to face prosecution for attending the mixed-sex party, the daily wrote.

## **More than 1,500 arrested in Tehran during 10 days**

*Jomhuri Islami, Sep. 18* – More than 1,500 persons have been arrested in Tehran over the past 10 days as part of a nationwide crackdown, Jomhuri Islami reported on Sunday. "Ten days after the plan to increase national security was put into effect, 829 criminal records have been created and 1,588 people have been arrested", the office of the Tehran Prosecutor announced.

## **48 Kurds indicted after unrest**

*Iran Focus, Sep. 03* - The Islamic Revolutionary Prosecutor in the western province of West Azerbaijan said 48 Kurds have been indicted for taking part in recent anti-government demonstrations and clashes, state-run dailies reported on Saturday.

## **String of arrests in volatile Kurdish towns in Iran**

*Iran Focus, Aug. 05, Tehran* – A number of journalists and human rights defenders have been arrested in towns and cities in western Iran, according to human rights activists in the Iranian capital. Mahmoud Salehi, the spokesman for the Organisational Committee to Establish Trade Unions, was arrested in the early hours of Thursday. The arrest follows Wednesday's nabbing of two Kurdish activists in the city of Sanandaj by plainclothes security agents. Jalal Qavami, a journalist and a member of the editorial board of the journal Payam-e Mardom, was arrested at his place of work after agents of Iran's dreaded Ministry of Intelligence and Security initially raided his residence. Azad Zamani, an activist in the Association in Defence of Children's Rights was also arrested in Sanandaj. Previously, Madeh Ahmadi was arrested in the Kurdish city.