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Dr. Ahmed Shaheed
UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of
Human Rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran
OHCHR- Palais Wilson
CH-1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland

Re: Monthly Report on Human Rights Violations in Iran (22 December 2014 – 20 January 2015)

Dear Dr. Ahmed Shaheed,

We would like to express our profound gratitude for your commitment in preparing regular reports on human rights violations in the Islamic Republic of Iran. We extend our appreciation to the international community for tireless efforts to promote human rights as a universal value, and for taking urgent measures to end the practice of arbitrary arrest, imprisonment, gender and religious discrimination, torture, rape, public execution, and other shameful crimes against humanity in Iran. Together, we stand united in strongly and unequivocally condemning these ongoing human rights violations.

With our shared respect for noble principles of the UN Declaration of Human Rights, we have constituted the Human Rights Commission of the Iran National Council for Free Elections to ultimately abolish the death penalty, help the release all prisoners of conscience, and secure basic rights and freedom of all Iranians. We have prepared the attached monthly report on select cases of Human Rights Violations between December 22, 2014, and January 20, 2015. This report provides an overview with a list of newly detained prisoners of conscience and references to assault on freedom of opinion and expression, status of prisoners' of conscience, recent executions, violation of children-, women-, ethnic-, and religious minorities' rights, etc. It is our sincere hope that this report will help the international community to address the dire human rights situation in Iran. We salute your leadership and moral support for realizing our common aspirations, namely the equality of mankind.

Yours sincerely
Iran National Council for Free Elections

Secretariat of the Iran National Council for Free Elections

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Monthly Report on Violation of Human Rights

(22 December 2014 – 20 January 2015)

Prepared by Human Rights commission- Iran National council

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During this period, security and police forces continued their assault on the freedom of expression, citizens' rights to opinions, security, and liberty, arresting 63 individuals.

Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states the individual rights to freedom of opinion and expression. This right includes "[the] freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers". Also, Item 1 of article 9 in "International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights" clearly explains "Everyone's right to liberty and security of person. No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest or detention. No one shall be deprived of his liberty except on such grounds and in accordance with such procedure as are established by law."

The following are the names and identities of the detained:

Yaghma Fashkhami

Nassrin Setudeh

Nargess Mohammadi

Reza Khandan

Mohammad Maleki

Rouin Otofatt

Mehdi Kian

Ali Sadreddin

Mohammad Kazemi

Azin Foroudi

Mohammad Hussein Maridian

Maryam Narimani

Alireza Nasser

Matin (last name unknown)

Farshid Rastegar

Mohammad Moghaddam

Mohammad Reza Nekoonam

Molavi Doust

Mohammad Raeissi

Haji Golkhan

Moslem Dehghani

Akbar Dehghani

Omid Bahramzahi

Navid Bahramzahi

Zubeir Bahramzahi

Shahdad Bahramzahi

Adham Arbabi

Haj Eghbal (Last name unknown)

Amer Bahramzahi

Abubakr Malahezi

Sedigh Bahramzahi

Farhad Balidehi

Edriss Balidehi

Bashir Balidehi

Amir Bahramzahi

Vassim Bahramzahi

Davoud Bahramzahi

Khaled Karije

Mamosta Ebrahim Ghadir

Saeid Pourheidar

Atena Forghdani

Ehssan Akbari

Mohsen Daryanoush

Shahab Zarrin

Majid Khakdan
Camil Nejati
Reza Mokri
Reza Soltani Azar
Nader Rassouli
Mansour Husseinzadeh
Mansour Naderi
Sedigh Kakehmami
Jalil Badavi
Ahmad Dehnad
Zahra Khandan
Soha Mortezaei
(One unidentified detainee)

The current report covers the cases of human rights violations obtained by the Iran National Council's Human Rights Commission during the December-January time period and is based on reports by various sources. Since the Iranian government does not allow human rights Watch Organizations to conduct their own monitoring, this report provides merely a glimpse of the systemic violation of human rights in the country.

Data collected by the National Council of Iran indicates that during the month of Dey (December 22nd- January 20th), 43 individuals were executed in Iran. That brings the total of Iranians executed during the Islamic Republic's 11th administration, Mr. Hassan Rouhani's government, to 1153 individuals.

Assault on Freedom of Opinion and Expression

Tuesday, December 23rd: Roozan Daily was banned by Tehran's Prosecutor due to the newspaper's publication, four days earlier, of a special edition commemorating the anniversary of Ayatollah Montazeri.

Wednesday, December 24th: Yaghma Fashkhami, Roozan's Daily Columnist and Political Correspondent was arrested and transferred to Evin Prison.

Friday, December 26th: Sahar Beheshti (sister of Sattar Beheshti) was summoned to the Ministry of Intelligence to explain her participation in a memorial for Martyr Mostafa Karim Beigi in Shahriar.

Sunday December 28th: The First Division of the Revolutionary Court, chaired by Judge Ahmadzadeh, sentenced Kobra Parsajoo, the wife of political prisoner Hamid Babaei, to a 6 month prison term and has forbidden her to leave the country until 2016. The sentence came after her interview with “foreign and hostile media, propagating against the Islamic Republic.”

Tuesday December 30th:

Atena Farghadani, artist and children’s rights advocate was interrogated by security officials. Following her visits to the families of the Green Movement detainees, she was held by government security.

Arash Honarvar Shojaei, cleric and blogger, whose writings criticized the government was sentenced to a four year jail term, an 800,000 Toman fine, and permanent expulsion from the clergy.

Thursday January 1st: Ayatollah Mohammad Reza Nekoonam, a leading Shia scholar in Qom, was arrested on a warrant issued by the Special Clerical Court, and was transferred to an unknown location.

Saturday January 3rd: Amir Arab, publisher of the web site “Lahzeh (the Moment) On Line” was summoned to court.

Sunday January 4th:

Mosayeb Naeimi and Kaveh Eshtehardi, two editors of the former Iran Daily Paper, were arrested per an order from the Criminal Court on allegations of publishing false information. They were tried in a session chaired by Judge Siamak Modabber Khorasani and a jury of representatives from the media.

Saeid Pourheydar, a journalist who had recently returned from the United States, was arrested at his home and transferred to an unknown location.

Monday January 5th: Seventeen international satellite networks were banned by the Ministry of Intelligence on charges of fabricated and false reports, harmful to the unity of the country.

Tuesday January 6th: A discussion and exchange meeting of the Iranian Writers Association entitled “Era of Translation” was prohibited by the Ministry of Intelligence.

Thursday January 8th:

Atena Farghadani was summoned to the 15th Division of the Revolutionary Court, chaired by Judge Salavati, on charges of propaganda against the regime and insult to the Majles (Parliament) representatives through her art.

Security forces prevented a gathering of Iranian journalists in Tehran. The group intended to demonstrate their solidarity with the victims of Charlie Hebdo terrorist attacks in Paris.

Saturday January 10th:

Division 76 of the criminal court sentenced Mostafa Faghihi, publisher and editor of the web site “Entekhab,” to one-year imprisonment on charges of publishing false information.

Atena Forghdani appeared in the Revolutionary Court again. She was arraigned and transferred to Gharchak prison in Varamin.

Tuesday January 13th: Ehsan Akbari, journalist and activist, was arrested in his office by the Revolutionary Guards.

Wednesday January 14th: the Media Oversight Committee decided to submit the case against Vatan Daily to the criminal Court. They also ~~and~~ issued a citation to “Khabar On line” for publishing an editorial offending the country’s military forces.

Saturday January 17th:

“Mardom” (The People) newspaper was banned from further activity, following the publication of a story on Charlie Hebdo.

Reza Jalali, a war veteran and professor of International Relations at Beheshti and Tehran Universities, was arrested on charges of spying for a foreign country.

Prisoners’ Status

Monday December 22nd:

Political prisoner Mashallah Haeri was returned to prison after a 27 day transfer to a hospital due to cardiac complications, without completion of the treatment. He had been arrested after the 2009 protests on charges of affiliation with People’s Mujahedin of Iran (MKO) and sentenced to a 15 year prison term.

Mohsen Daneshpour and Mottahreh Bahrami are in critical physical state. Both were arrested after the 2009 public outrage to the presidential election results and were charged with the high crimes of “waging war against God (Moharebeh), and conspiring against the national security. The Revolutionary Court, chaired by Judge Salavati, sentenced both to death, where an appeals court reduced the sentence to 10 years in prison.

Behnam Ebrahim Zadeh, a labor activist who had gone ~~to~~ on a hunger strike, finally lost consciousness and was transferred to a hospital. Based on Discretionary Punishment Law (Ta’zir), he had been sentenced to a 5 year jail term on charges of participation in an illegal gathering and conspiracy against the regime.

Abed Bampouri’s request for a temporary relief was denied by the Ministry of Intelligence. He is a Baluch prisoner who was sentenced to a 31-year jail term by the Zahedan criminal court in 2007 on charges of conspiracy against the national security. The latest rejection comes seven years into his prison term

Eight prisoners in Mahabad prison, who had protested their arrest and demanded prison authorities to either release or explain their charges, attempted ~~committed~~ suicide by overdosing on their medications. Six of these prisoners were rescued, but two lost their lives.

Wednesday December 24th:

Security and prison guards at the notorious Evin prison attacked and injured the prisoners in Section 7 of the ward, confiscating the prisoners' personal belongings, such as: food, clothing, and telephone cards.

The jail terms of 8 youths charged with: propaganda against the regime, destabilization of national security, and insult to sacred principles on Facebook; were increased from 127 years to 133 years.

Thursday December 25th: The health of political prisoner Alireza Rasouli, who is serving his term in Urumieh prison deteriorated drastically. Mr. Rasouli is on the 46th day of his hunger strike and has also been diagnosed with cancer.

Saturday December 27th: It was reported that Seyed Hussein Kazemeini is in critical condition caused by a lack of medical attention.

Sunday December 28th:

Two months into his hunger strike, Muhammad Ali Taheri has been diagnosed with a heart problem.

Saeid Razavi, journalist and political activist whose prison term at Evin is to be completed by February 28th, was charged with a new crime: "unlawful assembly and conspiracy" along with a 400 million Toman bond.

Mahdieh Golroo, student and social activist who has been detained for the past two months, was informed of the indefinite extension of her detention. She has been expelled from the university.

Ali Moezi was returned to Karaj prison following a two month solitary confinement in Evin. Prison authorities informed him of new charges and added four years to his term.

Monday December 29th:

Following a raid and search by security forces on Section 350 of Evin prison, Christian Reverend Farshid Fathi, who is serving his six-year term, was taken to Division 15 of the Revolutionary Court. It was here that Judge Salavati notified him of one additional year to his term.

Arash Moghaddam Aslanpour who was sentenced to 8 years imprisonment on charges of insulting the Supreme Leader and other sacred symbols of the Islamic Republic, was also notified of an additional year following the same incident.

During the same raid, Behnam Ebrahim Zadeh who is almost done with his 5 year term, was sentenced to a total of 9 and half years by Judge Salavati on new charges of connection with the Mujahedin organization; propagating against the regime inside the prison, and storing satellite equipment in his residence.

Tuesday December 30th:

One month after his detention, Amir Amirgholi, a student activist, who was arrested during a solidarity demonstration with the Kobani people, is still not permitted to contact his family by phone.

December 30th is the sixth year anniversary of still unexplained/ unknown imprisonment of Ayoub Karimi, Anvar Hazri, Davoud Abdollahi, Kamran Sheikheh, Khosrow Besharat, Ghasem Abasteh, and Farhad Salimi who all belong to the Sunni minority.

Thursday January 1st: One month after his arrest without being charged, Majid Moghaddam was notified of an extra month in solitary confinement.

Friday January 2nd:

Activist Etna Daemi, who has been jailed in Section 2A at Evin, has been diagnosed with cardiac impairment and skin disease.

Omid Alishenasi, jailed in the special section of Revolutionary Guards at Evin, is suffering extreme depression.

Fakhreddin Faraji, a political prisoner in Tabas prison who is sentenced to a 30-year term, was transferred to the quarantine section of the local Health Department where infectious disease patients (suffering from AIDS and hepatitis) are confined.

Saturday January 3rd: the Khorasan Razavi District Court, ordered the hand amputation of a burglar who had been arrested and jailed in Mashhad since 2010. The order was in accordance with the Islamic Penal Codes.

Sunday January 4th: Soheil Arabi, who was transferred to the Revolutionary Guard Section of Evin, was returned back to section 350 due to the threats by RG agents.

Monday January 5th: Despite the critical health status of Mr. Kazemeini Boroujerdi, the Special Clerical Court has prevented him from receiving any medical attention.

Tuesday January 6th:

By the order of the Tehran Assistant District Attorney, 14 prisoners were banned from any in-person visitations by their families and limited to phone cabin conversations.

Abulghasem Fuladvand, a 51 year old political prisoner who is sentenced to 17 years of imprisonment by a Discretionary Punishment Court, has been denied medical treatment by Judge Khodabakhshi- the resident judge at Rajaei Shahr prison who oversees prison affairs.

Tehran DA ordered a thorough individual interrogation of 45 political prisoners in Evin. These prisoners had submitted a letter to the United Nations Secretary General and Human Rights Organizations, seeking assistance and attention to their status.

Wednesday January 7th: Following a 15 month detention, Omid Kokabi was sentenced to 10 years jail time on charges of connections to a hostile country, and illegitimate earnings. The judge presiding over his trial was Judge Salavati.

Friday January 9th:

Mehdi Farahi Shadiz who, despite the completion of his 3 year term, has been held in Rajaei Shahr Karaj prison and was transferred to solitary confinement.

Muhammad Ali (Nasser) Hashemi, nationalist and religious activist, has been jailed in Section 7 of Evin prison. Mr. Hashemi has been suffering from multiple ailments and has been denied medical treatment.

Batir Shahmuhmmadov, a citizen of Turkmenistan, who has been held in the political section of Rajaei Shahr prison, was denied an attorney and any contact with his family.

Saturday January 10th: Muhammad Reza Bagheri, a law student who was accused of spreading lies against the regime and insulting the judicial and intelligence agents of Bojnourd, was once again denied a temporary leave. He has spent his 9 year sentence in Vakil Abad prison in Mashhad since 2010.

Davoud Asadi, prisoner of section 7 – quarantine section of Evin prison, started his hunger strike in protest to poor conditions of the prison and denial of medical attention to inmates.

Sunday January 11th:

Seven months has passed since the detention of Saeid Shirzad, without notifying him of his charges.

Karim Alizehi, Hassan Rahmyar and Qader Alizehi, charged with drug trafficking were placed in solitary confinement prior to the execution sentence.

Monday January 12th: Two weeks passed her detention, Nahid Gorji, a Mashhadi resident charged with unlawful activities on the cyber space, has not been permitted to contact her family.

Tuesday January 13th:

Keyvan Samimi Behbahani, activist and publisher of the banned “Nameh” magazine who has been suffering poor health conditions, was returned to Rajaei Shahr prison without completion of the medical procedure.

Evin prison’s special prosecutor objected the early release of 70 political and security prisoners.

Wednesday January 14th:

Muhammad Rezapour Shajari, blogger critical of the government who had completed his 4 year prison sentence, was arrested and transferred to Karaj prison. He is not in a fit physical condition.

Fakhreddin Faraji, the prisoner in Tabas was ordered 15 days in solitary confinement by the prison's Disciplinary Council as the punishment for disclosing his earlier transfer to quarantine facility.

Prisoner Jalalvand who was serving time in Zahedan main prison on charges of drug smuggling, died due to shortage of medical attention.

Thursday January 15th: Koroush Aminian along with Abdollah Janjalzadeh, an Afghan prisoner charged with drug trafficking were transferred to a solitary cell as part of the procedure prior to execution.

Saturday January 17th:

Amir Rajabi, a Kermanshah native and member of Ahle Haqq religious sect, who is imprisoned in Zahedan and refused to shave his mustache was put in solitary confinement. He is in hunger strike since then.

Despite the completion of his prison term, Ebrahim Firoozi, a Christian convert, awaits his faith by the judge.

On the 14th anniversary of his imprisonment in Ahwaz Karoon prison on charges of connection to Mujahedin Khalq (MKO), Ghlamhussein Kolbi, who is in poor health conditions, was denied a temporary medical leave.

Sunday January 18th: Arash Sadeghi political prisoner in the Revolutionary Guards section 2A of Evin, has been pressured for participating in a fictitious television interview.

Monday January 19th:

The seventh imprisonment anniversary of Vahid Asghari, human rights activist and a diligent defender of freedom of expression. He is still deprived of the rights to an attorney or contact visits by family members.

Sajedeh Arabsorkhi, journalist and children books author who has been sentenced to one year jail term on charges of propaganda against the regime is suffering from poor health conditions.

Etna Daemi, Aso Rostami, Ali Nouri, Muhammad Saeid Husseinizadeh, and Omid Alishenas were transferred from the Revolutionary Guards section to the general section of Evin prison.

The attorney for Saman Nasim was denied access to his client's dossier on the pretext of security concerns. Saman Nasim was charged with the crime of waging war against God through his active involvement in PEJAK (The Party of Free Life of Kurdistan) is awaiting the execution sentence in Urumieh prison.

Students Affairs

Sunday December 28th: Five student of Tabriz University; Omid Ahmadi, Ehsan Pourkheiri, Farhad Shafizadeh, Ismaeil Mahmudi, and Mahmud Seifian were sentenced to deprivation from a total of 8 school terms, as well as university housing and other benefits. Farhad Shafizadeh was also sentenced to one year prison term by Discretionary Court of Marivan.

Executions:

- 7 prisoners sentenced to death on charges of drug trafficking were executed in Adelabad prison in Shiraz.
- 3 individuals; Bahram Baluchi (charged with waging war against god and spreading corruption on Earth), Muhammad Pasban (charged with drug trafficking), and an unidentified prisoner were executed in Zahedan.
- Convicted killer Abdolaziz Shahli was hung to death in Zahedan main prison.
- 3 prisoners convicted of armed robbery and drug trafficking were executed in Adelabad prison on Tuesday December 9th. 2014.
- A prisoner convicted of homicide was executed in Noshahr on Wednesday December 30th.
- A 38 year old man charged with drug trafficking and sentenced to death, was executed in Boein Zahra in Qazvin on Thursday January 1st.
- 3 individuals convicted of rape were hung to death in a public square in Torghabeh city (Khorasan).
- On December 31st Hussein Vatanzad – charged with drug trafficking – was executed in Urumieh prison.
- A man convicted of murder, was executed in Qazvin main prison on Tuesday January 6th.
- 3 prisoners; Sattar Alipour, Ali Eqbaljoo, and Saber Mokhalled Mavaneh, convicted of murder were executed in Urumieh prison yard.
- 2 men convicted of armed robbery were executed in Shiraz, Adelabad prison on Sunday January 11th. 10 prisoners convicted of drug trafficking were executed in the same prison on Sunday January 11th.
- A prisoner who was convicted of rape, was executed in Sari on Wednesday, January 14th.
- Two men convicted of rape were hung to death in a public square in Shiraz on Saturday, January 17th.
- A 26 year old man charged with murder was executed in Torghabeh on January 19th.

State of Children:

Monday December 22nd:

A group of hardline and conservative clerics have complained about the current status of kindergartens and preschool facilities in the country, claiming they are not educating and training kids in accordance with Islamic values and styles. Homayoun Hashemi, Director of State Welfare Organization of Iran has announced the formation of a Fiqh Council for Pre-School training (Shoraye- feqhi).

Monday January 12th: A new report revealed that 7 percent of street (homeless) children in Iran are addicted to drugs.

Wednesday January 14th: Fourteen students in Shahed elementary school in Gachsaran were hospitalized due to food poisoning caused by a bad milk.

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Women:

Thursday January 1st: Without presenting any explanation, the police prevented a gathering of local women to discuss “Security and City Areas” in the Tehran neighborhood of Khajeh Nezamolmolk.

Friday January 9th: A 50 year old woman in Karaj was the victim of acid throwing by her former husband.

Cultural Cases:

Sunday January 4th: Composer, musician Majid Derakhshan was prevented to leave the country and his passport was seized by the police. Earlier he had been summoned and questioned about having female performers and musicians for his compositions.

Monday January 5th: Repeated illegal excavations by smugglers of historical and ancient artifacts, has turned the ancient district of Chureh in Abdanan city, Ilam province to ruins.

Sunday January 11th: One of the finest and most valuable tombstones from the Safavid era in Ardestan, Isfahan was stolen by art traffickers.

Monday January 12th: Tahmineh Milani is summoned to the special “Culture and Media Court” on charges of references against the regime in her film scenario “Shahzad, the Woman of Thousand and One Nights”.

Monday January 12th: Salar Aghili’s concert in Khorasan was disrupted after the first piece and resumed when Ms. Shariatzadeh, one of the musicians was forced to leave the stage.

Tuesday January 13th: Tehran Police prevented Forghaneh Ghasemov, Azarbaijani performer; daughter of famous artist Alim Ghasemov, to appear on stage on the last night of a concert series by Tehran Brass Orchestra.

Trade and Business

Thursday January 1st: 110 units on Alaeddin Shopping Center in Tehran were sealed by the municipality.

Ethnic Minorities:

Security forces arrested 30 individuals on a raid to Nasir Abad Sarbaz village in Sistan and Baluchestan province.

Religious Minorities:

- Recent converts to Christianity; Mehdi Kian, Ali Sadreddin (Brother Stephan), Muhammad Kazemi, Azin Foroudi, Muhammad Hussein Moridian, Maryam Narimani, Alireza Nasser, Brother Matin, and another unidentified individual who were celebrating Christmas in a home church in Roodhen on December 25th, were all detained following a raid by security forces. All their belongings, including computers, books, and pamphlets were confiscated.
- Susan Tabyanian, a Bahai citizen who was sentenced to one year imprisonment on charges of interviewing with foreign media about the economic conditions of the Bahais in Iran, voluntarily appeared in court and was transferred to prison on December 24th.
- 10 security agents raided Reverend Victor Beth Tamrez on Christmas Day, arresting him and interrupting the celebrations. His Holy Bible, all other book, mobile phones, and personal identification cards of the guests were collected by the agents.
- Two months after his death, the body of Shamel Bina still remains in Ahwaz coroner's location, as local authorities have not issued a burial permit.
- Leyla Kargar, Bahai citizen in Shiraz was poisoned to death by an unknown person. Authorities have not returned her body to the family.
- Police authorities prevented the Friday prayer of the Sunni minority in Tehran which was held on the occasion of "The Unity Week".

- Poonak Mayor accompanied by his deputies and a group of city workers, sealed the central mosque of Sunni Moslems in the area, treating Molavi Ubeidollah Moosazadeh, the prayers Imam with abusive and offensive language, confiscating his personal documents.
- 12 Mahabadi Sunnis were arrested by the Revolutionary Guards on Friday, January 16th.

The labor

- Iran Khodro, Diesel Division workers started a general strike on December 23rd, demanding their two months past due pays, and protesting government's decision on rejecting benefits for families' third child.
- More than 900 workers of the Pars Wagon Manufacturing in Arak, went on strike in protest to the management decision for not extending a new contract to their council supervisor. The strike interrupted the production line.
- Workers of the gold mining company in Agh Darreh in West Azarbaijan, formed demonstrations in protest to the management decision in reducing the work force by 350 people.
- Azad Tamani, a border area labor and resident of Dashwan in Salmas was shot to death by the security forces of the Islamic Republic.
- Tehran Public Transportation workers held demonstrations in front of the City Council building demanding mortgage loan assistance promised to them earlier.

Health and Environment:

- High level of air pollution in Tehran on December 29th sent 392 people to urgent care units in the Capital.
- Behshahr forest fires that were contained on December 28th, re-sparked in another part of the area.
- Two environmental protection agents were sentenced to death on January 9th.