



KURDISH POLITICAL PRISONERS

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The political prisoners of the central prison of Urmiye (Urmia) have been kept in a very difficult situation over the past few years and their conditions have worsened due to the lack of awareness on the issue.

Political prisoners in Urmiye prison are deprived of the most basic rights which are defined by the very constitutional framework of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Prison security guards in coordination with the Ministry of Intelligence have worsened the situation of the 12th ward (special ward for political prisoners only) and practically disbanded it by transferring dangerous prisoners convicted of murder or drug dealing there. Security guards prohibit books inside the prison, even those that have publication license by Iran's ministry of culture and which are accessible to the people outside of prison. 30 political prisoners in the 12th ward, along with more than 30 other political prisoner were transferred to the ward of drug dealers and other dangerous prisoners.

These prisoners are kept in a small environment with no facilities and they are constantly under severe pressure by prison guards and agents from the Ministry of Intelligence. Prison facilities such as vocational and technical classes or sportive classes are completely prohibited for political prisoners. A number of political prisoners who are married are prohibited from working in the work units of the prison, and are thus, unable to feed their family.

The prison's special guards have attacked the ward of political prisoners multiple times since last year and attempted to distraint their belongings, including Kurdish dresses, books, and writings. Several of those prisoners were also severely beaten. Once in a while, political prisoners are sent to individual prison cells that are extremely cold and with no facilities. They are kept in the cell for long periods. Some of those political prisoners whom were kept in those cells developed allergies and respiratory diseases.

The Ministry of Intelligence ordered the prison officials to transfer political prisoners to the ward of dangerous prisoners, such as murderers and drug dealers, which is imposing a great risk on their lives. For instance, Behrooz Alakhani was kept along with drug related convict's, even though he was suffering from mental imbalance. He was traumatized due to spending long periods in individual prison cells.

On the other hand, a number of non-political convicts, such as those involved in armed robbery, or drug dealing were transferred to the ward of political prisoners in order to put pressure on political prisoners through those criminal inside the prison and as a result disband the political prison ward.

The Ministry of Intelligence has special rooms for interrogation inside the prison where political prisoners are summoned and interrogated for long hours every now and then. Since last year alone, five political prisoners were accused of having contact with United Nations Special Rapporteur as well as human rights organizations, and as a result, were forced to stay in individual cell prisons.

On Thursday, October 11 of 2012, Kurdish political prisoners Ahmad Tamoui, Yousef Kaka Mami, Jahangir Baduzadeh, Ali Ahmad Soleiman and Mustafa Ali Ahmad were accused of

- Having contact with human rights organizations, including UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights, Dr. Ahmad Shahid
- Sending news to human right organizations
- Propaganda against the government from within prison
- Having contact with Newroz TV Kurdish channel

And therefore, they were transferred to the Ministry of Intelligence's detention center. They were kept in individual prisons for two months and were interrogated on the charges mentioned above. Interrogations started on October 11, 2012, on a daily basis and continued until November 11, 2012. The victims were subjected to torture, inhuman degrading treatment in order to offer false confession during televised

interviews. For example, the prisoner, Ahmed Tamoui, was brutally tortured to the extent that he went unconscious. The prisoners are constantly threatened to be transferred to a prison of another county.

Those prisoners were transferred from the detention center of Urmiye's Ministry of Intelligence to Revolutionary court's first branch of interrogation. Ahmad Tamoui was interrogated on charges of having links to Ahmad Shahid's office and sending news to human rights organizations as well as foreign media outlets. Other Kurdish prisoners in Urmiye's prison such as Ali Ahmad Soleiman, Mustafa Ali Ahmad, Yousef Kaka Mami and Jahangir Baduzadeh were interrogated on charges of propaganda against the government and their political affiliation with the PJAK as well as for having contact with Newroz TV, the Kurdish Satellite channel. After transferring the prisoners to the detention center of the Ministry of Intelligence, the interrogation continued and once again they were beaten and tortured and forced to falsely confess on television. They were also threatened to be exiled.

On December 11, 2012, agents of Urmiye's Ministry of Intelligence transferred Ahmad Tamoui from Urmiye's detention center to Rajaei-Shahr prison while he was in handcuffs and leg cuffs and without allowing him to collect and carry his belongings from the prison in which he had been jailed for five years. He was beaten on the way to Rajaei-Shahr prison by the officers who were accompanying him. The other four political prisoners were sent back to central prison of Urmiye.

Since last year several Kurdish political prisoners have been relocated to the security detention centres to be subjected to torture and inhuman degrading treatment. At the end of 1989, Jahangir Baduzadeh, alleged with hunger strike of the political Kurdish prisoners in prison, in sentencing of the execution of Hossein Khezri. He was sentenced to 6 months extra imprisonment plus a month in solitary confinement as punishment and was denied the right to visit his family. Also in June, 1990, Mustafa Ali Ahmed was put in prison on charges of propaganda against the system, and acts of protest, including a hunger strike in prison. The Urmiye Revolutionary Court Judge sentence him to 6 months extra and imprisoned.

Also, on October 25, 2013, the number of political prisoners in Iran announced of the fortieth day , the event of the execution of Habibullah Golparipour and Reza Reza Esmaeili Mamedi, Entitled "No to execution in Iran." Symbolic one-day strike and Simultaneously all of the political prisoners had planned to anticipate the strike, but again, one day before the strike, 5 prisoners transferred to the custody of the security and they got threaten of deportation, beaten and documentation were again.

Over the past three years, more than 40 Kurdish political prisoners were exiled or sent to prisons in Ardabil, Bandar Abbas, Yazd, Tabriz, Zahedan, Zanzan, Qazvin and Rajaei-Shahr.

While in the prison, the political prisoners are under the yoke of government's security apparatus; after they are released from the prison, the Iranian security services (Ettelaat) will keep an eye on them. If they continue any political activities, the Iranian Revolutionary Guard (Sepah) will arrest them again. For example, the Sepah stormed some of the released prisoner's house and arrested them along with a number of family members. Iranian Revolutionary Guards detained a Kurdish political activist and held him without charge for several days after intense pressure from their commitment to the political activities, This approach by the Iranian officials is standard towards political prisoners.

For example, one of the prisoners, Vali Balkhkanlou, resident of Maku, six months after his release, Sepah in Mako arrested him again and transferred him back to the Maku prison. The above mentioned prisoner was arrested by Sepah in 2008 and sentenced him for "acting against national security". The court sentenced him to three years in prison. He was released in the spring of 2011 and again in September, was arrested by the Security forces of Ettelaat and after two months of torture in detention, he loses his life in the prison in Maku. Then they announced to his family that he attempt suicide in prison and killed himself. The Iranian security guard attended the funeral to make sure there will be no memorial ceremony and that

no information is disseminated to the community by the family or relatives.

The pressure isn't only directed at political prisoners but also at their families and relatives. Iranian security guard and Sepah also search on the prisoners family and their relatives and their friends, and anytime can implement their arrest by the Iranian security forces. For example, the family members of the executed political prisoner Hossein Khezri over the case for pursuing a political prisoner by the Sepah of Urmiye were threatening and arresting. Intense pressure on the family members by the Iranian security guard and even threaten the continued imprisonment of the execution to the extent that the prisoner's father suffered a heart attack and died.

A number of political prisoners, including Behrouz Alkhani due to prolonged holding in solitary confinement and continued torture have lost their mental balance. Ali Mohammadi, a political prisoner who has been imprisoned for 18 months and has been kept in solitary confinement for an extended period of time has begun to show signs of mental illness and is in need of special care. Ali Afshari, while detained by the security forces, was attacked with gun fire by an Iranian security guard, due to numerous gun fire wounds and severe internal infections requires surgery at a hospital outside the prison. Keyvan Esmaeili who got out of prison in 2006 and later in the prison of Urmiye showed signs of a mysterious illness which makes the flesh of his face disappear and burned to the bones he uses a mask. His health is in bad condition, despite the opinion of the prison doctors to send prisoners to outside hospitals but because the opposition from prison or security guard (Ettelaat) that they disagreed to send him out to outside hospitals, he is in bad health condition.

In protest against the transfer of dangerous prisoners to political prisoner and opposite, Transfer of political prisoners to dangerous prisoners depart, As well as summoning, threatening, and transferring political prisoner to solitary or single prison, by the Iranian security guard (Ettelaat), three political prisoner in central prison of Urmiye, depart 12 of the prison, on Tuesday November 29 they start hunger strike.

During these days, prison officials put pressure on prisoners to end hunger strike and threaten the prisoners with death penalty, execution and documentation for a number of them. Prison officials in this regard on Saturday 8 December, prison guard to create a climate of fear based in the prison, involvement with tear gas and electric shock batons and threatened to beat prisoners if they continue their hunger strike. On the same day, the prisoners who had been referred for a visit to the prison visiting room, On the pretext of a possible information transfer to overseas media by their families , prisoners stripped and searched in the disrespect way by the prison officials. On the same day as Mansour Arvand, political prisoner, was sentenced to death without prior notice, he had just been transferred to Mahabad prison.

List of prisoners sentenced to death in the prison:

1. **Habibullah (Rizgar) Afshari** — Moharebeh, through membership in Komala
2. **Ali Afshari** — Moharebeh, through membership in the Komala
3. **Younes Aghaeian** — violence and clashes with security forces, Yarsan follower.
4. **Behrouz Alakhani** — Moharebeh, through membership in PJAK (Free Life Party of Kurdistan)
5. **Ali Ahmad Soleiman** — through membership in PJAK (Free Life Party of Kurdistan)
6. **Ebrahim Isapour** — through membership in PJAK (Free Life Party of Kurdistan)
7. **Sirwan Najawi (Nazhavi)** — Moharebeh, through membership in PJAK (Free Life Party of Kurdistan)
8. **Seyyed Sami Hosseini** — Moharebeh, through membership in PJAK (Free Life Party of Kurdistan)
9. **Seyyed Jamal Mohammadi** — Moharebeh, through membership in PJAK (Free Life Party of Kurdistan)

A number of Kurdish political prisoners who is on strike:

1. **Jafar Mirzaei**, sentenced of 6 months, 2. **Sherko Hassanpour**, sentenced of 5 years, 3. **Abdullah Bisnoon**, sentenced 1 year and half, 4. **Yousef Kaka Mami**, sentenced 9 years, 5. **Osman Mostafapour**, sentenced 34 years, 6. **Mostafa Ali Ahmad**, sentenced 11 years, 7. **Arafat Asghari**, sentenced 9 months, 8. **Abdullah Amooei**, status undecided, 9. **Jafar Afshari**, sentenced 5 years, 10. **Vali Afshari**, sentenced 5 years, 11. **Keyhan Darvishi**, sentenced 3 years, 12. **Mostafa Davoudi**, sentenced 10 years. 13. **Shoresh Afshari**, sentenced 5 years, 14. **Khezer Rasoul Morovat**, sentenced 5 years, 15. **Mohammad Abdullah Bakht**, sentenced 1 year. 16. **Amir Maladoust**, sentenced 4 years, 17. **Ahmad Tamoui**, sentenced 15 years and 18. **Reza Rasouli**, sentenced 3 year and 9 months.

Just recently, 15 Kurdish civil and political activists were arrested because of attending and organizing Kobane's solidarity campaigns. the detained activists were transferred to the cells where the drug dealers and murderers are held:

Mohammed Deilami, Nasser Nabizadeh, Sayyad Nabizadeh, Masoud Nabizadeh, Manuchehr Sajjadi, Delavar Alinejad, Tohid Shokri, Mohammad Mostafavi, Sayyad Mohebinia, Kamal Abdullahi, Mohammad Anjomani, Amin Abdullahzadeh, Farman Ahmadzadeh, Bahman Ahmadzadeh, Hossein Rastgar.

Human rights situation in Iran

Over the past few years, after Hassan Rouhani came to power, human rights situation in areas that are non-Persian has deteriorated, and the number of arrests, the degree of discriminations and violence against non-Persian nationalities has increased. Also death sentences, torture and execution are going up more rapidly than ever in Iran's history. Unfortunately, because of the silence of the international community and institutionalized discrimination against Iran's human rights activists, human rights violations in the Kurdish region, Ahvaz, Baluchistan and etc... The systematic violation of human rights in Iran spread out day by day and Islamic Republic of Iran continue its inhumane policies but there is no international or domestic reaction to it.

Unfortunately, the following policy (the tow-side policy) that Western countries practice with Iran isn't helpful to protect the human rights and the minorities rights in Iran. Western governments should pay more attention to human rights abuses in Iran. This political interests between Western states and Iran gives more power to Iran government to violate human rights, execute political activists and discriminate human rights activists in Iran. The silence of Western countries strengthens the Iranian government and encourages it to pursue targeting Iranian minorities, arrest social activists and execute political prisoners.

Since Rouhani came to power, so far 8 Ahvazi Arabs were executed by Iranian regime. **Hashem Shabani**, 32 years old, a high school teacher of Arabic literature, **Hadi Rashedi**, 39 years old, a high school chemistry teacher in charge of the Moharebeh were sentenced to death penalty, on 7th December 2013. **Ghazi Abbasi**, **Abdulreza Amirhanafareh**, **Abdulmir Majdami**, **Jasem Moghadam panah**, on 3rd November 2013 transferred from Karoun prison to an unknown location, and shortly thereafter were executed. On 12th June 2014 the families of **Ali Che-Bishat** and **Khaled Mousavi** were notified that they will be executed.

On October 26, 2013 a Baluch forces carried out an attack on an Iranian army base, which Iran government execute 16 Baluchis political prisoners in reaction to the attack. In the same month, 3 Kurdish political prisoners, **Habibulla Golparipour** (25th October 2013, Urmiye prison), **Reza Esmaeili Mamedi** (25th October 2013, Salmas prison) and **Sherko Moarefi** (4th November 2013) were executed by the Islamic republic authorities. There are currently dozens of political activists and other civil society in the prisons of the

Islamic Republic of Iran remain on death penalty row.

Kurdish political prisoners on death penalty row:

1. **Habibullah (Rezgar) Afshari** — Moharebeh, through membership in Komala
2. **Ali Afshari** — Moharebeh, through membership in Komala
3. **Younes Aghaeian** — Moharebeh , violence and clashes with security forces, Yarsan follower
4. **Behrouz Alakhani** — Moharebeh through membership in PJAK (Free Life Party of Kurdistan)
5. **Ali Ahmad Soleiman** — Moharebeh, through membership in PJAK (Free Life Party of Kurdistan)
6. **Saman Nasim** — Moharebeh, through membership in PJAK (Free Life Party of Kurdistan)
7. **Ebrahim Isapour** — Moharebeh, through membership in PJAK (Free Life Party of Kurdistan)
8. **Sirwan Najawi (Nazhavi)** — Moharebeh, through membership in PJAK (Free Life Party of Kurdistan)
9. **Seyyed Sami Hosseini** — Moharebeh, through membership in PJAK (Free Life Party of Kurdistan)
10. **Seyyed Jamal Mohammadi** — Moharebeh, through membership in PJAK (Free Life Party of Kurdistan)
11. **Mansour Arvand** — Moharebeh
12. **Zaniar Moradi** — Moharebeh
13. **Loghman Moradi** — Moharebeh
14. **Mostafa Salimi** — Moharebeh
15. **Habibullah Latifi** — Moharebeh, trough membership in PJAK (Free Life Party of Kurdistan)
16. **Reza Malazadeh** — Moharebeh, trough membership in PJAK (Free Life Party of Kurdistan)

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