

SUBMISSION TO THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE
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Alternative report on the Islamic Republic of Iran

Tehran - Tabriz - 2023

1. The Iranian Network of Civil Society Organizations provides the below information to the United Nations (UN) Human Rights Committee ahead of the consideration of the periodic report of the Islamic Republic of Iran at the 139th session of the CCPR, outlining the main concerns about violations of Iran's obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. This report reflects the position of a coalition of non-governmental organizations that work in the field of protection of rights and freedoms. Due to the fears of public organizations regarding the safety of members and their families and possible pressure, arrests and even killings by the security forces of the Iranian authorities, we do not indicate the name of organizations in the report. The alternative report was prepared by a group of human rights experts, as well as a coalition of non-governmental organizations. The report contains data from open sources, from activists, reports from organizations, human rights movements in Iran.

2. The authors (Coalition of Organizations) of the report are grateful to the international community, international organizations that have shown a desire and interest in the state of human rights in Iran, have prepared a number of reports that enable the world community and human rights organizations to assess the real situation that currently exists in Iran.

3. The alternative report of the Coalition of Organizations is an alternative to the official report of Iran. The purpose of the alternative report is to present the state of affairs in the field of human rights and freedoms in Iran regarding the implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (hereinafter CCPR) and the direct level of implementation by the state. The situational analysis of the current state in the field of fundamental rights and freedoms, in our opinion, is intended to contribute to a deeper understanding by interested international organizations of the topic of a large-scale human rights crisis in the Islamic Republic of Iran (hereinafter referred to as the State). The second part of the alternative report reflects the status of the rights and freedoms of national minorities. The report recorded numerous egregious facts of violations of human rights and freedoms with specific examples and facts.

4. Numerous facts of violations, the absence of effective legal remedies against the actions of persons acting in an official capacity, give grounds to say that the State does not provide persons with the rights and freedoms recognized in this Covenant. Notwithstanding the obligation to respect and ensure to persons the rights of all within the territory and under its jurisdiction of the State, as recognized in the present Covenant, the State still pursues a repressive policy of suppression of rights and freedoms. Mass violations: the right to decent treatment, prevention of torture and abuse, the right to a fair and humane trial, mass public executions, despite all the official assurances of the State to the international community about the absence of these violations, many citizens are deprived of these rights. At the same time, in the aggregate of the

above-mentioned rights violated, the State systematically, on the basis of repressive legislation, violates the right to a native language, freedom of religion, political beliefs of national minorities. All these rights and freedoms are placed in a critically unacceptable position.

5.The State, despite its arguments, does not ensure the equal right of men and women to enjoy all the civil and political rights provided for in this Covenant. This can be noted in civil, criminal legislation, and in civil procedural legislation. The rights of dominance are legally assigned to men, women are in a very disadvantageous position. Almost all national minorities are deprived of fundamental rights to education in their native language, the right to develop their culture and to preserve their identity.

6.The State, in its reports and reports, through its statements through the media, repeatedly refers to the state of emergency in the state, in which "the life of the nation and the state are in danger" and thereby justifies its derogation from its obligations under the CCPR. However, the long-term practice of the ongoing discriminatory policy solely on the basis of gender, language, and religion is evident.

7.The State, under one pretext or another of rules or customs, permits the derogation of fundamental human rights. A whole system of restrictions has been formed in relation to women, national and religious minorities, that they are recognized in it to a lesser extent.

8.The latest events of 2022-2023 give reason to talk about massive violations of the right to life. Familiarization with the numerous facts below gives grounds to state that the state has questioned the inalienable rights and these rights are easily taken away by the State without trial or investigation. Hundreds of facts of arbitrary deprivation of life by the State speaks of massive and gross violations by the State of its obligations under the CCPR.

9.Although the CCPR clearly states under what circumstances death sentences may be imposed (only for the most serious crimes, in accordance with the law in force at the time of the commission of the crime and which is not contrary to the provisions of this Covenant and the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide), the State has repeatedly violated this section of the CCPR. Death sentences were very often imposed and carried out without the right to appeal and cassation to minors, women and men who were charged with a crime against the state, which in the vast majority of cases meant participation in demonstrations against arbitrariness and violation of human rights and freedoms. A very small percentage of those who were sentenced to death were able to exercise the right to pardon or to commute the sentence.

10.The state imposed the death penalty for "crimes" committed by persons under the age of eighteen and carried out against women. Moreover, in places of execution of the death sentence, the rules of forcible deprivation of virginity from women before execution are officially in force. Numerous testimonies give grounds to speak about the reliability of this information. Wild forms of violation of human rights and dignity are common throughout the penitentiary system of the State. In the State, executions of death sentences are carried out in public places.

The entire system and all institutions of the penitentiary and law enforcement system of the State, in most cases with the approval of the State, is riddled with gross violations of human rights. In the structures of the repressive machine of the State, torture and cruel, inhuman, degrading treatment and punishment are ubiquitous and have become the norm.

11. The State practices actions when the arrested person is not informed for months of the reasons for his arrest and is not informed of the charge against him. For months, relatives cannot find the arrested person, his whereabouts, and in general, the arrested person is alive or dead. This kind of collective punishment of the family has become routine behavior for law enforcement, paramilitary groups and security agencies. All persons imprisoned for opposition activities, arrested in places of demonstrations, pickets and other forms of non-violent forms of protest are deprived of the right to humane treatment and respect for the inherent dignity of the human person. Very often, just random passers-by who had nothing to do with the protests were subjected to arrest, torture and inhuman treatment.

12. The state tolerates the practice that persons arrested or detained on criminal charges go through a filtering process and a “corridor” of humiliation and torture, which can last for months and only after that can be brought before a judge, in most cases without a lawyer or a state lawyer, who are more than side of the prosecution than on the side of the accused. Very often, against the accused or detained for opposition activities or in places and areas of protests, the State involves a repressive structure and those judges who unconditionally follow the instructions of the authorities. In the vast majority of cases, decisions are made on further criminal prosecution if the detention is unlawful. The right to compensation for those who have been the victim of unlawful arrest or detention is completely excluded.

13. The events of the entire 2022 and the first half of 2023 showed numerous violations of the rights of minors, through the repressive mechanism and security agencies. The State not only persecuted, subjected to torture and inhuman treatment and condemned minors on an equal footing and together with adults, but also sentenced them to death by hanging.

14. The State in the penitentiary system does not provide for any sparing regime in which juvenile and adult prisoners would be included in programs for their correction and social re-education.

15. The State has actually abolished the presumption of innocence, because if the security body decides to involve someone, to punish, that this is followed by the maximum conviction, without any chance for a fair and humane judicial investigation.

16. The practice of torture during the pre-trial period and during the trial of those accused of opposition activities, human rights activists, representatives of national minorities suggests that in the vast majority of cases, the accused are deprived of the right to be informed in a language that they understand about the nature and basis of the criminal charge against them. Defendants do not have sufficient time and opportunity to prepare their defense and prepare with a defense counsel of their own choice. Iranian human rights activists and international organizations are stating the facts when the accused are awaiting trial for months and years. The main part of the accused has the right to protection provided by the State, which more actively support the prosecution and induce the accused to admit guilt. Numerous facts of non-admission by the prosecution of the defense lawyer chosen by the accused himself or his relatives. Investigative procedural norms and judicial procedural norms are neglected to the detriment of the rights of the accused regularly and publicly.

17. It is very unfortunate that the State practices criminal prosecution on charges of demanding those rights and freedoms that are recorded in the CCPR, and also practices coercion to testify against oneself, one's relatives and friends, to plead guilty.

18. Press monitoring gives grounds to say that the so-called “vice police” structure subject to arbitrary and unlawful interference with personal and family life, the police and security agencies can arbitrarily and unlawfully encroach on the inviolability of the home and the secrecy of correspondence, unlawful encroachments on his honor and reputation.

19. The State, in violation of Article 18 of the CCPR, restricted Iranian citizens' freedom of conscience and religion. The criminal prosecution of representatives of various representatives of religions, the tightening of women's adherence to the dogmas of the titular religion (for example, the issue of freedom for women to wear headscarves) has become commonplace actions of security agencies. Subsequent repressions against citizens "convicted of an offense" very often extend to family members and the immediate environment, which is a sign of collective responsibility for the "offense". In Iran, it is forbidden to change or adopt a religion of one's choice, despite the fact that Islam expressly forbids coercion in matters of religious freedom. Despite the stated tolerance on the part of the State, there is a practice of coercion in the country that diminishes the freedom to have or adopt a religion or belief of one's choice.

20. The State's declaration of the existing guarantees of the right to freedom of expression, and indeed any intention to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of any kind, orally, in writing or by means of the press or artistic expression, or by other means other than the official ideology pursued by the security forces, after a series of torture, inhuman treatment, are sentenced to long prison terms.

21. Under the CCPR - Any advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence must be prohibited by law.

The wife of the President of Iran, Jamila Alamolhoda, made a scandalous statement on the air of a Venezuelan TV channel showing how Turkophobia has taken root in the ruling elite of the Islamic Republic of Iran. She categorically stated: "The Turks are the ancient enemies of Iran." Meanwhile, Turks are called Azerbaijanis of Turkic origin, whose number exceeds 30 million people in Iran. Jamil Alamolhoda is considered in Iran to determine the policy in the field of education. She is a Doctor of Science in Education, Associate Professor at the Department of Pedagogy and Psychology at the University of Tehran. At one time, Jamila Alamolhoda even headed the Institute for Humanitarian Studies, and since March 2020 she has been appointed head of the Council for the Transformation and Renewal of the Education System of the Country. And it is very sad that, in fact, the policy in the field of education in the Islamic Republic of Iran is in charge of a person infected with Turkophobia stereotypes. And these calls and statements bring destruction to the fragile interethnic relations within the country and can be perceived by the titular nation as a guide to action, which can lead to civil confrontation.

22. The State accepts and allows only pro-government peaceful assemblies in the country. Violation of the right to peaceful assembly was noted in almost all regions of Iran. This right was not only subject to restrictions, but was used by the State with violence, firearms against peaceful demonstrators. In no way can one justify such behavior of the State, there was no need for the use of brute force and violence, justifying this as allegedly necessary in the interests of State or public security, public order, the protection of the health and morals of the population or the protection of the rights and freedoms of others.

23. The exercise of the right to freedom of assembly was suppressed, cruelty was used disproportionately against young people, women and even children, and such actions cannot

be justified as necessary "in the interests of state or public security, public order, the protection of the health and morals of the population, or the protection of the rights and freedoms of others." The state has been disproportionately harsh and even cruel to the participants in peaceful marches in all provinces and cities that were celebrated in 2022-2023. Violence against peaceful demonstrators has also been noted in previous years. In most cases, the State carried out provocative acts of violence by its paramilitary groups against its own officials and government buildings in order to further justify its response to the disproportionate use of violence and firearms against demonstrators by security forces.

24. In most settlements where national minorities from among the Turkic Azerbaijanis live, they express their dissatisfaction with the fact that in civil administration structures, during the registration of newborn children, official representatives secretly prohibit naming and recording children with names traditional for this ethnic group. Numerous statements, legal proceedings that last for years give reason to talk about systemic illegal persecution by the State in order to strengthen assimilation processes.

25. In fact, in the long term, the State conducts such processes in relation to the national minorities of Iran, which have the goal of assimilation. A complete ban, in the case of the right to education, a partial ban in the case of the development of cultural and traditional values, is practiced by the State in relation to Azerbaijanis, Turks, Bellujs, Kurds, Arabs and many other national minorities. Occasional groundless bans on holding ethnic events has become a common practice of behavior of both central and regional authorities and security forces.

Violations of rights and freedoms Report for 2022-2023

State reaction to peaceful demonstrations and pickets

26. During the ongoing nationwide protests in Iran, presence of The Law Enforcement Command of the Islamic Republic (FARAJA) forces, especially the Special Units, has been more visible than previous protests. Alongside FARAJA forces, members of Imam All security battalions, affiliated with paramilitary Basij forces and essentially under the command of the IRGC ground forces, have also played a major role in suppression of unarmed protestors. In addition to common anti-riot equipment such as tear gas, pepper sprays, shockers, and batons, the repressive forces have also used other tools, which have been deadly at times. Spreading Justice has received several reports that the security forces of FARAJA used paintball guns to target sensitive parts of body such as the faces of protesters, which in cases have caused injury, especially in eyes. In various cities, police in plain clothes and uniforms have systematically opened fire on the protesters, usually in the face. According to the reports received by Spreading Justice, security forces used such assault rifles as Kalashnikov and Heckler & Koch G3 in the Zahedan massacre that came to be known as "bloody Friday of Zahedan", and in deadly attacks on Sanandaj.

27. To break strikes in workplaces or prevent any strikes to take hold, the Iranian government has taken repressive measures. As the Council of Oil Contract Workers which organizes the protests among oil workers announced, more than 250 workers were arrested illegally and without bringing charges on the October 18-20, 2022.

28. The student protests led to the arrest of dozens of children and the escalation of conflicts between parents and school officials. Officials of the Ministry of Education also announced the transfer of detained students to juvenile detention centers. in some cases, the security forces

entered the schools and in addition to making the atmosphere tense, sometimes exacerbated the student protests.

29. Another group that was arrested by the security and law enforcement agencies was comprised of journalists. They were arrested purely to prevent any dissemination of information on the protests. 61 journalists incurred the authorities' wrath and were arrested simply for doing their jobs.

30. The protests in the Islamic Republic of Iran, which began in mid-September 2022 with the death of a young girl named Mahsa Amini, have not subsided and have continued for five months, although they have weakened significantly recently.

31. Although the issue of the mandatory wearing of the hijab and the aggressive behavior of the vice police, which monitors compliance with this requirement, played the role of a spark to start protests, in a short time, the actions that covered almost the entire territory of the country, based on the principle "the power of the majority". From this point of view, both the protesters and the Western media and officials began to call the processes that are gradually radicalizing and reaching the level of open confrontation with the authorities a "revolution". Discussions held by the Iranian Political Science Association emphasized that the protests have some revolutionary parameters, but due to the lack of a specific ideology and unified leadership, they cannot be called a revolutionary movement. The Iranian authorities from the very beginning called the protests a riot.

32. In Iran, there are 3 points of view on the origin of the protests. Some say that the protests are organized from the outside, others say that they are caused by purely internal reasons, and still others say that both factors have an influence. Official Tehran stated from the very beginning that the protests were a "mutiny" of foreign forces (USA, Israel, UK, Saudi Arabia). But the truth is that no external force can organize such long-term and large-scale actions if there is no internal basis. In this context, one should emphasize the presence in the current protests of the most frightening element for the Iranian authorities - the ethnic factor. Especially in the case of the Kurds, Balochs and Azerbaijanis, this factor was clearly manifested. At the protests in South Azerbaijan, the demand for equal and national rights was put forward under the slogan "Freedom, Justice, National Government".

33. In terms of the social composition of the protesters, another important aspect is the broad participation of two active sections of Iranian society - women and youth. In November 2022, the "Fars" news agency, which is part of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (SEPAH), published interesting information about the age categories of those arrested at the protests. According to this information, 41.8% of detainees are under 20 years old, 48.2% - from 20 to 35 years old, 10% - over 35 years old. These statistics clearly demonstrate that young people (even teenagers) are the main driving force behind the protests, and show that they do not represent traditional political movements (monarchists, mujahideen, leftist parties) that are in opposition to the regime, that is, the opposition forces turn out to be "alien" to each other in the process. The lack of economic demands at the initial stage of the protests is an important point that most observers draw attention to. However, Iranian economists report that the country's poverty rate has tripled in the last 10 years. Interestingly, the slogans that were often heard during the protests of 2017-2018 and 2019 and called on the government to send to the country the funds spent on puppet forces abroad did not sound this time either. It seems that these demands are of a reformist nature, the protesters no longer expect reforms from the

authorities, which led to the postponement of slogans in this direction. Nevertheless, the reform movement in Iran tried to use the protests as an opportunity to return to the political scene, including a number of well-known figures of this movement (ex-President Mohammad Khatami, former Prime Minister Mirhussein Mousavi, etc.) called for immediate reforms in the country. Ignoring these calls, the Iranian authorities, in accordance with their traditional tactics, increased pressure on the protesters, carried out mass arrests and executions on the one hand, and on the other, organized a large-scale propaganda and smear campaign against the protesters, thus following the strategy of gradual "fading" of the protests. However, even if he achieves this goal, the forceful suppression of protests that have a great resonance at the international level, taking place against the backdrop of a deterioration in the image of the Iranian authorities in the world (for reasons such as the problem of drones, the nuclear program, human rights) and new sanctions, is likely to lead to further narrowing of the impasse. As the well-known Iranian sociologist Majid Mohammadi notes, it will not be possible to return Iranian society to the state before September last year.

MOTIVE OF EMERGENCE OF PROTESTS

DEATH OF MAHSA AMINI

34. Mahsa Amini, a 22-year-old Kurdish woman, was detained by Tehran's morality police for not wearing the hijab in accordance with government standards on September 14. She was transferred to a hospital on the same day in a state of coma and died on September 16. The Law Enforcement Agencies of the Islamic Republic of Iran stated that she had a heart attack at a police station, collapsed, and fell into a coma before being transferred to a hospital, but Mahsa's uncle called her heart disease a fabrication and confirmed Mahsa was completely healthy. Eyewitnesses, including women who were detained with Amini, reported that she was severely beaten and that she died as a result of police brutality, which was denied by the Iranian authorities. Amini's death resulted in a series of protests in Iran.

35. Mahsa became a sacred victim, which blew up the civil society of Iran and actualized the internal accumulated problems of Iran (ethno-religious contradictions and separatist sentiments). Amini's Kurdish origins were the first to initiate protests in Iranian Kurdistan. Mahsa Amini has become a symbol of the ethnic Kurdish minority, women's rights and victims of the theocratic regime for the protesters.

POLITICAL-IDEOLOGICAL, SOCIO-ECONOMIC CAUSES OF PROTESTS:

36. These protests (2022-2023) are now taking place also in light of the social problems and economic crisis caused by the post-pandemic era.

37. The emergence of a young generation who wants to live in a modern, free country and their access to the world through social networks, the formation of cultural discrepancies as a result of the collision between modernity and medieval rules, the dominance of clerical dogmas in society, national and economic policies based on religious-ethnic discrimination and Persian chauvinism, as well as the dual system of de-facto coexistence of theocratic and illusory suppressed secular governance have led to the disintegration of society.

TRAGIC EVENTS TRIGGERED BY PROTESTS

"BLOODY" FRIDAY

38. Bloody Friday, which began with protesters gathering and chanting in front of a police station near Great Mosalla Mosque in Zahedan, took place on 30 September. At least 96 people were killed and about 300 were injured. The clashes occurred largely in response to the alleged rape of a 15-year-old Baloch girl on September 1, 2022 by Colonel Ebrahim Kuchakzal, the police commander in Chabahar, and the death of Mahsa Amini. The state did not conduct an investigation and did not condemn the authorities responsible for this bloodshed.

THE ATTACK ON THE SHARIF UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

39. On October 2, the harsh intervention of government forces in the action organized at the Sharif University of Technology led to clashes. Tear gas and rubber batons were used against the students. According to the instructions of the university management, the students were sent to the university parking lot to leave, but the students were surrounded by security forces and at least 30-40 of them were arrested.

FIRE AT EVIN PRISON

40. On the night of October 15-16, a strong fire broke out in Evin prison, where mainly political prisoners, protestors and dissidents are kept in Tehran. As a result of the fire, 8 prisoners died and 61 people were injured. No real investigation of these deaths took place.

KHODANUR LOJEI HANDCUFFED TO THE FLAGPOLE

41. On Friday, September 30, 2022, in another province of Iran, Sistan and Baluchestan, in the city of Zahedan, where ethnic Balochs who profess Sunni Islam live, a group of men went to the police station with anti-government slogans. One of them, Khodanur Lajei (Lojei), was wounded during the confrontation with the police, and died on October 2.

42. After his death, a photograph showing his arrest by the police, two months before his death, with his hands tied to a flagpole and a bottle of water placed out of reach in front of him, became one of the symbols of the ongoing protests in Iran. The name of Khodanur Lojei, as well as the name of Mahsa Amini, have become symbols of what is happening in the country to accuse the Iranian authorities of ethno-religious discrimination.

43. The protest movements were disorganized and unplanned. The lack of coordination led to the dispersal of the protesters, which did not allow them to create a large-scale movement. In most cases, the protesters gathered in masses and immediately dispersed when the security forces appeared.

44. The active phase of the protests in Iran lasted for several months. Despite the fact that Iran has experienced an unfavorable economic environment due to sanctions and a downturn in the overall global economy, the protesters protested mainly over issues related to human rights and religious prohibitions.

45. The economic problems in Iran have led to an increase in poverty. In 2022-2023, the number of people living below the poverty line doubled. Currently, one third of the population lives in poverty.

46. All these indicators suggest that, the socio-economic situation in Iran is bad and the protests worsen it. Therefore, the deterioration of the socio-economic situation can further inflame protests and lead to their transformation into social actions.

SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE RECENT AND PREVIOUS PROTESTS

47. Iran's ethnic groups, mainly Kurdish and Baloch citizens, who are mostly adherents of Sunni Islam, were particularly active in these protests.

48. A distinctive feature of the current protests from the previous ones was violent clashes recorded between law enforcement agencies and protesters in the regions, where mainly Kurds live in "Kurdistan" and Baloch in "Zahedan". The fact that Mahsa Amini, who was born in Saqqez, Kurdistan, was an ethnic Kurd, has caused fierce protests in Kurdistan.

49. Protesters, unable to legally enforce a halt to the violence against protesters, arrests, torture, abuse, murder, began to take out their anger en masse on posters and banners of the former Supreme Leader of Iran. Banners of Ruhollah Khomeini and Iran's current supreme leader Ali Khamenei were attacked on the streets of Iranian cities during the protests. These protests have engulfed almost most classes in Iranian society.

50. Iran's threats to regional states in the background of protests - conducting military drills on the border with Azerbaijan; accusing Saudi Arabia of financing the protests and hence, statements on relevant retribution - are attempts to divert the attention to foreign policy objectives in addition to attaining internal consolidation against foreign menace.

51. The 2022-2023 protests are not based on economic or environmental demands. Rather, they are based on political and human rights demands. Also, the current protests have covered all the provinces of Iran, unlike the protests of previous years. Compared to previous protests, the largest number of protesters have been detained during these actions.

RESTRICTION OF THE INTERNET

52. During the protests in the vast majority of regions and in the capital of the country, social media platforms were regularly blocked. There are still restrictions on the Internet and social networks. Iranian authorities cut off mobile phone networks in an attempt to prevent the protests from spreading more widely.

53. The hacker groups "Black Reward" and "Anonymous Opran" organized cyber operations against regime government websites to support the protests of the Iranian people, post text in support of the protests of the Iranian people on the front pages of these websites, blocked some websites, delete existing information and share the resulting documents with protesters.

54. A hacker group called "Justice Ali" was able to carry on the air for a few seconds on the TV channel when the country's religious leader said: "The blood of our youth flows from your hands", "All the people stand up and join us!"

55. After the arrest and death of Mahsa Amin, some Iranian and international politicians and activists, artists and public figures did not remain silent against the backdrop of the beginning and continuation of actions. Badri Hosseini, sister of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, said the religious leader does not listen to the voice of the people and continues the path of Ruhollah Khomeini in oppressing and killing innocent people.

56. Grand Ayatollah Asadullah Bayat Zanjani, a cleric, also criticized the vice police, calling it "illegal", "meaningless", including "controversial religion".

57. At the same time, former President Hassan Rohani's Vice President for Women and Family Affairs, Masuma Abdekar, said that a police-released surveillance video linked to Masa Amini at Wozara Detention Center had been cut and said the video raised more questions.

58. Further, a group of Sunni clerics in Urmia issued a statement criticizing the mistreatment of the protesters and demanded the unconditional release of the arrested protesters, a review of the government's behavior towards the protesting citizens, taking into account their demands, an end to the repression, the brutal killing of people, etc. On top of all this, some Iranian and foreign political prisoners have reacted to the latest developments by sending letters from prison.

REACTION OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

59. The Human Rights Council of the United Nations organized an international fact-finding committee to investigate Iran's actions based on the resolution approved at its special meeting held on November 24, 2022, regarding the Islamic Republic's repression of uprisings across Iran. 25 members of the Human Rights Council voted in favour and 6 members against in the voting of this UN-affiliated body to approve this resolution on Thursday, November 24, 2022. 16 members abstained. Hours before, in the emergency meeting of the Council at the United Nations Headquarters in Geneva, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Türk, referred to the protests, cutting off the internet and massive suppression of the protesters. He also said that the investigations into the murder of Masa Amini were woefully inadequate and did not meet the standards of an impartial investigation. Javaid Rehman, the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in Iran, also referred to the attacks by the security forces and officers in plain cloth on university campuses, murder of underage protesters, sham trials, coerced confessions, and death sentences for protesters. He expressed grave concern over these developments.

60. In the meeting of the European Parliament, that was held to support the revolutionary uprising of the Iranian people, the representatives of the European Parliament demanded to include the entire SEPAH in the list of terrorist organizations and close the embassies of the Islamic Republic on the soil of the European Union.

SANCTIONS

61. In response to serious human rights violations in Iran, the European Union, the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom, have imposed new sanctions against individuals and entities in Iran, including travel bans and asset freezes.

VIOLENCE AGAINST CULTURE, ART AND SPORT CELEBRITIES

62. Since September 2022, a number of Iranian public figures, including athletes, singers, and actors have been persecuted by the state security forces for supporting nationwide protests and riots in the country. Protesters demanding freedom and women's rights were sentenced to death, imprisonment and other harsh punishments.

The geography of protests and facts of violations

63. Province east Azerbaijan, total number (2016) 4.082.000. Azerbaijanis 3.750.000

ACTIONS

- 22.09.2022 At night 8 Azerbaijani activists were arrested during the protests actions held in Malekan and Tabriz.
- 29.09.2022 Sakina Piran, a 24-year-old young activist living in Tabriz, was arrested by the security forces on September 29 while going to work. The activist who was interrogated for 7 days in the detention center of the Ministry of Intelligence was beaten and tortured for forced confession.
- 03.10.2022 Social and cultural activist Farid Hosseini Azer was detained by Iranian government forces in Tabriz.
- 04.10.2022 Ramin Behzad, a young writer and artist living in Tabriz, was detained by Iranian security forces and taken to an unknown place.
- 06.10.2022 Iranian government forces raided the house of Yaqub Bahrami, a member of the Teachers' Trade Union in Tabriz. The security forces that attacked Yagub Bahrami's house arrested the teacher and confiscated his phone, computer and other personal belongings aw neol by him and his family members.
- 09.10.2022 Students in Tabriz schools tore pictures of Khomeini from textbooks and trampled them underfoot. Protesters in Tabriz wrote anti-government slogans on the walls: "Long live South Azerbaijan, "Let the work of Pischevari continue!"; The people of Tabriz wrote warnings on the walls of state offices and notice boards of educational institutions: "Release Azerbaijani students from prison! The Azerbaijani nation and national movement will not tolerate violent repression against its children!" To protest, Azerbaijani activists sprayed red paint on the mouth of the statue of General Qasim Soleimani in the city of Maragha.
- 17.10.2022 Lawyer and jurist Qasim Bodi was arrested by Iranian security forces and taken in an unknown direction.
- 19.10.2022 Iranian security forces have detained Reza Abdullahi Piralila, a cultural figure, saz music teacher and owner of the "Tabriz Saz Baglam Evi" music school.
- 20.10.2022 In protest against violence and the use of force protesters in Tabriz wrote Death to Khamenei" on a statue in the city center.
- 24.10.2022 Hossein Kushi, a labor activist living in Tabriz, was detained for no reason by Iranian security forces and transferred to prison.
- 25.10.2022 The workers of the Tabriz Tractor Plant went on strike.
- 30.10.2022 Azerbaijani activists waved the Azerbaijani flag in Tabriz. Nima Rahimi, a 20-year-old protester from Tabriz was arrested by Iranian forces and taken to an unknown destination. There is no information about the current state of Nima Rahimi, there is no information whether he was convicted or sentenced to death.
- 31.10.2022 Hanan Muazzini, a student at the University of Tabriz, was arrested by Iranian government forces during protests in Tabriz. Armita Paver, a student of the biology faculty at the Madani University of Tabriz, was detained by security forces in front of the entrance gate of the university. There is no information about the fate of arrested.
- 01.10.2022 Following the arrest of Azerbaijani student activist Armita Pavir at the entrance to Tabriz University on October 31, student protests expanded. A member of the East Azerbaijan Bar Association, a lawyer from Tabriz, Negin Kayani, was arrested. The reason

for his arrest was that he acted as a defender and lawyer for those arrested for participating in protests in Tabriz.

- 02.11.2022 The imam of the Yaghchiyan mosque in the Quds suburb of Tabriz, Khojatulislam Amirkhani, was beaten by unidentified young men on his way home from the mosque. Anti-government slogans were written on the walls in several blocks of Tabriz, calls were made to honor the memory of Hadith Najafi, an Azerbaijani poet who was killed in Karaj. Athlete Karim Ismailzade was detained by security forces in Tabriz without a court decision and illegally arrested.
- 03.11.2022 In Tabriz, Azerbaijani activists Yunis Zareyun, Abulfazi Jani and Nasser Bakhtari were arrested and taken away from their homes by repressive Iranian security forces. A group of protesters held demonstrations on the streets and roads of the "40 meters" quarter of the city of Tabriz and shouted national slogans.
- 04.11.2022 Azerbaijani activists named Ali Radmenesh and Asghar Fuladzade were arrested by security forces in the city of Tabriz.
- 05.11.2022 Azerbaijani activists Rahman Azermirad and Mohammad Javidi living in Tabriz were arrested by the Iranian Ministry of Security. In protest at Tabriz University of Arts, students wrote Khamenei's name on toilet bowls.
- 06.11.2022 Protesters in Tabriz wrote "office of the supreme religious leader" on trash cans.
- 08.11.2022 Murtaza Shirmohammadi, a student at the Tabriz University of Medical Sciences was killed by the military police regime of the Iranian authorities. Students at the Tabriz University of Arts wrote on a blackboard a warning to the repressive government of Iran: "This text will be removed, but the blood will never be removed!"
- 14.11.2022 In protest against the killings and torture during detentions, the protesters set fire to the headquarters of the paramilitary Basij forces in Tabriz with Molotov cocktails.
- 16.11.2022 The students of Tabriz University held a mass protest calling all students to join the protests: "Don't be afraid, we are all together!"; "Freedom, Justice, National Government" slogans were chanted by the students of Tabriz Azad University.
- 17.11.2022 Fierce with the repressions of the mullah regime in Tabriz, the protestors lit bonfires, set up barricades and chanted slogans: "Freedom, Justice, National Government!"; Young protesters were brutally beaten by the government forces in Furughi Street of Tabriz; Azerbaijani activist Umid Gozali was arrested by government forces in Tabriz; Shopkeepers in Tabriz closed their shops in support of the protests. Government forces opened fire at the people during the demonstration on Valiasr Street in Tabriz. Following the calls issued regarding the anniversary of the November 2019 protests, strikes have started in Tabriz and dozens of other cities.
- 18.11.2022 The "Amir" shopping center of Tabriz also joined the nationwide strike. Tabriz city shops have stopped working.
- 19.11.2022 The government forces gathered in front of the mosque where the ceremony was to be held in order to prevent the holding of the mourning ceremony for the murdered Ali Iragi. Activist Hamid Bagiri was arrested by Iran's Ministry of Intelligence and Security. At the funeral of student Aylar Haqqi, who was pushed from the top of a building by security forces during the protests, people chanted, "This year is the year of blood, Seyid Ali (Khameneyi) must be overthrown!"
- 22.11.2022 The power structures of the Iranian government arrested 31 activists in Malikan city. The security forces pressured the family of Ali Iraqi, who was killed during the protests, to present the cause of death as an unfortunate accident. Azerbaijani dance teachers were

arrested. It is not known where the teacher of "Parla" Azerbaijani dance group Fatima Mohammadi and the dance teacher, student of Art University Mahliga Babazade are detained. Banners with pictures of Khomeini and Khamenei were burned.

- 23.11.2022 Azerbaijani musician and composer Abulfaz Abulmaali was arrested at his workplace in Tabriz. Activists Said Ilkhani and Jafar Fathi from Malikan were subjected to severe torture. Ilkhani's hand was broken, and Fathi got head injury.
- 01.12.2022 Al-Zahra hospital medical staff stopped work in protest against the government. 210 teachers from the Tabriz University of Medical Sciences said that the lives of the protesters and arrested students were in danger. The teachers, using their personal and legal resources, wrote a letter to the administration of the university demanding that they take measures to release the detained students and provide them with support.
- 05.12.2022 Photos of Khomeini and Khamenei were burned by soldiers in one of the barracks in the city of Tabriz. Al-Zahra University students, along with several professors, went on strike to protest the unfair dismissal of Dr. Shamsi Abbas Alizadeh.
- 07.12.2022 In the city of Marand, activists protested against the discriminatory policies of the Tehran government. A banner with the slogan "Freedom, Justice, National Government" was hung from the overpass bridge in Marand city. The words "Welcome to the leader's office" are written in Farsi on a toilet at Tabriz University.
- 10.12.2022 Huseyn Khudayi, an Azerbaijani National Movement activist and a doctor by profession, who lives in Tabriz, was arrested at his workplace by Iranian security forces. Rza Rzazade, an orthopedic doctor at the Tabriz hospital, was arrested after being summoned to the Revolutionary Prosecutor's Office. He is accused of "insulting the Iranian government and its leader." A funeral service for Aylar Khaggi, a student of the Tabriz University of Medical Sciences, who was killed by government forces in the village of Malikan, was not allowed. Deputy from the cities of Tabriz, Usku and Tufargan (Azershahr) in the Iranian Parliament Masoud Pezeshkian, referring to article 27 of the country's constitution, said that citizens have the right to hold protests.
- 14.12.2022 Tabriz University of Medical Sciences students Mohsun Shikari and Majidrza Rahnvard cut the ropes and held a silent protest in bloody shirts to protest the execution of the mullah's repressive government. Students of the university were holding posters with slogans calling on all citizens to join the protest actions: "Parents should be shot in protest?", "After years, blood instead of water, we fall like yellowing leaves, trees are a gallows." in this country!"
- 15.12.2022 Maida Garagoz, a 23-year-old girl from Tabriz, was sentenced to prison and fined for her social media posts and banned from leaving the country. The verdict was issued by the Tabriz Revolutionary Court. Students from the Tabriz University of Medical Sciences held a silent protest and procession. The Iranian government's crackdown on protesters was challenged at a protest that took place in the courtyard of the university. They held posters with the slogans "We were born from our ashes, a forest will grow from us", "No execution", "Azer 21 is the day of the massacre of the people of Azerbaijan by the Pahlavi regime", and other slogans.
- 16.12.2022 Ramin Behzad, a young artist and activist living in Tabriz, was sentenced by the Criminal Court to 1 year in prison and 60 lashes. He was arrested while serving in the Iranian Air Force in Tabriz on charges of "disturbance of public order."
- 17.12.2022 . Tabriz city activist Vahida Khanpour was arrested by Iranian regime security forces at her father's house in Tabriz.

- 19.12.2022 Maysam Mubrakhan, a young man from the city of Malikan, was accused of burning the Iranian flag and of "war" that could lead to execution.
- 20.12.2022 In Tabriz, firefighters gathered in front of the city hall and protested against dangerous working conditions and violations of their rights.
- 23.12.2022 It became known that a 16-year-old schoolgirl in Tabriz was attacked by government forces for not complying with the obligatory hijab and died as a result of blows to the head. According to information provided by the Azerbaijan Human Rights Society, despite the fact that Hasti Gasanpour was killed on December 7, her family was threatened not to disclose the incident.
- 24.12.2022 Protesters detained at the Tabriz security department complained that some of them had drugs in their food. Azerbaijani dance teacher Fatima Mohammad Fardrud lost consciousness immediately after her release from prison, and after medical examination, doctors told her that the tests showed that a high dose of drugs was found in her body. Activist Farzad Takavi Bayat, who was arrested in Tabriz's Tuba park, was sentenced to three years in prison. A photo of a letter from the Ministry of Culture and Arts of Iran dated 09/10/1957 (the time of the reign of the Shah dynasty, which was distinguished by a discriminatory policy against the Azerbaijani people of Iran) was circulated on social networks. In the photo, it was noted that the publication of books and any other publications in Turkish (Azerbaijani) is prohibited
- 27.12.2022 Nima Saratsian Tabrizi, a student of the Faculty of Philosophy of the University of Tabriz, a student of the Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Ali Keshvargir, and a student of the Faculty of Materials and Metallurgy, Arvin Ibrahim, were expelled from the university.
- 28.12.2022 Ibrahim Muhajir was arrested by the regime's security forces during the memorial ceremony (40th day) of Aylar Khaggi, a young girl killed by government forces in Tabriz and taken away to an unknown destination. In Tabriz, government forces arrested 3 young people and took them away, fearing a large crowd at the 40th Aylar Khaggi ceremony.
- 29.12.2022 Azerbaijani athlete Malia Baniasad unreasonably was arrested in the city of Tabriz.

64. Province western Azerbaijan, total number (2016) 3.265.219. Azerbaijanis 2.400.000

ACTIONS

- 19.09.2022 Two male protesters in West Azerbaijan and one female protester in Kermanshah were killed by the security forces.
- 24.09.2022 Hossein Ronageh, an Azerbaijani media activist, was detained in Miyanduab. He is reported to be detained by the security forces of Iran. Mass protests continued in Oshnavieh. The protesters burned down the statues of Iranian general Qasem Soleimani and the supreme religious leader of Iran, Ali Khamenei. The associates of the Ministry of Intelligence of Iran raided Ashkan Saadetmehr's house in Urmia, the capital of West Azerbaijan province.
- 23.10.2022 The students of the School of Humanities, Science and Literature of Urmia University tore down the curtain separating the sections for female and male students and had lunch together without hijab.

- 24.10.2022 Reza Etbarirad from Urmia, who was detained during protests a week ago, was beaten barbarously in the detention center of an office of the Ministry of Intelligence.
- 25.10.2022 • "Freedom, Justice, National Government", "Azerbaijani girls are the stars in the skies" were written slogans on the walls in Sulduz.
- 02.11.2022 Mortaza Shirmohammadi, who is from Shahin Dezh city of West Azerbaijan province and is a student of Tabriz University of Medical Sciences, was killed by government officers.
- 05.11.2022 Azerbaijani activists Ali Radmenesh and Asghar Fuladzade were arrested by the security forces. 23-year-old Nasim Sidgi from Sayingala (Shahindej) city of Urmia died on October 31 as a result of a bullet wound.
- 06.11.2022 According to news spread in social media, Azerbaijani activists named Samane Fathi, Sarah Hosseinzadeh and Ilya Jafarpanah were detained by security forces in Urmia. Their fate is unknown.
- 09.11.2022 Citizens protesting the killing of Faig Mamgadiri by the security forces of the Iranian government gathered in front of his family's house in the city of Soyugbulag (Mahabad) in the evening, burned the flag of the Islamic Republic and shouted the slogan "The martyr is immortal!".
- 10.11.2022 Student movement activist Saba Pashazade, who was arrested during the protest held in Urmia, is being held in an uncertain condition. The appeals of Saba Pashazadeh's family to the court, security and prison authorities regarding her condition and accusation remained unanswered.
- 16.11.2022 Protesters held a protest at night against the Iranian government in the city of Urmia. The angry crowd chants antigovernment slogans: "This year is the year of blood, Seyid Ali must be overthrown!".
- 19.11.2022 During the funeral of one of the victims of the protests, Azad Huseynpur, people chanted "Freedom!", and after the ceremony, "Kurdistan, Kurdistan, the graveyard of fascists." The "Ansar" headquarters of the paramilitary Basij forces were set on fire by protesters. The protesters blocked the street, all possible forms of violence were used against the protesters by government forces. The protesters blocked the street and resisted the government forces.
- 23.11.2022 Government forces entered homes, beat citizens and destroyed their property; In order to support the national protests, entrepreneurs closed their shops and workplaces and went on strike. 25 activists arrested in the city of Khoy were transferred to the city prison. Tear gas capsule was used against the protesters. These are CS gas cartridges, which are considered "prohibited" weapons. It should be noted that in 1993, the Convention on the Proliferation of Chemical Weapons banned and boycotted this gas. Government forces opened fire on protesters in Tikan Tepe (Takab).
- 25.11.2022 Night demonstrations continued in the residential area of Islamabad. Demonstrators lit bonfires and blocked the roads; The government deployed troops to the cities due to mass strikes.
- 26.11.2022 In the city of Soyugbulag (Makhabad), the flag of the Azerbaijan National Movement was raised as a protest against years of oppression and discrimination.
- 30.11.2022 Javid Izzati, a resident of Goshachay (Miyanduab), was arrested by Iranian security forces. In solidarity with the protests across the country in Iran in the city of Urmia, protesters lit bonfires, blocked the road and chanted anti-government slogans.

- 05.12.2022 • In the past 2 months, 18 citizens of Baykandi (Bukan) city were murdered by the government forces of Iran during the protests.
- 16.12.2022 In Urmia city, Nasir Atabati, head of the Judicial Department, announced that 5 people were tried on the conviction of "spying for Israel". The fate of the convicts is unknown. However, from the practice of such accusations, it can be said that all the charges were most likely sentenced to death.
- 28.12.2022 In Mahabad city, after memorial day (the 40th day) of mourning ceremony of the people, who were murdered by the government forces, relatives thereof staged a protest against the repressive government. The participants chanted "Death to Khamenei!" "Death to the dictator!"

65. Province Ardabil, Population 1.248.488. Number of Azerbaijanis 1.225.000

ACTIONS

- 05.10.2022 • Socioactivists wrote slogans on the city walls as a sign of protest: "I am a woman; I am a human", #Hadis_Najafi "Azerbaijani girls are the stars in the skies", "We will not be silenced as long as the Azerbaijani activists are in prison". The slogans boycotting the obligatory hijab law were written on the walls in Ardabil: "University is not a slaughterhouse", "Keep your laws away from my body!". The associates of the Ministry of Intelligence detained Firoz Moini, an Azerbaijani activist, in his workplace in Ardabil. The reasons for his detention and the place he was taken to are unknown.
- 13.10.2022 School girls in Ardabil were forced to join in a pro-government demonstration. When a group of them refused to participate, security forces were summoned to the school. The schoolgirls were beaten and 10 girls were detained. 12 girls had to be taken to the Fatemi hospital, while Asra Panahi, one of the students, died.
- 29.10.2022 The protesters wrote "Freedom, Justice, National Government" slogans on the walls in Germei.
- 03.11.2022 Mortaza Parvin, an Azerbaijani social activist living in Ardabil, was detained by the security forces while she was leaving her sister's house in the morning. The reason for his detention and the place she was taken to is unknown.
- 06.11.2022 Azerbaijani activist Meyama Colani was temporarily released from the prison of Ardabil before trial on bail of 300 million tomans (-\$7,050). Kamyar Salim, chairman of the 7th Division of the Ardabil General and Revolutionary Prosecutor's Office, charged the national activist with "complicity in committing crimes against the country's security.
- 14.11.2022 • In addition to the slogan "Freedom, Justice, National Government", which is the most popular in Azerbaijan, slogans in Persian with the content "Azerbaijan does not believe in Tehran" are written on the walls of dozens of streets of Ardabil city.
- 16.11.2022 People supported the brave young girl who protested against the oppression of the Islamic regime in Ardabil and prevented the government forces from arresting her.
- 18.11.2022 The Iranian government has taken enhanced security measures in Ardabil.
- 22.11.2022 In order to disperse the protests in the city of Ardabil, special government forces were deployed to Aliabad square.
- 25.11.2022 South Azerbaijan national struggle flag hanging from the bridge in Ardabil.
- 30.11.2022 • In the city of Ardabil, students chanted a slogan calling on all students to show unity in protests against the government: "If we don't unite, they will kill us one by one!"

- 02.12.2022 •Slogans were written on walls in Ardabil city in protest of the regime: "Freedom, Justice, National government!"
- 05.12.2022 Protesters set fire to a banner of Khamenei in Namin city.

66. Province Zanjan, population 1.057.461, number of Azerbaijanis 1.040.500

ACTIONS

- 23.09.2022 Two young Azerbaijanis were killed by government officials in the city of Zanjan.
- 01.10.2022 In the city of Zanjan, an Azerbaijani student activist, a student of the Faculty of Journalism of Tehran University named after Allama Tabatabai Melik Garagozlu was arrested.
- 03.10.2022 Safia Karabakhi, a women's rights activist and cultural activist living in the city of Zanjan, without reason was arrested by Iranian government forces.
- 12.10.2022 The security and intelligence organization of IRGC arrested 6 Azerbaijani activists in the city of Zanjan. The detained Azerbaijani activists are accused of writing slogans against the Iranian government on city walls. Their fate is still unknown.
- 02.11.2022 Rasul Haddadi, a retired Azerbaijani teacher shot dead by government forces during a protest in Zanjan has died in Musavi hospital.
- 03.11.2022 Public activists in the city of Zanjan wrote anti-government slogans on the walls at night, such as "Death to Khamenei", "Freedom", "No to the Islamic Republic". Ismail Shakuri, an Azerbaijani student at the University of Medical Sciences in Zanjan, was arrested by government forces and was taken away in an unknown direction.
- 10.11.2022 Maryam Heydari and her husband Jamshid Ashrafi from Zanjan were arrested by security officers. They were accused of "propaganda against the government on social media". On October 27, the cultural activist was detained at his father's house in Zanjan by the Sepah security department and was interrogated and tortured for 9 days in a pre-trial detention center.
- 11.11.2022 The interrogation of the human rights activist and Azerbaijani cultural activist Safiya Karabakh took place with the use of torture in the 2nd department of the Zanjan Revolutionary Prosecutor's Office.
- 05.12.2022 In Zanjan city, a protest was staged against the regime. The protesters chanted "Death to the dictator!" The security forces used firearms.

67. Province Gazvin , population 1.273.761, number of Azerbaijanis 750.000

ACTIONS

- 05.11.2022 At the 40-day mourning ceremony of 36-year-old Azerbaijani Javad Heydar, who was shot dead by security forces during antigovernment protests in Qazvin, people shouted slogans "You are shameless, you are immoral, I am a free woman!" The government used force and dispersed the protesters.
- 16.11.2022 Forensic examination of Qazvin province issued an opinion that the activist Javad Heydari was shot from behind. Students of Qazvin University of Medical Sciences joined the protests.

- 23.11.2022 Hojjat Heydari, the brother of Javad Heydari, who got killed in public protests in Qazvin city, was arrested by the security forces and was taken away in an unknown direction. The fate is still unknown.

68. Province Alborz, population 2.712.400, number of Azerbaijanis 900.000

ACTIONS

- 21.09.2022 22-years old Azerbaijani poetess and literary critic Hadis Najaf was shot with 6 bullets by the security forces during peaceful demonstrations held in "Erem" boulevard in Karaj in the night hours.
- 02.10.2022 A group of schoolgirls shouted "Shame on you!" at an officer peaceful and non-violent and chased him away by throwing empty water bottles at him in Karaj.
- 02.11.2022 Thousands of posters and flyers inviting people to the protests were distributed in the cities of South Azerbaijan province. The invitations distributed under the title of "Preparation for the great revolt and honorable revolution of Azerbaijan" called for mass protests in cities including Tehran and Karaj.
- 06.11.2022 Security forces attacked Hadis Najafi's (an Azerbaijani poetess and literary critic who was killed during peaceful demonstrations held in night hours by the security forces in "Erem" boulevard in Karaj) family and beat her mother and sister during the ceremony held for the 40th day after her death.
- 08.11.2022 The protesters painted the portrait of Khomeini that was hanged from the walls of Kharazmi University with red paint.
- 10.11.2022 Employees of Iran's Ministry of Intelligence arrested Azerbaijani activists Urfan Dadashi and Sajjad Mousavi living in Karaj. The arrest of young activists came after the 40th ceremony and protest of the young Azerbaijani poet Hadis Najafi, who was killed by the authorities on 3 November. There was no information about the accusation of Azerbaijani activists and the place of their detention.
- 23.11.2022 In one of the schools located in the Mohammadshahr district of the city of Karaj, students boycotted classes and held a protest. The students unbuttoned their scarves and chanted this slogan: "Freedom, freedom, freedom!"
- 29.11.2022 • In one of the schools located in the city of Karaj, students boycotted classes and held a protest against the regime. Students shouted a slogan: "Death to Khamenei!"
- 07.12.2022 A banner of Qasem Soleimani was burnt by the protesters in Karaj city.
- 08.12.2022 • In Karaj city, protesters chanted anti-government slogans in the streets: "Death to the dictator!"
- 10.12.2022 Mohammad Mahdi Karami was sentenced to capital punishment on the indictment for protests at the 40th day of mourning ceremony of Hadis Najafi, who was murdered by the Iranian regime.
- 12.12.2022 • In Karaj city, protesters marched in silence against the government.
- 22.12.2022 In Golshahr neighborhood of Karaj city, protesters rallied against the mullah regime.

69. Province Hamadan, population 1.738.234, number of Azerbaijanis 1.000.000

ACTIONS

- 23.11.2022 A banner with the image of Khamenei was burned by young protesters in Hamedan.
- 29.11.2022 In Hamedan city, truck owners and drivers held a strike in support of the people rebelling against the government in the Kurdistan province.
- 10.12.2022 Ahmad Hossein Fallahi, a member of the Iranian parliament in Hamadan province, insulted Iranian women. Publicly insulted Iranian women for participating in protests
- 23.12.2022 Iranian government spokesman Ali Bahadori Jahromi was boycotted by students during his speech at Abu Ali Sina University in Hamadan.

70. Province Tehran, population 13.267.637, number of Azerbaijanis 4.200.000

ACTIONS

- 18.09.2022 The students of Tehran University held a protest with posters. Mass protests were held in Tehran in the night hours.
- 19.09.2022 Mobile internet was cut off in central Tehran. According to the videos shared on social media, the protests continued in the center of Tehran, in Rasht in north, in central Isfahan and in the western cities that are mostly inhabited by kurds.
- 22.09.2022 In response to the killings and massacres by the security forces, Bank Sepah was set on fire by protesters and the protesters chanted "Long live Azerbaijan! May those who don't want it go blind!". The protesters burned down the police stations and subsidiary vehicles on the 22nd of September.
- 01.10.2022 The students of religious universities and centers of Qom, Mashad and Tehran have published a statement about Ali Khamenei, the leader of Iran. The authors of the statement condemned the repressions against the protesters and killing the discontented in Iran.
- 02.10.2022 Law enforcement forces opened fire at the participants of the strike in Iran Sharif University.
- 05.10.2022 The forces of the Ministry of Intelligence searched the house of Meysam Bahashti, an Azerbaijani living in Tehran and took him to an unknown place with his belongings.
- 18.10.2022 There was a fire in the Evin prison in Tehran again. According to the satellite images, roof of one of the big buildings in the northern part of the prison was on fire.
- 22.10.2022 A young female named Arnika Qaim Magami, who was placed in intensive care after being beaten with stick blows on her head by government forces during the protests in Tehran, died.
- 06.11.2022 National activist Amir Chamani, who lives in Tabriz, was arrested by security officers. No information was given about the reason for his arrest and where he was kept
- 07.11.2022 Mustafa Nili, a well-known lawyer living in Tehran, was arrested in the evening by the officers of the SEPAH (IRGC) security department.
- 14.11.2022 In the Ekbatan settlement of Tehran, a number of citizens held a protest against the persecution and killing protesters, especially children, by the Iranian regime. Condemning the government's repressive actions, protestors raised protest slogans: "We don't want an Islamic Republic, we don't want a mullah government, we don't want a child-killing government. Students of the University of Science and Culture held a sit-in demonstration to protest the government's repression of students and the population.

- 15.11.2022 Yalda Agafazli Iradmusa, originally from Sareyin region of Ardabil province and living in Tehran, committed suicide after being released from prison.
- 17.11.2022 Authorities attacked an elderly woman and brutally beat her in Tehran. Protesters held protest against the mullah regime on Kashani Street in Tehran in the night. Government forces used tear gas against the protesters. The government forces of the Islamic Republic brutally beat citizens and opened fire on them in the subway of Tehran.
- 22.11.2022 The paramilitary Basij forces affiliated with the government stabbed protesters in Shahre-Ziba neighborhood.
- 23.11. 2022 Government forces opened fire on protesters in the Ekbatan region. Protesters blocked the road in the town of Moshiriyya and called the entire population to join the protests with the slogan "Support, support, you zealous citizen!"; Protesters raised the flag of Great Britain in one of its streets; Residents chanted slogans against Khamenei: "Death to Khamenei!" "Khameneyi is a donkey, and his one hand is invalid!".
- 25.11.2022 Demonstrations in support of the people's movement in Kurdistan province continued in Tehranpars neighbourhood. "May our lives be sacrificed for Iran from Kurdistan to Tehran!". Protesters in Ekbatan town chanted slogans in support of the Kurds: "Kurdistan is not alone, Iran supports it!"
- 29.11.2022 A protest demonstration against the government was held in the Narmek neighborhood. Demonstrators chanted "Death to the dictator, death to Khamenei!". On Vali As Street in Tehran, protesters hung a poster with revolutionary slogans over a government banner.
- 06.12.2022 In Shahriyar neighborhood the protesters chanted "Death for the dictator!" in the streets in spite of snowy weather conditions. The authorities use force to disperse the protesters.
- 07.12.2022 Massive protests were held in Ekbatan neighborhood. The protesters made bonfires and barricades in roads.
- 08.12.2022 Employees of the company «Safe Khodro» stopped work and went on a strike in protest against the government, as for 10 months they cannot receive salary and insurance. Government special forces attacked the arcade market and fired tear gas inside the mall.
- 09.12.2022 •Fearing crowds in Tohid Square, government forces fired tear gas to disperse the crowd. Government forces shot and killed a young man with a firearm. Roads leading to the Revolution and Azadi Squares were closed, government officials used tear gas to disperse demonstrators chanting "Death to the dictator", dozens of demonstrators were arrested. Students of the University of Science and Technology exposed the lies of the mullah regime from a high rostrum.
- 12.12.2022 On Sattarkhan Street of Tehran city, government forces attacked a woman walking by and knocked her to the ground. In Tehran city clashes broke out between government forces and protesters, and protesters were arrested. A protest action against the religious regime was held on Sattarkhan Street of Tehran city. The demonstrators chanted "Death to Khamenei!". Protesters held a silent march In Tehran city against the religious regime on Haftoz Avenue in Tehran. Women on Revolution Street in Tehran refused to wear the obligatory hijab and went without headscarves.
- 14.12.2022 On Heshmatia Street of Tehran, people joined the protests, condemning the execution of Majidrza Rakhnavard by the Iranian regime and chanting the slogan "Death to the dictator".

- 17.12.2022 Day and night, slogans against Khamenei are written on the walls of Tehran city: "Death to Khamenei!", "Victory is ours!". Students at Tehran's Khaje Nasir Toosi University of Technology announced that they would go on strike until the prisoners were released.
- 19.12.2022 In the Tehran subway, people chanted "Death to the dictator" and "Political prisoners must be released" against the mullah's government.
- 20.12.2022 In the city of Savalan, protesters set on fire the base of the bloodthirsty paramilitary Basij forces to avenge Mohsen Shekari.
- 22.12.2022 • Protests against the government continued in Tehran. Protesters on Revolution Street in Tehran chanted and declared that the mullah's regime had been overthrown. At the joint headquarters of the army on Shariati Street, a soldier depicted gallows and threw a rope around his neck in protest against the executions.
- 27.12.2022 A slogan in support of the popular movement was written on the Tehran metro: "The road from battle to victory is not far!".
- 28.12.2022 During the action, which took place in the Valiasr district of Tehran, protesting women threw a Molotov cocktail and set the local headquarters of the Basij paramilitary forces associated with the IRGC on fire.
- 29.12.2022 On Vali Asr Street in Tehran, protesters hung a poster with revolutionary slogans over a government banner. "Increase your courage! We swear on the blood of our friends that we will fight to the end!" reads the poster.
- 30.12.2022 On the eve of the anniversary of the death of the commander of the Al-Quds detachment of the IRGC, Gasim Soleimani, protesters burned a banner with his image on a highway in Tehran.

71. Province Gilan, population 2.530.696, number of Azerbaijanis 75.000

ACTIONS

- 05.12.2022 In the city of Rasht, firearms were used against people by government forces.
- 10.11.2022 In the city of Siyazkal, Gilan Province, the protesters were fired from firearms and several people were injured.
- 16.11.2022 In the city of Rasht, the youth held a protest against the mullah's regime. Protesters chanted slogans condemning the head of the Iranian government.
- 17.11.2022 Burning of statues of mullahs continued in Iran. The next target was the statue of the former Imam of Friday Prayer (Imam Jom'a) of Rasht city.
- 18.11.2022 In the city of Masal, the population protesting against the mullah's regime poured into the streets and chanted the slogan "Death to the dictator!"
- 23.11.2022 In the city of Rasht, protesters lit a bonfire and blocked Lakan road.
- 25.11.2022 Following another act of violence by the Basij paramilitaries, protesters set fire to their Basij paramilitary headquarters in the Shagachi quarter of Rasht.
- 06.12.2022 In Rasht city placard with an anti-government slogan was fixed: "We swear to our friends' blood that we will continue the struggle forever!".
- 10.12.2022 In Rudsar city, protesters held an anti-government demonstration in protest of the execution of Muhsin Shikari, imprisonment and execution of the protesters. Slogans: "For freedom!", "For vengeance!".
- 21.12.2022 A protest was staged against the mullah regime in Rasht city. People rushed to streets, set on fires, and built barricades In Rasht city.

72. Province Markazi, population 1.413.959, number of Azerbaijanis 300.000

ACTIONS

- 11.11.2022 In the protests held in the city of Arak, the slogans "Death to the dictator!", "Freedom! Liberty!" were chanted.
- 16.11.2022 Protesters set fire to a police car in the city of Arak.
- 19.11.2022 In the city of Arak, commandos opened fire at close range on a citizen who was peacefully driving his car down the street.
- 29.11.2022 15-year-old Azerbaijani Mohammad Zamani was shot dead by Iranian government forces during protests in the city of Saveh.
- 03.12.2022 The government forces beat and arrested a young man in front of his mother in Arak city. Mina Yagoubi, one of the active participants of the protests in Arak city, with traces of torture was released on bail until the court hearing.
- 09.12.2022 On the 40th day of mourning for Mehrshad Shahidi, a victim of popular protests, government forces severely beat a citizen, in response, the protesters burned down the base of the Basij paramilitary forces.

73. Province Busher, population 1.163.400, number of Azerbaijanis 10000

ACTIONS

- 19.11.2022 In Busher province, protesters threw red paint on Qasem Soleimani's picture on the wall. Protesters in Borazjan city set the banner of the main figures of the Islamic Republic on fire with Molotov cocktails.
- 22.11.2022 In Borazjan city young people set the workplace of the Iranian deputy who demanded the execution of the protestors on fire. People took to the streets in Dashti settlement of Bushehr province and held protest action. Protesters shouted "Woman, Life, Freedom" slogans.
- 03.12.2022 In response to violence and killings, in the city of Bushehr, protesters set the headquarters of the paramilitary Basij forces on fire with Molotov cocktails.
- 19.12.2022 Officials of the oil company located in the city of Asaluya went on strike and protested against the failure to comply with their demands. They complained about non-payment of salaries and put forward slogans against the government.

74. Province Fars , population 4.851.274, number of Azerbaijanis 450.000

ACTIONS

- 16.11.2022 In the city of Marvdasht, the government forces opened fire on the population from inside the mosque. The video recorded in the city of Shiraz shows how government forces opened fire on civilians.
- 17.11.2022 Hamid Qashqai, a cultural and social activist from Firuzabad city Fars province was arrested in Shiraz and taken to an unknown place. Several more Qashqai Turks were

arrested in Fars and Bushehr provinces. This was reported by the Committee for the protection of the rights of the Qashqai.

- 18.11.2022 According to the information provided by Qashqai activists, employees of Iran's Ministry of Intelligence attacked and arrested Mohammadtag Zulgadr and Bahram Kiyani, who lived in Abada, Fars province. In the city of Shiraz, policemen attacked the cars moving on the road, broke their mirrors and windows with batons, and kicked the cars of citizens, causing injuries. Special forces attacked the library of Kharazmi University located in Shiraz city, beat and arrested one of the students.
- 23.11.2022 An anti-government protest was held in Mehr settlement. Colonel Faraj Shucayi Qashgai, the head of Shiraz city police department, was seriously injured while chasing the youths.
- 02.12.2022 Two bahai followers that were transferred to Adilabad prison after being detained by security officers were kept in unknown conditions.
- 05.12.2022 Massive demonstration was held against the government. The protesters chanted slogan against the government leader: "Death for the dictator!"
- 06.12.2022 In Shiraz government forces opened fire at people.
- 10.12.2022 In Shiraz the protesters attacked the office of "Sadra" foundation with Molotov cocktails.
- 29.12.2022 In Shiraz Fazlullah Mansuri, the police colonel who took part in killing the protesters was killed.

75. Province Golestan, population 1.868.819, number of Azerbaijanis 2000

ACTIONS

- 16.11.2022 Dozens of activists were arrested in Gulistan (Turkmen desert) province of Iran, where Turkmen live. According to information provided by Turkmen activists, they have managed to determine the identity of 30 detained Turkmen activists.
- 05.12.2022 In the city of Gorgan, protesters set the office of a member of parliament on fire with Molotov cocktails.
- 06.12.2022 In the city of Gorgan, protesters wrote anti-Khamenei slogans on the door of a scientific and religious center.
- 24.12.2022 The security forces arrested 21-year-old athlete Saleh Ibadi, a resident of Gorgan province. Why he was arrested and where he is being held is unknown.

76. Province Khuzestan, population 4.531.720, number of Azerbaijanis 120.000

ACTIONS

- 14.11.2022 .21-year-old Masuma Hamid, a student of the Civil Engineering Faculty of the Chamran University of Ahvaz, was arrested at her father's house and taken to an unknown place by the Ministry of Intelligence.
- 17.11.2022 The number of people injured in the attack in Khuzestan province has reached 15. Police officers are also among the dead. On Wednesday evening, at least five people were killed and injured as a result of a shooting by unknown people in a bazaar in the city of Izeh, Khuzestan Province. Protesting students at Shapur University of Ahvaz city tore down Khamenei's banner.

- 23.11.2022 Protesters blocked roads in Andimeshk city. Government forces used live ammunition and tear gas against the protesting people.
- 29.11.2022 The scientific-religious centre and the cars belonging to the centre were set on fire by protesters in Izeh city.
- 30.11.2022 Municipal employees protested and went on strike as the government didn't respond to their demands. Protesters poured gasoline on Khomeini's huge bas-relief and set it on fire.
- 01.12.2022 In Behbahan city, the repressive government forces fired at the participants of a festival. In Dezful city, the government forces fired directly at the people.
- 27.12.2022 In Ahvaz city, 17-year-old Hasti Afag was murdered by government forces while painting a slogan on walls. It is unknown where the body is held.

77. Province Isfahan, population 5.120.850, number of Azerbaijanis 400.000

ACTIONS

- 23.09.2022 Serious confrontations took place between the protesters and law enforcement forces in Isfahan.
- 07.10.2022 People burned down the banner of Khamenei in Varzaneh.
- 11.11.2022 Young protesters in Isfahan threw Molotov cocktails and set the religious-scientific madrasa on fire.
- 16.11.2022 Taking off their scarves, young women in Shahin Shahr city held a protest against the Islamic regime and chanted: "Freedom, freedom, freedom!".
- 26.11.2022 Young protesters held anti-government demonstrations in Isfahan city. Demonstrators called citizens to mobilize against the regime: "We don't need spectators, join us!".
- 28.11.2022 An anti-government protest was held. Young female protesters chanted an anti-government slogan: "You are immoral, you are outrageous, I am a free woman!"
- 29.11.2022 4,000 employees of the Isfahan steel plant went on strike. 4,000 employees spoke out against the government due to nonpayment of wages and government repressions.
- 02.12.2022 6-year-old Beita Kiyani lost one eye as a result of shelling by the military and police of the Iranian authorities while playing on the balcony of her house in the city of Malekshahr. Students from the Isfahan Technological University held a protest against the government's arrests and crackdown on students.
- 03.12.2022 Fuel truck drivers at the Isfahan oil refinery went on strike in support of public protests.
- 08.12.2022 Workers at the Sepahan cement factory in Isfahan have been on strike for the second day in protest against the government.
- 14.12.2022 Protesters attacked the Isfahan Technological University and set a center for the production of drones and missiles on fire.
- 29.12.2022 Ava Jahangiri, a disabled citizen living in Isfahan, was summoned by phone to one of the law enforcement agencies. She took off her hijab during nationwide protests and gave flowers to other citizens on the street in a wheelchair

78. Province Gom, population 1.151.672, number of Azerbaijanis 300.000

ACTIONS

- 11.11.2022 In protest against the violence, the Iranians throw off the hats of the mullahs, who are accused of reprisals against ordinary citizens.
- 22.11.2022 Video footage showing the attack on female students by the mullah who teaches at a school for women only in Qom city has been posted on social media. The girls were taken to the hospital after their parents arrived. The reason for the attack is not clear yet.
- 28.11.2022 In Qom city, a bank manager who served a woman who refused to wear the compulsory hijab has been fired by the order of the governor.
- 12.12.2022 Students demanded a response from Motaba Zo'nnouri, a member of parliament from Qom province: "Why do you execute the youth of the people? Is the punishment for protesting in street execution?! Shame, you killed the youth of the people, do you laugh now?"
- 23.12.2022 Arash Honarvar Shojaei, a cleric of scientific-religious scholarship of Qom, dubbed Khamenei 'a mischief-maker of earth' and demanded his punishment.

79. Province Razavi Khorosan, population 6.434.501, number of Azerbaijanis 250.000 **PROVINCE RAZAVI KHORASAN**

ACTIONS

- 13.11.2022 Students of "Ferdowsi" University in Mashhad staged a protest against the government by boycotting classes.
- 14.11.2022 Addressing government representative Ali Bahaduri Jahromi, who spoke at Ferdowsi University of Mashhad, the students demanded the following: "Admit your mistake and apologize to the people." - "Apologize for the young people who left their country!" - "Apologize for the current situation with the Internet and all the businesses that were closed!" - "Apologize for the incompetent minister of communications appointed by you!"
- 25.11.2022 • In Mashhad city, protesters threw homemade explosive capsules at the vehicle of the forces entering the streets.
- 29.11.2022 Mashhad residents set several ATMs belonging to the government on fire in protest against the violent suppression of the nationwide uprising in the country.
- 06.12.2022 In the city of Mashhad, protesters started a protest by lighting bonfires on the roads.
- 07.12.2022 In the city of Mashhad, protesters set up barricades on the roads and held a protest against the authorities.
- 08.12.2022 Mashhad Azad University students joined the nationwide appeal and boycotted classes in protest against the government. Firdousi University students held a protest against illegally arrested students.
- 14.12.2022 After the execution by the regime of Majidrza Rakhnavardi, the population took to the streets and staged a demonstration. The protesters called on all citizens to mobilize against the regime: "If we don't unite, we will be killed one by one!". A young girl who objected to the execution of Majidrza Rakhnavard in Mashhad imitated the death sentence handed down by the government by tying a rope around her neck.
- 17.12.2022 Mashhad Azad University student left the classroom after a political discussion with a professor, and after being attacked by government forces, he committed suicide by breaking the glass of a bulletin board.

- 27.12.2022 Demonstrators in the city of Mashhad hung a banner with the image of the Supreme Leader of Iran and the inscription "Khamenei, the author of the executions, your turn will come" on the overpass on the Chiragchi highway, protesting the execution of young people.
- 30.12.2022 Ahmad Alamulhuda, the representative of Iranian religious leader Ali Khamenei in the province of Khorasan-e-Razavi, called on the leader of the Islamic Republic not to directly interfere in the issue of hijabs.

80. Other occurrences

Mullah regime forces fired on protesters as relatives of those on death row held a protest in front of the Ghazalhisar prison in Karaj. The repressive forces of the Ayatollah regime attacked women and the elderly. During the incident, police officers, who showed particular ruthlessness, opened fire on them with firearms. Several people were injured as a result. At the moment, there is no information about the situation of the protesters.

81. Azerbaijani political prisoner committed suicide

Azerbaijani political prisoner Masuma Sanubari committed suicide in Karaj prison. The reason why the woman reached the last limit was the increase in the pressure applied by the prison authorities.

It was reported that Ms. Masuma was kept in solitary confinement for a long time. He was deprived not only of telephone conversations with his relatives, but also of communication with his fellow prisoners. The woman was regularly tortured during her imprisonment.

It should be noted that Masuma Sanubari, a resident of Tabriz, was arrested in Karaj during the large-scale protests that took place last year. The woman was interrogated and tortured for about 40 days.

The political prisoner was tried by the 1st department of the Karaj Revolutionary Court. He was sentenced to 7.5 years in prison for "participating in illegal gatherings and propaganda" and "writing slogans against the leaders of the People's Mujahideen and publishing his pictures".

82. An Azerbaijani human rights defender imprisoned in Iran was awarded an award in the United States

Prisoner, writer, human rights defender from Zanjan, South Azerbaijan, Nargiz Mohammadi was awarded the annual "Freedom of Writing Award" of the American Writers Association.

The award was presented to his wife Taqi Rahmani at a meeting held in New York City. In the message sent for the event, Nargiz called on Mohammad to overthrow the "misogynist (in the sense of hating women - ed.), repressive and theocratic regime" in Iran.

N. Mohammadi was one of the first to join and active participants in the protests that started in Iran last September. He was sentenced to 16 years in prison.

It should be noted that Nargiz Mohammadi is currently being tortured in solitary confinement in a prison in Iran.

Pressure on Nargiz Mohammadi has increased.

83. The execution machine of the Ayatollah regime is moving at a terrifying speed

Within two days, 18 convicts were executed in the prisons of Isfahan, Rasht, Sanandaj, Jiroft, Kirman and Khurramabad cities of Iran.

The human rights organizations that spread the information about this have expressed concern about the start of a new wave of executions in Iran.

84. Some of the people arrested during the protests have been released as a result of the order of "Amnesty and Reduction of Public Punishment" by the supreme leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

However, this has not halted the arrest of activists in the Azerbaijani provinces of Iran. On February 7th, Hossein Kooshi, an Azerbaijani labor activist was released from the Tabriz Central Prison by completing his sentence. This labor rights activist living in Tabriz was arrested in his home on October 24th, 2022 and transferred to the central prison of Tabriz without prior notification.

Later, Kooshi was tried in absentia by the second branch of the Tabriz Revolutionary Court and sentenced to two years of prison for "insulting the supreme leader." He was also sentenced to one year in prison for the charge of "propaganda activities against the regime." With the application of Article 134 of the Islamic Penal Code, it was decided that only the severest punishment applicable to the charge, i.e. six months of imprisonment and 18 months of suspension, should be applied to him.

85. On February 8th, 2023 Akbar Abolzadeh who is from East Azerbaijan's city of Ahar, completed his sentence and was finally released from the central prison of Tabriz.

Akbar Abolzadeh was arrested on September 9th, 2015 during the widespread protests that erupted in the Azerbaijani-populated cities in response to the discriminatory "Fitileh" program that aired on radio and televisions of the Islamic Republic of Iran. This children's program depicted Azerbaijani Turks in an inhumane manner and referred to them as an uncivilized culture. The branch of the Ahar Revolutionary Court convicted Akbar Abolzadeh for "gathering and conspiring to commit a crime against the country's security through propaganda activity against the Islamic Republic of Iran" and sentenced him to 10 months in prison. He had been released on bail pending the outcome of the proceedings. However, on June 7th, 2022 Akbar Abolzadeh was rearrested in Ahar City and incarcerated to serve the rest of his sentence. On February 8th, 2023 Maryam Abhari and Ramin Sultanmohammadi were released from Safarabad prison in Zanjan. They were arrested during the last protest.

86. Case of Ramin Sultanmohammadi

Ramin Sultanmohammadi, an Azerbaijani mountaineer and tourist guide living in Zanjan was sentenced to one year in prison and 74 lashes by the criminal court's 107th branch of the criminal court headed by Judge Mohammad Mehdi Mohammadi for "disturbing public order". They both were released as a result of the new pardon of "Amnesty and Reduction of Punishment". On February 8th, 2023 Tohid Amiramini was released from the Evin prison in Tehran after serving his sentence. Amiramini, serving his 5-year sentence has been released due to the "Amnesty and Reduction of Public Punishment" order.

87. Case of Mother Language Day

On February 20th, 2019 Amiramini was arrested in Tehran's Revolution Square for distributing congratulatory celebrating International Mother Language Day. Tohid Amiramini was imprisoned in the Evin prison. Amiramini was sentenced to 7 years and six months in prison by Branch 36 of the Tehran Revolutionary Court headed by Judge Ahmad Zargar for "gathering and colluding to disrupt national security" and "propaganda activity against the regime". Throughout the legal process, this sentence was reduced to 5 years of imprisonment according to a new law on the reduction of prison sentences.

On September 10, Alireza Farshi Dizaj Yekanli, an Azerbaijani human rights activist was released from the Evin Prison after serving three years and three months of his four-year sentence. He was released as a result of the "Amnesty and Reduction of Public Punishment" order.

Alireza Farshi was sentenced to two years of imprisonment and two years in exile by the 54th branch of Tehran Court of Appeal for participating in the "World Mother Language Day" ceremony in the Baharestan city, Tehran.

88. Case of Leyli Pourbaba

On February 9, 2023 Leyli Pourbaba was released from the Tabriz central prison as a result of the new amnesty order. Leyli Pourbaba was sentenced to 3 years in prison and 44 lashes. Pourbaba was arrested on November 2nd, 2023 after being summoned to the FATA (cyber police) of East Azerbaijan. No information about the charge's title, the issuing court branch, or accusations have been published thus far.

89. Case of Ruzbeh Piri

Ruzbeh Piri was sentenced to 1 year in prison by Branch 3 of Tabriz Revolutionary Court headed by Judge Fateh Nejad for the charge of propagating against the regime and received five years in prison for the charge of being a member of "anti-regime" groups. This sentence was recently reduced to 3 years and eight months of imprisonment by the Court of Appeal of East Azerbaijan province. With the application of Article 134 of the Islamic Penal Code, three years of imprisonment applies to him. On Thursday July 26, 2022 Piri presented himself to Tabriz Central Prison to serve his sentence.

90. Case of Abbas Lesani

Abbas Lesani was transferred to Yazd City on February 21, 2023 after serving four years and two months of imprisonment in wing 7 of Ardabil prison to serve his 2-year exile in Yazd City. However, Lesani returned to Ardabil by disobeying the sentence of exile to Yazd City. Abbas Lesani is from Ardabil city. He was arrested on January 15th, 2019. Lesani was sentenced to 10 years in prison and two years of exile to Yazd for the charge of "forming a group to disrupt the security of the country" and for the charge of "acting against national security" and "inciting and encouraging the Turks in West Azerbaijan province through speeches and interviews" with the media against the regime.

91. Case of Zeinab Hamrang Seyedbaglou

Zeinab Hamrang Seyedbaglou, an activist of the Azerbaijani trade union of teachers was arrested by the security forces on March 12, 2023 in Tehran. Hamrang who suffers from several illnesses such as high blood pressure, kidney problems, and pterygium was released from the

Evin prison after the recent "Amnesty and Reduction of Punishment" order. She is from Ardabil-Parsabad. The Tehran Revolutionary Court had sentenced her to five years in prison on the charge of "gathering and conspiring to disrupt the security of the country" and one year of imprisonment on the charge of "propaganda against the regime." Hamrang was arrested on September 5, 2020 while traveling to Khoy City in the West Azerbaijan province and was transferred to the women's ward of Evin prison to serve her sentence.

92. Case of Parviz Siyabi

Parviz Siyabi, a 74 years old senior living in Ardabil, has been granted a leave from the central prison of this city. The leave period of this Azerbaijani civil rights activist has been announced for the duration of two months. This grant was based on the latest assessment requested on the health of Siyabi by the five-member forensic medical board who confirmed that he suffers from medical conditions. This Azerbaijani activist was arrested on November 9, 2022 and transferred to Ward 16 of Ardabil Central Prison to serve his 6-year sentence.

93. Case of Elnaz Rekabi

On March 30th, 2023, Elnaz Rekabi, an Azerbaijani athlete and mountain climbing champion, planned a trip to Spain to train and prepare for the Olympics. However, the Emam Khomeini airport officials prevented her from leaving the country and confiscated her passport. Previously, Rekabi's appearance in the South Korean rock climbing competition without a mandatory hijab made news during the height of the protests. When she returned to Iran, she was under security pressure.

94. Case of Siavash Soleimanipour

Siavash Soleimanipour was acquitted of his charges by the appeal court of West Azerbaijan province. He was sentenced to 6 years and ten months of imprisonment by the 3rd branch of the General and Revolutionary Court of Urmia city, presided over by Judge Najafzadeh, for the charges of propaganda against the system, insulting the leadership, and action against national security.

Security forces arrested Soleimanipour at his home on October 1, 2022. After interrogations, he was transferred from the Ministry of Intelligence detention center to Urmia Central Prison. On November 14, 2022, he was released from the Urmia Central Prison with a bail of one billion tomans until the end of the proceedings. On March 17, 2023, Asghar Mohammadi, an Azerbaijani lawyer and a member of the Human Rights Commission of the East Azerbaijan Bar Association was sentenced to 20 lashes by Branch 101 of the Warzaghan Criminal Court. This occurred following the complaints of companies active in copper mining in the Songun mine. Mohammadi was accused of defamation, insult, and on the charge of spreading falsehoods. On March 6, 2023, Farhad Pakrouh was sentenced to a fine of ten million tomans by the second branch of the Court of Appeal of East Azerbaijan.

He is from Tabriz and has been arrested several times for his civic activities and demand for civil rights. Pakrouh was also sentenced to 4 months in prison and two years of mandatory curfew on a separate charge. His mobile phone was confiscated for "propaganda activity

against the regime through the publication of images and content against the regime in cyberspace."¹

95. Chemical Attacks on Schools and Poisoning of Students

The government has started poisoning schools to spread societal fear. These attacks have primarily been against all girls' schools. The poisoning of students started in Qom on Wednesday, November 30, 2022, and 18 female students of Noor Academy were poisoned that day. Following this attack, reports were broadcasted from other cities in Iran, including Borujerd and Tehran. On March 1, 2023 chemical attacks started in the Azerbaijani region of Iran. There were reports of chemical attacks from 9 schools in Ardabil City. This number later increased to 11 schools. These schools are Sama, Din and Danesh, Tayyaba, Efaf, Khalban Zakir, Baharan, Meraj Shahid, Namjo, Chamran, and Dadman. Following this poisoning attack of female students in schools of Ardabil, Aisan Ashtari's health deteriorated to the extent that it required intensive care. This student of Khalban Zakir school was hospitalized in the ICU of Imam Ardabil Hospital. The relatives of this Azerbaijani student announced that the drop in her level of consciousness to 4 has worried the Ashtari family.

According to informed sources, the number of poisoned schools continues to increase. This far, more than 400 students have visited the hospitals in Ardabil in relation to school poisonings. For instance, 235 students were transferred to the Emam Khomeyni hospital's emergency rooms for treatment. 48 students in Rahe Zainab girls' school in the Aslanduz City of Ardabil province were poisoned on Thursday, March 2nd of, 2023. Ali Mehboubipour, Director General of Security and Law Enforcement of Ardabil Governorate, has informed that at Rahe Zainab all girls school in Aslanduz, the students and staff of this school began smelling an unpleasant odor and felt weak physically, followed by a burning sensation in their throat. There are reports of the transfer of students from Tabriz, Hamedan, Zanjan, and Garami schools to the hospitals. The schools that were chemically attacked include two schools of Noor Al-Zahra and Narges Khatun in Urmia, two schools in Hamedan City, Wali Asr Zanjan School, two schools named Al-Zahra High School and Fatemeh Elementary School in Garmi city and at least three schools in Tabriz city, Hazrat Masoumeh High School and two schools. There were poisonings in Basmanj and Baghmesh neighborhoods on March 4, 2023. The students of Noorul Zahra and Narges Khatoon schools in Urmia were transferred to Taleghani and Motahari hospitals¹.

¹ 2023 JANUARY – MARCH HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS REPORT ON THE AZERBAIJANI TURKS IN IRAN