



Iran Human Rights Violations Update

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Since the 2026 Iran War began on February 28, the Islamic Republic of Iran has heavily suppressed its population to prevent a civilian uprising and to ensure the regime's stability. That pattern has only continued since the signing of the U.S.-Iran Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on June 14, 2026.

This edition of the Iran Human Rights Violations Update highlights 40 key instances of the regime's abuses towards its people between June 14 and July 21, including 11 death sentences handed down to citizens connected to the January protests. The regime also executed six demonstrators, including five who protested the government in January, adding to the 18 protest-related executions Iranian authorities carried out between [March 19 and June 3](#). Additionally, according to initial Human Rights Activists News Agency (HRANA) reporting, Iranian authorities [detained](#) 779 people for exercising their freedom of expression and belief in June alone, a 380 percent [increase](#) from 162 arrests in May.

Iranian security forces have also expanded their targeting of religious and ethnic minorities, primarily detaining Baloch and Kurdish citizens, as well as followers of the Baha'i faith, perhaps due to fear of unrest among minority populations following reports of their possible cooperation with the United States and Israel. According to HRANA, [34 citizens](#) belonging to religious and ethnic minorities were arrested by security forces in June compared to just [17](#) in May. Women have also come under renewed pressure with enforcement of mandatory hijab and detention of women's rights activists.

1. Speech and Political Suppression

- On July 20, the Shiraz Revolutionary Council [sentenced](#) two men to death for treating wounded anti-regime protesters in January, accusing them of acting against Iran's national security interests for sheltering the protesters.
 - » Iranian authorities also accused the two men of burning a Quran and setting fire to public buildings.
- On July 20, Hengaw [reported](#) that Iranian authorities in Qorveh sentenced two Kurdish women to prison and a combined total of 62 lashes for protesting the regime in January.
- On July 19, Iranian authorities [executed](#) two defendants involved in the "Isfahan Alikhani Square Case," including a 19-year-old, for protesting the Iranian government in January.
 - » The families of two other Alikhani Square protesters who have been sentenced to death [expressed](#) concerns for the status of their loved ones after they were sent to solitary confinement the same morning of the executions.

- On July 15, a man was [executed](#) in the city of Isfahan for allegedly throwing Molotov cock-tails at a police station and governor's office during the January protests.
- On July 15, a detained British citizen, who was arrested with his wife in January 2025 and is serving a 10-year sentence for allegedly spying on the Iranian government, was [sentenced](#) to an additional two years in prison for communicating with media from his cell, according to his family.
- On July 13, HRANA [reported](#) that 16 people who Iranian authorities detained for protesting the regime in January, also known as the "Isfahan Shohada Square Case," appeared in court on charges of possessing "propaganda against the regime," engaging in "assembly and collusion against national security," and destroying public property.
 - » According to HRANA, defense lawyers were barred from accessing files related to the case and one defendant was subjected to severe torture by regime authorities.
- On July 7, Branch 1 of the Qazvin Revolutionary Court [sentenced](#) a man to death for breaking two surveillance cameras during the January protests.
- On July 3, five Iranians held in Arak Prison who were charged with "enmity against God" for protesting the regime in January were [sentenced](#) to death.
 - » According to HRANA, they had 10 days from July 3 to appeal their sentence. As of July 21, there is no information on the status of the five detainees.
- On July 3, HRANA [reported](#) that the Tehran Revolutionary Court sentenced a man to death for protesting the regime in January, charging him with "enmity against God."
- On June 30, Iran's Cyber Police [detained](#) a woman on June 30 due to her activity on Instagram in which she allegedly criticized the regime.
 - » The Gorgan Public and Revolutionary Prosecutor's Office charged Jami with "insulting sacred values" and maintaining "links to hostile groups."
- On June 30, security forces [arrested](#) the head of Nurabad Mamasani's trade association, who is also a teacher's union activist, without providing any reasons for his arrest or allowing him access to his crucial heart medication.
 - » Regime authorities previously arrested him for protesting the government in 2019 and 2022.
- On June 29, Iranian authorities [transported](#) civil rights activist Rezvaneh Ahmadkhan Beigi and her 18-month-old daughter to the notorious Evin Prison to continue serving a 10-year prison sentence for charges of assembly and collusion against domestic security and propaganda against the regime.
- On June 29, Iranian authorities [arrested](#) a Karaj-based journalist who has previously faced judicial prosecution related to his journalism career, charging him with "disturbing public opinion" and "acting against national security."
- On June 28, security forces [arrested](#) three Azerbaijani Turkish activists in the cities of Meshgin Shahr and Ardabil without providing their families any information on which agency carried out the arrests or where they are currently being imprisoned.
- On June 22, the Sari city prosecutor [announced](#) the opening of 700 cases in connection with the January protests, 139 of which will be prosecuted for carrying out "activities against the regime."
- On June 22, the Prosecutor of Zahedan [announced](#) that 111 detainees have been sentenced in connection with the January protests.
- On June 20, Sharif University of Technology's disciplinary committee [expelled](#) seven students, banning them from continuing to pursue higher education as a punishment for protesting the regime in January.

- On June 18, regime forces [clashed](#) with protesters opposing a chromite mining project in both the Kerman and Sistan and Baluchestan provinces, leading to eight women sustaining injuries and authorities arresting six demonstrators.
- On June 16, two men who [protested](#) the regime in January and were charged with several offenses, including “spreading corruption on earth,” were executed in Semnan Province.
- On June 16, HRANA [reported](#) that Intelligence Police [detained](#) three people in Tehran for posting content critical of Islam and allegedly “disturbing public opinion.”

2. Women's Rights Abuses

- On July 19, *The Jerusalem Post* [reported](#) that Iranian authorities sentenced Anita Papist to 74 lashes for “offending public decency” after sharing videos of herself online in which she sang without a hijab.
- On July 15, Iranian forces [raided](#) the home of and arrested Sepideh Abtahi, a women’s rights activist and documentary filmmaker, without providing any reason for her arrest.
 - » Over the past few months, Abtahi posted on social media advocating for peace and primarily makes documentaries centered around women’s issues in Iran.
- On July 15, Iranian authorities [executed](#) a man in Karaj who participated in the Women, Life, Freedom protests in Iran in November 2022.
 - » Iran’s Revolutionary Court charged him with killing a member of the Basij in 2022, but there remains no sufficient evidence of him carrying out the attack.
- On July 4, Hengaw [reported](#) that an Iranian photographer was sentenced to one year in prison for posting the hashtags #WomenLifeFreedom and #NoToExecution on social media.
- On June 22, *Iran International* [posted](#) an undated video depicting regime supporters harassing a woman for failing to wear a hijab and threatening to alert authorities of her illegal actions.
 - » Additionally, *Iran International* also reported that morality police have been stationed in the city of Qom to ensure women abide by mandatory hijab laws.
- On June 18, Iranian singer Parastoo Ahmadi was [sentenced](#) to 74 lashes and received a two-year ban on engaging in artistic activities and traveling after she performed in a music video without a hijab in 2024.

3. Religious and Ethnic Minority Abuses

- On July 21, Hengaw [reported](#) that the Tehran Revolutionary Court sentenced a Baha’i woman to 11 years in prison for holding “membership in groups opposed to the state,” engaging in “propaganda activities contrary to Sharia,” and possessing “propaganda against the state.”
- On July 17, authorities with the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps’ (IRGC) Intelligence Organization [detained](#) three Kurdish activists in the city of Ravansar without presenting warrants or providing reasons for their arrests.
- On July 15, Iranian border guards [fired](#) at a group of Kurdish kolbars transporting goods near the country’s northern border, killing one young man.
 - » Over the past two weeks, border guards have shot and killed at least three Kurdish kolbars.
- Between July 13 and 15, regime authorities [arrested](#) four Baloch men connected to Zahedan’s Makki Mosque.

- » The detainees' families have not been able to verify their loved ones' conditions or their locations.
- On July 9, security forces [deployed](#) to the town of Daraki in Iranian Kurdistan fired at a family in their vehicle [without warning](#), resulting in the death of their 15-year-old son who was shot in the head by a guard.
- On July 8, Baha'i Yazd resident Mitra Bandi Amirabadi, who security forces [arrested](#) in June 2025 during the 12-Day War, was sentenced to five years of discretionary imprisonment and will be deprived of social rights for 10 years for engaging in "deviant propaganda activity contrary to the sacred law of Islam through the promotion of the Baha'i faith."
- On July 7, the IRGC's intelligence unit [detained](#) two Kurdish men in Mahabad, without providing any reasoning for their arrests.
- On July 7, the sister of detained 19-year-old Baha'i Iranian man, Parsa Najafi, [claimed](#) that her brother has been forced to self-incriminate and confess to crimes he did not commit, including spying for Israel.
 - » According to IranWire, Najafi was previously [denied](#) the opportunity to pursue higher education due to his Baha'i faith.
- On July 6, the Tehran Province Court of Appeals [upheld](#) five Christian converts' prison sentences, including the sentences of those charged with performing Christian religious ceremonies and holding services in their homes.
- On June 24, a Baloch man was [beaten](#) and taken to an unknown location by security forces while traveling to Chabahar after he failed to present identification documents at a check-point.
- On June 23, the IRGC's Intelligence Organization [arrested](#) Saeed Hassani, a Baha'i resident of Shiraz, without providing a warrant or reason for his arrest.
 - » According to Hengaw, authorities [detained](#) Hassani in 2016 due to his "religious beliefs."
- On June 23, Iranian authorities [raided](#) the homes of two Baha'i women from Shiraz and detained them without presenting warrants for their arrests.
- Between June 17 and 20, Iranian forces [arrested](#) three Baloch men in separate incidents for unknown reasons without presenting warrants.
 - » One of the men was arrested in the city of Iranshahr by plainclothes officers and was transferred to an unknown location.
- On June 17, Hengaw [reported](#) that Iran's Public Security and Intelligence Police beat and tortured Baha'i citizen Noyan Hejazi in the city of Sari while arresting him for "promoting the Baha'i faith."
 - » Authorities reportedly lured Hejazi by calling and assuring him he would be able to reclaim his belongings that had been confiscated earlier by regime forces.