



Iran Human Rights Violations Update: 9/23/26

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In the two months since JINSA [published](#) its last Iran Human Rights Violations Update, the Iranian regime has continued its crackdown on protesters and minorities, suggesting it still feels vulnerable to internal dissent. The government sentenced at least 21 people to death and executed at least seven others, including two publicly, for participating in January's anti-regime protests. It also executed three other men for allegedly spying for the United States and Israel during the 2025 and 2026 wars, while Iranian courts sentenced another woman to death simply for sending a picture of a missile impact site to a foreign news outlet.

Fearing another protest outbreak, security forces deployed to several Iranian cities around the fourth anniversary of the regime's morality police murdering 22-year-old Kurdish woman, Mahsa Amini, for improperly wearing her hijab in 2022. Meanwhile, the regime still seeks to control women's appearances, with security forces and those suspected of working for them harassing unveiled women and renewing existing hijab mandates at universities across the country as more women publicly unveil in attempts to defy the government's authority.

Regime forces also continued to target ethnic and religious minorities, demonstrating their fear of any potential insider threats, as it accuses many minorities, particularly Baha'i citizens, of collaborating with the United States and Israel. They arrested over 100 Kurdish citizens without providing a reason for their arrests or any information on their conditions and whereabouts. Their arrests came as border forces shot at least seven Kurdish kolbars—individuals who carry goods on their backs across borders—killing four of them, without providing any reason or warning. Security forces also arrested 16 Baha'i citizens without reason or on security-related charges, while at least 13 others were sentenced for promoting the Baha'i faith. Furthermore, regime forces killed at least seven Baloch citizens and detained eight others without reason, as more than 24 Sunni Arab citizens were detained, including several while they prayed privately.

1. Speech and Political Suppression

- On September 19, authorities at Isfahan Central Prison [executed](#) Hossein Pedran after the Isfahan Revolutionary Court sentenced him to death for allegedly spying for Israel.
- On September 17, *Iran International* [reported](#) that a court upheld the death sentences for five people from the city of Lordegan for participating in the January protests.
 - » The next day, *Iran International* also [announced](#) that in a separate case, a court upheld the death sentence handed to a former police officer who was arrested for protesting the regime in January.
- On September 17, Human Rights Activists News Agency (HRANA) [reported](#) that the Tehran Revolutionary Court sentenced Hossein Molaei to 15 years in prison for allegedly supporting Israel.
- On September 16, an Iranian court [sentenced](#) 23-year-old Najmeh Amini to death for protesting the regime in January, according to an audio message that she released from Mashhad's Vakilabad Prison.

- On September 15, HRANA [reported](#) that the Mashhad Revolutionary Court sentenced Hossein Rasouli Nasab to death for his alleged connection to a mosque fire in the city of Shandiz during the January protests.
- On September 13, the Babol Revolutionary Court [sentenced](#) Rahim Molaeian to six months in prison for painting pictures and sharing posts on his Instagram story that the government considered “propaganda against the regime.”
- On September 11, HRANA [reported](#) that the Bandar Abbas Revolutionary Court sentenced Souda Ebrahimi Shamsabadi to death for photographing a missile impact site during the war and then sending the picture to a foreign Persian media outlet.
- On September 4, security forces [arrested](#) Nozhat Mirrazi a day after she posted a video honoring the birthday of her son who was killed for protesting the regime in January.
- On August 31, Iran’s Supreme Court [upheld](#) Ali-Asghar Peyghambari’s death sentence after the Tehran Revolutionary Court originally sentenced him for participating in the January protests.
- On August 31, HRANA [reported](#) that the Isfahan Revolutionary Court sentenced 10 defendants of the Isfahan Shohada Square Case to death, plus 11 years in prison, for their participation in the January protests.
- On August 28, Hengaw [reported](#) that the Karaj Revolutionary Court sentenced Reza Zanganeh to death, accusing him of working for Mossad and “waging war against God.”
- On August 27, *Iran International* [reported](#) that the Revolutionary Court in Isfahan sentenced Leila Abolhassani to death for allegedly setting fire to a store during the January protests, despite an informed source insisting she only filmed the incident.
- On August 26, HRANA reported that the Mashhad Revolutionary Court [sentenced](#) Hossein Nazari to death in July for protesting the regime in January after authorities accused him of collaborating with hostile actors and acting against Iran’s national security.
- On August 25, HRANA [reported](#) that the Iranian judiciary sentenced 22-year-old Amir Mohammad Mojallal Chubari to death for his involvement in the January protests, accusing him of attempting to murder security officers and rioting.
- On August 23, Iranian authorities [executed](#) Majid Adineh for protesting the regime in January after the Karaj Revolutionary Court sentenced him to death for committing arson, as well as possessing anti-regime propaganda and an unauthorized weapon.
 - » Authorities also seized Adineh’s belongings after he was charged with “taking operational action on behalf of Israel, the United States, and hostile groups and countries.”
- On August 23, the Tehran Revolutionary Court [informed](#) political prisoner Ali Zarei Doozdarrehsi of his death sentence after Ministry of Intelligence agents arrested him as he entered Iran in April.
 - » Doozdarrehsi, whom authorities shot in the eye and arrested in 2022 for protesting the regime, was charged with a series of offenses, including “corruption on earth through extensive engagement in political activities,” according to HRANA.
- On August 23, an Iranian official [announced](#) that police had confiscated 997 Starlink devices and arrested 163 individuals affiliated with the equipment between March and July.
- On August 23, security forces in Likak [arrested](#) Davoud Mostofi for attending a service marking the birthday of slain protester Habib Khoubipour, who authorities shot and killed in January.
- On August 23, Iranian security forces [shot and arrested](#) Amin Naseri, a Kurdish artist in Asmanabad, who authorities wanted for protesting the regime in January.

- On August 20, Iranian authorities [executed](#) Ghaem Hosseini, one of the defendants in the “Isfahan Alikhani Square Case,” for allegedly killing a police officer during the January anti-regime protests.
- On August 20, HRANA [reported](#) that the Mashhad Revolutionary Court sentenced Pouria Hosseini-Mofard to death in July for protesting the regime in January.
 - » Authorities accused Hosseini-Mofard of a series of crimes related to the January protest, including breaking a bus stop’s glass barrier and setting fire to shrubbery.
- On August 19, an Iranian court [sentenced](#) Azar Yahu to three years in prison after she commented on Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s account on social media.
- On August 18, Hengaw [reported](#) that the Mashhad Revolutionary Court sentenced Leila Moallemi to 10 years in prison for sending an audio recording to foreign media outlets in which she criticized a Minab school principal for keeping children at the school’s building instead of sending them home when the war commenced.
 - » Moallemi likely referred to the school in Minab where 120 children were killed on the first day of the war.
- On August 16, authorities [executed](#) Shahram Sadeghi after the Karaj Revolutionary Court sentenced him to death for allegedly running over police officers during the January protests.
 - » Authorities also confiscated his belongings after charging him with acting on behalf of the United States and Israel.
- On August 14, HRANA [reported](#) that the Revolutionary Court sentenced 23-year-old Sepehr Amirzadeh to death for protesting the regime in Isfahan in January, with authorities accusing him of waging war against God.
- On August 10, Hengaw [reported](#) that the Bukan Criminal Court sentenced two men to prison for “buying and selling Starlink satellite equipment” after torturing and interrogating them earlier this year.
- On August 9, HRANA [reported](#) that Iran’s Supreme Court upheld the death sentence of Rasoul Rezaei, who the Mashhad Revolutionary Court originally sentenced for protesting the regime in January.
 - » While he was charged with waging war against God, the exact reason for this charge is currently unknown.
- On August 5, HRANA reported that Ilam’s Revolutionary Court [sentenced](#) Mehdi Roshani to death the month prior for protesting the regime in January, with authorities accusing him of killing a police officer during the protests.
 - » According to HRANA, authorities beat Roshani several times in prison and subjected him to intense interrogations.
- On August 3, regime authorities [executed](#) Omid Behzad and Pouria Safvat after Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) intelligence forces accused them of spying for Israel during the 2025 and 2026 wars.
- On August 1, authorities at Shahrud Prison [executed](#) 19-year-old Arvin Kheirkhahan for protesting the regime in January after the Shahrud Revolutionary Court sentenced him to death for waging war against God during the demonstrations.
- On July 30, the Bojnord Criminal Court [sentenced](#) a 16-year-old girl to six months in prison for protesting the regime in January, while also handing her father an almost five-year sentence in addition to 80 lashes.

- On July 30, HRANA reported that Iran's Supreme Court [upheld](#) the planned execution of Benjamin Naghi, who was sentenced to death for allegedly spraying police officers with a fire extinguisher during the anti-regime protests in January.
- On July 28, Iranian authorities in Isfahan publicly [hanged](#) Abolfazl Sepahi and Amirhossein Safari in the city's Alikhani Square, accusing them of playing a role in the deaths of four police officers during the January protests.
- On July 23, Isfahan's Revolutionary Court [sentenced](#) Mehnam Navab Safavi to death for protesting the regime in January.
 - » According to HRANA, one of his offenses included writing slogans during the protests.
- On July 22, HRANA reported that Iranian authorities [executed](#) Mehdi Khanki for protesting the regime in January, charging him with acting on behalf of the United States and Israel, as well as utilizing a firearm.

2. Women's Rights Abuses

- On September 19, a Tehran province sports official [warned](#) that unveiled women who participated in the city's 10k race the day prior could face legal punishment for defying the country's hijab laws.
- On September 16, security forces [deployed](#) to several cities in western Iran to prevent protests as shopkeepers closed their businesses to mark the fourth anniversary since Iran's morality police murdered Mahsa Amini, whose death sparked the Women, Life, Freedom movement in 2022.
 - » In addition to intimidating civilians to stifle protests, security forces also blocked all roads leading to Amini's burial site in her hometown of Saqqez.
- On September 8, *Iran International* [reported](#) that an Iranian cultural deputy announced a new directive that would soon reinforce mandatory hijab at universities throughout Iran.
 - » The cultural deputy who works for the Office of the Supreme Leader's Representative in Universities stated that "We will certainly not witness the bitter incidents that we sometimes see on the streets at universities."
 - » According to the deputy, the current hijab mandate is "very good" and that the directive is only a matter of reinforcing the rule.
- On September 6, North Khorasan IRGC commander Hossein Akbari [announced](#) that a task force to enforce the hijab will soon return to the province.
- On September 3, *Iran International* [published](#) a video depicting two veiled women harassing other women for not wearing a hijab in Tehran.
 - » In the video, the veiled women carried radios, which most people in Iran cannot access, and wore outfits that resemble those of security uniforms.
- On August 13, *Iran International* [reported](#) that over the past three weeks, security forces shut down 42 businesses across 17 cities for failing to enforce the regime's hijab mandate.
- On August 12, *Iran International* shared a video of plainclothes Basij paramilitary forces in Isfahan [stopping and harassing](#) a woman on the street without reason.

3. Religious and Ethnic Minority Abuses

- On September 20, intelligence forces [raided](#) a Kurdish home in Kamyaran County, and violently arrested 17-year-old Hawre Yousefi without providing a reason for his detention.
 - » That same day, Hengaw [reported](#) that government forces summoned Karwan Souri, another 17-year-old Kurdish boy, after authorities raided his home on September 1 in

Miandoab County, arrested him for allegedly having links to a Kurdish political party, and then released him out on bail four days later.

- On September 19, police traveling in an unmarked vehicle and military Hilux [shot and killed](#) 22-year-old Baloch man, Issa Jalali Hout, as they chased his car in Delgan County.
 - » Authorities have yet to provide a reason for pursuing and firing at Hout.
- On September 17, intelligence forces [arrested](#) five Kurdish men living in Urmia, without providing a reason for their arrests or information about where the government is holding them.
 - » The incident occurred on the same day that intelligence forces [arrested](#) two Kurdish men in the town of Kamyaran without reason.
- On September 17, intelligence forces [shot and killed](#) Ali Oslub, a Kurdish man living in Piranshahr, and then took custody of his body.
 - » Three days following his murder, Iran's Intelligence Ministry released a statement saying that authorities had ambushed an individual in Piranshahr they suspected of holding membership in a Kurdish opposition party.
 - Iranian state media also released blurred pictures of the individual's dead body, without confirming the man's identity.
- On September 17, Hakim Vahidi, an Arab man living in Mahshahr County, [succumbed](#) to his wounds after security forces shot him the day before with no explanation.
- On September 15, Hengaw [reported](#) that in the lead-up to the anniversary of Mahsa Amini's death, Iranian authorities summoned and interrogated approximately 20 Kurdish children under the age of 18 due to their social media activity, later confiscating their mobile devices and releasing them on bail guarantees.
 - » Additionally, security forces [detained](#) around 20 Kurdish adults on September 15 in Oshnavieh connected to organizing a strike to mark Amini's death.
- On September 15, HRANA [reported](#) that security forces in Shiraz arrested three Baha'i citizens, including a teenager, without providing any explanation for their detentions.
- On September 14, border forces [shot](#) Arvin Azizi, a Kurdish kolbar, while he was traveling near Baneh.
- On September 12, intelligence forces in Shushtar, Khuzestan province, [detained](#) Arab cultural activist, Mehdi Khaledi, without providing reason for his arrest.
- On September 11, intelligence forces [arrested](#) 16-year-old Arzhin Jondi, a Kurdish teenager living in Piranshahr, without providing reason for his arrest or details about his detention location.
- On September 10, security forces violently [arrested 12 Sunni Arabs](#), including a 13-year-old boy, while they prayed at a private residence in Ahvaz.
 - » Their arrests follow a September 4 incident in which intelligence forces violently [arrested](#) eight Sunni Arab citizens while they were gathering at a home in Ahvaz.
 - Some of the men detained on September 4 and 10 were beaten, and authorities have yet to provide any reason for their arrests or information on their current locations.
- On September 7, security forces [shot and killed](#) Mojtaba Bameri, a Baloch citizen, while they pursued his vehicle along the Kahnuj-Faryab road in the country's Kerman province.
 - » According to Hengaw, authorities have yet to provide any reason for the pursuit or why they fired at him.

- On September 5, Iranian security forces [raided](#) two homes and detained Kurdish teenagers Siamak Mofidi and Soroush Enayati in the city of Takab without presenting warrants or providing a reason for their arrests or information regarding their whereabouts.
- On August 31, security forces [arrested](#) five Baha'i men from Karaj after they were summoned to the Shahriar Revolutionary Court.
 - » The court sentenced each man to a year in prison for their alleged crimes, one of which was engaging in "deviant educational and proselytizing activities contrary to or disruptive of the sacred law of Islam."
- On August 30, border guards [shot and killed](#) Nesar Alizehi, a Baloch man, near Pasgah-e Molla Sharif in Zehak County, without providing a reason or firing a warning shot prior to striking him.
- On August 23–24, security forces [arrested](#) 11 Kurdish men without providing a reason for their arrests, including five living in [Oshnavieh and Naqadeh](#), three in [Asmanabad](#), and three in the area of [Piranshahr](#).
- Between August 22–25, security forces [arrested](#) eight Baha'i citizens on unknown or security- and propaganda-related charges, including two women who might have been [detained](#) for promoting their faith.
- On August 20, the Sari Revolutionary Court [handed down](#) a variety of lengthy prison and social rights deprivation sentences to 12 Baha'i citizens for promoting their faith.
- On August 20, intelligence forces [arrested](#) Vahid Valizadeh, a Turkish activist, without providing an explanation for his detention.
- On August 19, forces at the Barda Spian border area [shot](#) at several kolbars, killing Yousef Mamehpour without providing any initial warnings before the ambush.
- On August 13–16, IRGC intelligence personnel and security forces arrested several Kurdish people without reason, including seven [in Bukan](#), three in [Urmia](#), three in [Divandarreh](#), two in [Miandoab](#), one in [Oshnavieh](#), and one in [Mahabad](#).
 - » The three [detained](#) in Divandarreh, including a 16-year-old girl, are all family members.
 - » Intelligence forces in Bukan [detained](#) the father of one of the men, Zakaria Badsar, and only released him after Badsar turned himself in to the authorities.
- On August 13, intelligence forces [arrested](#) Milad Heydari, a Sunni Arab convert in Ahvaz, without providing a reason for his detention or information regarding his location.
- On August 13, security forces [shot](#) at a group of Kurdish kolbars in the Hengezhall border area, killing Musa Zibapour.
 - » Authorities then refused to return Zibapour's body to his family.
- On August 10, the Qaem Shahr Revolutionary Court [sentenced](#) Farank Zabihi, a follower of the Baha'i faith, to two years in prison for promoting her religion.
- On August 10, without reason, Iranian security forces [shot and killed](#) Mohammad Tohidpanah, a Kurdish kolbar, as he transported goods in Baneh.
 - » The killing follows two separate incidents on August 4–5 in which border guards shot two other [Kurdish kolbars](#) near Baneh.
- On August 9, IRGC intelligence forces [arrested](#) three Sunni Arab brothers in Shadegan without providing a reason for their arrests.
 - » Hengaw reported that authorities had arrested the three men previously due to their religious beliefs.

- On August 6, security forces [raided](#) the village of Ney in Marivan County and detained six Kurdish environmental activists without providing a reason for their arrests.
- On July 31, two Baloch men [succumbed](#) to their wounds after Iranian security forces shot them in two separate incidents in Kalegan, Golshan County, and Khash.
- On July 29, IRGC forces [shot and killed](#) Kurdish Mahabad resident Seyed Ahmad Esmaili at a checkpoint in Bukan and then refused to return his body to his family.
- On July 28, security forces [arrested](#) eight Baloch men in Chah Ahmad village without presenting warrants, providing a reason for their arrests, or information regarding their whereabouts.
 - » The day prior, Iranian forces also [shot and killed](#) two Baloch brothers inside their vehicle in the city of Khash without providing an explanation for the ambush.
- On July 27, members of the IRGC [killed](#) Arab Ahvaz resident, Abbas Khosraji, and seriously injured another man as they collected scrap metal along a road near a military facility.
- On July 26, intelligence forces [shot at](#) a vehicle traveling on the Marivan-Baneh road, murdering Mehdi Tavakkoli, a Kurdish activist, as well as his sister and mother.
 - » Hengaw, citing an informed source, reported that government authorities instructed the family to not discuss the incident publicly and forced them to claim the three individuals died in a vehicular accident.
- On July 25, intelligence forces in Javanrud [arrested](#) 19-year-old Emad Mostafaei, a Sunni activist, without providing information or reason for his detention.
- On July 22, Iranian border forces [fired at](#) a group of Kurdish kolbars near the town of Baljouk in Khoy County, killing Rasoul Qalandari after shooting him three times in the head despite him already being wounded and unable to pose a threat to the guards.