

ANNEX - Supplementary and Additional Information

2015 Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran to the UN Human Rights Council

I. Introduction

1. The Islamic Republic of Iran will provide responses to recently proposed Universal Periodic Review (UPR) recommendations during the 28th Session of the Human Rights Council in March 2015.
2. In its Reply to the Draft of the present Report, the Government noted its participation in — and support for — the the 20th Session of the UPR in October 2014. The Government also suggested its support for about 65 per cent of all new recommendations received, including many which it considers already implemented, either in all or in part.
3. In its Reply, the Government also claimed that the quality of the recommendations it accepts is a “sovereign” issue, and that analyses of such by the Special Rapporteur in the present Report is therefore a “deviation” from his Code of Conduct.

II. Methodology

4. In its Reply, the Government reiterated its belief that the existence of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur is politically motivated and illegitimate.
5. The Government also repeated its belief that the Special Rapporteur is not properly reflecting its replies to reports and communications in his reporting, and criticized reports of the Special Rapporteur as containing “holistic and vague allegations,” and using “general and cliché phrases.”
6. It also criticized the relatively short amount of time allotted by the UN for its responses to Draft Reports.
7. Moreover, the Government criticized the present Report for considering proposed legislation prior to its adoption as law.

III. Cooperation with the mandate holder

8. Despite its rejection of the basis of the mandate, the Government, in its Reply, pledged to continue meeting with the Special Rapporteur in New York and Geneva, and repeated a past announcement that there are plans to invite two Special Procedures mandate holders to Iran.

IV. Reprisals against activists (cases reported since June 2014)

9. On 2 June 2014, Mr. Saeed Shirzad, a child rights activist, was reportedly detained and sent to Ward 209 of Evin Prison without access to a lawyer or contact with family.¹ While no public or formal indictment has been issued against Mr. Shirzad, in August 2014 he was reportedly verbally informed of his charges, which include “assembly and collusion” and “propaganda against the system.” Authorities have allegedly justified these charges, in part, by claiming that Mr. Shirzad was in contact with the Special Rapporteur.²

¹ Information Submitted to the Office of the Special Rapporteur, January 2015; <https://www.fidh.org/International-Federation-for-Human-Rights/asia/iran/16851-iran-imprisoned-unionists-face-new-unfair-trials-and-extended-prison-terms>

² Information Submitted to the Office of the Special Rapporteur, October 2014; <http://www.amnestyusa.org/sites/default/files/uaa25014.pdf>

10. In September 2014 Mr. Mohammad Reza Pourjashari, who was originally released on 23 August 2014 after completing a four-year sentence for “propaganda against the system” and “insulting the Supreme Leader,” was re-arrested.³ Authorities allegedly accused him of attempting to illegally cross the border and of maintaining “contact” with foreign nationals.⁴ Mr. Pourjshari was reportedly also accused of contact with the Special Procedures during his arrest and subsequent investigation, and reports indicate that members of his family have since been summoned for questioning by authorities.⁵ On 7 February 2015, Mr. Pourjashari reportedly embarked on a hunger strike to protest the lack of clarity surrounding his detention.⁶
11. On 21 September 2014, Ms. Atena Daemi, a human rights activist who has worked on children’s issues, was reportedly arrested by the IRGC (Revolutionary Guards), and has been detained in Ward 209 of Evin Prison since then. Although official charges — if any — against her remain unclear, she is reportedly facing charges of “propaganda against the system,” “acting against national security,” and maintaining “illegal contact with foreigners.” She has reportedly been specifically accused by investigating authorities of communicating with the Special Rapporteur.⁷
12. On 25 October 2014, Mr. Mohammad Ali Taheri, a spiritual leader and the founder of the *Erfan e-Halgheh* (inter-universalism) movement, embarked on a hunger strike to protest his detention conditions and the impending addition of the capital charge of *efsad fel-arz* (“corruption on Earth”) to his case file. Mr. Taheri is currently serving a five-year prison sentence for “blasphemy” and was also convicted of “improperly touching [the wrists]” of female patients, “interfering in the medical sciences,” earning illegitimate funds, the distribution of audio-visual materials, and the improper use of medical titles. Mr. Taheri’s new charge is reportedly related, in part, to authorities’ claim that he has attempted contact with the Special Rapporteur. Mr. Taheri is reportedly in poor health, due in part to his recent hunger strikes. He was apparently moved to a slightly improved cell in late November, after which point he shifted to a partial hunger strike, but authorities continue to hold him in solitary confinement, as they have since his initial detention in 2011. Mr. Taheri is scheduled to be tried at Branch 26 of Tehran’s Revolutionary court on the charge of *efsad fel-arz* (“corruption on Earth”) on 25 February 2015. According to Mr. Alizadeh Tabataba’ei, Mr. Taheri’s lawyer, “Mr. Taheri was initially charged with ‘corruption on Earth’ during his first trial in 2011, but the court changed the charge to ‘blasphemy’ and sent [the original charge] back to the Office of Prosecutor for further investigation. Recently, [that charge] has been returned to the court.”⁸
13. Mr. Behnam Ebrahimzadeh, a child and labor rights activist who was originally arrested in connection with his activities in June 2010, was reportedly forcibly taken to court on 3 December 2014 (after having previously refused to attend a new court session) and accused by authorities of contacting the Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council as well as an opposition group.⁹ Mr. Ebrahimzadeh was sentenced to an additional 9.5 years in prison on several charges, including “assembly and collusion against the system” and “propaganda against the system.”¹⁰ He was already serving the fourth of a five year sentence for “assembly, collusion, and propaganda against the system.” He was then transferred to Section 2 of Raja’i Shahr Prison, which reportedly houses violent criminals, and was forced to sleep on the floor.¹¹ Mr. Ebrahimzadeh has also reportedly embarked on multiple hunger strikes, including one in December 2014, to protest prison conditions as well as his own inability to obtain furlough to attend to the medical needs of his son Nima, who has leukemia.
14. Mr. Hadi Esmailzadeh, a former member of the Defenders of Human Rights Centre (DHRC) who was reportedly convicted in July 2014 of “propaganda against the system” through membership in an “illegal organization” and “assembly and collusion

³ Information Submitted to the Office of the Special Rapporteur, November 2014.

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ Information Submitted to the Office of the Special Rapporteur, November 2014 and February 2015.

⁶ Information Submitted to the Office of the Special Rapporteur, February 2015.

⁷ <http://persian.iranhumanrights.org/1393/09/atenadaemi/>

⁸ <http://www.tasnimnews.com/Home/Single/647556>

⁹ Information Submitted to the Office of the Special Rapporteur, December 2014.

¹⁰ Information Submitted to the Office of the Special Rapporteur, January 2015.

¹¹ Information Submitted to the Office of the Special Rapporteur, December 2014.

against the system,” was apparently recently accused by authorities of communicating with the United Nations Human Rights Council.¹²

15. In its Reply to the Draft of this Report, the Government of Iran denied that any individual is prosecuted “solely” for relations with the UN human rights mechanisms, “unless he/she commits an act that is regarded as a violation of law such as commission of criminal acts or security offenses.”

II. Overview of civil and political rights

A. Right to life

16. On 24 September 2014, authorities confirmed the execution of Mr. Mohsen Amir Aslani, who was originally convicted in 2007 on charges including “heresy,” “immoral acts,” and insulting Jonah, an Islamic prophet. Apparently Mr. Aslani, who was a psychologist and religious teacher by background, had implied in one of his classes that it may not have been physically possible for Jonah to have been eaten by a whale and then to have escaped from the belly of that same whale, as certain religious traditions hold. Iranian authorities have claimed that Mr. Aslani was hanged for committing rape,¹³ and not for insulting this religious figure, although in an open letter family members have disputed the bases of this charge, highlighting potential discrepancies in timing and inconsistencies in evidence offered by authorities.¹⁴
17. On 25 October 2014, authorities executed Ms. Reyhaneh Jabbari, despite repeated calls for the stay of her execution¹⁵ by international human rights organizations, including the United Nations human rights mechanisms. Ms. Jabbari was convicted of murdering a man she later claimed had tried to sexually assault her prior to the incident in question. Concerns were raised about due process and fair trial violations in the case. Under Iranian law, the family of the victim of a murder is entitled to retaliatory action (“*qesas*”). The family of the murdered individual in this case refused to pardon Ms. Jabbari, and officials did not override this decision. Judicial authorities have claimed that Ms. Jabbari was granted a fair trial, as evidenced by the length of time of her appeals process; and that they attempted in good faith, but without success, to convince the “heirs of the blood” to pardon her.
18. In its Reply to the Draft Report, the Government reiterated its achievements in the field of combating drug trafficking, and claims that it consistently seeks to minimize the implementation of the death penalty. It also highlighted what it describes as a lack of “international consensus” regarding the abolition the death penalty, but did not directly address the fact that neither executions for drug trafficking nor juvenile executions are permissible by international consensus.
19. On or around 20 February 2015, Mr. Saman Naseem was seemingly transferred for the implementation of his execution sentence, although authorities have not yet confirmed him status.¹⁶ Mr. Nasim was arrested on 17 July 2011 at the age of seventeen for allegedly engaging in an armed conflict that led to the death of a member of Iran’s Revolutionary Guard.¹⁷ During his detention by the Intelligence Ministry, he was reportedly tortured and forced to sign a confession while wearing a blindfold.¹⁸ It was reported that interrogators pulled out his finger and toe nails and beat him on his back, legs, and abdomen.¹⁹ In January 2012, he was sentenced to death by the Revolutionary Court of Mahabad on charges of *moharebeh* (sometimes translated as “enmity with

¹² <https://www.fidh.org/International-Federation-for-Human-Rights/asia/iran/15703-iran-sentencing-of-mr-hadi-esmaeilzadeh-to-a-total-of-four-years-of>

¹³ <http://iranhr.net/2014/09/mohsen-amir-aslani-executed-this-morning/>

¹⁴ <http://www.rahesabz.net/story/86876/> ; <http://www.iranhrdc.org/english/publications/legal-commentary/1000000565-chronicle-of-an-execution-the-case-of-mohsen-amir-aslani.html>

¹⁵ <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=15224&LangID=E>

¹⁶ <http://www.hrw.org/news/2015/02/20/dispatches-possible-execution-and-agony-not-knowing>

¹⁷ Information Submitted to the Office of the Special Rapporteur, December 2014; <http://www.amnestyusa.org/news/news-item/iran-alleged-juvenile-offender-among-10-hunger-strikers-threatened-with-immediate-execution>.

¹⁸ *Ibid.*

¹⁹ *Ibid.*

God” and sometimes as “drawing a weapon to the populace with intent to instill fear”) and *efsad fel-arz* (“corruption on earth”); a conviction later overturned by the Supreme Court, which stated that the Revolutionary Court lacked jurisdiction over the case as the accused was under the age of 18 at the time of the alleged offense.²⁰ When Branch 2 of the Criminal Court of the West Azerbaijan Province held a retrial in April 2013, however, Mr. Naseem was sentenced to death without reference to that same ruling. In December 2013, the Supreme Court reportedly upheld Mr. Naseem’s execution sentence.²¹ In its Reply to the Draft Report, the Government confirmed that Mr. Naseem was put on trial at Branch 2 of the Criminal Court on charges of “armed action against the Islamic Republic of Iran country by membership in banned PJAK terrorist group and taking part in an armed terrorist attack against military forces that caused the death and injury of a number of military personnel,” for which a trial in presence of five judges was held that sentenced him to death after hearing “defense arguments by him and his lawyers and exhaustion of all legal remedies.” In November 2014, head of the Judiciary Mr. Sadeq Amoli Larijani had defended the practice of executing juvenile offenders once they come of age: “[The allegation of] the execution of juveniles [in Iran] under the age of 18 [is] completely false. We, however, don’t have a reason to ignore the heirs to the blood right of *qesas* [retribution in kind] when a person that was 17.5 years old at the time of the crime turns 25.”²²

20. In December 2014, in addition to Mr. Naseem, authorities had allegedly threatened nine other prisoners on death row at Urumia Prison with expediting the implementation of their sentences in retaliation for their embarking on hunger strike: Messrs. Ali Afshari, Habib Afshari, Behrouz Alkhani, Mohammad Abdollahi, Sayed Sami Hosseini, Sayed Jamal Mohammadi, Sirvan Nejavi, Ebrahim Rezapour, and Ali Ahmad Soleiman.²³
21. Messrs. Ali and Habib Afshari had been arrested in December 2010 in the West Azerbaijan Province and transferred to Mahabad and Urumia Detention Centers, where they were allegedly held incommunicado for four months, interrogated, and tortured.²⁴ Ali and Habib Afshari were reportedly charged with *moharebeh* (sometimes translated as “enmity with God” and sometimes as “drawing a weapon to the populace with intent to instill fear”) through “propaganda” activities and membership in a State opposition party.²⁵ On 5 December 2011, they were put on trial at the Mahabad Revolutionary Court, and on 16 January 2012 they were reportedly informed that they had been sentenced to death, a sentence that has since been upheld by the Supreme Court.²⁶ On 22 April 2014, their execution sentences were reportedly communicated to Urumia Prison’s Office for the Implementation of Sentences.²⁷ During their various trials at the Revolutionary Court of Mahabad and the Supreme Court, they were allegedly deprived of choosing a lawyer and were instead assigned court-appointed representation.²⁸
22. On 18 February 2015, Messrs. Younes Aghayan, Habibollah Afshari, Ali Afshari, Sirwan Najavi, and Ebrahim Shapouri were reportedly transferred from Urumia Prison to an unknown location.²⁹
23. On 4 March 2015, reports surfaced of the execution of six ethnically Kurdish men from the Sunni minority: Mr. Hamed Ahmadi; Mr. Janaghir Dehghani; Mr. Jamshid Dehgani; Mr. Hadi Hosseini; Mr. Sediq Mohammadi; and Mr. Kamal Molae’i.³⁰ International human rights groups and United Nations Special Procedures had repeatedly called on authorities to stay the

²⁰ *Ibid.*

²¹ *Ibid.*

²² www.isna.ir/fa/news/93082110965/.

²³ Information Submitted to the Office of the Special Rapporteur, December 2014; <http://www.amnestyusa.org/news/news-item/iran-alleged-juvenile-offender-among-10-hunger-strikers-threatened-with-immediate-execution>

²⁴ <http://www.iranhumanrights.org/2012/02/kurdish-brothers/>

²⁵ Human Rights Organization of Kurdistan Submission to the Office of the Special Rapporteur, 23 April 2014; <http://hro-kurd.net/Article.aspx?fld=fa/Scout&id=430>

²⁶ <http://www.iranhumanrights.org/2012/02/kurdish-brothers/>

²⁷ Human Rights Organization of Kurdistan Submission to the Office of the Special Rapporteur, 23 April 2014; <http://hro-kurd.net/Article.aspx?fld=fa/Scout&id=430>

²⁸ *Ibid.*

²⁹ Iran Human Rights Submission to the Office of the Special Rapporteur, 20 February 2015; <http://iranhr.net/2015/02/unofficial-report-saman-naseem-was-executed-yesterday/>

³⁰ <http://www.rferl.org/content/iran-executes-six-sunni-muslim-ethnic-kurds/26881877.html>

executions due to allegations of serious fair trial and due process deficiencies, including accusations of the torture of the men in order to obtain confessions, as well as questions surrounding the authorities' timing claims.³¹

24. On 4 March 2015, authorities apparently implemented a *qesas* (retaliation) sentence for a man by blinding him. Doctors had reportedly previously refused to implement the sentence.³²

B. Fair trial standards

25. In its Reply, the Government maintained that all accused individuals are granted the full right to a fair trial, due to the existence of — and in accordance with — relevant laws on the matter.
26. On 4 January 2015, Iranian authorities reportedly arrested 33 Baluchi residents of Sarbaz Village (Sistan and Baluchistan Province), allegedly in relation to recent incidents in the area, including the reported deaths of Messrs. Issa Shahraki and Adham Sabouri on 1 January 2015, which some officials described as criminal or terrorist acts.³³ On 21 February 2015, the families of Messrs. Edris Baladehee, Amin Raeesi, Omid Bahram-zehi, Bashir Baladehee, Abu Bakr Molazehi, Sattar Bahram-zehi, Amin, Youssef Bahram-zehi, Amer Gahram-zehi, and Davoud Bahram-zehi wrote a letter to the United Nations Secretary General and the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran maintaining that their family members had been held incommunicado over the previous few months.³⁴ In their letter, they rejected authorities' allegations and expressed concern regarding the detainees' alleged lack of access to lawyers and fair trials. The family members also described the detainees' alibis and officials' apparently contradictory accounts of the event, and called for their immediate release. Relatives and friends of Messrs. Mosayeb Vatankhah and Farhad Bahram-zehi, who were also reportedly amongst the arrestees, have voiced similar concerns to authorities and UN officials.³⁵

C. Freedom from arbitrary detention

27. Between 2012 and 2014, the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (WGAD) issued 10 Opinions regarding the detention of 13 Iranians. They include the aforementioned opposition leaders along with several journalists, lawyers, a Christian pastor, and a student activist. The Government only responded to three of the WGAD's 10 communications. In its Opinions, the WGAD concluded that all individuals appear to have been detained for exercising their rights to freedom of expression, opinion, religion, belief, or association, and encouraged the government to immediately release individuals charged with peacefully exercising fundamental freedoms and to compensate them for their arbitrary detention.³⁶ One such prisoner, Ms. Nasrin Soutodeh, was released prior to the expiration of her sentence, while Mr. Bahman Ahmadi Amouee and Mr. Kiarash Kamrani were only released following the completion of their sentences. None of the other individuals has been released or compensated, as recommended by the WGAD.
28. Green Movement leaders and former presidential candidates Mr. Mehdi Karoubi and Mr. Mir Hossein Mousavi, along with Ms. Zahra Rahnavard, Mr. Mousavi's wife, have been under house arrest since February 2011.³⁷ On 29 August 2012, the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (WGAD) issued an Opinion concerning the case and stated that the Iranian government did not only violate "international human rights laws, but also Iranian laws on the subject" by detaining them. The WGAD judged the deprivation of their liberty to be arbitrary and requested that the Government release them and accord them

³¹ <https://www.amnesty.org/en/articles/news/2015/03/iran-six-kurdish-sunnis-about-to-be-hanged/>

³² <http://iranhr.net/2015/03/iranian-authorities-have-implemented-blinding-punishment-of-a-prisoner/>

³³ Balochistan Human Rights Organization Submission to the Office of the Special Rapporteur, February 2015; <http://mizanpress.ir/fa/content/24237>; www.yjc.ir/fa/news/5091690/

³⁴ <https://hra-news.org/fa/letters/a-2>

³⁵ Balochistan Human Rights Organization Submission to the Office of the Special Rapporteur, February 2015; <http://balochcampaign.com/index.php/news/balochistan-news/item/2376->;<http://balochcampaign.com/index.php/news/balochistan-news/item/2367->

³⁶ <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Detention/Pages/Annual.aspx>

³⁷ <http://www.hrw.org/world-report/2015>

with “an enforceable right to compensation.”³⁸ In February 2013, the Special Rapporteur joined the Chair of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention and the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association in a statement calling for their immediate and unconditional release.³⁹

29. Messrs. Karoubi and Mousavi and Ms. Rahvanard have called on authorities to grant them a public trial by a competent court, in accordance with the Constitution.⁴⁰ Tehran Member of Parliament Mr. Ali Motahari has also repeatedly called on Government officials to address the house arrest.⁴¹ On 7 October 2014, Mr. Motahari declared the house arrest to be without judicial warrant and unconstitutional, and he criticized the comments of officials who predicted, prior to due process of law, that the sentence in case of trial would be a heavy, or possibly execution.⁴² Mr. Motahari also called for a public trial-by-jury, in accordance with the Constitution, and for the “punishment” of officials responsible for the continuation of the house arrest.⁴³ He maintained that the President, who is also the head of the Supreme National Security Council, is responsible for the implementation of the Constitution.⁴⁴ An administration spokesperson responded by stating that it is “not indifferent” toward this issue, but no action has yet been taken.⁴⁵
30. On 31 December 2014, the head of Judiciary, Mr. Sadegh Larijani, declared the house arrest to be constitutional and in accordance with an act adopted by the Supreme National Security Council.⁴⁶ According to Mr. Larijani, the Judiciary has two considerations in deciding whether to hold a trial in this case: a Supreme National Security Council Act regarding the house arrest of “seditionists” [a term used by some officials to describe the post-2009 presidential election protesters] leaders and “the explicit comments of some seditionist agents stating that they do not care about the outcome of any trial, and just want a platform to have their say.”⁴⁷ Family members reportedly remain concerned regarding the conditions of their house arrest, their health, and an apparent lack of continuous access to adequate medical care for the three individuals.⁴⁸
31. Reports surfaced that the Prosecutor’s Office allegedly pledged the furlough of Mr. Abdolfattah Soltani if the family would post bail of one-billion toman, but that when the family did attempt to post it in August 2014 the Prosecutor’s Office refused to grant it.⁴⁹ On 19 November 2012, the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (WGAD) adopted an Opinion concerning Mr. Abdolfattah Soltani, human rights lawyer and co-founder of the Defenders of Human Rights Centre (DHRC), deeming the deprivation of his liberty to be “arbitrary” and encouraging the Government to “take necessary steps to remedy the situation, which include his immediate release.”⁵⁰ Mr. Soltani was reportedly arrested on 10 September 2011, and on 4 March 2012 the Revolutionary Court sentenced him to 18 years in prison and a 20-year ban from practicing law on charges of “forming or running a group or association outside or inside the country which seeks to undermine the security of the country,” “assembly and collusion against national security,” “propaganda against the system,” and “earning illegitimate assets.” The sentence was reduced to 13 years’ imprisonment on appeal.⁵¹ Mr. Soltani is currently serving his sentence and has reportedly contracted numerous illnesses, including heart complications. Despite this, he has to date been deprived of furlough or access to specialized health care outside prison.

³⁸ http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/HRC/WGAD/2012/30

³⁹ <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=12981&LangID=E>

⁴⁰ <http://www.kaleme.com/1393/10/06/klm-205874/> ; <http://sahamnews.org/1393/09/271227/>

⁴¹ <http://alimotahari.com/?p=2358>

⁴² <http://alimotahari.com/?p=2358> ; www.isna.ir/fa/news/93072614099/ ; <http://sahamnews.org/1393/09/271030/>

⁴³ <http://alimotahari.com/?p=2358>

⁴⁴ *Ibid.*

⁴⁵ www.isna.ir/fa/news/93071609462/

⁴⁶ www.mehrnews.com/news/2453608/

⁴⁷ *Ibid.*

⁴⁸ <http://sahamnews.org/1393/09/271326/> ; <http://www.rahesabz.net/story/87831/>

⁴⁹ http://persian.iranhumanrights.org/1392/01/soltani_daughter-2/

⁵⁰ http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/HRC/WGAD/2012/54

⁵¹ <http://www.iranhumanrights.org/2014/04/hospitalization-refused-soltani/>

32. In September 2014, Ayatollah Kazemeyni-Boroujerdi was reportedly threatened with execution if he continued to author letters while detained. Mr. Boroujerdi's physical health is reportedly deteriorating and he suffers from diabetes, asthma, Parkinson's disease, kidney and heart problems, and frequent collapsing. In February 2014, prison medical staff reportedly said he required hospitalization outside of the prison. During his eight years in prison, Ayatollah Boroujerdi has been hospitalized on three occasions. Mr. Boroujerdi, a dissident Shi'a cleric, was arrested in 2006 due to his advocacy of the separation of religion and state. He was condemned to death in 2007 by a Special Clerical Court, a sentence which was later reduced to 11 years in prison.⁵²
33. Student activist Mr. Arash Sadeghi was reportedly arrested at his office on 6 September 2014 and has since been held in Ward 2A of Evin Prison.⁵³ Mr. Sadeghi was previously released from prison in 2013 after serving time for "propaganda against the system" and "assembly and collusion against the state."
34. In December 2014, Mr. Amir Hekmati, in an open letter, appealed to the head of the Judiciary and the Intelligence Minster regarding "lack of progress" on his case and threatened to embark on hunger strike in protest.⁵⁴ On 23 December 2014, Mr. Hekmati temporarily suspended the hunger strike that he began on 18 December after Evin Prison officials agreed to take measures with the "appropriate Iranian government authorities" to revisit the case.⁵⁵ Mr. Amir Hekmati, who was reportedly arrested in August 2011 when visiting relatives in Iran from the United States, was initially sentenced to death by the Revolutionary Court on charges of "cooperation with an enemy State," "membership in the CIA," *moharebeh* (sometimes translated as "enmity with God" and sometimes as "drawing a weapon to the populace with intent to instill fear"), and *mofsed fel-arz* ("corruption on earth") in January 2012. The sentence was overturned by the Supreme Court in March 2012 and the case was ordered to retrial.⁵⁶ Mr. Hekmati has maintained the charges to be based "solely on confessions obtained by force, threats, miserable prison conditions, and prolonged periods of solitary confinement."⁵⁷ In April 2014, Mr. Hekmati was reportedly sentenced to 10 years in prison, a sentence which is currently being appealed.⁵⁸ In 2013, the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (WGAD) deemed Mr. Hekmati's detention arbitrary and called for his immediate release.⁵⁹
35. In October 2014, Branch 36 of the Iranian Supreme Court accepted a request for the retrial of academic and scientist Mr. Omid Kokabee. Mr. Kokabee, who was a post-Doctoral student at the University of Texas - Austin in the United States at the time of his arrest in January 2011, had been charged and sentenced with "cooperating with an enemy State."⁶⁰ The Supreme Court rejected this conviction on the basis that the Islamic Republic of Iran was not officially at war with any country. The Special Rapporteur initially welcomed the decision of the Supreme Court and shared the hope of dozens of Nobel Laureates, expressed in an open letter in September 2014, for Mr. Kokabee's immediate and unconditional release. In December 2014, 161 Iranian academics also signed a petition calling for urgent medical attention for Mr. Kokabee and for speedy judicial review of his case. In January 2015, however, Branch 54 of the Tehran Appeals Court re-confirmed his original sentence, disregarding the Supreme Court's prior ruling, and, according to Mr. Kokabee's lawyer, contravening established procedures regarding cases which are overturned by the Supreme Court.⁶¹ Advocates for Mr. Kokabee have claimed that his detention is based, in part, on his refusal of an offer to work for an organization in the Iranian security apparatus.
36. In February 2015, Azerbaijani rights activist Mr. Ali Reza'i was arrested. At the time of this writing, his whereabouts or charges — if any — were not known.⁶²

⁵² <http://iranhr.net/2014/10/fear-of-execution-dissident-cleric-ayatollah-kazemeyni-boroujerdi-transferred-to-an-unknown-location/>

⁵³ http://www.bbc.co.uk/persian/iran/2014/09/140907_nm_sadeghi_arrest

⁵⁴ <http://en.iranwire.com/features/6204/>

⁵⁵ <http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2014/12/23/us/ap-us-iran-american-detained.html>

⁵⁶ <http://www.iranhumanrights.org/2014/08/amir-hekmati-3/>

⁵⁷ <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/sep/11/american-accused-spying-iranian-amir-hekmat>

⁵⁸ <http://www.iranhumanrights.org/2014/08/amir-hekmati-3/>

⁵⁹ http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/HRC/WGAD/2013/28

⁶⁰ <http://persian.iranhumanrights.org/1393/07/kokabi-khalili/>

⁶¹ <http://persian.iranhumanrights.org/1393/10/omid-kokabi-3/>

⁶² <https://hra-news.org/en/information-ali-rezaei-20-days-detention>

D. Independence of lawyers

37. On 8 January 2015, Ms. Fatemeh Golzar, Mr. Mohammad Seifzadeh's wife, reported that he was in need of urgent medical care. Physicians at the Rajae'i Shahr Prison infirmary have reportedly confirmed that he requires an ultrasound to investigate a complaint of pain in his kidneys, but he has not been allowed to access the appropriate medical treatment to date.⁶³ In March 2013, Mr Seifzadeh, a human rights defender and cofounder of the Defenders of Human Rights Center (DHRC), was sentenced to an additional six-years in prison for "assembly and collusion against the system" for reportedly "writing critical letters to former President Khatami and for signing several group statements while in prison."⁶⁴ His letter included allegations of rights violations within the judicial system.⁶⁵ In October 2010, Mr. Seifzadeh had initially been sentenced to nine years in prison and a 10-year ban on practicing law by the Revolutionary Court for "acting against national security through establishing the Defenders of Human Rights Center."⁶⁶ Mr. Seifzadeh was also reportedly arrested in April 2011 in Urmia (West Azerbaijan Province) for allegedly attempting to exit the country illegally, which apparently led to a second case against him.⁶⁷ It was reported that an Appeals Court eventually reduced his original nine-year sentence to two years; Mr. Seifzadeh served that sentence until 25 March 2013.⁶⁸ Prior to the termination of that sentence, however, he was charged with "assembly and collusion against the system," resulting in the third case. In October 2013, the additional six-year sentence was reportedly confirmed.⁶⁹
38. On 6 August 2014, it was reported that Mr. Massoud Shafiee, a human rights lawyer who represented three American hikers that were detained in Iran in 2009 on charges of "espionage" and "illegal entry" into the country, currently faces a foreign travel ban and pressure by authorities.⁷⁰ Six days after the release of two of the hikers on 21 September 2011, security forces entered Mr. Shafiee's home, conducted a search, and transferred him to Evin Prison where he was allegedly interrogated for several hours about the cases of union activists he represented — Mr. Reza Shahabi and Mr. Rasoul Bodaghi — as well as about the hikers. The following week, when Mr. Shafiee reportedly attempted to leave the country, his passport was confiscated at the airport and he was allegedly informed of a foreign travel ban in place against him.⁷¹ His potential clients also reportedly continue to face pressure by authorities to withdraw requests to retain him as their attorney.⁷²
39. On 18 October 2014, Branch 2 of the Lawyers' Disciplinary Court at the Iranian Bar Association, allegedly under pressure from Intelligence agencies, banned Ms. Nasrin Sotoudeh from practicing law for three years.⁷³ Ms. Sotoudeh began an indefinite sit-in on 21 October 2014 at the Bar Association in Tehran to protest the ruling, and in protest of the general state of legal representation in Iran. She was arrested and detained for a few hours on 25 October and again on 10 December 2014.⁷⁴ Ms. Sotoudeh was originally sentenced to six years in prison on charges of spreading "propaganda against the system" and "acting against national security" in September 2010 and was released without formal pardon or furlough on 18 September 2013.

⁶³ <http://persian.iranhumanrights.org/1393/10/mohamad-seifzadeh/>

⁶⁴ <http://www.iranhumanrights.org/2013/10/mohammad-seifzadeh/>

⁶⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶⁶ *Ibid.*

⁶⁷ *Ibid.*

⁶⁸ http://www.iranhumanrights.org/2013/04/seifzadeh_reversal/

⁶⁹ <http://www.iranhumanrights.org/2013/10/mohammad-seifzadeh/>

⁷⁰ <http://www.iranhumanrights.org/2014/08/shafiee/>

⁷¹ *Ibid.*

⁷² *Ibid.*

⁷³ <http://www.hrw.org/news/2014/10/28/iran-stop-targeting-rights-lawyer>

⁷⁴ <http://www.pen-international.org/newsitems/iran-prominent-human-rights-lawyer-nasrin-sotoudeh-arrested/>

E. Detention conditions and treatment of prisoners

i. Inadequate segregation and access to medical treatment: Urumia, Minab Evin, Tabriz Rajae'i Shahr, Karoun, Dezfoul, Yasouj, and Evin Prisons

40. Ward 8 of Evin Prison is reportedly overcrowded and prisoners allegedly face unsanitary conditions and poor access to adequate nutrition. The maximum prisoner capacity for Ward 8 is 500, but at least 800 individuals are reportedly detained there. The lack of space forces many prisoners to sleep on the floor in the hallways.⁷⁵
41. Despite urgent needs, many prisoners are reportedly deprived of their right to receive proper medical treatment in medical clinics and hospitals outside their places of detention. According to the 2013 *Eid Al-Fetr* "Amnesty Pledge" drafted by the Head of the Judiciary and endorsed by the Supreme Leader, the remaining prison sentences of individuals diagnosed by the Medical Examiner Office's Commission as suffering from serious chronic diseases would be pardoned.⁷⁶ Despite the amnesty pledge, however, many prisoners who are suffering from serious chronic diseases remain in prison.
42. In November 2014, prisoners at Minab (Hormozgan Province) and Urmia (West Azerbaijan Province) Prisons embarked on hunger strikes, calling for immediate access to medical care, and for the separation of prisoners by crimes committed.⁷⁷ Prisoners were also reportedly protesting alleged threats to expedite the implementation of the execution sentences of several protesters — including the death sentence of convicted juvenile offender Mr. Saman Nasim — as well as threats of "prison-in-exile" transfers and sentences, threats to add new charges to case files, and threats to arrest family members.⁷⁸
43. On 20 November 2014, at least 24 Kurdish prisoners in Ward 12 of Urmia Central Prison (in the West Azerbaijan Province) reportedly began their hunger strike to protest the insufficient segregation of prisoners that committed civil crimes from those that committed violent ones.⁷⁹ Prisoners were reportedly then summoned to the Intelligence Office and threatened with new charges, transfer to solitary confinement, and with having family members arrested.⁸⁰ On 29 November 2014, the prison's special guard forces allegedly surrounded Ward 12, threatening to attack if the strike continued.⁸¹
44. By 16 December 2014, 27 prisoners were reportedly on hunger strike; Mr. Masoud Shamsinejad, an imprisoned Kurdish human rights lawyer, joined the strike on 10 December.⁸² On 22 December 2014, 26 of the prisoners at Urmia Prison reportedly ended their hunger strike after prison authorities pledged to address their demands, including through the separation of prisoners by type of crime committed and an end to the harassment of prisoners' family members.⁸³ In its response to the Draft Report, the Government maintained Mr. Shamsinejad's sentence to be in accordance with articles 19, 211, and 500 of the Islamic Penal Code dealing with "propaganda" activities against the Government," after "exhaustion of due process" and the court of appeals' rejection of Mr. Shamsinejad's petitions.

⁷⁵ Information Submitted to the Office of the Special Rapporteur, 14 January 2015.

⁷⁶ <http://isna.ir/fa/news/92051709891>

⁷⁷ Information Submitted to the Office of the Special Rapporteur, November 2014.

⁷⁸ Information Submitted to the Office of the Special Rapporteur, December 2014; <http://www.amnestyusa.org/news/news-item/iran-alleged-juvenile-offender-among-10-hunger-strikers-threatened-with-immediate-execution>

⁷⁹ Information Submitted to the Office of the Special Rapporteur, November and December 2014.

⁸⁰ Information Submitted to the Office of the Special Rapporteur, November 2014.

⁸¹ *Ibid.*

⁸² Information Submitted to the Office of the Special Rapporteur, December 2014.

⁸³ *Ibid.*

45. Two of the prisoners on hunger strike, Mr. Jafar Mirzaei and Mr. Arafat Asghari, were reportedly also released from prison upon completion their six-month sentences.⁸⁴ Mr. Mansour Arvand, a Kurdish prisoner on death row, was reportedly transferred to Mahabad Prison.⁸⁵
46. Mr. Reza Rasouli, who reportedly began a hunger strike on 11 November 2014 in protest of Urmia Prison's insufficient provision of medical treatment to detainees, remained on hunger strike for 49 days.⁸⁶ Mr. Rasouli's health is reportedly in critical condition and deteriorating.⁸⁷ He suffers from bronchitis, a tumor in his pelvis, osteoporosis, bruised legs, and a lung infection.⁸⁸ Prison authorities reportedly agreed to transfer him to a hospital.⁸⁹
47. The health condition of Mr. Afshin Sohrabzadeh, a Kurdish prisoner from the Kermanshah province who is imprisoned in exile at Minab Prison (Hormozgan Province), is also reportedly critical.⁹⁰ Prison physicians have reportedly diagnosed Mr. Sohrabzadeh with cancer requiring urgent care.⁹¹ On 9 November 2014, Mr. Sohrabzadeh was reportedly found unconscious and taken to a hospital in the city of Minab, where a physician requested his immediate transfer to a properly-equipped hospital in Bandar Abbas. Prison officials at the Minab Prosecutor's Office allegedly rejected the request, compelled the hospital to release him, and denied him medical furlough.⁹² It was reported that Mr. Sohrabzadeh decided to embark on hunger strike to protest the officials' conduct and the denial of medical care upon return to prison. Although Mr. Sohrabzadeh reportedly ended his strike on 12 December 2014, concern remains over his health condition and access to adequate medical care.⁹³ On the fifth day of his hunger strike, he had reportedly been taken to Minab Prison's solitary confinement ward and asked to end his hunger strike.⁹⁴ Previously, on 3 July 2013, Mr. Sohrabzadeh reportedly attempted suicide in protest of his transfer from the Sanandaj Central Prison into exile in Minab.⁹⁵
48. Mr. Ali Moradi, another Kurdish prisoner-in-exile at Minab prison who suffers from heart disease, objected to the initial delay in Mr. Sohrabzadeh's transfer for medical care.⁹⁶ In response, prison authorities allegedly beat Mr. Moradi and transferred him to solitary confinement, where he was reportedly kept for 22 days.⁹⁷
49. Authorities allegedly also warned Messrs. Ali Afshari, Mohammad Abdollahi, and Saman Nasim, who were all on death row at the time, of proceeding with the implementation of their sentences if the hunger strike continued. On 10 December, Intelligence officials allegedly asked Saman Nasim's family to demand he end his hunger strike, or else have his execution sentence imminently implemented.⁹⁸
50. Ms. Bahareh Hedayat is a former member of the Central Council and Spokesperson for the nationwide student organization *Daftar-e Tahkim-e Vahdat*. Ms. Hedayat was sentenced to a total of 10 years in prison (she received 9.5 years in July 2010 and an

⁸⁴ *Ibid.*

⁸⁵ Information Submitted to the Office of the Special Rapporteur, November 2014.

⁸⁶ Information Submitted to the Office of the Special Rapporteur, January 2015.

⁸⁷ *Ibid.*

⁸⁸ Information Submitted to the Office of the Special Rapporteur, December 2014.

⁸⁹ Information Submitted to the Office of the Special Rapporteur, January 2015.

⁹⁰ Information Submitted to the Office of the Special Rapporteur, December 2014.

⁹¹ Information Submitted to the Office of the Special Rapporteur, November 2014.

⁹² *Ibid.*

⁹³ Information Submitted to the Office of the Special Rapporteur, November and December 2014.

⁹⁴ Information Submitted to the Office of the Special Rapporteur, November 2014.

⁹⁵ *Ibid.*

⁹⁶ *Ibid.*

⁹⁷ Information Submitted to the Office of the Special Rapporteur, December 2014.

⁹⁸ Information Submitted to the Office of the Special Rapporteur, December 2014; <http://www.amnestyusa.org/news/news-item/iran-alleged-juvenile-offender-among-10-hunger-strikers-threatened-with-immediate-execution>

additional 6 months in November 2011⁹⁹) on charges of “insulting the Supreme Leader,” “insulting the President,” and “acting against national security and publishing falsehoods.” Ms. Hedayat, currently serving her sentence in the women’s ward of Evin Prison, reportedly suffers from serious reproductive system health issues, and doctors reportedly believe that if her treatment is delayed, she may become infertile. Ms. Hedayat reportedly underwent surgery related to these issues during her last medical furlough, on 27 July 2014; however, due to alleged refusal by the office of Prosecutor to extend her furlough, Ms. Hedayat was forced to return to prison the same day, without receiving the necessary post-surgery medical care.

51. Mr. Yousef Pour Seifi is a member of the “Human Rights Activists in Iran” group who was sentenced to five years and six months in prison on charges of “assembly and collusion against the system” and “membership in the illegal group Human Rights Activists in Iran” by Judge Salavati on 20 August 2012. Mr. Yousef Pour Seifi, who has been serving his sentence in 350 Ward of Evin Prison since 8 September 2012,¹⁰⁰ reportedly suffers from pre-existing conditions including chronic high blood pressure and a serious heart arrhythmia, with two of his arteries clogged up to 60 and 30 percent, respectively. Mr. Yousef Pour Seifi also suffers from retina disorder and is reportedly losing vision in his left eye while in detention.
52. Ms. Nasim Ashrafi, a Baha’i citizen, was sentenced on 19 October 2013 to one year in prison on charges of “propaganda against the system” for organizing classes about Baha’ism. Ms. Ashrafi, who is currently serving her one-year prison sentence in the women’s ward of Evin Prison, has suffered in the past from anaphylactic shock, and there are concerns that she could face the same issue again if not treated properly. Mrs. Ashrafi was recently granted a temporary suspension of her sentence on medical grounds; however, her sudden re-arrest by security forces allegedly interrupted her treatment. Mrs. Ashrafi’s disease and the lack of a suitable environment for her detention have led the Medical Examiner’s office to issue an opinion that serving her sentence is physically “intolerable.”¹⁰¹
53. Ms. Shamis Mohair, a Baha’i seemingly imprisoned for organizing group prayers, is serving her one-year prison sentence for “propaganda against the system” in the women’s ward of Evin Prison. When Ms. Mohajer had to report to prison, she was undergoing medical to determine if she had uterine cancer. The prison health facility reportedly lacks appropriate medical staff, including a gynecologist, and authorities have allegedly refused to transfer Ms. Mohajer to a hospital for treatment. She reportedly also suffers from chronic uterine bleeding, fatigue, and weight loss. It was recently reported that authorities agreed to a transfer to a hospital for a surgical biopsy, without a set date.¹⁰²
54. Ms. Motahareh Bahrami, the wife of Mr. Daneshpour Moghadam, was arrested on 27 December 2009 and was sentenced to 15 years in prison for allegedly supporting the *Mojahedin-e-Khalq* Organization. Mrs. Bahrami is serving her sentence in the women’s ward of Evin Prison and suffers from advanced rheumatoid arthritis, which has reportedly contributed to severe difficulty with mobility.¹⁰³
55. Mr. Amanollah Mostaghim, who is serving a five-year sentence at Rajae’i Shahr Prison for collaborating with the Baha’i Institute for Higher Education,¹⁰⁴ was reportedly returned to prison in August 2014 during a medical furlough to address issues related to heart disease. His physician objected and reportedly maintained that Mr. Mostaghim was physically unable to endure his sentence.¹⁰⁵
56. Mr. Latif Hassani, an Azerbaijani minority political activist and Secretary of the *Yeni Gamoh* Party, was reportedly arrested on 22 January 2013 in Karaj (Alborz Province) and was transferred to the Tabriz Intelligence Office.¹⁰⁶ On 29 April 2013, Branch 3 of the Revolutionary Court of Tabriz sentenced him, alongside Messrs. Mahmoud Fazli, Ayat Mehrali Beiglou, Shahram Radmehr,

⁹⁹ <https://tavaana.org/en/content/bahareh-hedayat-womens-rights-defender>

¹⁰⁰ <https://hra-news.org/fa/thought-and-expression/1-12201>

¹⁰¹ Information Submitted to the Office of the Special Rapporteur, 8 December 2014.

¹⁰² *Ibid.*

¹⁰³ <https://hra-news.org/fa/prisoners/1-14804>

¹⁰⁴ <http://news.bahai.org/human-rights/iran/education/profiles>

¹⁰⁵ Campaign to Free Political Prisoners in Iran (CFPPI) Submission to the Office of the Special Rapporteur, December 2014.

¹⁰⁶ *Ibid.*

and Behboud Gholizadeh to nine years' imprisonment on charges of establishing an illegal group and "propaganda against the system."¹⁰⁷ He reportedly suffers from heart disease and is in immediate need of medical attention.¹⁰⁸ Mr. Hassani was transferred from Tabriz Prison (East Azerbaijan Province) to Evin Prison (Tehran Province) and then to Rajae'i Shahr Prison on 26 June 2014, after 52 days of hunger strike.¹⁰⁹ In 2011, he reportedly suffered a heart attack, allegedly due to torture and physical pressure he endured during his detention in 2010.¹¹⁰ His long-term hunger strike has reportedly made his physical condition more vulnerable. Officials at both Tabriz Prison and Rajae'i Shahr Prison (Alborz Province) have allegedly prevented his medical furlough.¹¹¹

57. The medical furlough of Mr. Shahram Radmehr, an Azerbaijani minority political activist at Tabriz Prison (East Azerbaijan Province), was recently granted. However, he is reportedly being prevented from leaving the prison. Mr. Radmehr is reportedly suffering from medical issues including arthritis, severe headaches, and stomach ulcers.¹¹² In August 2014, Mr. Radmehr was transferred from Tabriz Prison to Meshkin Shahr Prison (Ardebil Province). Before his transfer, the Tabriz Medical Examiner's Office reportedly confirmed that he was in urgent need of treatment and should be provided medical furlough.¹¹³ Prison officials, however, allegedly opposed Mr. Radmehr's medical furlough and instead transferred him to Meshkin Shahr Prison. After two months, and despite his family's persistent pursuit of furlough in accordance with procedure, judicial officials of Meshkin Shahr Prison have not facilitated adequate access to medical access.¹¹⁴ Mr. Radmehr, a member of the central committee of the *Yeni Gamoh* Party, was reportedly arrested on 22 January 2013 in Meshkin Shahr (Ardebil Province). On 29 April 2013, Branch 3 of the Revolutionary Court of Tabriz sentenced him, alongside Messrs. Mahmoud Fazli, Ayat Mehrali Beiglou, Latif Hassani, and Behboud Gholizadeh to nine years' imprisonment on charges of establishing an illegal group and "propaganda against the system."¹¹⁵ During interrogations at the Tabriz Intelligence Office, Mr. Radmehr reportedly fell unconscious due to psychological pressure and was hospitalized for three days.¹¹⁶
58. Mr. Mohsen Daneshpour Moghadam was arrested on 27 December 2009 and was sentenced to execution for allegedly supporting the *Mojahedin-e-Khalq* Organization. Mr. Moghadam, who is currently serving his sentence in Ward 350 of Evin Prison, suffers from Alzheimer's Disease. He reportedly also suffers from atherosclerosis, which has apparently also contributed to the deterioration of his condition.¹¹⁷
59. Mr. Rasoul Mazraeh, from Ahwaz, is currently suffering from prostate cancer and kidney pain.¹¹⁸ Prison officials have allegedly refused to grant him permission to be transferred to a hospital for treatment.¹¹⁹ Mr. Mazraeh was allegedly arrested in Syria and was sentenced to 15 years at the Yasouj Prison (Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad Province) by Branch 1 of the Revolutionary Court of Ahwaz for acting against national security.¹²⁰

¹⁰⁷ *Ibid.*

¹⁰⁸ *Ibid.*

¹⁰⁹ *Ibid.*

¹¹⁰ *Ibid.*

¹¹¹ *Ibid.*

¹¹² *Ibid.*

¹¹³ *Ibid.*

¹¹⁴ *Ibid.*

¹¹⁵ *Ibid.*

¹¹⁶ *Ibid.*

¹¹⁷ Information Submitted to the Office of the Special Rapporteur, 16 December 2014.

¹¹⁸ Campaign to Free Political Prisoners in Iran (CFPPI) Submission to the Office of the Special Rapporteur, December 2014.

¹¹⁹ *Ibid.*

¹²⁰ *Ibid.*

60. Mr. Jaber Sakhravi, reportedly imprisoned at the Karoun Prison in the Khuzestan Province, is suffering from a brain tumor and is in need of immediate surgery, as his health condition is deteriorating.¹²¹ Mr. Sakhravi's eyesight and physical health have reportedly suffered from alleged torture he has endured in while detention.¹²²
61. Mr. Golam Abbas Saki, imprisoned at Dezfoul Prison (Khuzestan Province), is reportedly suffering from prostate cancer and kidney problems and has allegedly been deprived of adequate medical care.¹²³ Mr. Saki is also reportedly suffering from high blood pressure and cholesterol.¹²⁴ Mr. Saki was reportedly arrested in Syria and transferred to Iran in 2006. He spent 4.5 years in solitary confinement under the custody of the Intelligence services, and three months at Evin Prison. Branch 4 of the Revolutionary Court of Ahwaz then reportedly sentenced him to five years in prison for acting against national security.¹²⁵ The Revolutionary Court of Ahwaz, however, reportedly did not consider the time he had already spent at the Intelligence Center to be time served, and he is therefore still imprisoned in Dezfoul Prison.¹²⁶
62. In its Reply to the Draft Report, the Government stated that "prisoners have acceptable levels to access to medical care both inside and outside of the prison." It also claimed that supervisory boards, established by the Judiciary, visit the prisons regularly to ensure compliance.
63. The Special Rapporteur warmly welcomes the Government's announcement, in its Reply to the Draft Report, that "the Islamic Republic of Iran is currently considering accession to [the] UN Convention Against Torture."

F. Freedom of expression and access to information

i. Newly arrested, imprisoned or prosecuted journalists, netizens and bloggers (cases reported since May 2014)

66. Journalists arrested or prosecuted are often accused of contact with foreign media and are seemingly targeted due to their criticism of Government leaders or for discussing sensitive policy issues. This appears to be the result of an overly-broad application of national security provisions and stipulations in the 1986 Press Law, which define 17 instances of impermissible content. For example, impermissible content is defined as, inter alia, that which causes damage to "the foundation of the Islamic Republic"; insults "Islam and its sanctities" or "the Leader of the Revolution and recognized religious authorities"; or creates "discord between and among social walks of life specifically by raising ethnic and racial issues." Moreover, because the majority of journalists' cases are considered to involve "national security", they are tried in Revolutionary Courts, negating Press Law stipulations for journalists to be tried by a Press Court in the presence of a jury. In its Reply, the Government noted that the Constitution provides for freedom of expression "except when it is detrimental to the fundamental principles of Islam or the rights of the public." It argued that imprisoned members of the media have committed "serious" offenses, including "satellite networks... insistence on propagating lies and perturbing public peace of mind, and disseminating contents that foment ethnic and religious hatred, extremism and violence."
67. At least 29 journalists, bloggers, and netizens have reportedly been detained, imprisoned or prosecuted since May 2014 alone: Mr. Serajeddin Miramadi; Ms. Mahnaz Mohammadi; Mr. Ali Asghar Ghavari; Mr. Jason Rezaian; Mr. Mohammad Reza Pourjashari; Mr. Ali Ghazali; Ms. Sajedah Arabsjorkhi; Ms. Zahra Ka'abi, Mr. Hamid Hekmati, Mr. Ismael Izadi, Mr. Farid Saremi, Mr. Farjad Salehi, Mr. Ali Chinisaz; Mr. Hamed Taghipour; Mr. Masoud Behnam; Ms. Yeganeh Salehi; Mr. Amar Kalantari; Ms. Yaghma Fashkhami; Mr. Saeed Pourheydar; Ms. Reyhaneh Tabataba'ei; Mr. Arash Honarvar Shoja'ei; Ms. Zahra Khandan; Mr. Mohammed Ghoochani; Ms. Abbas Salimi Namin; and five journalists from ISNA, including Mr. Arya Jafari.

¹²¹ *Ibid.*

¹²² *Ibid.*

¹²³ *Ibid.*

¹²⁴ *Ibid.*

¹²⁵ *Ibid.*

¹²⁶ *Ibid.*

68. Mr. Serajjedin Miramadi, a well-known journalist and relative of the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, was arrested in May 2014 after returning from working abroad as a journalist following the inauguration of President Rouhani. He was convicted in July 2014 of “propaganda against the system” and “conspiracy against national security” and was reportedly sentenced to six years in prison.¹²⁷ His sentence was reportedly reduced to three years on appeal.
69. In June 2014, Ms. Mahnaz Mohammadi was summoned to begin serving a five-year prison sentence for “propaganda against the system” and “assembly and collusion against the system.” She was accused of working for foreign media during the run-up to and aftermath of the 2009 presidential election.¹²⁸
70. *Washington Post* correspondent Mr. Jason Rezaian, who was arrested and detained on 22 July 2014, apparently did not have access to a lawyer during his first seven months of detention, until March 2015.¹²⁹ Authorities would not initially disclose charges against Mr. Rezaian, and while reports now indicate that he may have been charged with espionage in December 2014 or January 2015, official charges -- if any — remain unclear.
71. In July 2014, Ms. Sajedeh Arabsorkhi, a journalist and the daughter of a prominent political dissident, began serving a one-year sentence at Evin Prison for “propaganda against the system.”¹³⁰
72. In August 2014, netizens Ms. Zahra Ka’abi, Mr. Hamid Hekmati, Mr. Ismael Izadi, Mr. Farid Saremi, Mr. Farjad Salehi, and Mr. Ali Chinisaz were arrested, in addition to Mr. Hamed Taghipour and Mr. Masoud Behnam, two directors of privately-owned religious television stations.¹³¹
73. Mr. Ali Asghar Ghavari of the *Bahar* publication — which was closed in 2013, granted authority to re-open in 2014, and then closed again in 2015 — was apparently summoned in September 2014 to serve the remainder of a prior prison sentence for publishing articles “contrary to Islamic criteria,” “spreading falsehoods,” and publishing articles “against the Constitution,” to which he was convicted by a Press Court. Mr. Ghavari is 73-years-old and apparently in poor health. (Mr. Saeed Pour Aziz of *Bahar* was also originally sentenced along with Mr. Ghavari, to 91 days in prison and an additional two-year suspended sentence).¹³²
74. Mr. Amar Kalantari of the Free University News Agency was arrested in September 2014, apparently to begin serving a four-year prison sentence from 2009 for “insulting” Government officials.¹³³
75. In October 2014, Mr. Arya Jafari and four other ISNA journalists were arrested for covering protests following the October 2014 acid attacks on several women in Esfahan. While the four journalists were released within hours, Mr. Jafari was reportedly detained for a week.¹³⁴
76. On 29 November, 2014, Mr. Ali Ghazali, a journalist who had previously covered potential cases of corruption involving high-ranking officials, was re-arrested, apparently after a businessman related to a story he covered filed a complaint against him.¹³⁵
77. On 30 November 2014, Ms. Reyhaneh Tabataba’ei was convicted and sentenced to a year in prison and a two-year ban on journalistic and political activities. She was charged with “propaganda against the system” for an interview she reportedly

¹²⁷ <http://www.iranhumanrights.org/2014/08/seraj-mirdamadi-six-years/>

¹²⁸ <https://www.fidh.org/International-Federation-for-Human-Rights/asia/iran/15598-iran-arbitrary-detention-and-judicial-harassment-of-ms-mahnaz-mohammadi>

¹²⁹ <http://www.theguardian.com/media/2015/mar/02/washington-post-reporter-jason-rezaian>

¹³⁰ <http://www.kaleme.com/1393/09/27/klm-205325/>

¹³¹ <http://en.rsf.org/press-freedom-violations-recounted-23-01-2014,45705.html>

¹³² *Ibid.*

¹³³ *Ibid.*

¹³⁴ <https://cpj.org/2014/10/iran-arrests-journalist-covering-acid-attacks-on-w.php>

¹³⁵ <http://en.iranwire.com/features/6158/>

conducted in 2013 with a leader of the Sunni minority in Iran, which authorities claimed was penned with the intent of “dividing the nation along ethnic and religious lines.”¹³⁶

78. On 24 December 2014, Ms. Yaghma Fashkhami, a political reporter for the *Roozan* publication, was apparently arrested at her home for unknown reasons.¹³⁷
79. Mr. Arash Honarvar Shoja’ei, a cleric and blogger, was already serving a separate four-year sentence at Evin Prison for “insulting [former Iranian Supreme Leader] Imam Khomeini,” “cooperating with foreign embassies,” espionage, and acting against national security, when he was apparently sentenced to an additional four years in prison and 50 lashes in December 2014. His new charges are not yet clear.¹³⁸
80. Mr. Saeed Pourheydar, a journalist and rights activist who had fled the country in 2011 following the receipt of a five-year prison sentence for “propaganda against the system,” “insulting the President,” and “questioning Islamic principles,” was reportedly arrested on 4 January 2015 after returning to Iran.¹³⁹
81. On 19 January 2015, Ms. Zahra Khandan, a former journalist with several reformist publications, was apparently arrested at her home by plain clothes IRGC Intelligence officers. The reason for her arrest is not clear.¹⁴⁰
82. On 26 January 2015, Mr. Mohammed Ghoochani, the editor of the *Mardom Emrooz* publication, was charged with “insulting Islam” for publishing a front-page photograph of actor George Clooney wearing an “I am Charlie Hebdo” lapel pin.¹⁴¹
83. In January or February 2015, former journalist and the current head of an Iranian history society, Mr. Abbas Salimi Namin, was sentenced to six months in jail for “insulting” former President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad in 2011, when he publicly criticized what he perceived as presidential corruption. Mr. Salimi was also sentenced to 74 lashes for insulting judicial officials and officials at the University of Tehran.¹⁴²
84. On 20 February 2015, Mr. Masoud Bastani, a journalist who was arrested in connection to the post-2009 election unrest and sentenced for “propaganda against the system,” “assembly and collusion with the intent to disrupt national security,” and “publishing falsehoods,” apparently had a heart attack while in prison. His health condition remains precarious.¹⁴³
85. On 23 February 2015, Mr. Ali Maghami, was arrested to begin serving a four-month prison sentence. He had received that sentence, along with a four-month suspended sentence, in January 2014.¹⁴⁴
86. In an interview, Mr Manouchehr Pordel, a member of the Iranian Writers Association, stated that on 6 March 2013, seven plainclothes officers from the Intelligence Office of Mahabad arrested him, stating that he needed to identify some CCTV footage. He was reportedly handcuffed and taken to the Intelligence Ministry’s Detention Center, where he spent seven days in solitary confinement in an approximately 1.80-by-three meter space without access to a lawyer or family. For the first seven days, he was reportedly interrogated six or seven times, blindfolded, beaten, punched and slapped, and threatened with the use of electroshock. In the end, he was reportedly forced to sign approximately 20-30 pages of what the interrogators claimed were his “responses” without being able to review the documents. Intelligence Ministry officials allegedly accused him of contacts with security apparatuses and political parties, reportedly mocked him for retaining a lawyer, and offered a reduced sentence in exchange for his cooperation. Mr. Pordel was then transferred to Mahabad prison, where he spent an additional four days. He was reportedly accused of “acting against national security,” “membership and activity in an opposition party,” “assembly and collusion,”

¹³⁶ <https://cpj.org/2015/01/with-new-round-of-journalist-detentions-prosecutio.php>

¹³⁷ *Ibid*,

¹³⁸ *Ibid*,

¹³⁹ *Ibid*.

¹⁴⁰ <http://en.rsf.org/iran-press-freedom-violations-recounted-21-01-2015,47521.html>

¹⁴¹ *Ibid*.

¹⁴² *Ibid*.

¹⁴³ <http://www.iranhumanrights.org/2015/02/masoud-bastani/>

¹⁴⁴ <http://en.rsf.org/iran-press-freedom-violations-recounted-21-01-2015,47521.html>

illegally crossing the border, and “propaganda against the system.” Mr. Pordel was released on the 12 day of his arrest, on 60 million toman bail. In May and June 2013, Mr. Pordel had court sessions at the Revolutionary Court of Mahabad, each lasting about 20-30 minutes in the presence of his lawyer, who was allowed to read the case file only in the presence of the judge. He was sentenced to 3.5 years in prison, later upheld by the Appeals Court. Mr. Pordel has since left the country.

ii. Recently closed publications

87. In its Reply to the Draft Report, the Government claimed that *Bahar*, which was closed for six months and since re-opened, printed an article which “seriously hurt feeling of the public,” and subsequently “voluntarily” closed down for a period of six months.
88. Iranian authorities continue to close publications deemed subversive by certain elements the political establishment. On 23 December 2014, the *Roozan* publication was closed by order of the Tehran Prosecutor, seemingly in relation to an article it had published marking the five-year anniversary of the death of Ayatollah Hossein Ali Montazeri.¹⁴⁵
89. In August 2014, five privately-owned religious stations — *Imam Hossein*, *Abolfazal Abass*, *Alghaem*, *Alzahra* and *Almehdi* — were closed after being accused by the Intelligence Ministry of “working illegally for satellite TV stations based in the United States and Great Britain,” “provoking sectarian tension within Islam,” “showing a degrading image of Shi’ism” and “insulting the holy figures of Islam.”¹⁴⁶
90. On 12 January 2015, reformist weekly publication *Setareh Sobh* was closed after publishing an open letter by Tehran Member of Parliament Ali Motahari, in which he called for the trial of jailed opposition leaders Mr. Mir Hossein Mousavi and Mr. Mehdi Karoubi, along with Mousavi’s wife Ms. Zahra Rahnavard.¹⁴⁷ The Tehran Media Court which ordered the closure claimed it that it did so to “prevent the occurrence of crime.”¹⁴⁸
91. On 17 January 2015, reformist daily *Mardom Emroz* was closed, following its front-page publication of an image of actor George Clooney wearing an “I am Charlie Hebdo” lapel pin.¹⁴⁹
92. On 3 February 2015, a Tehran Culture and Media Court ordered the closure of the *HMA* online publication. HMA is an acronym for “Supporters of [Former President] Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.”¹⁵⁰ The Court which ordered the closure claimed that it did so “to prevent the occurrence of a crime.”¹⁵¹
93. Around 27 February 2015, authorities ordered the blocking of the *Bahar* website, which had previously been closed and re-opened, along with the *Jamaran* site, an official website of the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.¹⁵²

¹⁴⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁴⁶ *Ibid.*

¹⁴⁷ *Ibid.*

¹⁴⁸ *Ibid.*

¹⁴⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁵⁰ *Ibid.*

¹⁵¹ *Ibid.*

¹⁵² *Ibid.*

iii. Censorship / access to information

94. Authorities continue to censor or ban many forms of cultural and artistic expression. For example, in December 2014, apparently under pressure by the Parliament's Cultural Commission, the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance banned the film "Paternal House" by director Kianioush Ayyari.¹⁵³
95. In November, the Working Group on Determining Instances of Criminal Content confirmed that the Information and Technology Ministry will continue to filter access to some data on Instagram.¹⁵⁴ In December, FarsNews reported that "immoral" pages on Instagram had been blocked,¹⁵⁵ and in January 2015 it reported that authorities were attempting to block access to the applications *Whatsapp* and *Tango*, in addition to applications like *Facebook*, which are already blocked.¹⁵⁶
96. On 26 January 2015, a Contents Working Group was established by the Ministry of Islamic Guidance and Culture, in order to, *inter alios*, monitor SMS messages.¹⁵⁷
97. In September 2014, six youngsters were sentenced to six months in prison and 91 lashes each for appearing in a re-make of Pharrell Williams' "Happy" music video during the summer. A seventh woman was sentenced to an additional six months (for a total of one year) in prison for possessing alcohol and for her alleged role in distributing the video.¹⁵⁸
98. In February 2015, various outlets reported that references to former President Mohammad Khatami had been banned.

G. Freedom of peaceful assembly and association

a) Non-Governmental Organization Bill

99. A draft Non-Governmental Organizations Bill presented by the Interior Ministry to the cabinet in November 2014¹⁵⁹ appears to further threaten the independence of civil society. The Bill envisions councils at the national, provincial, and city levels that will, in part, be responsible for the issuance of activity licenses to non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that pursue "social, cultural, artistic, health, environmental, cultural heritage, human rights, ethnic, and development" issues, and whose activities are not currently subject to other laws that govern professional organizations or political entities, such as political parties.¹⁶⁰ According to the Bill, Councils would also be responsible for the supervision and support of NGOs and for addressing potential misconduct.¹⁶¹ NGOs would only be able to officially pursue organizational activities upon receiving establishment permits, activity licenses, and registrations.¹⁶² Procedures introduced by the Bill to establish an association appear particularly burdensome and would subject NGOs to administrative supervision which could then be used as a means to quell dissenting views or beliefs, in violation of international norms and standards.

¹⁵³ <http://www.entekhab.ir/fa/news/183188>

¹⁵⁴ <http://isna.ir/fa/news/93082010296/>

¹⁵⁵ <http://www.radiofarda.com/content/f2-iran-instagram-immoral-pages-filtered-censorship-culture-ministry/26760241.html>

¹⁵⁶ <http://www.farsnews.com/newstext.php?nn=13931017001370>

¹⁵⁷ dolat.ir/nsite/fullstory/news/?serv=12&id=257927

¹⁵⁸ <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/sep/19/iranian-pharrell-williams-fans-happy-video-sentenced>

¹⁵⁹ <http://www.farsnews.com/newstext.php?nn=13930905000787> ; <http://saman.moi.ir/Portal/Home/ShowPage.aspx?Object=NEWS&CategoryID=a8d0de91-2cf9-4078-911c-6f9aa6b96500&WebPartID=a2f25aaa-9bd2-4312-a121-65e1e4fea74e&ID=4031c61e-2ef1-4d28-8a30-36f65c996901>

<http://saman.moi.ir/Portal/Home/ShowPage.aspx?Object=NEWS&CategoryID=a8d0de91-2cf9-4078-911c-6f9aa6b96500&WebPartID=a2f25aaa-9bd2-4312-a121-65e1e4fea74e&ID=4031c61e-2ef1-4d28-8a30-36f65c996901>

¹⁶⁰ Articles 2, 4, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, and 15 <http://saman.moi.ir/Portal/Home/ShowPage.aspx?Object=NEWS&CategoryID=a8d0de91-2cf9-4078-911c-6f9aa6b96500&WebPartID=a2f25aaa-9bd2-4312-a121-65e1e4fea74e&ID=4031c61e-2ef1-4d28-8a30-36f65c996901>

<http://saman.moi.ir/Portal/Home/ShowPage.aspx?Object=NEWS&CategoryID=a8d0de91-2cf9-4078-911c-6f9aa6b96500&WebPartID=a2f25aaa-9bd2-4312-a121-65e1e4fea74e&ID=4031c61e-2ef1-4d28-8a30-36f65c996901>

¹⁶¹ Articles 9, 10, 11, 13, and 14.

¹⁶² Articles 2, 3, 17, 18, 19, and 20.

Provisions of the Bill

- **Councils:** The National Council would consist of 32 officials, including 16 government officials and 16 elected representatives from NGOs.¹⁶³ Provincial and City Councils will be headed by Governors, City Governors, four NGO representatives, and at least five government officials.¹⁶⁴ Councils will be supported by secretariats responsible for reviewing applications to establish NGOs, for pursuing the implementation of programs and policies that facilitate research activities adopted by the National Council, for cooperating with other executive and supervisory agencies to monitor NGOs, and to review and present reports of misconduct to the National Council.¹⁶⁵
- **The process of obtaining activity licenses:** NGO's would be required to submit meeting minutes on the establishment of their organization, to include an organogram, organization objectives, a list of activities, expansion plans and procedures, and procedures for the selection of representatives and their duties.¹⁶⁶ Authorities, whose representatives will also have the right to participate in organizational meetings as observers, must approve these documents.¹⁶⁷ The bill requires that the Intelligence Ministry, police, and other specialized agencies be consulted on the legality of the objectives and activities proposed by the NGO.¹⁶⁸ Government agencies must act within a week of receiving establishment requests for permits.¹⁶⁹
- **Restrictions on NGO activities:** Under the draft, assemblies, publications, online activities, and educational materials would require permits.¹⁷⁰ Annual performance and financial reports must also be submitted to authorities that issue activity licenses.¹⁷¹ NGOs are required to provide onsite access to their information and documents in the presence of an NGO representative.¹⁷² Removing documents from NGO possession will require a court order.¹⁷³
- **Restrictions on international cooperation:** All cooperation and membership with international organizations, such as signing agreements and contracts, would require National Council permission, and the Council must also be notified of organizations' participation in conferences and training courses outside of the country.¹⁷⁴
- **Disciplinary mechanism:** Compliance would be monitored by either the secretariat or specialized agencies.¹⁷⁵ Disciplinary steps can include a written warning with a deadline to correct breaches of the law, suspension of activity licenses for a maximum of 3 months, or the dissolution of the organization through the court.¹⁷⁶ If adopted, the law would be retroactive and therefore applicable to all existing NGOs.¹⁷⁷

100. In its Reply, the Government maintained that “the civil society comprising political parties, trade unions and professional and religious association are freely and extensively active,” adding that “any form of social activity” by “political party, society or association” requires observing laws and regulations and receiving a “permit from Article 10 Commission.”

¹⁶³ Article 9.

¹⁶⁴ Articles 13, 14, and 15.

¹⁶⁵ Articles 11 and 14.

¹⁶⁶ Articles 18, 22, and 24.

¹⁶⁷ Article 18.

¹⁶⁸ Article 18,

¹⁶⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁷⁰ Article 26,

¹⁷¹ Article 28.

¹⁷² Article 31.

¹⁷³ *Ibid.*

¹⁷⁴ Article 32.

¹⁷⁵ Article 34.

¹⁷⁶ *Ibid.*

¹⁷⁷ Article 37.

H. Freedom of religion or belief

A. Dervishes

101. Mr. Hamize Reza Moradi, Mr. Reza Entesari, Mr. Mostafa Daneshjoo, Mr. Farshid Yadolahi, Mr. Amir Eslami, Mr. Omid Behroozi and Mr. Afshin Karampour, seven members of the Gonabadi Dervish community and editors of the *Majzooban-E- Noor* website and the *Nemati Gonabadi News Agency*, were arrested by the Ministry of Intelligence in September 2011 in the cities of Shiraz and Tehran, and on 13 July 2013, the Revolutionary Court sentenced them to prison terms ranging from seven to ten years. On 31 August 2014, they embarked on a hunger strike to protest a claimed lack of due process in their cases. The police interrupted the demonstrations subsequently organized by their families in front of the Office of the Prosecutor in Tehran and multiple individuals were arrested.¹⁷⁸ In late February, their lawyer announced that Branch 54 of the Revolutionary Court reduced the prison sentences of these seven Dervishes and partially converted them to probation.¹⁷⁹ On 3 March 2015, Mr. Afshin Karampour, Mr. Farshid Eyadolahi, Mr. Amir Eslami, and Mr. Omid Behroozi were released from Evin prison after serving four years each.¹⁸⁰
102. On 27 December 2014, Mr. Hojatoleslam Younesi, the President's Special Assistant on religious and ethnic minorities, admitted in an interview that the treatment Dervishes had received in the past was "arbitrary" and outside the scope of the Islamic Republic's states policies. He also added that harsh treatment of the community which occurred in the past was contrary to the country's interest, and that they have not been repeated.¹⁸¹
103. On 25 February, Mr. Saleh Moradi, a Gonabadi Dervish, was apparently arrested by plainclothes forces, without a warrant, possibly to serve a prior sentence.¹⁸²

B. Bahai's

104. Despite statements from high-ranking officials that Bahai's are entitled to citizenship' rights, they continue to face discrimination, arrest, and arbitrary detention in connection with their religion. Between September and December 2014, security forces in the cities of Esfahan, Tehran, Shiraz, Hamedan, Karaj, and Semnan reportedly arrested at least 20 Baha'is. In February 2015, it was reported that four of these 20 individuals had been summoned to serve sentences, including Ms. Fariba Ashtari,¹⁸³ bringing the total number of imprisoned Baha'is to over 100.
105. Discriminatory restrictions increased with regard to the burial of Baha'is in cemeteries across the country. Authorities in the city of Semnan have reportedly discouraged families from inscribing epitaphs on tombstones, allowing inscriptions to only include first and last names, and dates of birth and death. Authorities have also restricted the construction of additional buildings to accommodate burials in the Baha'i cemetery there. In at least three cases, Iranian authorities have also delayed the burial of Baha'is in the cities of Tabriz and Ahvaz.¹⁸⁴
106. Baha'i students also faced discrimination in the 2014-2015 national entrance exam for institutions of higher education. Mr. Shadan Shirazi, a Bahá'í student who took the national mathematics exam and placed 113th out of an estimated million students,

¹⁷⁸ <http://www.kaleme.com/1393/06/29/klm-198183/?theme=fast>

¹⁷⁹ <http://www.majzooban.org/en/sufi-news/6585-half-of-the-sentences-of-jailed-gonabadi-dervishes-on-probation.html>

¹⁸⁰ <http://www.majzooban.org/fa/exclusive/exclusive-news/10403>

¹⁸¹ <http://www.isna.ir/fa/news/93100602742/>

¹⁸² <http://www.majzooban.org/en/sufi-news/6589-saleh-moradi,-a-gonabadi-dervish-of-shiraz,-arrested.html>

¹⁸³ <https://hra-news.org/en/fariba-ashtari-begins-2-year-sentence-yazd-prison>

¹⁸⁴ Baha'i International Community Submission to the Office of the Special Rapporteur, 2014.

was reportedly barred from registering at public universities.¹⁸⁵ The Special Rapporteur welcomes statements by officials inviting Baha'i students to submit complaints of violations of their rights to the High Council for Human Rights.¹⁸⁶

107. Incitement against Baha'is also continued this past year. On 15 December 2014, Ayatollah Bojnourdi, a high-ranking cleric and a former member of Supreme Judicial Council, stated that "we never say that Baha'is have the right to education; Baha'is don't even have citizenship rights."¹⁸⁷ After negative reactions, he later clarified that only Baha'is "who cooperate with Israel" or "advocate against Islam" are not entitled to citizenship rights, and that they still have human rights even though they cannot take advantage of "privileges," such as going to university in Iran.¹⁸⁸

108. In 2011, Mr. Behnam Roghani, a shop-owner in Esfahan's bazaar, converted to the Bahai faith and began distributing DVDs and pamphlets about his faith. He reportedly received threatening mail from unknown individuals, which led to his decision to leave the country on 26 June 2012. In 2013, he produced a documentary about violations of the rights of Baha'is in Iran. He has also worked on various campaigns to address the persecution of the Baha'is in Iran. In July 2014, Mr. Roghani claims he received a copy of a threatening religious Fatwa from Iran, declaring him *Mahdor- Al-Dam* (meaning he is not entitled to *Diyah* [blood money] in case he is the victim of a violent crime).¹⁸⁹

109. In September 2014, an appeals court apparently confirmed the one-year sentence of Mr. Adnan Rahmat Panah, a Baha'i citizen from Shiraz. Mr. Rahmat Panah, who was originally arrested in December 2012 and held for 186 days at an Intelligence Detention Center in Shiraz, was summoned to begin serving that sentence on 6 November 2015. Credible sources have indicated that evidence used to convict Mr. Rahmat Panah of "propaganda against the system" included pictures on Facebook in which he had been "tagged" by others, as well as emails he allegedly sent — without receiving replies — to foreign news media organizations.¹⁹⁰

110. On 17 and 18 February 2015, at least 14 Baha'i citizens were arrested in the cities of Tehran and Shiraz. Security forces reportedly showed arrest warrants and confiscated these individuals' laptops, DVDs, books, etc. At least 10 of the individuals were released after two days, without charges, from Isfahan prison.¹⁹¹

C) Christians

111. In December 2014, authorities allegedly arrested four individuals — Ms. Sara Rahiminejad, Mr. Majid Sheidaee, Mr. Mostafa Nadri, and Mr. George Issaian, at a Christmas Eve celebration in Fardis village in Karaj. The four individuals, who were converts from Islam, were allegedly beaten by plainclothes officers, insulted, and arrested following searches of their belongings. Five Additional Christian converts — Mr. Ahmad Bazayr, Ms. Faegheh Nasrollahi, Ms. Mastaneh Rastegari, Mr. Amir Hossein Nematollahi, and a man identified as "Mr. Hosseini" — were also arrested at a house church in eastern Tehran on Christmas Day.¹⁹² Some reports indicate that many more individuals were arrested and quickly released.¹⁹³

112. Mr. Hossein ("Stephan") Saketi Aramsari, another Christian convert, was apparently sentenced to one year in prison by Branch 1 of the Karaj Revolutionary Court. He has been detained since the summer of 2013.¹⁹⁴

¹⁸⁵ <http://news.bahai.org/story/1021>

¹⁸⁶ <http://www.ilna.ir/news/news.cfm?id=157330>, <http://news.gooya.com/politics/archives/2014/04/177877print.php>

¹⁸⁷ <http://www.farsnews.com/newstext.php?nn=13930923001403>

¹⁸⁸ <http://www.tasnimnews.com/Home/Single/592485>

¹⁸⁹ Interview Submitted to the Office of the Special Rapporteur, 19 December 2015.

¹⁹⁰ Interview Submitted to the Office of Special Rapporteur on 5 December 2014; <https://hra-news.org/fa/prisoners/b-361>

¹⁹¹ http://www.radiofarda.com/content/f14_at_least_14_bahai_arrested_in_isfahan_tehran/26857752.html

¹⁹² <http://www.iranhumanrights.org/2014/01/christian-new-year/>

¹⁹³ http://mohabatnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=806:iran-rounds-up-christians-in-crackdown&catid=36:iranian-christians&Itemid=279

¹⁹⁴ http://www.mohabatnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=7799:iran-christian-converts-fate-unknown-in-karaj-prison&catid=36:iranian-christians&Itemid=279

113. Christian leaders, including Pastor Farshid Fathi, continue to serve prison time apparently solely for exercising their internationally protected rights to freedom of belief, association, and expression.

D) Other Spiritual Movements

114. On 6 February 2015, Fars News Agency reported that 16 instructors from the *Erfan Halgheh* (“Inter-Universalism”) spiritual movement were sentenced to a total of 37 years in prison and fines of 130 million toman, on charges including blasphemy and obtaining illicit wealth.¹⁹⁵ (See “Reprisals” section for information on Mr. Mohammad Ali Taheri).

E) Sunni Muslims

(See section on prison conditions and access to medical care for case details on various Sunni [including ethnic Kurdish and ethnic Arab] individuals).

VI) Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights

A. Economic Rights

a) Right to Organize and Collectively Bargain

115. In August 2014, hundreds of workers from the Bafgh Iron Ore mines protested the arrest of nine of their colleagues, following strikes which had begun in May 2014 over a Government plan to privatize the mines.¹⁹⁶

116. In December 2014, at least three members of the Coordinating Committee to help form Workers’ Organizations in Iran were arrested.¹⁹⁷

117. On 1 March 2015, 2,000 teachers and school workers protested in Tehran against budget cuts in education and stagnating salaries for educators. Authorities had apparently rejected the strikers’ application for a legal rally in front of the Parliament.¹⁹⁸ Mr. Milad Darvish and Mr. Amir Hamzeh Asgari were apparently arrested at the rally, taken to Evin Prison, and later transferred to Raja’i Shahr Prison.¹⁹⁹

118. Other trade unionists and labor rights leaders imprisoned in Iran for protected activities include: Messrs. Reza Shahabi; Sharokh Zamani; Yousef Ab-Kharabat; Vahed Seyedeh; Afshin Nadimi; Mahmood Bagheri; Abdolreza Ghabari; and Rasoul Bodaghi; Milad Darvish; and Amir Hamzeh Asgari. The following four trade unionists and labor rights activists have been convicted for exercising protected rights but are awaiting the outcomes of appeals: Messrs. Khaled Hossein; Ali-Akbar Baghani; Mahmood Beheshti-Langaroudi; and Alireza Hashemi. Finally, at least six labor rights leaders have been sentenced to prison terms for protected activities and are at immediate risk of arrest to serve those terms: Messrs. Hassan Rassoulnejad; Jamal Minashiri; Hadi Tanoumand; Ghassem Mostafapour; Ebrahim Mostafapour; and Mr. Mohammad Karimi.²⁰⁰

¹⁹⁵ <http://www.farsnews.com/newstext.php?nn=13931115001752>

¹⁹⁶ <http://www.iranhumanrights.org/2014/08/bafgh-workers-strike/>

¹⁹⁷ http://www.khamahangy.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1981:1393-09-20-15-31-39&catid=10:1389-12-23-23-55-18&Itemid=26

¹⁹⁸ <http://en.iranwire.com/features/6342/>

¹⁹⁹ <https://hira-news.org/fa/prisoners/a-132>

²⁰⁰ <https://www.fidh.org/International-Federation-for-Human-Rights/asia/iran/16851-iran-imprisoned-unionists-face-new-unfair-trials-and-extended-prison-terms>

119. In its Reply to the Draft Report, the Government of Iran claims that no labor leaders are arrested for their defense of labor rights, and that the country's failure to accede to the two ILO conventions dealing with freedom of association has no negative impact on policy.

i. Labor actions permitted by authorities

120. Some labor groups have been permitted to advocate for their rights, including through ongoing actions by hundreds of workers at places like the Stephan Cement Company in Dizicheh, Esfahan Province,²⁰¹ and by *Yaz Khorramshahr Industry* workers.²⁰²

121. In August 2014, the head of administrative affairs at the security office of the *Iran-shahr* steam power plant claimed that the plant discriminated against members of the Balouch minority group. According to Mr. Mohammad Anvar Amiri, less than 40 of 400 employees there were Balouch, and more than 85% of plant supervisors were non-Balouch,²⁰³ in a region largely inhabited by that minority group.

122. In December 2014, around 700 nurses protested outside of the President's residence in Tehran against massive disparities in pay between doctors and nurses, the Government's failure to define nurses pay in accordance with the law, and to draw awareness to the dwindling number of nurses in the country.²⁰⁴

123. Also in December, around 900 workers from the Pars Wagon Factory were on strike to protest the dismissal by authorities of their workers' representative.²⁰⁵

ii. Public statements

124. In November 2014, the Secretary of the Mandazarin Province's Labor Council, Mr. Nabid Rasouli, criticized what he viewed as the Central Bank's and the Government's inadequate response to rising inflation rates: "Unfortunately, there is a great gap between the Central Bank's inflation rate and the minimum necessities for securing the livelihood of workers' families... The situation has put the most pressure on the workers' community; while the administration and parliament, as officials responsible for the current state of the economy, are debating political and elections discussions, the workers are getting poorer day by day for not being able to secure their livelihoods."²⁰⁶

125. In November 2014, Urmia MP Nader Ghazipour suggested that the minimum wage should be at least 2.5 million toman, in order to keep pace with inflation.²⁰⁷

²⁰¹ <http://www.ilna.ir/%D8%A8%D8%AE%D8%B4-%D9%88%D8%A7%D8%AD%D8%AF%D9%87%D8%A7-39/234524-%D8%B5%D8%AF%D9%87%D8%A7-%D8%AA%D9%86-%D8%A7%D8%B2-%DA%A9%D8%A7%D8%B1%DA%AF%D8%B1%D8%A7%D9%86-%D8%B3%DB%8C%D9%85%D8%A7%D9%86-%D8%B3%D9%BE%D8%A7%D9%87%D8%A7%D9%86-%D8%AE%D9%88%D8%A7%D8%B3%D8%AA%D8%A7%D8%B1-%D8%A8%D8%A7%D8%B2%DA%AF%D8%B4%D8%AA-%D8%A8%D9%87-%DA%A9%D8%A7%D8%B1-%D9%86%D9%85%D8%A7%DB%8C%D9%86%D8%AF%D9%87-%D8%A7%D8%AE%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%AC%DB%8C-%D8%B4%D8%A7%D9%86-%D8%B4%D8%AF%D9%86%D8%AF>

²⁰² <http://www.ilna.ir/%D8%A8%D8%AE%D8%B4-%D9%88%D8%A7%D8%AD%D8%AF%D9%87%D8%A7-39/233766-%D8%AA%D8%AC%D9%85%D8%B9-%D9%85%D8%AC%D8%AF%D8%AF-%DA%A9%D8%A7%D8%B1%DA%AF%D8%B1%D8%A7%D9%86-%DB%8C%D8%A7%D8%B3-%D8%AE%D8%B1%D9%85%D8%B4%D9%87%D8%B1-%DA%A9%D8%B3%DB%8C-%D8%A7%D8%B2-%D9%85%D8%A7-%D9%86%D9%85%DB%8C-%D9%BE%D8%B1%D8%B3%D8%AF-%DA%86%D8%B1%D8%A7-%D9%81%D8%B1%DB%8C%D8%A7%D8%AF-%D9%85%DB%8C-%D8%B2%D9%86%DB%8C%D8%AF>

²⁰³ <http://www.ilna.ir/news/news.cfm?id=195781>

²⁰⁴ <http://www.ilna.ir/%D8%A8%D8%AE%D8%B4-%D8%A7%D8%AC%D8%AA%D9%85%D8%A7%D8%B9-42/233069-%D8%AA%D8%AC%D9%85%D8%B9-%D9%BE%D8%B1%D8%B3%D8%AA%D8%A7%D8>; http://www.bbc.co.uk/persian/iran/2014/12/141214_nm_protest_nurse_hospital

²⁰⁵ <http://ilna.ir/news/news.cfm?id=237971>

²⁰⁶ <http://www.ilna.ir/news/news.cfm?id=219524>

²⁰⁷ <http://isna.ir/fa/news/93082714499/به-حداقل-حقوق-کارگران-به-2-میلیون-تومان-2-حد-اقل-حقوق-کارگران-به>

126. In August 2014, the head of the workers' faction in Iran's Parliament claimed the 90% of workers in Iran were living below the poverty line, and that many others weren't far from it.²⁰⁸ According to Iran's Labor Minister, a recent effort to make insurance more widely available resulted in the provision of insurance booklets to 4.8 million individuals.²⁰⁹

iii. Workplace safety

127. According to the National Medical Examiner's Office, there were 657 work-related deaths in the first four months of the current Iranian calendar year — an increase from 632 recorded over the same period last year. Falls from heights, injuries from blunt objects, and electrocution remained the top three causes of workplace deaths. During the same period, the Medical Examiner's office received reports of 10,109 cases of workplace accidents.²¹⁰ In August, an unnamed official suggested that only 10% of workers killed during the previous year were insured by the Social Security Organization.²¹¹

128. According to Tehran's Medical Examiner, there were 297 annual work-related deaths in the province by 1 November 2014; an increase over the previous year, when the figure for the same time period was 282.²¹²

129. In October 2014, Iran's Minister of Labor suggested that the incidence of on-site accidents in small workshops (housing 50 or less workers) could be reduced by employing in-house inspectors, rather than solely relying upon periodic and possibly infrequent inspections.²¹³

130. On 7 December 2014, Iran's Parliament passed an amendment to Article 5 of the Social Insurance of Construction Workers Law. The amendment was apparently intended to facilitate the extension of insurance to those still not possessing it, through new fees on employers and employees.²¹⁴

B) The plan to protect hijab and modesty and gender segregation in the workplace

(See Report for details of Bill).

C) Right to Health

A) Satellite Jamming and its health impacts

131. Iranian authorities reportedly continue to prosecute individuals for the possession and use of satellite dishes. In September 2014, police reportedly attempted to enter the home of 65-year-old Tehran resident Mr. Mohammad Ali Khouei. Police apparently continued to the rooftop of the building to search for satellite dishes after failing to produce proper identification, in line with Mr. Khouei's request and Iranian law. Due to the stressful nature of the event, Mr. Khouei, a war veteran, apparently suffered a fatal heart attack in front of neighbors.²¹⁵

132. In February 2014, Minister of Health, Dr. Seyyed Hassan Ghazizadeh, announced the formation of a special committee, including representatives from the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Information and Technology, and Iran's Atomic Energy Organization,

²⁰⁸ <http://ilna.ir/news/news.cfm?id=192832>

²⁰⁹ <http://ilna.ir/news/news.cfm?id=194078>

²¹⁰ <http://www.tasnimnews.com/Home/Single/499224>

²¹¹ <http://ilna.ir/news/news.cfm?id=193999>

²¹² <http://www.ilna.ir/news/news.cfm?id=235136>

²¹³ *Ibid.*

²¹⁴ <http://www.isna.ir/fa/news/93091609587/-با-تصویب-مجلس-کلیه-کارگران-ساختمانی-کشور->

²¹⁵ http://persian.iranhumanrights.org/1393/07/khoiee_mahvareh/

to investigate the potential health effects of satellite jamming.²¹⁶ The committee has yet to announce its findings. In October, Mr. Saeed Motassadi of the Department of the Environment also noted that “the topic of jamming causing cancer [has been] studied many times, and the possibility exists of this illness coming about in individuals as a result from the effects of jamming.”²¹⁷

B) LGBT (Supplemental to the “Transgender Iranians” section of the Report)

133. In its Reply to the Draft Report, the Government noted its support for the transgender community, and suggested that it was formulating policies to provide for increased health and financial assistance to members of that community. By contrast, the Government stated its total rejection of “homosexual behaviors.”
134. Mr. Ahmad Farzanpour was detained twice in Tehran; once in 2006 by authorities for confronting officials in a local mosque about the volume of the call-to-prayer, which he felt was contributing to his mother’s seizures, and once in 2011, after he returned to Iran from abroad, in connection with alleged participation in political protests while outside of the country. In 2006, Mr. Farzanpour was beaten while in detention in part because authorities had found videos on his mobile phone indicating that he is a member of the LGBT community. While detained in 2011, Mr. Farzanpour was held incommunicado without access to a lawyer or contact with family and was reportedly psychologically and psychologically abused. He was released informally and fled the country, but he continues to suffer from medical ailments reportedly related to beatings while in detention.²¹⁸

D. Land mines

135. The City Governor of Marivan, in the Kurdistan province, reported in October 2013 that seven children from the Neshkash village in Marivan were injured as a result of a land mine explosion there.²¹⁹ The children were reportedly unfamiliar with the risks of land mines and were playing with the object at an abandoned military base.²²⁰ As a result of the explosion, Garshin, an 11-year-old, lost her right leg; Ala, a six-year old, was injured in the eye; Behnoush, a nine-year-old, was injured on both hands, feet, and the abdomen; Sima, a five-year-old, was injured in the face, body, and feet; Zana, a 13-year-old was injured in the ear, head, and body; Khebat’s right eye was injured; and Matin, an eight-year old boy, was also injured.²²¹
136. A year after the incident, in October 2014, a lawyer representing the children reported their ongoing need for adequate medical care: “The girl [Garshin] who lost her leg in this incident does not have the means to purchase a prosthesis from the Red Crescent. Some of these families don’t even have the money to pay for a taxi service to visit the hospital or lawyer, or to even pursue the legal process after this incident [...] They don’t have money for the surgery to have the land mine fragments removed from their frail bodies.” He maintained that the land mines surround abandoned military bases and that sometimes heavy rains cause the movement of mines into municipal settlements, children’s playgrounds, and agricultural lands, and therefore continue to pose a “serious threat to the health and security of citizens in these areas.”²²²
137. A few days later, the Kurdistan Governor, in a meeting with the children of Neshkash who fell victim to land mine, reportedly apologized and noted that the Government had agreed to pay all treatment costs for the children, while reiterating that the clearing of Kurdistan’s border areas of land mines remained a priority for the administration.²²³ He admitted that the clearing of

²¹⁶ <http://www.iranhumanrights.org/2014/02/satellite-jamming/>

²¹⁷ <http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2014/10/iran-satellite-jamming-cancer.html#>

²¹⁸ Interview Submitted to the Office of the Special Rapporteur, July 2014.

²¹⁹ <http://old.etemadnewspaper.ir/Released/92-07-28/97.htm#255499>

²²⁰ <http://www.farsnews.com/newstext.php?nn=13920727000291>; <http://old.etemadnewspaper.ir/Released/92-07-28/97.htm#255499>

²²¹ <http://www.ana.ir/Home/Single/109068>

²²² *Ibid.*

²²³ <http://www.shabestan.ir/detail/News/408631>

contaminated areas was not 100% achieved, and highlighted the relevant difficulties by noting that there are still places in the world which were cleaned after World War I but still experience explosions.²²⁴

138. In its Reply, the Government points out that the land mines in the five western provinces of the country were planted by the former regime of Iraq during Iran-Iraq war and that it holds Iraq and “those countries that supported her in imposing war on Iran” responsible for them. The Government also points out that its post-war de-mining of contaminated areas was praised by the former ICRC chief in Tehran, the UN Resident Coordinator, a UNDP representative in Iran, and the Director General of Genève International Center for De-mining. Moreover, despite apparent Government requests for assistance for its Iran Mine Action Center, no aid has been forthcoming from the international community.

VII. Gender equality and women’s rights

A. The plan to promote virtue and prevent vice

139. The attacks against women in Esfahan coincided with a Parliamentary vote on the “Plan on Protection of Promoters of Virtue and Preventers of Vice,” introduced on 22 June 2014. The Bill defines “virtue and vice” as “any word or action that is instructed or prohibited by Shari’a law,” and extends the scope public officials’ conduct.²²⁵ According to Article 6 of the Draft Bill, “in fulfilling the duty to “promote virtue and prevent vice”, no one shall engage in any criminal act such as insult, defamation, assault, or murder, and people’s privacy should not be violated, unless with a court order.” However, according to Article 5, “apartments’ common spaces are not considered to be the private sphere.”²²⁶ The Bill also offers extensive protection to individuals engaging in “promoting virtue and preventing vice” verbally or through their writings. For instance, according to Article 10 of the Draft Bill, anyone who attempts to prevent or interrupt individuals “promoting virtue and preventing vice” will be prosecuted according to the Islamic Penal Code. If an individual is physically harmed during the process of “promoting virtue and preventing vice” and the perpetrator is unidentifiable or incapable of paying the proper financial compensation, the compensation shall be paid from funds allocated according to Article 10 of the Compulsory Vehicle Insurance Law, and the victim or his family would be entitled to receive benefits according to the Comprehensive Law to Service Veterans.²²⁷

140. The Bill also establishes the “Office to Promote Virtue and Prevent Vice,” composed of various authorities, including one of Friday Imam; the Ministers of Intelligence, Culture, Science, Education and Industry; and heads of the *basij*, police; State TV, and the Islamic Propagation Organization. This Office would assume responsibility for implementation of the Bill, including through issuing permissions for demonstrations to uphold the “promoting of virtue and preventing of vice.”

141. The Administration has raised concerns about passing this Draft Bill. On 19 October 2014, the Interior Minister announced that the Ministry had sent a letter to the Parliament requesting the Bill to be reconsidered by parliamentary commissions before introducing it to the floor.²²⁸ Mr. Majid Ansari, the Parliamentary Deputy of the President, also criticized the Bill²²⁹ for being contrary to the Iranian Constitution and for interfering with the Government’s authorities and duties.²³⁰

142. The financial resources necessary for implementation of the Bill would have to be allocated in the National Budget. The Bill imposes a heavy financial burden on Government; therefore, even if passed by the Parliament the Draft Bill might be rejected by the Guardian Council as violating Article 75 of the Iranian Constitution. On 11 December 2014, the floor rejected an amendment

²²⁴ *Ibid.*

²²⁵ Articles 2 and 10; http://rc.majlis.ir/fa/legal_draft/state/891734

²²⁶ http://rc.majlis.ir/fa/legal_draft/state/891734: “Areas that are visible to public without any investigation, such as the common spaces of apartments, hotels, hospitals and motor vehicles. are not subjected to privacy protections as defined by this law.”

²²⁷ http://rc.majlis.ir/fa/legal_draft/state/891734

²²⁸ <http://www.mehrnews.com/news/2392019/>

²²⁹ http://rc.majlis.ir/fa/legal_draft/state/891734

²³⁰ <http://www.irna.ir/fa/News/81363515/>

to the “Plan on Protection of Promoters of Virtue and Preventers of Vice” to require special trainings for members of the *basij* and IRGC who engage in “promoting virtue and preventing vice” beyond verbal warnings.”²³¹ On 3 January 2015, the Guardian Council ruled the Plan unconstitutional and sent it back to Parliament for reconsideration.

B. Violence against women

i) Acid attacks

143. On 16 October 2014, the *Iranian Students' News Agency* (ISNA) published a report on at least four incidents²³² of acid attacks during which women who were driving in the city of Esfahan were severely injured by acid thrown on them by unknown individuals. Rumors immediately spread on social media that the individuals might have been targeted on the basis of their clothing, and that the number of victims was higher than four. In a report on the attack of Ms. Soheila Jorkesh, one of the victims, *Farhikhtegan* Newspaper wrote on 20 October 2014 that “families of the Esfahan victims have claimed that before throwing acid on the victims, the perpetrators exclaimed: ‘We confront women with poor *hijab*.’”²³³
144. On 20 October 2014, Iran’s police chief, Mr. Esmail Ahmadi-Moghaddam, acknowledged that “around seven to eight people had been targeted in Esfahan.” He also said a that number of suspects had been detained but that the motives behind the attacks were still unknown.²³⁴
145. On 20 October 2014, the Judiciary’s Spokesperson, Mt. Gholamhossein Mohseni Ejei, also rejected any connection between the acid attacks and Islamic *hijab*: “Contrary to allegations made by certain websites, such claims have not yet been confirmed.”²³⁵ He also added that the case would be processed under rules for expedited judicial procedure. On 22 October 2014, the Security Deputy of the Interior Ministry denied allegations that the attacks were planned and conducted by a group and stated that “we are confident the attacks were carried out by one individual.”²³⁶ Iranian officials strongly rejected speculation that the women might have been targeted for what was perceived as improper clothing according to Islamic principles. This includes statements made on 23 October 2014 by the Head of the Office of the Deputy Commander in Chief of the Police, Mr. Adbolah Mahmoudzadeh, who announced that individuals accused of conducting acid attacks had been arrested by the police and that the incident was not related to improper clothing.²³⁷
146. On 13 November 2014, Mr. Ismaeli Moghadam, the Chief-of-Police, admitted that the perpetrator had not yet been arrested. He also announced that 380 acid attacks had been committed against individuals and private property over the past year.²³⁸
147. In its Reply to the present report, the Government notes that these grave actions were roundly and consistently condemned by Iranian authorities in the strongest terms, and admits that the perpetrators have not yet been arrested.
148. In its response to concerns raised by the Special Rapporteur in his 2014 Report to the General Assembly about the prevalence of violence against women in the country, and on shortcomings in national laws and institutional frameworks for addressing the problem, the Iranian Government maintained that domestic violence was a criminal offense and noted that legislation to legally define all forms of domestic violence was being considered.²³⁹ The Vice President for Women and Family Affairs announced on

²³¹ <http://www.donya-e-eqtesad.com/news/846615/>

²³² <http://www.isna.ir/fa/news/93072614051>

²³³ <http://www.iranhumanrights.org/2014/10/sotoudeh-on-acid-attacks/>

²³⁴ <http://www.tabnak.ir/fa/news/443897>

²³⁵ <http://www.isna.ir/fa/news/93072815861>

²³⁶ <http://www.farsnews.com/newstext.php?nn=13930730001715>

²³⁷ <http://www.irna.ir/fa/News/81360499/>

²³⁸ <http://www.donya-e-eqtesad.com/news/840843/>

²³⁹ See the Reply of the Islamic Republic of Iran: <http://shaheedoniran.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Response-of-the-Islamic-Republic-of-Iran-to-Draft-Report-of-Special.pdf>

29 November 2014 that the draft legislation to “Protect Women against Violence” has been submitted to the Administration’s Bills’ Commission, and said that her office had recommended that the Judiciary establish safe houses for abused women.²⁴⁰

ii. Freedom of assembly for protestors of acid attacks

149. On 22 October, over 2,000 protestors gathered in front of the Esfahan Justice Department to call on authorities to investigate the attacks. On the same day in Tehran, dozens of people demonstrated in solidarity with the victims in Esfahan by staging a gathering in front of the Iranian parliament and calling for investigations of the attacks and the provision of security for women in society.²⁴¹
150. In the days following the demonstrations of 22 October, the Governor of Esfahan stated that “any assembly on the matter is illegal,”²⁴² and the Chief of Police of Iran suggested that “all [protestors] have a common source, and they want to influence society [and] spread a climate of insecurity; fortunately none of their calls have been widely welcomed.”²⁴³ He also claimed that individuals and media advocating such demonstrations aim to “disseminate terror” in Iranian society.²⁴⁴
151. On 24 October 2014, Mr. Abed Fatahi, an Urumiah MP who had been the only Member of Parliament to visit the protestors, disagreed with negative views towards protests and stated that “women have the right to protest. Even if they sit in all the city squares as a sign of protest, they still have the right because the peace and comfort of women in our society has been negated; this is not a good thing. I’m sorry that some of the Members of Parliament are still trying to reduce the tragic story of acid attacks to [a story of] ‘love revenge.’ In my mind, there was something else behind the acid attacks, which I hope is not proven by the police investigation.”²⁴⁵
152. On 25 October 2014, several society activists, including Ms. Nasrin Sotoudeh, Mr. Peyman Aref and Ms. Giti Pourfazel, all of whom participated in a demonstration in protest of the attacks in front of the Interior Ministry in Tehran, were arrested for few hours.²⁴⁶

C) Women’s rights activists

153. A British-Iranian woman, Ms. Ghoncheh Ghavami, was arrested along with 15 other women who attempted to enter Azadi Stadium for a volleyball match between Iran and Italy’s national teams on 20 June 2014, in order to protest laws that prohibit women from sports arenas.²⁴⁷ Ms. Ghavami was arrested again on 30 June, allegedly due to content on her mobile phone, including text messages and photos.²⁴⁸ She was charged with “propaganda against the system,” and tried before Branch 26 of the Revolutionary Court on 14 October 2014. She was detained in solitary confinement for 41 days and transferred to Gharchak Varamin Prison on 5 November 2014. On 2 November 2014, Ms. Ghavami’s lawyer announced that he had been shown court

²⁴⁰ <http://www.isna.ir/fa/news/93090704166/>

²⁴¹ <http://www.tabnak.ir/fa/news/443827>

²⁴² http://www.bbc.co.uk/persian/iran/2014/10/141028_103_acid_attacks_isfahan

²⁴³ <http://www.mehrnews.com/news/2411458/اجازه-برگزاری-تجمع-های-غیر-قانونی-را-انمی-دهیم>

²⁴⁴ <http://www.ilna.ir/news/news.cfm?id=218142>

²⁴⁵ <http://aftabnews.ir/fa/news/267949/>

²⁴⁶ <http://www.dw.de/a-18020988>

²⁴⁷ <http://www.radiofarda.com/content/o2-iran-women-volleyball/25429978.html>;

<http://aftabnews.ir/fa/news/263042/>

documents stating that she was found guilty and had been sentenced to one year in prison.²⁴⁹ Ms Ghavami was released on bail on 23 November 2014.²⁵⁰

154. On 26 October 2014, Ms. Mahdieh Golroo, a student and women right's activist who had previously served 30 months in prison on charges of "assembly and collusion with the intent to disrupt national security" and "propaganda against the system" following the 2009 protest, was arrested by the IRGC and transferred to Ward 2A of Evin Prison.²⁵¹ Ms. Golroo was detained for a total of months without clear charges or access to legal counsel. Ms. Golroo was released on 27 January on bail until her trial date.²⁵²
155. Ms. Akram Neghabi, the mother of Mr. Saeed Zeynali, who has been missing since his arrest in 1999 by security forces, has been arrested on several occasions for pursuing and speaking out against the disappearance of her son, including 63 days spent in solitary confinement.²⁵³ Although she is currently at liberty, she still faces the risk of arrest and prosecution. Mr. Saeed Zeynali, a 23-year-old student, was arrested at his home in 1999 by plainclothes security forces. Mr. Zeynali was not involved in any serious political activity, except for protests to push then-President Khatami to follow up on campaign promises and to put an end to the "chain" serial killings. After months of searching, family members learned that Saeed had been arrested by Revolutionary Guards and taken to an unknown location. Since then he has been missing, with no information about his whereabouts and/or fate forthcoming.²⁵⁴
156. Ms. Atena Farghdani, an artist and child rights activist who was arrested in August 2014 and detained for 2.5 months in Ward 2A of Evin Prison, was transferred to Gharchak prison on 10 January 2015 after she was charged at Branch 15 of the Revolutionary Court with "propaganda against the system," "assembly and collusion against the system," "insulting" Members of Parliament, and "insulting members" of the IRGC and three branches of Government during her interrogation. Ms. Farghdani was allegedly beaten by the guards at the Revolutionary Court when she requested to visit her mother before being transferred to prison.²⁵⁵ After her release from Ward 21 Miss Farghdani wrote in an open letter to the President's and the Supreme Leader's offices that women's restrooms in Ward 2A of Evin prison are allegedly being monitored by security cameras. Ms Farghdani emphasized that she had previously filed a complaint about the existence of security cameras and the mistreatment she experienced under detention to prison authorities, but that it was not investigated. Ms. Farghdani embarked upon a hunger strike to protest her detention conditions in Gharchak prison on 9 February 2015. She is reportedly in very poor health condition due to her hunger strike, and has possibly been transferred to a hospital. Reports surfaced on 2 March 2015 that authorities may have agreed to transfer her to Evin Prison, in exchange for her ending her hunger strike.²⁵⁶
157. On 2 March 2015, Ms. Negar Haeri was released on bail from Gharchak Prison. She had been detained in July 2014, and was seemingly kept, without charge, in temporary detention since then. Ms. Haeri, who is a lawyer, appears to have been targeted by authorities on multiple occasions due to family members' affiliation with the MKO organization.²⁵⁷

²⁴⁹ <http://www.ilna.ir/%D8%A8%D8%AE%D8%B4-%D8%B3%DB%8C%D8%A7%D8%B3%D8%AA-%D8%AF%D8%A7%D8%AE%D9%84%DB%8C-24/219502-%DB%8C%DA%A9-%D8%B3%D8%A7%D9%84-%D8%AD%D8%A8%D8%B3-%D8%A8%D8%B1%D8%A7%DB%8C-%D8%BA%D9%86%DA%86%D9%87-%D9%82%D9%88%D8%A7%D9%85%DB%8C>

²⁵⁰ <http://www.isna.ir/fa/news/93090201433/>

²⁵¹ <http://persian.iranhumanrights.org/1393/08/mahdieh-ghalrou-2/>

²⁵² <http://www.kaleme.com/1393/11/07/klm-208486/>

²⁵³ <http://chrr.biz/spip.php?article11857>

²⁵⁴ http://www.bbc.co.uk/persian/iran/2013/07/130709_145_saeed_zeinali

²⁵⁵ <http://persian.iranhumanrights.org/1393/10/atenah-farghdani/>

²⁵⁶ <http://persian.iranhumanrights.org/1393/12/atenah-farghdani/>

²⁵⁷ <http://www.majzooban.org/en/news-and-exclusive-content/6591-prisoner-of-conscience-released-after-nine-months-of-%E2%80%9Ctemporary-detention%E2%80%9D-at-deplorable-facility.html>

VIII. Impunity

158. Ms. Nazafarin Sabouri, sister of Mr. Alireza Sabouri, has pushed for justice for her brother, who was shot near a *basij* station while attending the “silent march” on 15 June 2009, following the 2009 presidential election. According to Ms. Sabouri, one of the bullets fired from the station ricocheted and passed through his forehead. Protestors reportedly helped Mr. Sabouri to a hospital, where he was in a coma for about a month while his family searched for him. A medical report detailing the incident allegedly stated that Mr. Sabouri endured blunt force trauma from a baton used to strike him at least three dozen times. Mr. Sabouri reportedly suffered from loss of speech, urinary incontinence, and required a feeding-tube upon regaining consciousness. He was discharged from the hospital approximately a month after the incident, and reportedly suffered from amnesia and numbness in his hands and feet, and required additional surgery to remove four remaining bullet fragments from his head. Before he left the country for Turkey and then the United States, Mr. Sabouri was reportedly undergoing speech and physiotherapy at home for eight months. He passed away on 17 November 2011 in the United States.²⁵⁸

159. Mr. Reza Zoghi participated in the post-2009 presidential election protests. He was allegedly arrested and handcuffed by plainclothes officers alongside 20-25 protestors, on 9 July 2009, and was then reportedly transferred to the Security Police Office and Prevention Center, where he was interrogated three times, beaten, and accused by authorities of intending to overthrow the State. The approximately 300 detainees were apparently told that “if they were still alive [when they arrived at the Kahrizak Detention Facility], then their cases would be investigated. Mr. Zoghi rejected his charges, which included “acting against national security,” “destruction of public property,” and “cooperation with espionage networks outside of the country.” At Kahrizak, the officers allegedly hit Mr. Zoghi with PVC pipe two or three times on the head and body. During his five days at Kahrizak he was asked to do squat exercises outside in the heat and to walk on his knees. The prisoners were also apparently exposed to pest control chemicals, which caused some to have difficulty breathing. On the fifth day, Mr. Zoghi, alongside other detainees, was transferred to Evin prison, where he allegedly had no access to legal council and was not allowed to contact his family until the 14th day. At Evin Prison, interrogators reportedly asked Mr. Zoghi to plead guilty to all five of his charges in order to be released. He was blindfolded, questioned about relatives outside the country, and beaten. He was released on 28-29 July 2009 on 20-million *toman* bail. In August 2009, Mr. Zoghi, alongside other former Kahrizak detainees, filed a lawsuit against the Kahrizak officers at the Disciplinary Court. The first trial took place in late August 2009, at the Revolutionary Court of Tehran, in the presence of various officials, and lasted approximately 20 minutes. Officials, however, reportedly consistently called Mr. Zoghi’s telephone through October-November 2009 in order to convince him to drop his case by implying that other plaintiffs had done so, which he later learned to be false. Mr. Zoghi maintained that he eventually decided to not pursue the case in court in partly due to such pressure, including the Police Security Office reportedly threatening him against speaking publicly about the case, or else face prosecution for his still-open case. In March 2013, police arrested Mr. Zoghi for going to the Behesht Zahra cemetery (the burial place of some of individuals who died at Kahrizak) and threatened him with 20-years imprisonment if he continued to visit there. He was allegedly compelled to sign a pledge confirming he was not in contact with the families of former Kahrizak detainees and would not visit the cemetery again. In April 2013, Security Police went to Mr. Zoghi’s house with a search-and-arrest warrant and confiscated his laptop and personal documents, including a letter from the Medical Examiner’s office which had confirmed his injuries from his original detention. Mr. Zoghi has since left the country.²⁵⁹

²⁵⁸ Interview Submitted to the Office of the Special Rapporteur, November 2014.

²⁵⁹ Interview Submitted to the Office of the Special Rapporteur, July 2014.

ANNEX B - LISTS OF DETAINED BAHÁ'IS AND STUDENT ACTIVISTS

Table 1: Detained Iranians from the Baha'i Community

Chart and contents provided by: Baha'i International Community (BIC)

Note: This list is not exhaustive; it does not include individuals for whom specific charges are not yet known.

Name	Arrest Date	Prison	Date of Trial / Court order issued	Sentence	Charges
Mrs. Mahvash Shahriari Sabet	May 25, 2005	Evin Prison	Without trial	Released on bail	Participation in the training institute
	Mar 5, 2008	Mashhad ; Evin-Prison-2 6 May 2008; Rajaiesh ahr 9-Aug-10; Qarchak Prison; Evin 18-May-11; Currentl y: Tehran (Evin)	Trial ended 14-Jun-10	20 years' imprisonment	1) Engaging in propaganda against the regime of the Islamic Republic of Iran; 2) espionage in support of the tyrannical, fabricated and occupying regime of Israel; 3) Forming and managing illegal groups and gatherings to for the purpose of disruption to the national security of Iran; 4) Collaboration with the tyrannical, fabricated, hostile and occupying regime of Israel against the Islamic Republic of Iran; 5) Conspiracy and assembly for the purpose of action against the internal and external security of Iran and to tarnish the reputation of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the international arena; 6) Participation in collecting classified documents and providing them to foreigners with the purpose of disruption the national security
Mrs. Fariba Kamalabadi Taefi	May 25, 2005	Evin Prison	Without trial	Released on bail	Participation in the training institute
	Jul 26, 2005	Mashhad ; Transferred to Tehran	Without trial	Released on bail	

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Name	Arrest Date	Prison	Date of Trial / Court order issued	Sentence	Charges
	May 14, 2008	Evin 14-05-08 ; Rajaieshahr 9-Aug-10; Qarchak Prison Evin 18-May-11; Currently: Tehran (Evin)	Trial ended 14-Jun-10	20 years' imprisonment	1) Engaging in propaganda against the regime of the Islamic Republic of Iran; 2) espionage in support of the tyrannical, fabricated and occupying regime of Israel; 3) Forming and managing illegal groups and gatherings to for the purpose of disruption to the national security of Iran; 4) Collaboration with the tyrannical, fabricated, hostile and occupying regime of Israel against the Islamic Republic of Iran; 5) Conspiracy and assembly for the purpose of action against the internal and external security of Iran and to tarnish the reputation of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the international arena; 6) Participation in collecting classified documents and providing them to foreigners with the purpose of disruption the national security
Mr. Afif Naimi	May 14, 2008	Evin 14-05-08 ; Rajaieshahr 9-Aug-10	Trial ended 14-Jun-10	20 years' imprisonment	1) Engaging in propaganda against the regime of the Islamic Republic of Iran; 2) espionage in support of the tyrannical, fabricated and occupying regime of Israel; 3) Forming and managing illegal groups and gatherings to for the purpose of disruption to the national security of Iran; 4) Collaboration with the tyrannical, fabricated, hostile and occupying regime of Israel against the Islamic Republic of Iran; 5) Conspiracy and assembly for the purpose of action against the internal and external security of Iran and to tarnish the reputation of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the international arena; 6) Participation in collecting classified documents and providing them to foreigners with the purpose of disruption the national security

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Name	Arrest Date	Prison	Date of Trial / Court order issued	Sentence	Charges
Mr. Saeid Rezaie Tazangi	May 25, 2005	Evin 14-05-08 ; Rajaiesh ahr 9-Aug-10; Qarchak Prison Evin 18-May-11; Currentl y: Tehran (Evin)	Was not tried	Released on bail	N/A
	May 14, 2008	Evin 14-05-08 ; Rajaiesh ahr 9-Aug-10	Trial ended 14-Jun-10	20 years' imprisonment	1) Engaging in propaganda against the regime of the Islamic Republic of Iran; 2) espionage in support of the tyrannical, fabricated and occupying regime of Israel; 3) Forming and managing illegal groups and gatherings to for the purpose of disruption to the national security of Iran; 4) Collaboration with the tyrannical, fabricated, hostile and occupying regime of Israel against the Islamic Republic of Iran; 5) Conspiracy and assembly for the purpose of action against the internal and external security of Iran and to tarnish the reputation of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the international arena; 6) Participation in collecting classified documents and providing them to foreigners with the purpose of disruption the national security
Mr. Behrouz Azizi Tavakkoli	Jul 26, 2005	Mashhad ; Transferr ed to Tehran	Without trial	Released on bail	Membership of Yaran (group managing the affairs of the Bahá'í community in Iran) and involvement in teaching the [Bahá'í Faith]

ANNEX B - LISTS OF DETAINED BAHAI'S AND STUDENT ACTIVISTS

Table 1: Detained Iranians from the Baha'i Community

Chart and contents provided by: Baha'i International Community (BIC)

Note: This list is not exhaustive; it does not include individuals for whom specific charges are not yet known.

Name	Arrest Date	Prison	Date of Trial / Court order issued	Sentence	Charges
	May 14, 2008	Evin 14-May-08; Rajaiesh ahr 9-Aug-10	Trial ended 14-Jun-10	20 years' imprisonment	1) Engaging in propaganda against the regime of the Islamic Republic of Iran; 2) espionage in support of the tyrannical, fabricated and occupying regime of Israel; 3) Forming and managing illegal groups and gatherings to for the purpose of disruption to the national security of Iran; 4) Collaboration with the tyrannical, fabricated, hostile and occupying regime of Israel against the Islamic Republic of Iran; 5) Conspiracy and assembly for the purpose of action against the internal and external security of Iran and to tarnish the reputation of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the international arena; 6) Participation in collecting classified documents and providing them to foreigners with the purpose of disruption the national security
Mr. Vahid Tizfahm	May 14, 2008	Evin 14-05-08 ; Rajaiesh ahr 9-Aug-10	Trial ended 14-Jun-10	20 years' imprisonment	1) Engaging in propaganda against the regime of the Islamic Republic of Iran; 2) espionage in support of the tyrannical, fabricated and occupying regime of Israel; 3) Forming and managing illegal groups and gatherings to for the purpose of disruption to the national security of Iran; 4) Collaboration with the tyrannical, fabricated, hostile and occupying regime of Israel against the Islamic Republic of Iran; 5) Conspiracy and assembly for the purpose of action against the internal and external security of Iran and to tarnish the reputation of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the international arena; 6) Participation in collecting classified documents and providing them to foreigners with the purpose of disruption the national security
Mr. Davar Nabilzadeh	04/05 August-05	Mashhad	89/1/16 - 89/3	5 years imprisonment and 10 year ban on leaving the country	Activities against national security, propaganda against the regime and membership in the unlawful Bahaism administration

ANNEX B - LISTS OF DETAINED BAHAI'S AND STUDENT ACTIVISTS

Table 1: Detained Iranians from the Baha'i Community

Chart and contents provided by: Baha'i International Community (BIC)

Note: This list is not exhaustive; it does not include individuals for whom specific charges are not yet known.

Name	Arrest Date	Prison	Date of Trial / Court order issued	Sentence	Charges
	15-Jul-10-- began serving sentence (see "additional information tab)	Mashhad	None	None	None
Mr. Jalayer Vahdat	Aug 4, 2005	Mashhad	5-Apr-10	Unknown	Activities against national security, propaganda against the regime and membership in the unlawful Bahai administration
	Jan 26, 2009	Mashhad	May-10	5 years imprisonment and 10 year ban on leaving the country	Charges unknown
	24-Oct-10-- Started serving sentence	Mashhad	First court on 15/16-Aug-09. Then: 25-Oct-09 (sentence was appealed)	Sentence of 5 years imprisonment and 10 years not leaving the country was changed to 5 years imprisonment	Teaching against the regime, taking action against national security, and illegal dissemination of CDs, teaching the Faith, and insulting religious sanctities
Mrs. Sima Eshraghi	Aug 6, 2005	Vakilabad, Mashhad	Unknown	Unknown	Propaganda in favour of Bahaism

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Note: This list is not exhaustive; it does not include individuals for whom specific charges are not yet known.

Name	Arrest Date	Prison	Date of Trial / Court order issued	Sentence	Charges
(Aghdaszadeh)	Jan 26, 2009	Vakilabad, Mashhad	05-April-10, 24-Oct-10	5 years	Activities against national security, propaganda against the regime and membership in the unlawful Bahaism administration
Mr. Afshin Safaieyan	Feb 27, 2011	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Proselytizing
Mr. Kamran Mortezaie	May 22, 2011	Evin; Gohardasht	25-Sep-11, verdict issued on 17-Oct-11	5 years' imprisonment	Membership of the deviant Bahaist sect, with the goal of taking action against the security of the country, in order to further the aims of the deviant sect and those of organizations outside the country
Ms. Noushin Khadem	May 22, 2011	Evin	27-09-2011; verdict issued on 17-Oct-11	4 years' imprisonment	Membership of the deviant Bahaist sect, with the goal of taking action against the security of the country, in order to further the aims of the deviant sect and those of organizations outside the country
Mr. Mahmoud Badavam	May 22, 2011	Evin; Transferred to Gohardasht	27-09-2011; verdict issued on 17-Oct-11	4 years' imprisonment	Membership of the deviant Bahaist sect, with the goal of taking action against the security of the country, in order to further the aims of the deviant sect and those of organizations outside the country
Mr. Ramin Zibaie	May 22, 2011	Evin; Transferred to Gohardasht	01-oct-11; verdict issued on 17-Oct-11	4 years' imprisonment	Membership of the deviant Bahaist sect, with the goal of taking action against the security of the country, in order to further the aims of the deviant sect and those of organizations outside the country
Mr. Farhad Sedghi	May 22, 2011	Evin; Gohardasht	20-09-2011; verdict issued on 17-Oct-11	4 years' imprisonment	Membership of the deviant Bahaist sect, with the goal of taking action against the security of the country, in order to further the aims of the deviant sect and those of organizations outside the country

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Mr. Riaz Sobhani	Jun 14, 2011	Evin; Gohardasht	1 - Oct-11; Verdict issued on 17-Oct-11	4 years' imprisonment	Assembly and conspiracy and activity against national security
Behfar Khanjani	Was not arrested or imprisoned, only sentenced	Semnan	Trial held in absentia	On 22 January 2007, sentenced to four months' imprisonment in absentia. Sentence suspended for four years. He will only be asked to serve if he commits an offence. If no offence is committed within the next four years, sentence will automatically be revoked.	Propaganda against the government by way of distributing the letter from the Bahá'í community addressed to the Esteemed President of the Islamic Republic of Iran
	Jan 6, 2010	Semnan Prison	Was not tried	Released on bail	Propaganda against the regime and activity against national security

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Chart and contents provided by: Baha'i International Community (BIC)

Note: This list is not exhaustive; it does not include individuals for whom specific charges are not yet known.

Name	Arrest Date	Prison	Date of Trial / Court order issued	Sentence	Charges
	21 June 2011 - began serving sentence	Semnan Prison	Trial held on 17 April 2010. Court order issued on 4 May 2010. Appeal hearing was held on 9 January 2011 in the Court of Appeal of province of Semnan. Appeal was denied on 6 February 2011.	4 years imprisonment	1) Forming groups, and membership in assemblies and groups as described in the indictment, [to wit,] formation of groups and membership in groups and assemblies such as 19-Day Feasts; youth committees; the Ruhi program; language groups; professional [development] groups; devotional gatherings; news sharing gatherings; athletic, arts, and education committees, etc., with the intention of disturbing the national security; 2) Activities against national security through propaganda against the regime, as described in the indictment, [to wit,] through espionage for the enemies, and making efforts to develop and expand the perverse sect of Bahá'ism, as well as penetrating the financial, governmental, and civil cores and disseminating perverse information against Islám and exploiting the religious sanctities [of Muslims]; 3) Use, possession and distribution of 63 illegal compact discs containing appalling and offensive material as described in the indictment.
Mr. Afshin Heyratian	Jun 3, 2010	Evin		4 years imprisonment	Charged with activities related to human rights issues and writing articles
	Aug 20, 2011	Evin; transferred to Gohardasht	6-Nov-10	4 years imprisonment (sentence was appealed)	Assembly and conspiracy, with criminal intent, against national security and membership in the perverse sect of Bahá'ism.

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Chart and contents provided by: Baha'i International Community (BIC)

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Name	Arrest Date	Prison	Date of Trial / Court order issued	Sentence	Charges
Mr. Kamran Rahimian	Sep 13, 2011	Transferred to Gohardasht in December	Sentence issued on 01 February 2012	4 years imprisonment	1) Conspiracy and assembly with the intention to act against the national security by membership in perverse Bahaist sect as the primary director of the Department of Psychology at the illegal Bahaist university under the direction of the House of Justice; 2) Earning illegal income in the sum of 750,000,000 rial (This charge was withdrawn)
Mr. Hasan-Gholi) Delavarmanesh	Sep 4, 2011	Transferred to Yasouj on 22 May 2012			creating public nuisance, non-compliance with the judgement of confiscation of property, and forcible entry and detainer of others' property
Mr. Afshin Ighani	May 16, 2005	Semnan	Verdict issued on 12-April 2006; Appeals court verdict issued on 21 September 2006	91 days imprisonment, suspended for four years; Sentence upheld in appeals court	1) Creating anxiety in the minds of the public and those of the Iranian officials; 2) propaganda against the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran
	Jan 5, 2010	Semnan			
		Semnan	Tried on 04 April 2010; 05-May-2010	4 years', 3 months' and 1 day's imprisonment; Sentence upheld in appeals court	1) Formation of a group and membership in illegal groups and assemblies with the intention of disturbing national security; 2) Actions against national security through propaganda against the regime, i.e., propaganda for the perverse sect of Bahaism.
Mrs. Sousan Badavam (Farhangi)	23/24-Oct-11				

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Name	Arrest Date	Prison	Date of Trial / Court order issued	Sentence	Charges
Ms. Shiva Kashaninejad (Samiiian)	23/24-Oct-11	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Propaganda against the regime and activity against national security
Mr. Shahrokh Taef	Mar 6, 2005	Evin	Unknown	Unknown	Collaboration with the Yaran on financial matters
	Jan 14, 2009	Evin	Unknown		Collaboration with the Yaran on financial matters
	17-Jan-12 - Began serving his sentence	Evin; Rajaishahr (Karaj)	13-Feb-11; 16-Jan-12 appeal	4 years' imprisonment sentence upheld in appeals court	Illegal membership in anti-security group and perverse Bahaism with purpose of taking action against national security
Mr. Foad Khanjani	Apr 27, 2010	Evin		Release on bail	Participating in the demonstrations on the Day of Ashura.
	17-Jan-12 - Began serving his sentence	Evin; Gohardasht (Karaj)	Unknown	4 years' imprisonment sentence upheld in appeals court	Propaganda against the regime and participating in demonstration
Mr. Payam Taslimi	Feb 3, 2012	Ministry of Intelligence detention centre to Adelabad prison 20-Mar-2012	Jun-14	20 months imprisonment	Participation in illegal groups for the purpose of disrupting national security

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Name	Arrest Date	Prison	Date of Trial / Court order issued	Sentence	Charges
Ms. Semitra Momtazian	Feb 5, 2012	Ministry of Intelligence detention centre to Adelabad prison 20-Mar-2012	Jun-14	20 months imprisonment; sentence has been suspended for 3 years	Participation in illegal groups for the purpose of disrupting national security
Mr. Shahram Chiniyan Miandoab	December/January 2008	Evin prison	24-May-08		Membership in Bahá'í groups and engagement in propaganda against the regime
	February-2012 - began serving sentence	Evin prison; later transferred to Rajaieshahr prison	Tried 27 June 2011; Sentenced on 2 July 2011	8 years imprisonment and a fine of 3,000,000 rial.	Membership in Bahaiism with the purpose of disturbing the security of state, insulting Islamic sanctities, and keeping equipment for receiving satellite
Ms. Negar Malekzadeh	Apr 2, 2012	Mashhad	Verdict issued on 24-10-2013	6 months' imprisonment	Organizing art exhibit for youth
Mr. Ighan Shahidi	Mar 3, 2010	Rajaishahr		Release on bail	Propaganda against the regime and activity against national security

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Chart and contents provided by: Baha'i International Community (BIC)

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Name	Arrest Date	Prison	Date of Trial / Court order issued	Sentence	Charges
	Apr 1, 2012	Reported to Tehran's Evin prison from Kermanshah; transferred to Gohardasht on 11 April 2012	28-Jun-11	5 years' imprisonment	Collaboration with human rights activists
Mrs. Atiyeh Anvari	May 20, 2012	Esfahan			Teaching activities and forming junior youth groups
Mr. Mohammad Hosein Nakhaei	May 13, 2012	(Mohammadiyeh) Birjand Central Prison	Unknown	3 years	Teaching Bahá'ism and disseminating pamphlets
Mr. Faran Khan Yaghma	Jun 9, 2012				
Mr. Azizollah Samandari	Jan 14, 2009	Evin	Unknown	Release on bail	Activities against National Security, association with hostile countries, teaching the Faith
	Jul 7, 2012	Karaj: transferred to Rajaieshahr 04 October 2012	Unknown	4 years	Collaboration with the Yaran (group managing the affairs of the Bahá'í community in Iran) providing information technology support

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Name	Arrest Date	Prison	Date of Trial / Court order issued	Sentence	Charges
Mr. Adel Naimi	Jul 10, 2012	Evin; Transferred to Karaj (Gohardasht), 2-Feb-2013	Date tried: 24-April-2013	Initially 11 years imprisonment, changed to 10 years.	Initially announced: a. Activity against national security; b. Espionage; c. Participating in the clandestine organization of Bahaism. In court document: Organizing the Bahaist sect, teaching; holding [self-defense] spray; engaging in propaganda against the regime of the Islamic Republic of Iran
Mr. Shayan Tafazzoli	Feb 17, 2012	Vakilabad	Unknown	6 months imprisonment	Holding an Art Exhibition, organising youth programmes
	Jun 2, 2014	Vakilabad	Court hearing has not taken place	Unknown	Propaganda against the regime through the Bahá'í administration
Mr. Sina Aghdasizadeh	Jul 11, 2012	Tabriz	23-Feb-13 / 26-Feb-2013	4 months imprisonment; sentence suspended for 3 years	Formation of an illegal group with intent to harm the national security of the state of the Islamic Republic - propaganda against the regime of the Islamic Republic
Mr. Rahman Vafaie	Jul 14, 2012	Temporary detention; transferred to Adelabad Prison 20-Sep-12	Summoned to court on 09 January 2013, told his case would be reviewed on 19 February 2013	2 years' imprisonment	Membership in illegle groups in opposition to regime, Propaganda against thre regime in the interest of groups in opposition to regime

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Name	Arrest Date	Prison	Date of Trial / Court order issued	Sentence	Charges
Mr. Hamid Eslami	Jul 14, 2012	Temporary detention ; transferred to Adelabad Prison 20-Sep-12	Unknown	Unknown	Membership in illegle groups in opposition to regime, Propaganda against thre regime in the interest of groups in opposition to regime
Mrs. Faran Hesami (Rahimian)	Sep 14, 2011	Evin	14-Sep-11	4 years imprisonment	Using falsely obtained degrees, illegal counselling, running illegal classes, defrauding the public, and spreading prostitution
	Jul 15, 2012	Evin	Court order issued: 21 January 2012; appeals order issued 09 May 2012.	4 years' imprisonment	a. Conspiracy and assembly with the intention to act against the national security by membership in perverse Bahaist sect as the primary director of the Department of Psychology at the illegal Bahaist university under the direction of the House of Justice; b. Earning illegal income in the sum of 7,000,000 tuman. (dismissed)
Mr. Vahed Kholousi	Aug 23, 2011	Evin		Release on bail	Collaboration with human rights activists
	Aug 22, 2012	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Initially:“involvement in subversive political activities against the regime through providing assistance to the earthquake victims”; Changed to:“distributing contaminated food”

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Name	Arrest Date	Prison	Date of Trial / Court order issued	Sentence	Charges
Mr. Navid Khanjani	Mar 2, 2010	Nikbakht detention center in Esfahan; Flown to Tehran on 3-Mar-10 (Evin)	Unknown	Unknown	Collaboration with human rights activists
	Aug 22, 2012	Tabriz; Later transferred to Gohardasht 10 September 2012	Court of appeal upheld verdict 10-Aug-11	12 years' imprisonment + 5 million rial (~US\$500) fine	Engaging in human rights activities, illegal assembly (in support of university students deprived of higher education), and disturbance of the general public's opinion
Mr. Shayan Vahdati	Aug 22, 2012	Tabriz	Unknown	Acquitted	Initially: "involvement in subversive political activities against the regime through providing assistance to the earthquake victims"; Changed to "distributing contaminated food"
Mr. Kayvan Rahimian	Summoned 28 July 2011	Evin	27-Feb-12	Release on bail	Using falsely obtained degrees, illegal counselling, running illegal classes, defrauding the public
	Sep 30, 2012	Evin; Rjai Shahr (4-Oct-2012)	12-Jun-12	5 years' imprisonment + 97,877,000 rial fine (~US \$8,000)	Assembly and collusion with intent to commit acts of crime against national security, membership in the perverse sect of Bahá'ism, and earning illegal income
Mrs. Zohreh Nikayin	Mar 12, 2011	Semnan		Release on bail	Propaganda against the regime

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Name	Arrest Date	Prison	Date of Trial / Court order issued	Sentence	Charges
(Tebyania) and infant child	Sep 22, 2012	Semnan	Was interrogated for 4 hours on 16 April 2011 (almost two weeks after her release). Trial held on 7 August 2011 in absentia. Sentence issued on 8 December 2011	Initially: 7 years imprisonment as well as confiscation of materials and documents related to the illegal organization of Bahaism; This sentence was reduced to: 23 months imprisonment by the appeals court	1) Forming illegal administrative groups known as moral education classes with intent to attract Muslims and to promote the ideologies of the perverse sect of Bahaism, and being present among Muslims; 2) Membership in groups and illegal organizations, including the Ruhi institute, organizing gatherings, science and technology [sic], and Nineteen Day Feasts for the purpose of propaganda [against] the sacred regime of the Islamic Republic of Iran and in the interest of Bahaism; 3) Propaganda against the sacred regime of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the interest of anti-regime groups through receiving messages and instructions issued by the House of Justice, and "implementation of such instructions"
Ms. Taraneh Torabi (Ehsani) and infant child	Mar 12, 2011	Semnan	Unknown	Release on bail	Propaganada against regime
Mr. Farhad Fahandej	Oct 17, 2012	Gorgan; Rajaieshahr	Unknown	10 years imprisonment	Collaboration with hostile governments, disturbing national security, propaganda against the regime, formation of hostile groups
Mr. Farahmand Sanaie	Oct 17, 2012	Gorgan; Evin 22-Nov-12; Rajaieshahr	Unknown	5 years imprisonment	Collaboration with hostile governments, disturbing national security, propaganda against the regime, formation of hostile groups

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Mr. Kamal Kashani	Oct 17, 2012	Gorgan; Evin 22-Nov-12; Rajaieshahr	Unknown	5 years imprisonment	Collaboration with hostile governments, disturbing national security, propaganda against the regime, formation of hostile groups
Ms. Shahnam Jazbani	Oct 17, 2012	Gunbad Prison/ Gunbad Ministry of Intelligence detention center	Was not announced	Unknown	Propaganda against the regime and Islam through teaching the Bahá'í Faith
Mr. Siamak Sadri	Nov 18, 2012	Gorgan; Evin 22-Nov-12; Rajaieshahr.	Sentenced May 2013	5 years imprisonment	Collaboration with hostile governments, disturbing national security, propaganda against the regime, formation of hostile groups
Mr. Payam Markazi	Nov 18, 2012	Gorgan; Evin 22-Nov-12; Rajaieshahr.	Sentenced May 2013	5 years imprisonment	Collaboration with hostile governments, disturbing national security, propaganda against the regime, formation of hostile groups
Mr. Foad Fahandej	Nov 18, 2012	Gorgan; Evin 22-Nov-12; Rajaieshahr	Sentenced May 2013	5 years imprisonment	Collaboration with hostile governments, disturbing national security, propaganda against the regime, formation of hostile groups
Mr. Kourosh Ziari	Nov 20, 2012	Transferred to Gorgan; Evin 23-Nov-12; Rajaieshahr	Court hearing: 24 April 2013, Issuance of verdict: 21 May 2013	5 years imprisonment	Managing an illegal group for [the purpose] of disturbing [national] security

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Mr. Adnan Rahmatpanah	Dec 12, 2012	Shiraz	Unknown	Unknown	Propaganda against the regime and activity against national security
Mr. Shahin Negari Namaghi	22-May-11	Rajaieshahr (Gohardasht)	Unknown	Release on bail	Collaboration with Bahá'í Institute for Higher Education
	13-January-2013 - began serving sentence	Rajaishahr (Gohardasht)	Unknown	4 years' imprisonment	Collaboration with Bahá'í Institute for Higher Education
Dr. Foad Moghaddam	May 22, 2011	Dastgerd ; Transferred to Evin 24-May-11	Without trial	Release on bail	Collaboration with Bahá'í Institute for Higher Education
	January-2012 - began serving sentence	Gohardasht	Tried 30 June 2012; Sentence issued 09 July 2012; Appealed verdict without result.	5 years' imprisonment under Ta'zir law	Collaboration with Bahá'í Institute for Higher Education
Mr. Vousagh Sanaie	Jan 20, 2013	Gohardasht			Attempty to form the unlawful Bahá'í administration
Mr. Sahand Masoumian	Mar 6, 2013	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown

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Mr. Pooya Tebyanian	Mar 8, 2009	Semnan	Tried 15 April 2009; Verdict issued 31 May 2009; Appeal court verdict 29-April-2010	18 months imprisonment	Propaganda against the regime
	Mar 12, 2011	Semnan	Tried on 16-Apr-12; Appeals verdict issued 12 August 2012	6.5 years' imprisonment	Propaganda against the regime of the Islamic Republic of Iran and membership in and organizing illegal groups and assemblies
Mr. Shamim Ettehadí	Aug 26, 2011	Yazd	Tried on 18-April-2012; Verdict issued on 23 April 2012	91 days' imprisonment, suspended for 3 years	Engaging in propaganda against the regime of the Islamic Republic of Iran by forming gatherings and collaboration with the Bahaist sect
	Mar 19, 2013	Yazd	Court hearing: 24 May 2013, Issuance of verdict: 15 June 2013	5 years imprisonment under ta'zir law+ 75 lashes and 2 million tuman cash fine. Appealed sentence.	Collaboration with satellite networking

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Mr. Babak Zeinali	Apr 13, 2015	Bandar-Abbas	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Mr. Amanollah Mostaghim	May 22, 2011	Shiraz; Evin		Release on bail	Collaboration with the Bahá'í Institute for Higher Education
Ms. Nika Kholousi	Sep 26, 2012	Mashhad	25-Dec-12	Release on bail	Activitiy against national security and propaganda against the regime
	Mar 30, 2013	Mashhad	6-May-13	6 years imprisonment - verdict appealed	Activity against national security and propaganda against the regime
Ms. Nava Kholousi	Sep 26, 2012	Mashhad	24-Jan-13	Release on bail	Propaganda against the regime and activity against national security
	Mar 30, 2014	Mashhad	15-Apr-13	4.5 years imprisonment - verdict appealed	Propaganda against the regime and activity against national security
Mr. Afrasiyab Sobhani	May 14, 2012	Semnan	Without trial	Release on bail	propaganda against the regime
	11-June-2013 - began serving sentence	Semnan	Tried 17 June 2012 - sentence issued 23 June 2012	1 year imprisonment	1) Forming and managing some groups and gatherings affiliated with Bahá'í; 2) Memebership in some other groups and committees; 3) Propaganda activities against the regime and in support of the Bahá'í community

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Ms. Rozita Vaseghi	Summoned twice on 04 April 2009 and 15 May 2009 and was released after interrogations	Mashhad - Transferred to Vakilabad Prison on 26 September 2010	Summoned to court 15/16 August 2009; Final hearing 25-October-2009; Sentence upheld in court of appeal; Again tried on 20-Dec-2010	Five year imprisonment - verdict appealed.	Activity against national security, propaganda against the regime, membership in the unlawful Bahá'í administration
Mr. Vahid Tondrow Taghvajou	Sep 10, 2013	Marvdasht; transferred to Vakilabad in Shiraz	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Ms. Nasim Ashrafi	Aug 5, 2005		5-Sep-05	10 months of imprisonment	Opposition to the Islamic Republic of Iran
	Jul 10, 2012	Unknown	Unknown	Three years imprisonment under Ta'azir law reduced to one year in the appeals court.	Propaganda against the regime and activity against national security

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	06 May 2014 - began serving sentence	Transferred to Evin	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Mr. Sarang Ettehadí	Jul 10, 2012	Evin	Without trial	Release on bail	Propaganda against the regime and activity against national security
		Evin; Transferred to Gohardasht	12 January 2014 (trial occurred in abstentia)	5 years imprisonment under Ta'zir law. Sentence appealed.	Propaganda against the regime and activity against national security through membership in the Baha'i administration.
Ms. Yekta Fahandej	Feb 3, 2012	Shiraz		Release on bail	Propaganda against the regime and activity against national security
	Mar 16, 2014	Detention center; transferred to Adelabad prison	Unknown	Unknown	1) Holding a gathering with the intention of disturbing the security of the country. 2) Propaganda against the regime. 3) Aggressive behaviour towards the agents when she was in detention
Mr. Shamim Naimi	Jul 23, 2012	Evin		Release on bail	Propaganda against the regime and activity against national security
	28-April-2014 - Began serving sentence	Evin; transferred to Gohardasht on 14 May 2014	10-Nov-2012; 18 February 2013;	3 years imprisonment (appealed sentence)	Propaganda against the regime and activity against national security
Ms. Elham-	Jul 10, 2012	Evin		Release on bail	Propaganda against the regime and activity national security

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Chart and contents provided by: Baha'i International Community (BIC)

Note: This list is not exhaustive; it does not include individuals for whom specific charges are not yet known.

Name	Arrest Date	Prison	Date of Trial / Court order issued	Sentence	Charges
Farahani Naimi	28-April-2014 - began serving sentence	Evin	4-Feb-13	4 years imprisonment (appealed sentence)	Unknown
Mr. Fardin Aghsani	01-Dec-2014 - Began serving sentence		Court order: issued: 19 June 2014, Court of appeals order issued: 26 July 2014	6 year imprisonment Reduced to 3 years in appeals court	1) Membership in an assembly related to the perverse sect of Baháism in connection with the House of Justice located in the occupied Palestine, 2) Propaganda activity for the benefit of the perverse sect of Baháism

ANNEX B - LISTS OF DETAINED BAHAI'S AND STUDENT ACTIVISTS

Table 2: Imprisoned Student Activists

Chart and Content provided by : Daneshjoo News Website

No.	Name	Sentence	Arrest date	Charges
1	Majid Asadi	4 Years	5-Oct-2011	Acting against national security
2	Hasan Asadi Zeidabadi	5 years	22-Aug-2010	Assembly and collusion with the intention to disrupt national security, propaganda against the system, insulting the president, participating in illegal demonstration and disturbing public minds
3	Majid Tavakoli	8 years	7-Dec-2009	Assembly and collusion with the intention to disrupt national security, propaganda against the system, insulting the president, participating in illegal demonstration and disturbing public minds
4	Davar Hosseini Vojdan	3 years and 6 months	5-Dec-2011	Assembly and collusion with the intention to disrupt national security, propaganda against the system
5	Mehdi Khodayee	7 years	2-Mar-2010	Acting against national security by organizing illegal demonstration and propaganda against the system
6	Yashar Daroshafa	5 years and 6 months	5-Nov-2011	Assembly and collusion with the intention to disrupt national security, insulting the president
7	Mohsen Rahmani	7 years	17-Dec-2014	Assembly and collusion with the intention to disrupt national security, insulting the Supreme Leader, acting against national security and having contacts with foreigners
8	Khezz Rasool Morovat	5 years	25-Feb-2013	
9	Maryam Shafipoor	7 years	27-Jul-2013	Assembly and collusion with the intention to disrupt national security, propaganda against the system

ANNEX B - LISTS OF DETAINED BAHÁ'IS AND STUDENT ACTIVISTS

10	Iqan Shahidi	5 years	9-Apr-2012	Membership in illegal groups of defending the right to education and Baha'is, propaganda against the system
11	Dana Lenj Abadi	2 years	25-Jan-2014	Propaganda against the system
12	Mostafa Mehdi Zadeh	6 months	23-Sep-2014	Insulting the Supreme Leader
13	Zia Nabavi	10 years	15-Jun-2009	Having contact with MEK
14	Bahare Hedayat	10 years	31-Dec-2009	Assembly and collusion with the intention to disrupt national security, insulting the president, insulting the Supreme Leader, acting against national security, propaganda against the system
15	AmirHooshang Navayi	1 year	16_Feb_2011	Propaganda against the system

Table 3: Imprisoned Students

Chart and Content provided by: Daneshjoo News Website

No.	Name	Sentence	Arrest date	Charges
1	Vahid Asghari	18 years	8-May-2008	Propaganda against the system, publishing lies, establishing and administrating websites against the state
2	Hamid Babai	6 years	27-July-2013	Espionage and having contact with the enemy state
3	Hamed Roohi Nezhad	10 years	4-May-2009	Cooperating with "Iran's Royal Assembly"
4	Jamal Ghader Nezhad	5 years	13-Jun-2012	Membership in Kurdish parties (Kurdish parties)

ANNEX B - LISTS OF DETAINED BAHAI'S AND STUDENT ACTIVISTS

5	Omid Kokabi	10 years	30-Jan-2011	Having contact with enemy state and acquiring illicit funds
6	Habib Latifi	Death	23-Oct-2007	Acting against national security, enmity against God (Moharebeh), arrested in Sanandaj
7	Misagh Yazdan Nezhad	10 years	10-Sep-2007	Enmity against God arrested in anniversary of 80s executions

Table 4: Recently Arrested Students

Chart and Content provided by: Daneshjoo News Website

No.	Name	Arrest date	Status
1	Amir Amirgholi	1-Dec-2014	Temporary detention
2	Ali Badrkhani	25-Dec-14	Temporary detention
3	Zahra Khandan	19-Jan-2014	Released
4	Fereshte Toosi	8-Jan-2015	Released
5	Ribvar Kamranipoor	10-Dec-2014	Temporary detention
6	Saha Mortezaee	20-Jan-2015	Released
7	Parastoo Biranvand	Sep 2014	Released
8	Masoomeh Gholizadeh	10-Apr-2014	Released
9	Mahdie Golroo	26-Oct-2014	Released
10	Sobhan Rahimi	Nov 2014	Unknown
11	Vahid Ranjbar	Jul 2014	Unknown
12	Jahangir Salimi	Nov 2014	Unknown
13	Behrooz Abdollahi	Sep 2014	Unknown
14	Farzin Farzad	31-May-2014	Unknown
15	Vahid Forudi	Nov 2014	Unknown