



Re: Call for Submissions in Preparation of the report by the UN Secretary General on the human rights situation in the Islamic Republic of Iran to the 78th session of the General Assembly

The following is a joint submission, with the collaboration of

The Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization (UNPO),

Kurdistan Human Rights Association-Geneva (KMMK-G),

Ahwaz Human Rights Organization (AHRO),

Baluchistan Human Rights Group (BHRG)

Submitting Organizations:

The Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization (UNPO) is an international movement and organization established to empower the voices of unrepresented and marginalized peoples worldwide and to protect their rights to self-determination. The peoples represented within the UNPO membership are all united by one shared condition: they are denied equal representation in the institutions of national or international governance. As a consequence, their opportunity to participate on the national or international stage is limited, and they struggle to fully realize their rights to civil and political participation and to control their economic, social and cultural development. Website: www.unpo.org - Contact: un@unpo.org

The Association of Human Rights in Kurdistan – Geneva (KMMK-G) is an independent organization, with no political affiliation. KMMK-G was established in 2006 to serve as a bridge between the Kurdish civil society and the United Nations (UN) agencies and International institutions on the one hand, and the Kurdish and Iranian civil society on the other hand. Website: <https://www.kmmkge.org/> - Contact: taimoor.aliassi@gmail.com

The Ahwaz Human Rights Organization (AHRO) is a non-religious, secular, international human rights NGO registered in Belgium. They support and advocate for the rights of more than five million indigenous Ahwazi Arabs in the South-western Iran province of Khuzestan, also known as Al-Ahwaz or Arabistan. AHRO also reports violations against other ethnic and religious minorities in Iran. Website: <https://ahwazhumanrights.org/en/> - Contact: ahero.info@protonmail.com

Balochistan Human Rights Group (BHRG) is an independent and nongovernmental organization that gathers and distributes information concerning the Baloch human rights situation in Iran. The BHRG aims to raise awareness of violations suffered by the community inside Iran and to urge the Iranian regime to stop human rights violations against its Baloch people. Website: <https://www.bhrg.info/> - Contact: contact@bhrg.info

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1 Introduction

This joint submission aims to shed light on the human rights challenges faced by marginalized communities, particularly the Ahwazi Arabs, Kurds, and Baluch minorities, in the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Ahwazi Arabs, Kurds, and Baluch minorities are distinct ethnic and cultural communities within the Islamic Republic of Iran. These groups have historically faced significant challenges, including systemic discrimination, marginalization, and violations of their basic human rights.

The report examines various critical topics that directly impact the well-being, dignity, and fundamental freedoms of minorities in Iran. The report focuses on several critical human rights violations and provides documented cases and evidence related to the human rights situation of these communities.

By underscoring the urgent need for attention and action, this joint submission calls upon the international community to prioritize addressing the grave human rights situation faced by these marginalized communities in Iran. It urges concerted efforts to hold the Iranian government accountable for its actions, promote justice, and ensure the protection and fulfillment of the rights and dignity of all minorities in Iran.

1. Death penalty and arbitrary deprivation of life

The issue of death penalty and arbitrary deprivation of life in Iran remains a significant concern. Iran has one of the highest execution rates in the world, with a wide range of offenses being punishable by death. The Iranian judicial system often lacks transparency and due process, leading to numerous cases of wrongful convictions and unfair trials. There have been reports of individuals being executed based on confessions obtained through torture or coercion. Moreover, the death penalty is frequently imposed for non-violent crimes, including drug offenses and political dissent. Ethnic and religious minorities are disproportionately affected by these harsh sentences.

a. Ahwazi Arabs

Recorded cases:

● Hassan Abiyat

Hassan Abiyat, was a 45 years old Ahwazi Arab man who was arrested in January 2012 under the charges of “membership in opposition groups” and “Propaganda against the regime”¹ by branch four of the revolution court of Ahwaz. Mr. Abiyat was sentenced to execution for “waging war against God” (Moharebeh), by judge Farhadvand of Branch one of Ahvaz revolution court.² He was executed on 20 February 2023 in Sepidar prison of Ahwaz. The forced confessions of Mr. Abiyat was aired on Press

1 <https://ipa.united4iran.org/fa/prisoner/1580/>

2 <https://www.hra-news.org/2023/hranews/a-39896/>

TV, the English language news channel of the Islamic Republic of Iran³. According to reports, Mr. Abiyat was in solitary confinement for up to four months.

b. Kurds

From the start of the protest in Kurdistan on the 19th of September 2022 until 23rd May 2023, the Kurdistan Human Rights Association-Geneva (KMMK-G) has been able, through its on-ground contacts and investigations, to identify the names of at least, one hundred-forty (140) Kurdish protestors who were killed during this time. Ten (10) of them were women. Seventeen (17) of the victims were aged under 18 years old. Eighteen (18) Kurdish citizens were killed outside Kurdistan provinces.

From January 1, 2023 to May 23rd, 2023, KMMK-G has identified the names of three hundred nineteen (319) prisoners including 8 women who were executed in Iran. At least, 102 of them were Kurds and 58 were Balochis. So, over 50% of the total executions in Iran are Kurdish and Baluchis citizens while the Kurds and the Balochis make up only 20% of Iran's 85 million population.

Since the nationwide protests started, according to our data, at least, four hundred ninety (490) citizens were killed. Two hundred and seventy-five (275) of them were Kurds (140) and Balochis (135). Actually, over 56% of them are Kurds and Balochis. This figure shows the disproportionate use of lethal force by security forces against the Kurds and Balochis.

- Forty-three (43) of the victims were from Sine or Kurdistan province,
- Fifty-six (56) of the victims were from Wermê or Western Azerbaijan province,
- Thirty-four (34) of the victims were from Kermashan or Kermanshah province,
- Three (3) of the victims were from Ilam
- Twenty-two (22) of the Kurdish protestors were killed in a non-Kurdish provinces such as Tehran and Quchan.

It is worth noting that most of Kurdish cities have double names, a Persian-official name and a Kurdish one.

c. Baloch

The Government of Iran commonly resorts to the death penalty. Public hangings and executions are far higher in Sistan and Baluchestan province than in other provinces of Iran.⁴ Justifications for the killings revolve around false accusations of drug smuggling, armed resistance and “waging war against God ” (Moharebeh), “spreading corruption on earth” (Mofsed-e-Filarz) or simply being related to a political opponent. Iran's most persecuted and economically disadvantaged Baloch ethnic and religious

³ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Us76ahUZTU>

⁴ <https://en.iranhrs.org/623-executions-in-2022-in-iran-273-more-prisoners-executed-than-last-year/>

minority account for around 20 percent of the recorded executions despite making up only five percent of Iran's population.⁵ Baloch minorities are grossly overrepresented in Iran's execution numbers.

According to the list provided by Balochistan Human Rights Group (BHRG), at least 77 Baloch men from the age group of 20 to 46 have been executed by Islamic Republic of Iran from 1st August 2022 till 24th January 2023. Among 77 men executed, 58 were executed on drug-related charges, 12 were executed on murder charges, 1 for security related charges and at least 3 were executed for allegedly killing security personnel. The youngest in the list was identified as a 20 year-old Saeed Shebak from Zahedan who was executed on drug-related charges. In the first quarter of 2023, from January till March, at least 21 Baloch citizens belonging to the Baloch minority have been executed.⁶

Two thirds of all the executions carried out in Iran from January till May 2023 were of drug-related offenses and have mainly affected people from minority and impoverished backgrounds.⁷ It is reported that from April 30th till 4th May 2023, 22 Baluch prisoners including two women have been executed in different prisons of Iran,⁸ showing unprecedented increase in the execution of Baluch citizens since Zahedan killings.⁹

According to a right group, Islamic Republic of Iran carried out 142 executions in the month of May, the highest number of citizens executed in one month in Iran since 2015. Of those executed in May, 30 were from the Baluch minority group.¹⁰

According to the Norway-based monitoring group the Iran Human Rights Organization (IHR), IRI has executed at least 42 citizens since 25th May till 5th June alone. The victims include 22 members of the Baluch minority.¹¹ Calling on the international community to take immediate action, IHR director Mahmood Amiry-Moghaddam said: "More than half of those executed were Baluch minorities and drug defendants from the most marginalized communities who are low-cost victims of the government's killing machine."¹²

2. Right to fair trial

Iranian courts regularly violate their own constitutional laws regarding providing fair trials to its citizens. It uses confessions obtained under torture as evidence in court. Authorities routinely restrict detainees' access to legal counsel, particularly during the investigation period.

Similarly, overrepresentation of Baloch, Kurd and Ahwazi Arabs in prisons and in executions is a proof in itself that the Iranian authorities regularly conduct sham trials against them. They are denied the right to access a lawyer of their own choosing from the time of arrest and throughout the trial proceedings, denied the right to be presumed innocent, to remain silent or to confess.

⁵ <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2023/06/iran-prisons-turned-into-killing-fields-as-drug-related-executions-almost-triple-this-year/>

⁶ <https://bhrgh.info/en/?p=1931>

⁷ <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2023/06/iran-prisons-turned-into-killing-fields-as-drug-related-executions-almost-triple-this-year/>

⁸ https://twitter.com/daadkhast/status/1654214265471901701?s=46&t=h0p9_0569WfFdujKmexLxw, <https://www.instagram.com/p/Cr1TOWCv-96/?igshid=NTc4MTIwNjQ2YQ==>, <https://bhrgh.info/en/?p=1954>

⁹ <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2022/10/iran-at-least-82-baluchi-protesters-and-bystanders-killed-in-bloody-crackdown/>

¹⁰ <https://www.voanews.com/a/rights-group-iran-executed-142-people-in-may/7119143.html>

¹¹ <https://www.iranintl.com/en/202305063088>

¹² <https://www.iranintl.com/en/202305063088>

According to Human Rights Watch, “sentences have been issued on vaguely defined national security charges, and defendants have had restricted access to lawyers and alleged that the authorities tortured or abused them to produce coerced confessions.”¹³ They also note how “Iran’s intelligence agencies and state media outlets regularly publish and promote false claims against activists and dissidents.”

a. Ahwazi Arabs

On 6 May 2023, Mizan¹⁴ News Agency affiliated with Islamic Republic of Iran judiciary announced that 6 Ahwazi Arab men: Ali Mojadam (born in 1980), Mohammad Reza Moghadam (born in 1991), Moin Khanfari (born in 1992), Habib Daris (born in 1982), Adnan Ghobishavi (born 1997) and Salem Mousavi (1984) who have been recently accused and charged of terrorism offenses (Baghi) are sentenced to execution.

According to Mizan, the six men are sentenced to execution over “two separate terrorist missions killing two basij forces (Ali Salehi Majd, Younes Bahar) in Abadan, a police force (Namullah nazar Safari) and a soldier (Mohammad Reza Rafiyi) in Imam Khomeini port”.

All men are accused of membership in Harakat al-Nidal al-Arabi inside Iran. Harakat al-Nidal al-Arabi is a opposition political group that calls for the independence of Khuzestan or Al-Ahwaz as known by local Ahwazi Arabs. The government of Iran considers this political party as a terrorist organization.

Mizan stated: “Based on the verdict Ali Mojadam and Mohammad Reza Moghadam, the leaders of the internal branch of the group, charged with being the leader and member of the insurgent group of the military branch of the terrorist group Harakat al-Nidal al-Arabi inside Iran, in order to confront the basis of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Moin Khanfari, Habib Daris, Adnan. Ghobishavi and Salem Mousavi were sentenced to death for being members of the insurgent group of the internal branch of the terrorist group Harakat al-Nidal al-Arabi, for armed confrontation with the basis of the Islamic Republic of Iran system through the mentioned terrorist acts.”

They have been arrested in 2019. According to reports they have been physically and mentally tortured, and their confessions were obtained forcefully.

According to a source familiar with Iran's prisons atlas, "the interrogators tortured Ali Mojdman in front of his wife and child and kept him in solitary confinement for more than six months in order to force him to confess¹⁵."

¹³<https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/07/10/iran-death-penalty-protest-related-charges>

¹⁴<https://www.mizanonline.ir/fa/news/4701987/%D8%B9%D9%88%D8%A7%D9%85%D9%84-%D8%B4%D9%87%D8%A7%D8%AF%D8%AA-%D9%85%D8%B1%D8%AF%D9%85-%D9%88-%D9%86%DB%8C%D8%B1%D9%88%E2%80%8C%D9%87%D8%A7%DB%8C-%D8%AD%D8%A7%D9%81%D8%B8-%D8%A7%D9%85%D9%86%DB%8C%D8%AA-%D8%AF%D8%B1-%D8%A7%D8%B3%D8%AA%D8%A7%D9%86-%D8%AE%D9%88%D8%B2%D8%B3%D8%AA%D8%A7%D9%86-%D8%A8%D9%87-%D8%A7%D8%B9%D8%AF%D8%A7%D9%85-%D9%85%D8%AD%DA%A9%D9%88%D9%85-%D8%B4%D8%AF%D9%86%D8%AF-%D8%A7%D9%86%D9%87%D8%AF%D8%A7%D9%85-%D8%B4%D8%A7%D8%AE%D9%87-%D9%86%D8%B8%D8%A7%D9%85%DB%8C-%DA%AF%D8%B1%D9%88%D9%87%DA%A9-%D8%AA%D8%B1%D9%88%D8%B1%DB%8C%D8%B3%D8%AA%DB%8C-%D8%AD%D8%B1%DA%A9%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%86%D8%B6%D8%A7%D9%84-%D8%AF%D8%B1-%D8%A7%DB%8C%D8%B1%D8%A7%D9%86>

¹⁵ https://www.instagram.com/iranprisonatlas/?utm_source=ig_embed&ig_rid=62d09d00-fd63-4f8c-a53a-63cd4489e6cb

Amnesty Iran stated the following in regard to reports of torture: “Amnesty International received information from separate sources indicating that the six men were subjected to torture and other ill-treatment by interrogators while held in detention centres belonging to the Revolutionary Guards following their arrests.”¹⁶

An anonymous ex political prisoner has shared disturbing reports about how the men were tortured for a forced confession. The following quote is from an interview of the ex- political prisoner with Iran prison atlas¹⁷ where he describes how Habib Deris, another prisoner of the group of 6 who was tortured:

”Habib said, the Interrogators of the Intelligence of IRGC tied my legs and pulled me up. While my head was facing down, they repeatedly put my head in the water in a hanging position. Sometimes, while they tied my hands and feet, they put a towel on my face and poured water on my face, which made me feel suffocated, and they repeated these things over and over again. These tortures were different from the tortures that were done with cables and green pipes. They beat me with cables and green pipes so much that my body was bruised and bloody and my skin was torn off.”

There are also disturbing reports about Ali Mojadam and the kind of torture he went through by the hands of intelligence unite of Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC). According to Amnesty which published an urgent action for the release of the 6 men, Ali Mojadam was tortured and faced other ill treatment for six weeks, and “agents arbitrarily detained his wife and son, who is under the age of 18, and threatened to keep them in detention until he “confessed” to everything they wanted.” All men belong to the persecuted Ahwazi Arab minority in Iran.

b. Kurds

Recorded victims:

● Mr. Saman Yasin Seyedi



Saman Yasin Seyedi a young Kurdish Yarasani faith rapper and musician, aged 27, from Kermanshah (Kermashan in Kurdish), was arrested and held in Tehran’s notorious Evin Prison on 2nd of October

¹⁶ <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/urgent-actions/six-ahwazi-arabs-grave-risk-execution>

¹⁷ <https://ipa.united4iran.org/en/>

2022 in relations to nationwide protests. Saman Yasin is a socio-political critical singer and rapper. He raps about inequality, oppression and unemployment and denounces the regime's repression of the protestors.

On 29th October 2022, following a 11 minutes trial conducted by disreputable judge Salavati in charge of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Court (branch 15), Saman Yasin was charged with "moharebeh" or "waging war against God," in a hazily-defined offenses which carry the death penalty.

His "crime" is his participation in the current protests and his critical music. The family has hired a lawyer for his case, but the lawyer has not yet been able to see Saman with his case and they weren't allowed to access the trial, according to his family.

In a video released of the trial by Iranian national tv, the infamous judge Salavati who has already sentenced over 300 Kurdish prisoners to the death penalty in the past decades, has accused Saman Yasin of "detaining a pistol during a protest" and "assembly and collusion against national security"

Saman Yasin refused all these accusations. Saman appeared weak, lost weight and undergone physical and mental torture, according to a close member of his family.

It is strongly believed that charging of Saman Yasin to the crime of "moharebeh" is related to his songs and to his ethno-religious backgrounds,¹⁸ his Kurdish ethnicity and Yarsani faith, singing both in Kurdish and Farsi. It is believed that the government sentenced him to the death penalty in order to make his case an example for all other rappers and musicians in the country. The death penalty of Saman Yasin was pronounced in a moment where members of Iran's parliament called and voted in favor of introducing the death penalty for protestors and a dozen of mostly Baluchi and Kurdish were sentenced to "moharebeh" and are at risk of the capital punishment. Given the Iranian judiciary, parliament and public calls and intimidations from IRGC commanders, we are extremely concerned about the fate of Saman Yasin and he is at imminent risk.

Notably, since the beginning of the protests on 16th September 2022, dozens of Kurdish singers including Mr. Hossein Safamanesh and Aziz Waissi were detained for their public support and songs and video clips for the protestors.

The Baluchi and Kurdish communities comprise over half of the overall victims of the nationwide protests in Iran, indicating a disturbing pattern of disproportionate and lethal force employed by security forces against ethnic minorities residing in their respective territories. Since its establishment in 1979, Iranian Kurdistan has been a hotbed of resistance and opposition to the regime. Throughout this period, the Iranian state and its media have consistently portrayed and treated Kurdistan as a hostile entity. As a result, the level of repression endured by the Kurdish community has consistently surpassed that experienced in any other region of Iran.

● **Soma Pourmohammadi, Saywan Ibrahimi, Serwa Pourmohammahi and Idris Menbari**

During the recent uprising in Iran, Sooma Pourmohammadi, Saywan Ibrahimi, Serwa Pourmohammadi, and Idris Menbari, all members of the Nojin NJO board, were detained by authorities. However, they were later released on bail while awaiting trial. Initially, the four individuals

¹⁸<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IHu3N1Q9CJ8>

were charged with "forming groups against national security." However, these allegations were rejected by the prosecutor due to lack of evidence. Their charges were then changed to disturbances to public order, which is punishable by up to one year of imprisonment according to Article 618 of the IRI panel law. Nevertheless, the secret services have appealed the decision and are insisting on charging them with "forming groups against national security," which, based on Article 498 of the IRI panel law, carries a punishment of up to 10 years of imprisonment.

As a result, all four members of Nojin have been summoned to the branch of the revolutionary court in Sanandaj for another hearing where the charges will be presented. There is a possibility that they may be apprehended and taken into custody immediately.

- Sooma Pourmohammadi was initially detained on January 10, 2023, and temporarily released on February 9, 2023, after posting bail.
- Saywan Ibrahimy was also arrested on January 10, 2023, and temporarily released on February 9, 2022, after posting bail.
- Idris Menbari, on the other hand, was initially detained on December 18, 2022, and temporarily released on February 1, 2023, after posting bail.
- Serwa Pourmohammadi was arrested on February 1, 2023, and temporarily released on February 28, 2023, after posting bail.

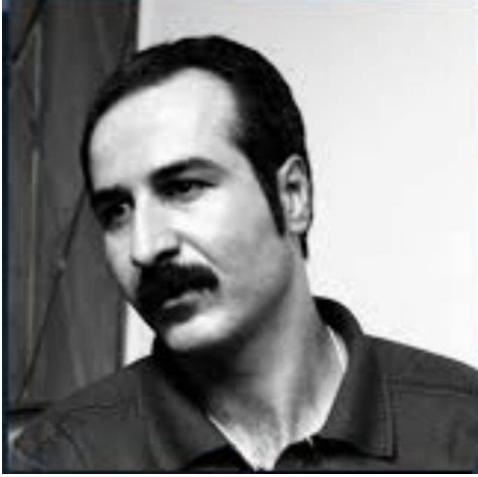
All four individuals are currently awaiting trial, and as of now, no evidence or reasons for their arrests and the charges brought against them have been provided. Furthermore, during the interrogations, they were subjected to pressure in order to coerce them into signing false confessions.

- **Ms. Gashin Mohamadi**



She is a photographer and artist who has been active in the field of social issues for many years. She was arrested by the security forces in October 2022 after the beginning of the Woman, life, freedom movement. She has been released on bail until the end of the court proceedings. now, she lives in Sine (Sanandaj) city and all of her art projects have been stopped.

- **Mr. Nirwan Rezaii**



Mr. Nirwan Rezai is a photographer and conceptual artist. He has been working in different cities of Iran for many years and has held many exhibitions. One of his art projects is publishing the painting of worker children and teenagers from poor and marginalized areas. He has been summoned to the security agencies many times and is under pressure.

● **Mr. Hêrish Naqeshbandi**



Mr. Hêrish Naqeshbandi is a director of cinema and an artist. He lost one of his eyes during a protest in December. Until this time, he had two surgeries but he must continue the treatment process. He was arrested on 23rd May 2023 and risks torture, unfair trial.

Three other Kurdish artists Ms. Azadeh Jamaati / a director and actress in cinema, Mr. Shorsh Abubakri / a singer and music trainer and Mr. Farhad Mohamad Jani/ a photographer and graphist, are also facing unfair trials.

3. Treatment of individuals during arrest and in detention, including reports of death in detention

The treatment of individuals during arrest and in detention in Iran has raised serious concerns, with numerous reports indicating human rights abuses and even deaths in custody. There have been instances of excessive use of force, torture, and ill-treatment by security forces during arrests, often targeting political dissidents, activists, and minority groups. Individuals have reported being subjected

to physical and psychological abuse, including beatings, electric shocks, and sexual violence. Access to legal representation and fair trials is frequently denied, with reports of coerced confessions and lack of due process. Furthermore, there have been alarming cases of deaths occurring while individuals are in detention, often due to inadequate medical care, torture, or negligence by authorities.

i. Ahwazi Arabs

Recorded cases:

● Mr. Ali bani Assadi

Ali Bani Assadi, was a 20 year-old Ahwazi Arab man who was arrested by the intelligence agency of Ahvaz on suspicion of possessing weapons. He died in the detention center of this agency. On 20 October 2022, HRANA¹⁹ published the news of Mr. Bani Assadi's death. According to sources close to the family, they were contacted by the intelligence agency and were informed that Ali Bani Assadi died due to kidney failure, however the family members who are in contact with HRANA confirmed that Ali did not have kidney issues, and the kidney failure is connected to the beatings and tortures he endured during detention. Mr. Naini Assadi had no political activism and did not take part in protests in Iran.

● Mr. Emad Heydari

According to Ahwaz Human Rights organization (AHRO) Emad Heydari was a 31 year-old Ahwazi Arab civil and cultural activist who was killed in detention. Mr. Heydari was arrested by agents of the intelligence agency of Ahvaz toward the end of September 2022, and several days later his family was called to receive his corpse. Prison officials claim that he suffered from a heart attack. The officials have threatened the family and told them that they will hand over his body on the condition that no funeral or mourning ceremony is held for him.

Mr. Heydari was from an impoverished neighborhood of Ahvaz called Mallashiyeh. He was instrumental in aid operations during the floods that hit the region years back and took part in other civil and cultural initiatives²⁰. He had been imprisoned in the past due to his activities. His last arrest was in connection to his participation in women, life , freedom related protests.

ii. Kurds

Ten (10) Kurdish protestors were killed under torture in Iranian jails. The KMMK-G can provide the list of the victims upon demand.

¹⁹<https://www.hra-news.org/2022/hranews/a-37451/>

²⁰ <https://iranwire.com/fa/>

4. Transnational repression and the situation of dual and foreign nationals

Transnational repression and the situation of dual and foreign nationals in Iran have become pressing human rights concerns. Iranian authorities have engaged in a pattern of targeting individuals outside their borders, particularly those who have dual citizenship or foreign nationality. This includes the arrest, arbitrary detention, and harassment of individuals based on their perceived political affiliations or activities abroad. Dual and foreign nationals have been subjected to unfair trials, forced confessions, and prolonged periods of detention without access to legal representation or consular assistance. There have been reports of physical and psychological abuse, torture, and even death in custody. The Iranian government's use of transnational repression undermines the principles of international law, infringes on the rights of individuals, and creates a climate of fear and intimidation for dual and foreign nationals.

i. Ahwazi Arabs

Recorded cases:

Habib Cha'ab

The Islamic Republic of Iran judiciary accused Mr. Habib Cha'ab, an Ahwazi Arab political prisoner and dual national (Swedish) to "corruption on earth" and involvement in the attack on the military parade in Ahvaz in September 2018.

Mr. Cha'ab did not have access to fair trial or a lawyer to defend himself.

Mizan News agency affiliated with the Islamic Republic of Iran judiciary announced on 12 March 2023, that Mr. Cha'ab was sentenced to execution.

According to reports, in October 2020, Habib Chaab, a Swedish-Ahwazi activist and one of the former leaders of the Arab Struggle Movement for the Liberation of Ahwaz (ASMLA) traveled to Turkey for a personal visit to meet with Sabern Saeidi, but he was kidnapped upon arrival in Istanbul and transferred to Iran. The Iranian authorities claim that ASMLA was behind the Ahvaz military parade attack which took place in 2018.

According to the Turkish police investigation, a woman lured Chaab into Turkey and Iran's intelligence service hired a well known Iranian leader of a drug cartel "Naji Sharifi Zindashti" to abduct Chaab.²¹ The alleged perpetrator Zindashti is currently believed to be living in Iran under the protection of Iranian government security. According to reports, Zindashti was arrested in Turkey for drug charges but an adviser to Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Burhan Kuzu, was instrumental in his release²².

The Iranian national TV broadcast a documentary "Farjam Jenayat" (consequence of crime) where

21 Washington Post, "Turkey says Iranian intelligence was behind elaborate plot to kidnap opponent in Istanbul" (December 2020) at https://www.washingtonpost.com/gdprconsent/?next_url=https%3a%2f%2fwww.washingtonpost.com%2fworld%2fmiddle_east%2firan-intelligence-turkey-kidnap-plot%2f2020%2f12%2f12%2f818e0c30-3b2c-11eb8328-a36a109900c2_story.html .

22 Bloomberg, "Iranian Drug Lord's Release From Prison Ensnarers Erdogan Aide" (December 2020) at <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-02-14/iranian-druglord-s-release-from-prison-ensnares-erdogan-aide>.

Mr. Chaab made self-incriminating statements.²³ Amnesty international described this sentencing as a “grossly unfair trial marred by torture allegations”²⁴. Cha’ab was 50 years old. He was executed on 6 May 2023.

5. Cases of violence against women including sexual and gender based violence

Women in Iran face various forms of violence, both within their homes and in public spaces. Domestic violence, including physical, emotional, and sexual abuse, remains prevalent, with many women suffering in silence due to cultural and societal barriers that discourage reporting or seeking help. Moreover, women and girls are vulnerable to sexual harassment, assault, and rape in public spaces, which creates a climate of fear and restricts their freedom of movement. The legal framework in Iran also perpetuates gender inequality, as laws and practices often prioritize the rights and preferences of men over women. This includes discriminatory laws related to marriage, divorce, child custody, and inheritance. Efforts to address violence against women and promote gender equality in Iran face significant challenges due to cultural norms, social stigmas, and limited access to justice and support services.

i. Ahwazi Arabs

On 2 December 2022, a 45 year old man introduced himself to the police, stating he had murdered his 17 year old daughter ‘Masoumeh Salihawi’. He confessed to the murder and declared it as honor killing. According to "Iranwire", Masoumeh's parents had separated years ago and she befriended a 45-year-old man. After learning about this relation the girl's father stabbed the teenage girl to death²⁵.

Violence against women and girls in the form of honor killing is a recurring event in many part of Iran, from the north of the country in Gilan province where Romina Ashrafi, the fourteen year old girl was decapitated by a sickle by the hands of her father in 2020, to the south of country in Ahvaz where Mona Heydari, the 18 year old girl was beheaded by her husband in 2022. Mona was a child bride who married to her cousin at the age of 12.²⁶

There are many cases that do not reach the media however in all cases the perpetrators receive the minimum of punishment. Article 630 of the Constitution exempts a husband from punishment if he murders his wife for committing adultery²⁷

Based on Islamic Sharia, only the immediate family members can demand *Qisas* ("retaliation in kind", "[eye for an eye](#)", or [retributive justice](#).) for the murder of their loved ones, hence in many cases the honor crime goes unpunished as families usually do not ask for serious punishment. Usually the

23 VAJA.ir, "Consequence of Crime Documentary" (November 2020) at <https://bit.ly/3dUwcAR>.

24 <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/MDE13/6783/2023/en/>

25 <https://iranwire.com/fa/news-1/110823-%>

26 <https://farsi.alarabiya.net/iran/2023/01/18/%B3%20%D9%85%D8%AD%DA%A9%D9%88%D9%85%20%D8%B4%D8%AF%D9%87%20%D8%A7%D8%B3%D8%AA>.

27 <https://www.refworld.org/pdfid/5821f4504.pdf>

murderer is the immediate family and this leniency has even resulted in what can only be described as premeditated murder.

For example in the case of Romina Ashrafi, her father Reza Ashrafi, had contacted a lawyer weeks prior to committing the killing in order to inquire about the punishment in the context of honor killing²⁸. He, the father being an immediate family or the “owner of the blood” (Saheb – dam) was reassured that Qisas will not be carried out in his case and usually the perpetrators face a maximum of three to 10 years in prison²⁹. In the case of Mona Heydari, her murdered (husband) he only received 8 years and two months of prison sentence.

ii. Baloch

Baloch women face numerous specific and often life threatening challenges caused by direct actions of the Government and lack of adequate infrastructure and support services. As noted, women are disproportionately impacted by the previously raised issues, including dying due to medical negligence and drowning in rivers while fetching drinking quality water. Maternal mortality and infant mortality rate is one of the highest in the country, due to poverty, malnourishment and inadequate medical services. (the authentic statistics not available due to lack of coverage)

Living in a conservative and traditional society, Baloch women also face various social, cultural and economic discrimination. Lack of education and awareness of women about their rights, forced marriages, lack of shelter homes for victims of domestic violence, poverty and other issues increase their suffering. Some women continue to live with their abusive husbands and in-laws despite their dissatisfaction with their marriage due to their economic dependence on the husband, fear of losing children, as well as traditional customs. Also, many victims refuse to complain to judicial and law enforcement authorities as they fear reactions from husbands and society. In some cases family violence results in the murder of women. Child marriages are also not rare in the province. The women unfriendly laws in Iran have only worsened the situation against them and abusers of women often go free taking advantage of the laws. Due to societal and legal pressures from authorities violence against women is often brushed off under the carpet.

Last year, after the murder of Jina Mahsa Amini, a revelation of a rape of 15 year old girl known with a pseudonym Maho Baluch by a Police Chief in Chabahar (a port city in Sistan and Baluchestan province) shocked and outraged the Baloch society leading to widespread protests on 30th September 2022 in Zahedan which resulted in the killing of more than 90 Baloch citizens in a single day.³⁰

28 <https://www.independentpersian.com/node/62621/%C2%AB%D8%AA%D8%AD%D9%82%DB%8C%D9%82%D8%A7%D8%AA%C2%BB-%D9%BE%D8%AF%D8%B1-%D8%B1%D9%88%D9%85%DB%8C%D9%86%D8%A7-%D8%A7%D8%B4%D8%B1%D9%81%DB%8C-%D9%BE%DB%8C%D8%B4-%D8%A7%D8%B2-%D8%A7%D8%B1%D8%AA%DA%A9%D8%A7%D8%A8-%D8%A8%D9%87-%D9%82%D8%AA%D9%84>

29 <https://www.independentpersian.com/node/D8%B3%D8%AA-%D9%BE%D8%AF%D8%B1%D8%B4-%DA%A9%D8%B4%D8%AA%D9%87-%D8%B4%D8%AF>

30 <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2022/10/iran-at-least-82-baluchi-protesters-and-bystanders-killed-in-bloody-crackdown/>; <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-64675060>

6. Use of force at the border and against border couriers

The use of force at the border and against border couriers has raised significant concerns regarding human rights violations in Iran. Border couriers, also known as "kolbar," are individuals who transport goods across the borders, often in remote and challenging terrains. They face harsh conditions and are vulnerable to abuse and violence by security forces. Iranian border guards have been reported to use excessive force, including shooting and killing border couriers, without adequate justification.

i. Kurds

Moreover, many kolbaran (tradesmen) were arrested and their goods were confiscated by the authorities thus far in 2023. In addition, hundreds of horses belonging to Kurdish Kolbaran were also shot dead. Due to high rates of unemployment, and land contamination caused by landmines and explosive remnants of the Iran-Iraq war that seriously hampered the daily life of civilians particularly the farmers, the nomads, the shepherds and traders, the Kurdish youth and farmers from four Kurdish provinces of Kermanshah, Kurdistan, Ilam and Wermê (West Azerbaijan) engage in carrying commodities, such as tea, tobacco and fuel to earn a living.

KMMK-G has received reports of extra-judicial executions of twenty-three (23) border couriers known as Kolbar from January 1 till May 23rd, 2022 with another fifty-nine (59) individuals working as Kolbar injured at the border due to reasons such as shooting and landmine explosions among others. This brings the total incidents reported regarding shootings and discriminate killings of Kolbaran to eighty-two (82) during the time period of discussion.

Three of the kolbaran were aged under 18 years old. Mani Habibi was only 14 years old when he was shot dead by Iranian border officials. Hiwa Akhtiardini was 15 years old and Sina Naderi was 16 years old and had fallen from high mountains.

Hoshiar Hassanbpour, 20 years old, from Baneh, is latest victim of Iran's official border extra-judicial executions. He was shot on the head and chest on Monday 5th of June in Zala border and died immediately.

● Mr.Hoshiar Hassanbpour



7. Arrest and detention of protestors and other individuals

Peaceful demonstrators exercising their right to freedom of expression and assembly routinely face arbitrary arrests and prolonged detentions in Iran. The Iranian authorities have frequently employed repressive measures, including mass arrests, to suppress dissent and stifle voices of opposition. Reports indicate that detainees are often subjected to torture, ill-treatment, and denial of due process rights, such as access to legal representation and fair trials. Furthermore, many individuals are held incommunicado, without contact with their families or access to medical care. The arbitrary nature of these arrests and the harsh conditions of detention infringe upon fundamental human rights and undermine the principles of justice and rule of law.

i. Kurds

Since the 16th of September, KMMK-G has been able to identify and register the names of two thousand twenty-nine (2129) Kurdish protestors detained by Iranian security forces. At least, three hundred (300) of them are women and one thousand eight-hundred eighty-seven are men.

Three hundred forty-one (341) of the protestors detained are from Sine or Kurdistan province,

- Seven hundred ninety-four (794) of them are from Sine or Kurdistan province (659 men and 135 women),
- Six hundred fifty-nine (659) are from Wermê or Western Azerbaijan province (622 men and 37 women),
- Three hundred eighty-four (384) are from Kermashan or Kermanshah province (346 men and 38 women)
- Two hundred ninety-two (292) are from Ilam (260 men and 32 women)
- Sixty-eight (68) of the detainees are under 18 years of age and 4 of them are only 14 years old.

The detainees are subjected to severe forms of physical and mental torture including blackmail, sexual abuse and/or threats of it, manipulation, and infliction of physical suffering such as breakage of legs and hands.

According to several detainees who were released and interviewed by KMMK-G, the prisons in Kurdistan provinces are full and the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps' (IRGC) Intelligence (Itla'at) forces are using basements and housing buildings with individual rooms to detain protestors. The protestors undergo severe physical and mental torture by IRGC in these facilities.

A woman protestor who was arrested twice since the recent nationwide protests and released by paying a heavy bail, told KMMK-G: *"I was detained and confined to a solitary cell in Itla'at (IRGC Intelligence) facility. This is a place where detainees are not transferred to the judiciary system, and they undergo beatings and torture. Later, I was taken to a building, which looked like a*

house and again I was held in a solitary cell. There are many houses in town with individual rooms and many protestors are held there.”

Two student protestors who were detained in a basement for one week also declared to KMMK-G that they “*were held for a week in a huge basement full of protestors*”. They “*were beaten by cables and iron sticks*”.

The detainees include, but are not limited to, ordinary citizens, women activists, rights activists, environmental activists, journalists, teachers, workers, university and school students, singers, and athletes.

Ms. Waran MOHAMMDINAJAD, a student in Arts University in Yazd and a member of Nojin Cultural Association, was detained in her home without prior warning on 13th of October 2022. She is a colleague of Ms. Zara MOHAMMADI a Kurdish teacher from Nojin Cultural Association who was arbitrarily sentenced to five years and detained illegally in Sanadaj Central Prison for teaching Kurdish language. On Wednesday 19th of October Ms. Waran started a hunger strike protesting her prison conditions and her unlawful detention.

ii. Baloch

In the aftermath of Zahedan killings, the Iranian regime responded to following protests with continued excessive use of force on passersby and peaceful protests demanding justice and accountability.³¹ Two security forces killed at least 18 protesters, bystanders and worshippers, including two children, and injured scores of others during a deadly crackdown on peaceful protests after Friday prayers in the city of Khash, Baluchistan on 4th November 2022.³²

Again, those protesters were named as “separatists” and no impartial investigation was done to clarify the human rights abuses and designate responsibilities.

In order to control the propagation of information, the internet was shut by the security forces and the province was inaccessible for a week.³³ During the internet blackout, dozens of Baluch were arrested, tortured and killed counting children among the victims.

The severity of the crackdown on Baluch citizens provided an impetus to them to take to the street every Friday after the prayer. The demands of the demonstrators referred to the request of justice and accountability for Zahedan killings but also expressed requests for political changes in the country.³⁴ The regular protests, rallies and marches took place across different cities of Baluchistan including Zahedan, Khash, Saravan Iranshahr . During each of the protests, excessive use of force was used against the individuals participating.

³¹The Zahedan massacre, also known as Bloody Friday was a series of violent crackdowns by Iranian authorities against the peaceful protestors after the Friday prayers near the Great Mosque of Zahedan, Baluchistan on 30th September 2022 leading to around 100 deaths in a single day. See: <https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/12/22/iran-bloody-friday-crackdown-years-deadliest>

³²<https://iranhumanrights.org/2022/11/state-massacres-fail-to-crush-protests-in-sistan-and-baluchestan-province/>

³³<https://www.theguardian.com/science/audio/2022/oct/06/why-is-the-government-in-iran-shutting-down-the-internet-podcast>

³⁴<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2023/jan/20/iran-fears-grow-of-security-crackdown-in-zahedan-as-anti-regime-protests-persist>; <https://english.alarabiya.net/News/middle-east/2022/10/28/Demonstrators-in-Iran-s-Zahedan-chant-death-to-Khamenei-as-protests-persist>

During the regular protests, protesters have been arrested by the security and intelligence forces of the regime. According to the information received, intimidation, torture and force confessions were widespread amongst the people detained until being convicted in trials with no due to respect of legal proceedings and legal representation.³⁵ According to BHRG, as of January 2023, at least 93 Baluch citizens were arrested and detained after the 30th of September 2022 including 15 teenagers under the age of 18 and 10 women. Among the sentences, at least one death sentence has been issued.³⁶

8. Right to an adequate standard of living and health and situation of children

i. Baloch

The death of many citizens in Sistan and Baluchestan province is due to the lack of proper medical infrastructure. The main reasons for these deaths are impassable roads to adequate facilities, distance of routes, lack of medical centers, lack of suitable medical facilities and also inexperienced doctors who are often transferred to Sistan and Baluchestan province to undergo their training.³⁷

Due to the governments' negligence and lack of employment opportunities, many Baloch citizens have also turned to cross-border fuel sales, which the Islamic Republic of Iran calls smuggling. In this job, there are dangers such as road and car accidents, as well as direct shooting by Iranian and Pakistani military and security forces.³⁸

Many Baloch children and adolescents live below the poverty line and face significant challenges accessing health, education and recreational services.³⁹ Moreover, according to local Baloch sources, over 100,000 thousands of Baloch people in Iran are refused identity documents, ID cards and birth certificates, as a result they are excluded from all kind of state entitlements such as education, health service, social benefits that are non-existing almost, right to vote, pass citizenship on to their children, get a decent job or travel. In other cases there are children of mixed marriages that cannot obtain nationality if the father is not Iranian. There is an estimate of over 80, 000 Baloch children without ID cards.⁴⁰

Students are often unable to continue studies after primary school and where they are able to attend, they are confronted with inadequate resources. In rural areas of the province, most classrooms are open land with no proper sitting and desk arrangements. About three-quarters of female students can't continue their education after primary school because of unavailability of high schools in their area for girls. This often, in turn, leads to underage marriage. More than half of male students are also unable to reach high school as they are forced to work due to economic uncertainty.⁴¹

³⁵Data will be published soon in the <https://bhrq.info/en>; <https://bhrq.info/en/?p=1845>

³⁶<https://bhrq.info/en/?p=1884>

³⁷<https://women.ncr-iran.org/2020/09/09/the-lack-of-basic-infrastructure-takes-its-toll-on-iranian-women-and-girls/>

³⁸<https://unpo.org/article/22128>

³⁹<https://www.ifmat.org/09/21/poverty-iran-sistan-baluchestan-province/>

⁴⁰<https://braanz.news/the-forgotten-citizens-of-baluchistan/>

⁴¹<https://women.ncr-iran.org/2020/02/02/high-dropout-rate-among-girls-in-sistan-and-baluchestan-province/>

Since August 2022 many children have also died from drowning in rivers and Hootags⁴². The cause of these deaths is a combination of poor infrastructure, lack of medical services and acute shortage of water in villages which require women and children to fetch water from near-by rain water ditches where they are subject to drowning.⁴³

The economic and living conditions of the Baloch people have deteriorated great deal in recent years to the point that many people in Balochistan have committed suicide due to economic pressures or have turned to unstable and dangerous jobs such as fuel smuggling to Pakistan, locally known as sookhtbar.⁴⁴ There's high risk to life in this job such as overturning and car accidents, as well as direct shooting of Iranian military and security forces.

According to local reports, due to the fishing of foreign trawlers⁴⁵ in the Oman Sea and the silence of the authorities, many fishermen lost their jobs and many of them became unemployed. Many others who have been forced to move to international open waters due to the lack of fish in nearby waters are at risk, including storms and piracy.

9. Freedom of opinion and expression, peaceful assembly and association

i. Baloch

Freedom of opinion and expression is extremely limited in Islamic Republic of Iran including Sistan and Baluchestan province. No political space is given to citizens to hold peaceful protests and demonstrations. The peaceful demonstrators and protestors are subject to violent crackdowns, detention and arrests. Later, in the detention centers, they are tortured to obtain forced confessions for the crimes they had not committed. Average citizens as well as relatives of political opponents are regularly interrogated by the authorities. They are often summoned over a telephone call without court order. The relatives of political opponents of the Government who are outside Iran are often illegally detained for hours or days to put pressure on the opponents.⁴⁶ Internet access is limited in Balochistan with many educational and social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter and Youtube blocked.⁴⁷ This deprives individuals in Balochistan of important platforms for learning, sharing information, and expressing their voices. This restriction not only hinders access to educational resources but also limits the ability of individuals to engage in public discourse, connect with the outside world, and raise awareness about human rights violations occurring within the region.

42" Hooteg" in the Baluchi language means large pits in the heart of the earth to store seasonal rains, which are used for drinking or irrigation. Hooteg is a native water supply system that has been very important for the villagers' livelihood due to the lack of modern plumbing and reservoirs. Unfortunately, these hootegs have become the altar of Baluch children.

43<https://www.daadkhast.org/petition/240786>

44<https://www.thenationalnews.com/world/asia/un-bashes-iran-s-deadly-crackdown-on-balochistan-fuel-smugglers-1.1178391>

45<https://en.radiofarda.com/a/chinese-fishing-trawlers-cleaning-out-the-persian-gulf-iran-daily-reports/30715533.html>

46<https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2022/country-chapters/iran>

47<https://www.forbes.com/sites/siladityaray/2022/09/22/iran-blocks-nearly-all-internet-access-as-anti-government-protests-intensify/>

2 Conclusion & Recommendations

This joint submission has highlighted the grave human rights challenges faced by marginalized communities, specifically the Ahwazi Arabs, Kurds, and Baluch minorities, in the Islamic Republic of Iran. The documented cases and evidence presented in the report underscore the urgent need for immediate attention and action from the international community to address these ongoing violations and protect the rights and dignity of these communities. It is imperative that the Iranian government be held accountable for its actions and that steps are taken to ensure justice, equality, and respect for minorities in Iran.

Recommendations:

1. Urgently call upon the Iranian government to halt all forms of discrimination, oppression, and human rights violations against the Ahwazi Arabs, Kurds, and Baluch minorities.
2. Demand the immediate release of individuals unfairly detained, and ensure that their cases are reviewed in accordance with international standards of due process and fair trial.
3. Establish monitoring mechanisms to regularly assess and report on the human rights situation of marginalized communities in Iran, paying particular attention to the Ahwazi Arabs, Kurds, and Baluch minorities.
4. Advocate for the implementation of comprehensive legal reforms that guarantee the rights of minorities, including the right to freedom of expression, assembly, and association, as well as cultural and linguistic rights.
5. Encourage the Iranian government to engage in meaningful dialogue with representatives of these marginalized communities to address their concerns, grievances, and aspirations, and promote inclusive and participatory decision-making processes.
6. Provide technical assistance and capacity-building support to civil society organizations working on human rights and minority issues concerning Iran, to strengthen their efforts in documenting violations, providing support to victims, and advocating for change.