



THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF IRANIAN KURDISTAN (PDKI)
A Foundation for a Democratic, Federal, and Stable Iran

Significant escalation in human rights violations in Iranian Kurdistan

Following the signing of the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding between Iran and the United States, reports from Iranian Kurdistan and other areas inhabited by Kurdish citizens indicate a significant escalation in human rights violations. Documented cases include arbitrary arrests, enforced disappearances, denial of access to legal counsel and family visits, lengthy prison sentences, exile and flogging, executions, forced confessions, suppression of civil, cultural, and environmental activists, the killing of border porters (Kolbars), and widespread security pressure against civilians.

During this period, dozens of Kurdish citizens—including civil activists, cultural figures, environmental activists, journalists, lawyers, teachers, athletes, and ordinary civilians—were reportedly arrested by security forces without judicial warrants. Many have been held for weeks or months in security detention centers and prisons without due process and have been deprived of fundamental legal rights, including access to lawyers, family contact, and visitation. Among those reported arrested or facing legal proceedings are Soroush Karami, Danial Niazi, Saman Zendehepi, Fereydoun Mostafaei, Khalil Parandak, Shahab Soleimani, Edris Golmohammadi, Jafar Mokhtari-Far, Mehran Bahrami, Ali Zolfi, Matin Faramarzi, Kamal Piranpour, Sardar Ostad-Ahmadi, Mostafa Ebrahimi, Younes Hassan-Khan, Hamid Mohammadzadeh, Reza Rajabi, Saeed Asareh, Sabah Veldebegi, Masoud Khalili, and Peyman Mohammadi Moradi. Many of these individuals remain in a state of uncertainty, with their whereabouts and legal status unknown.

At the same time, the use of politically motivated prosecutions and the issuance of severe sentences against detainees and activists have continued. Seyed Khalil Rasouli was sentenced to eight years in prison, 80 lashes, and two years of exile. Javad Alikordi, a lawyer, was sentenced to 18 years in prison, permanent disqualification from practicing law, two years of exile to Saravan, and a two-year travel ban. Ribwar Marabi's sentence was reduced on appeal to six years of imprisonment and four years of suspended imprisonment. In addition, Hamzeh Ahmadi Taraqi, Ahmad Alizadeh, Masoud Chamani, Sajjad Haeri, Arman Ebrahimi, and Shiva Zarei were subjected to various sentences, including imprisonment, flogging, exile, financial penalties, and social restrictions. Reports indicate that many of these cases were conducted in violation of fair trial standards, including denial of access to legal representation and reliance on alleged forced confessions.

The charge of “Moharebeh” (enmity against God) continues to be used as a tool of judicial repression. Soroush Karami and Danial Niazi were reportedly charged with this offense after months of detention. Sources have stated that Danial Niazi was subjected to severe pressure and alleged torture resulting in forced confessions, while repeated threats of execution have caused serious psychological distress. Similarly, forced confessions attributed to Mehdi Karimi were broadcast by state media only days after his arrest, while his current location and condition remain unknown. Several political prisoners have also been reported to be in critical conditions. Zahra Mohammadvali began a dry hunger strike in protest against prolonged detention, uncertainty regarding her case, and continued interrogations, with reports indicating a deterioration in her health. Behzad Rasouli has reportedly continued a dry hunger strike for more than three months, placing his life at serious risk. Soheila Hejab

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Bidserkhi, after more than five months in detention, was tried during a brief online court session and faces the possibility of severe sentencing.

The implementation of death sentences also continued during this period. Executions were reported for Shorsh Setarzadeh, Salman Kakekhani, Iraj Ebrahimizadeh, and Mehdi Khanki. The execution of Mehdi Khanki, a detainee linked to the December 2025 protests, was carried out in a non-transparent manner, without public disclosure of the location of execution or the fate of his remains. Following his execution, the number of protesters reportedly executed in connection with the December 2025 protests reached at least 24 people.

Border porters (Kolbars) and residents of border areas continued to face deadly violence. During this period, Sirwan Khoshnamak, Vaziri Rahimi, Zanyar Irannejad, Soheil Ferdowsi, and Ribaz Soleiman Saleh were killed as a result of direct shootings by military forces. Rasul Ghalandari was also reportedly killed after being wounded, allegedly by a final shot fired at close range. In another incident, border forces opened fire on the vehicle of Ahsan Hassani, resulting in the death of his 15-year-old son, Sam Hassani, and the serious injury of his father. These incidents demonstrate the continued use of lethal force against civilians and border communities.

Following the death of Ali Khamenei, the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, reports emerged regarding pressure and threats against citizens to participate in official state ceremonies related to his funeral and commemorative events. According to these reports, government employees, families receiving assistance from state-supported organizations, religious figures, and other groups were pressured by security institutions and government offices to attend these ceremonies and were warned of possible consequences for non-participation. Furthermore, reports indicated efforts to suppress Kurdish cultural identity, including initiatives to remove or alter Kurdish names from public spaces and shop signs in the city of Bukan. In other cases, security forces raided the homes of civil activists, searched private residences, confiscated personal belongings such as mobile phones and computers, and summoned or detained individuals without proper legal procedures.

Conclusion

The documented events during this period demonstrate a continued deterioration of the human rights situation in Iranian Kurdistan. Arbitrary arrests, enforced disappearances, systematic denial of access to legal defense and fair trials, forced confessions, severe judicial sentences, executions, suppression of civil, cultural, and environmental activists, killings of Kolbars, and widespread security restrictions against civilians present a deeply concerning picture of human rights conditions in the region.

The continuation of these practices, alongside restrictions on fundamental freedoms and increased security-based repression, highlights the urgent need for sustained monitoring, documentation, and attention from independent human rights organizations and the international community regarding the human rights situation in Iranian Kurdistan.