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Preface:

This leaflet contains the 2020’s analytical and statistical annual report on human rights in Iran, prepared by the Department of Statistics and Publications of Human Rights Activists in Iran (HRAI). This statistical analysis report presented by HRAI is the result of the daily efforts of this organization and its dedicated members as part of a daily statistic and census project that started in 2009 by this organization.

This annual report on human rights violations in Iran (2020) is the collection, analysis, and documentation of 4472 reports concerning human rights, gathered from various news sources during 2020 [January 1st to December 20th]. Human Rights Activists News Agency (HRANA) has gathered and reported 42%, official or close to the Iranian government sources 45% and other human rights news agencies 13% of all the reports analyzed in this Annual Report.

The following 45-pages includes statistical overviews and related charts on various sections regarding women’s rights, children’s rights, prisoners’ rights, etc. Based on this report, despite the 4% decrease in human rights violations reports in provinces other than Tehran, compared to the last year’s annual report, there is still a major concern on lack of proper reporting and monitoring of the human rights by the civil society in the smaller cities.

This report is the result of endeavors made by courageous human rights activists in Iran who pay a very high cost for the realization of their humanitarian beliefs. However, for obvious reasons (i.e. existing governmental limitations and ban on the free exchange of information and government preventing the existence of human right organizations in the country), this report by no means is free of errors and cannot alone be a reflection on the actual status of human right in Iran. Having said that, it should be emphasized that this report is considered as one of the most accurate, comprehensive, and authentic reports on the human rights conditions in Iran and it can serve as a very informative source of information for human rights activists and organizations working on Iran, to better understand the challenges and opportunities that they may face.

Human Rights Activists (in Iran)
Department of Statistics and Publications
December 2020
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Monitoring

Figure 1. The following map illustrates the number of reports per province made by the human rights organizations and news agencies, this is a direct reflection of the capability of the civil society in each province of the country (2020).
As indicated in the distribution map, there exists a major discrepancy between Tehran, the capital, and other parts of the country in terms of the number of published reports. This is while the census of 2016 reported a population of 13,267,637 in Tehran, compared to a population of 66,658,633 in the rest of the country.

**Figure 2. A comparison between the population of Tehran and other regions in Iran.**

**Figure 3. A comparison between the reporting capacities in Tehran compared with the rest of the country (2020).**
Table 1. The following table represents the provinces included in the 2020 annual report of the human rights in Iran and the respective number of reports. The absence of a province on the list does not indicate the absence of human rights violations on the corresponding province.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Provinces Name</th>
<th>Reports</th>
<th>changes from the previous year</th>
<th>Provinces Name</th>
<th>Reports</th>
<th>changes from the previous year</th>
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<td>East Azerbaijan</td>
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<td>Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari</td>
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<td>West Azerbaijan</td>
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<td>Kerman</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>-13</td>
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<td>Kermanshah</td>
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<td>Golestan</td>
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<td>Gilan</td>
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<td>Lorestan</td>
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<td>Sistan and Baluchestan</td>
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<td>-3</td>
<td>Kohgiloyeh and Boyerahmad</td>
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<td>+16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fars</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>+12</td>
<td>Overall*</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>-6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Overall: it reflects reports that do not concern a particular province but apply to the whole country.
The following pie chart illustrates the percentages of submitted reports based on the province.

**Figure 4. Pie chart of volume of submitted reports based on the province (2020)**
To begin the study of the categories of human rights violations in Iran, it is important to initially compare the categories based on the number of reports made in each category in the past year.

**Figure 5. Percentile of the number of reports made in 2020, based on the Legal Category.**
In the field of national and ethnic minorities' rights, a total of 234 reports registered by the department of the statistics and publication of Human Rights Activists in Iran (HRAI) in 2020. According to these reports, at least 286 people were arrested, and 39 people were sentenced to a total of 1721 months of prison term. From the total of 1721 months of prison terms issued, 1699 months were imprisonment sentences for 36 individuals, and 22 months were suspended imprisonment sentences for 3 individuals. And a total of 88 individuals were summoned by the security and judicial institutions.

Compared to the previous year there has been a 16.6% decrease in the arrest of ethnic minorities and a 35% decrease in imprisonment sentences.

As the following bar-chart illustrates Highest number of violations occurred in the month of October, in contrast, the highest decline is observed in the month of May.

**Figure 6. The number of reports on the violation of the rights of ethnic minorities by month (2020).**
The following graph illustrates the number of violations of human rights in the category of national-ethnic minorities in 2020 compared to its previous year, 2019.

**Figure 7. The number of violations of ethnic minorities’ rights by month in 2020 compared to 2019.**
Religious Minorities

In this category, 136 reports have been registered by the Department of Statistics in 2020. According to these reports, 77 arrests, 49 cases of prevention from economical activities, 126 cases of summon by the judicial and security institutions, and 22 cases of depriving and preventing from education, and 69 cases of police home raids, has taken place.

98 individuals of the religious minorities were sentenced by the judicial institutions to a total of 4351 months of imprisonment. Additionally, the ministry of cultural heritage of Tehran and the Municipality of Tehran demolished the Adventist church of Tehran in the past year.

Figure 8. Violation of religious minorities’ rights based on the number of arrestees reported by month (2020).

Figure 9. Violation of religious minorities’ rights base on the number of convicted individuals by month (2020).
In monthly comparison in this category, the highest number of violations have been reported in May, in contrast to the lowest number in December.

Figure 10. The number of reports on cases of violation of religious minorities’ rights by month (2020).
The following graph illustrates the number of violations of human rights in the category of religious minorities in the 2020 compared with 2019.

**Figure 11.** The number of violations of religious minorities' rights per month in 2020 compared to 2019.
In the field of religious minorities, the Baha’is constitute the highest of the Human Rights reports on religious minority violations with 45%, Sunnis 26%, Christians 15%, Dervishes 4%, Jews and Yarsans 1%, and others 9%, of the total reports. Note that the reports labeled as “Others” are those that did not belong to a specific group of religious minorities.

Figure 12. Pie chart based on the number of reports per religious minorities (2020).

The number of citizens arrested in the category of religious minorities has decreased by 42% in 2020 compared to 2019, and the imprisonment sentences issued by the judiciary has increased by 28.9%.
In the category of freedom of thought and expression, in 2020, 883 reports have been registered by the Department of Statistics that included 928 arrested individuals; 287 summonses to the judiciary and security authorities; 4 reports of publication banning; 8 cases of conviction for publications.

In 2020, 420 arrestees were sentenced to a total of 22271 months of imprisonment, that includes 386 individuals sentenced to a total 21523 months in prison and 34 individuals received a total of 748 months of suspended prison terms.

34 people to 191 billion and 765 million rials in financial fines, 85 people get 5844 lashes, and 21 cases of deprivation from civil rights have been reported in this category. Additionally, there has been 40 police home raids recorded.

In the field of Freedom of Expression, there has been a decreased of 88.8% in the reports of arrests compared to the previous year. Similarly, sentences issued by the judiciary have increased by 46.5% based on the number of people being tried, and imprisonment sentences were increased by 52.9% compared to 2019.

Below are the charts highlighting the violation of the right to freedom of expression.

**Figure 13. The number of arrests in the category of violation of the right to freedom of expression by month (2020).**
As figure 15 illustrates, the highest number of violations in this category occurred in the months of July, in contrast, the highest decline is observed in the month of December.

Figure 14. The number of convictions in the category of violation of the right to freedom of expression by month (2020).

Figure 15. The number of reports in the category of violation of the right to freedom of expression by month (2020).
The following graph illustrates the number of violations of human rights in the category of religious minorities in the 2020 comparison with 2019.

**Figure 16. Monthly comparison of violations of Freedom of Expression 2020 and 2019.**
Trade Unions and Associations

In the category of the rights of associations and trade unions in 2020, 359 reports have been registered by the Department of Statistics and Publications. This includes 47 members of the trade union were reported being arrested. Also, in this category, 10 individuals have been sentenced to a total of 554 months in prison, 51 cases of summoning to the judicial and security institutions, and 3930 cases of closing the facilities have been reported.

In 2020, at least 329 protests and 3 union strikes were held. Most of these protests were related to salary/wage demands from corporations, bad economic conditions, and lack of proper management of corporations.

In the category of Trade Unions and Associations, there has been an 31% decrease in the number of arrests and there has been an 89% increase in the issue of sentences compared to the previous year.

Monthly comparison of the violation of the rights of the unions based on the number of reports, as the following graph illustrates reveals the highest number of violations occurred in the month of December, in contrast, the highest decline is observed in March.

Figure 16. The number of reports in the category of violation of the rights of the Trade Unions and Associations by month (2020).
Figure 17. A comparison of the number of violations of Trade Unions and Associations rights per month compared with the previous year (2020, 2019).
In the category of violations of academic rights in 2020, 24 reports have been registered by the Department of Statistics and Publication of Human Rights Activists in Iran. This includes 6 students arrested, 20 students were suspended, and as it was also mentioned in the religious rights section of this report 22 students were prevented from continuing their education because of their religion.

In the category of academia and the right to education, there has been a 94% decrease in the number of arrests. And based on these reports 1 student was sentenced to 60 months in prison.

Monthly comparison of the violation of the academic rights based on the number of reports, as the following graph illustrates reveals the highest number of violations occurred in the month of November, in contrast, the highest decline is observed in the month of March, April and May.

Figure 18. A comparative analysis of the violation of academic rights based on the number of cases per Month (2020).
The following graph illustrates the number of violations of human rights in the category of academic rights in 2020 compared to 2019.

**Figure 19. A comparison of the number of violations of academic rights per month compared with the previous year (2020, 2019).**
Right to Life (Death Penalty)

In the category of right to life, in 2020, 241 reports have been registered by the Department of Statistics and Publication of Human Rights Activists Association in Iran. This included 95 death sentences, 236 death sentences were carried out (including 1 execution in public). Based on the announced identifications of some of the individuals executed, 205 were male and 8 were female.

In addition, 2 juvenile offenders have also been executed in 2020 who were under the age of 18 at the time of committing the crime.

According to these reports, 80% of the executions were based on murder charges. Moreover, 5% charged with rape, another 9% with drug-related charges. 4% were charged with “Waging war against God”, also 1% charged with armed robbery, 1% Consumption of alcohol.

**Figure 20. A comparative analysis of the death sentences based on the number of individuals per month (2020).**
Monthly comparison of the violation of the right to life-based on the number of reports, as the following graph illustrates reveals the highest number of violations occurred in the month of July, in contrast, the highest decline is observed in the month of May.

**Figure 21. Monthly comparison of the number of violations of the right to life-based on the number of death sentence cases (2020).**

The following graph illustrates the violations of human rights in the category of executions in comparison with 2019.

**Figure 22. Death sentences per month in 2020 compared to its corresponding months in 2019.**
The following pie chart illustrates the number of death sentences issued and carried out across the country in 2020. The highest number of all death sentences issued are comprised of 80% on murder charges, followed by Drug charges which make up 9% of the cases.

**Figure 23. Capital punishment sentences issued in 2020 based on the type of charges.**
The following pie chart illustrates the death sentences in Iranian provinces with the province of Alborz ranking first with 19% of all the death sentences issued, that is due to its two populated and important prisons, followed by Razavi Khorasan province with 12% of all the cases.

Figure 24. The ratio of death sentences issued per province (2020).
The following pie chart illustrates the death sentences in different prisons in Iran with Rajai Shahr prison and Vakil Abad Prison holding the highest number of death sentences.

**Figure 25. The ratio of death sentences carried out per prison (2020).**
According to the statistics, about 0.42% of the executions were carried out in public.

**Figure 26. The place of execution (2020).**

Of those executed in 2020, 3% were female, and 87% were male, while the gender of the other 10% is unknown.

**Figure 27. Percentage of executed individuals based on gender (2020).**
The following diagram is directly related to the secret executions of prisoners. These executions reported by independent sources and human rights associations, indicating that 72% of executions are carried out in secret or without any public notice.

Figure 28. Secret executions compared to announced executions (2020).

In the category of the death penalty, the execution carried out in comparison to 2019 has decreased by 4.8%. The number of execution sentences issued also has decreased by 12%, and the number of public executions has decreased by 92%.
In the category of violations of cultural rights in 2020, 21 reports have been registered by the Department of Statistics and Publication of Human Rights Activists Association in Iran. This included reports on 27 arrests and 4 individuals were sentenced to 257 months of imprisonment, from this number 3 individuals were sentenced to 253 months of imprisonment, while 1 person was sentenced to 4 months of suspended prison term.

1 individual was summoned to the judiciary and security organizations. Moreover, 2 licenses were revoked, 1 person was banned from public speaking or performing, and 1 person was banned from working.

In this category, arrests have increased by 51% compared to the previous year.

In monthly comparison in this category, the highest number of violations have been reported in January, in contrast to the lowest number in March, April and July.

Figure 29. Violation of cultural rights based on the number of cases per month (2020).
The following graph illustrates the number of violations of human rights in the category of violations of cultural rights in comparison to 2019.

**Figure 30. Violations of cultural rights per month in 2020 compared with the previous year.**
Workers’ Rights

In the category of violations of workers’ rights in 2020, 1318 reports have been registered by the Department of Statistics and Publication of Human Rights Activists Association in Iran. This included 30 arrests. 45 workers activists or workers were sentenced to 183 months in prison, and 42 people received 3108 lashes, and 42 people were summoned to judiciary and security organizations.

During 2020, a total of 2011 months of overdue payment of salaries to workers has been reported. 2105 workers were laid off or fired, 2240 cases of unemployment, 18049 lacked work insurance, 3082 workers waiting for work-related decisions. In addition, 1187 people have lost their lives in work-related accidents, and 3259 workers have been injured while at work. On a global scale amongst other counties, Iran ranks 102nd in work safety.

Also, in 2020, at least 473 worker protests and 99 workers strike took place. most of these protests were regarding wages.

Based on these reports the arrest of workers has increased by 56% compared to 2019.

In a monthly comparison of workers’ rights violations in 2020 as the following graph illustrates, the highest number of violations per month have been in August, in contrast with the lowest being in March.

Figure 31. A monthly comparative analysis of the violation of workers’ rights based on the number of cases per month (2020).
The following graph illustrates the number of violations of human rights in the category of workers’ rights in 2020 in comparison with 2019.

Figure 32. Violations of workers’ rights on a monthly bases in 2020 compared with the previous year.
Children’s Rights

In the category of violations of children’s rights in 2020, a total of 176 reports have been registered by the Department of Statistics, however, it should be mentioned because of secretly in the matter of reporting these incidents there is no accurate statistic in this field. These reports included at least 2205 cases of child abuse, 9 cases of rape and sexual abuse of children, 9 cases of murder of children, 2 self-immolation, 94 cases of child suicide, and more than 1 million students are deprived of education.

Lack of access to devices for virtual education, Child marriages, poverty, cultural context, population density, etc. in Khuzestan province has led to the highest number of deprivations from education in the country.

As mentioned in the right to the life section, at least 2 minor offenders have been executed in Iran during 2020. Additionally, 3 teenagers were sentenced to a total of 264 months of imprisonment.

During the nation-wide protests, 19 children and 1 children’s rights activist were arrested.

In monthly comparison in this category, the highest number of violations have been reported in August, in contrast to the lowest number in March, April and May.

Figure 33. A monthly comparative analysis of the violation of children’s rights based on the number of cases per month.
The following graph illustrates the number of violations of human rights in the category of children’s rights in 2020 in comparison with 2019.

Figure 34. Violations of children’s rights per month compared with the previous year (2020, 2019).
In the category of violations of women’s rights in 2020, a total of 81 reports have been registered by the Department of Statistics. These reports reflected. At least 572 women were physically and sexually abused, 13 cases of honor-killings, 6 self-immolation, 4 cases of acid attacks, and 1 cases of summoned women’s rights activists to judiciary and security organs.

Based on this report 5 women have been detained for reasons related to women’s rights. At least 2 women’s rights activists were sentenced to 180 months in prison.

As the following bar graph illustrates, based on the number of reports per month, the highest number of reports in women’s rights violations was in December and the highest decline in reports is observed in March and April.

**Figure 35. A comparative analysis of the violation of women’s rights based on the number of cases per month.**
The following graph illustrates the number of violations of human rights in the category of women’s rights in 2020 compared to 2019.

Figure 36. Violations of women’s rights per month in 2020 compared to the previous year.
Prisoners’ Rights

In the category of violations of prisoners’ rights in 2020, a total of 542 reports have been registered, 53 reports on physical assault of prisoners, 366 reports of deprivation/neglect of medical care, 109 reports of illegal transfer to solitary confinement, 533 attempted hunger strikes, 289 cases of forced transportation or exile, 228 cases of threatening prisoners, 126 cases of banning prisoners of having visitors, 18 cases of torture, 25 case of deaths by diseases, 10 arrestees were killed by prison authorities, and 17 prisoners committed suicide, 40 cases of lack of access to lawyers, 1678 reports of prisoners being held in unsuitable circumstances. Also, in this category, there have been 147 cases of keeping prisoners in an unsure state about their sentence and situation.

As the following bar graph illustrates, based on the number of reports per month, the highest number of reports in prisoners’ rights violations has been in October and the highest decline in reports is observed in May.

Figure 37. A monthly comparative analysis of the violation of prisoners’ rights based on the number of cases per month.
The following graph illustrates the number of violations of prisoners’ rights in 2020 in comparison with 2019.

**Figure 38- violations of prisoners’ rights per month in 2020 compared with the previous year.**
Security Forces' Violence and Citizens' Safety

Death of civilians

This section is dedicated to the killing or injuring of civilians by the police or military institutions. In 2020, a total of 204 people were shot by the military forces; 74 of the victims lost their life including, 36 Kulbar, 5 fuel-Carriers, 33 civilians. 130 people were also injured by the shots of the military forces, including 109 Kulbar, 16 civilian, 5 Fuel-carriers. Additionally, 9 Kulbers were affected by climate and geographical factors such as freezing and falling from heights, 4 of whom were injured and 5 Kulber lost his life.

Victims of landmines and explosions

The landmines left from the war threaten the lives of civilians of the border cities each year. Iranian government continues manufacture and planting of the anti-personnel mines, and against the international agreements, it believes that the use of these type of landmines is the only effective way in keeping its vast borders safe.

Based on reports, in the past year at least 10 civilians have lost their lives by landmines in the border areas and 14 other civilians have been injured.

Floggings

The International Covenant on civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) has explicitly banned the use of inhuman, or degrading punishments, such as flogging. However, based on the gathered reports in 2020, flogging sentences were carried out for at least 14 accused who were sentenced to a total of 874 floggings. The sentence of 3 of the accused for a total of 222 floggings were carried out in public.

It should be noted that, the judiciary has also issued a total of 23946 flogging sentences in the past year.

Intervention in personal affairs of civilians

In 2020, at least 209 civilians were arrested for attending or hosting personal gatherings and parties. This number is based on 8 official reports of the country.

Additionally, in 2020, at least 180 group of civilians –mostly consist of those who have lost money (exacerbated economically) or those whose civilian rights have been violated– have organize protests for not being able to fulfill their asking and demands. These protests took place in 24 provinces. Tehran, Eastern Azerbaijan, Khuzestan, and Khorasan Razavi were the provinces with most protests.
As the following bar graph illustrates, based on the number of reports per month, the highest number of reports in Military violence’s rights has been in August and the highest decline in reports is observed in April.

**Figure 39. A monthly comparative analysis of the Military violence’s rights based on the number of cases per month**

![Bar graph showing the number of Military violence cases per month with a peak in August and a drop in April.]

The following graph illustrates the number of Military violence in 2020 in comparison with 2019.

**Figure 40. Of Military violence’s per month in 2020 compared with the previous year.**

![Line graph showing the comparison of Military violence cases per month between 2019 and 2020, with a noticeable decrease in 2020.]
Sentences

In 2020, the judiciary of the Iranian government, including the initial court and appeal, issued 29841 months of imprisonment. These reports included: 1721 months of imprisonment for the ethnic minorities, 4351 months of imprisonment for religious minorities; 22271 months of imprisonment in the category of freedom of expression, 554 months of imprisonment in the category of Unions, 183 months of imprisonment for workers, 257 months of imprisonment in cultural category, 264 months of imprisonment in children’s rights category, 180 months of imprisonment in women’s rights category, and 60 months of imprisonment for students.

These statistics only include the court sentences that indicated detailed information or characteristics of the verdicts.

As the following bar graph illustrates, based on the number of reports per month, the highest number of reports in this category has been in February and the highest decline in reports is observed in December.

Figure 41. A monthly comparative analysis of the number of convicted citizens by month.

A total of One hundred and ninety-four billion and seven hundred and forty-six million rials in fines and 9182 lashes has been issued in 2020.
In 2020, the number of convictions of citizens or activists has increased by 35%. Moreover, the convictions of religious minorities increased by 28.9%, ethnic minorities decreased by 35%, and freedom of expression has been increased by 52.9%, unions increased by 89%, in the cultural field increased by 38%, workers decreased by 73%, women’s rights decreased by 80%, and in the students category decreased by 89%.

**Figure 42. A monthly comparative analysis of the number of convicted citizens based on the number of cases per month in 2020 and 2019.**
Arrests

In 2020, the security forces arrested 1426 individuals because of political or civil rights-related activities.

The statistical analysis exhibited 47 case of arrest in the trade union category, 286 arrests in the category of ethnic minorities, 77 arrests in the category of religious minorities, 928 arrests in the category of freedom of expression, in the children’s rights category 20 arrests, 6 arrests of students in the category of Academia/right to education, 27 arrests in the field of culture, and 30 arrests in the category of workers’ rights.

Moreover, 5 women were prosecuted for their activities, and promotion of their lifestyle; 3 of whom were arrested for modeling, and the other two for participating in sports.

As the following bar graph illustrates, based on the number of reports per month, the highest number of reports in this category has been in May and the highest decline in reports is observed in March.

Figure 43. A monthly comparative analysis of the number of arrests by month.
In 2020, the number of arrests decreased by 84%. According to these reports, the number of arrests decreased in ethnic minorities by 16.6%, culture increased by 51%, religion minorities decreased by 42%, unions decreased by 31%, students decreased by 94%, workers’ rights increased by 56%, and in the category of freedom of expression decreased by 88.8%.

Figure 44. The number of arrests per month in 2020 and 2019.