

FACT SHEET: SIX DAYS OF PROTEST IN IRAN

The Region

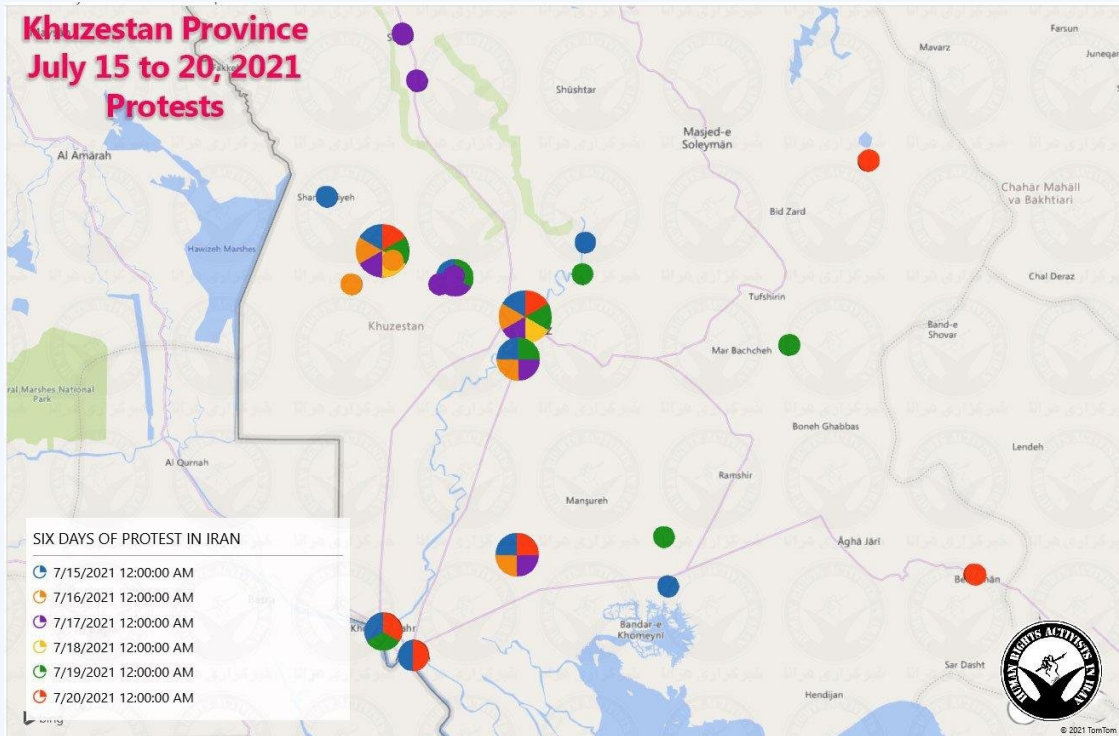
- Khuzestan is located in southwestern Iran bordering Iraq
- The majority of Khuzestan is home to Iranian Arabs
- The oil-rich region was devastated during the Iran/Iraq war and has since been neglected by the Iranian government
- Although the province is one of the most resource-rich in the country, home to five major rivers and a large portion of Iranian oil, resources are routinely diverted away from the citizens
- Nearly 5 million Iranians in Khuzestan province are water insecure due to officials' mismanagement of resources amidst severe drought
- Khuzestan residents face frequent power cuts, water shortages, polluted and dust-filled air, and high rates of unemployment
- 27 cities in Khuzestan are facing reduced rainfall exacerbating water insecurity in the region

The Protests

- Mismanagement of water has led to a surge in protests in Iran's most drought-affected areas
- The surge in [protests have been ongoing since July 15, 2021](#)
- A total of 20 cities documented protesting within Khuzestan
- Instances of violence are most prevalent in areas most affected by drought
- Provincial authorities have confirmed at least two civilians, Ghasem Khozeiri, 18, and Mostafa Naimawi, 30 have been killed by military forces.
- July 15: protests took place across 10 cities - reports of armed clashes
- July 16: protests took place across 6 cities - 2 protesters were killed
- July 17: protests took place across 9 cities - reports of internet shutdowns and/or slowdowns
- July 18: protests took place across 2 cities - reports of internet shutdowns and/or slowdowns and armed clashes
- July 19: protests took place across 9 cities - reports of internet shutdown and/or slow down and armed clashes
- [July 19: In front of the Ministry of the Interior, activists gathered in Tehran to support the Khuzestan protesters. Protesters were met with violent beatings by military forces.](#)
- [Several Tehran-based activists supporting Khuzestan protesters have been arrested; whereabouts remain unknown at this time. Prominent activists including Narges Mohammadi was among those arrested](#)
- July 20: protests took place across 7 cities - reports of internet shutdowns and/or slowdowns and armed clashes
- [July 20: protesters in Tehran's Sadeghie Subway Station chant 'death to the Islamic Republic'](#)
- July 20: [protesters in Izeh are met with tear gas fired by military forces](#)
- July 20: more than 130 documentarians sign a joint letter in support of Khuzestan protests, condemning the government's violent response.



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Human Rights Violations

- The arbitrary arrest and detention of peaceful activists is a serious violation of the right to liberty and security of person as protected by the ICCPR (article 9(1)), to which Iran is a signatory.
- Valiollah Hayati, as Security Deputy Governor of Khuzestan, is responsible for the violent repression of the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association
- As nearly 5 million Iranians in Khuzestan are lacking access to clean drinking water, Iran is failing to respect, protect, and fulfill the right to water, which is inextricably linked to the right to the highest attainable standard of health; both are protected by the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (ICESR) (article 11 and 12), to which Iran is a signatory.
- Interference with Internet access serves as a serious violation of the right to freedom of expression including the right of access to information protected by the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), to which Iran is a signatory.
- The excessive use of force against protesters is a violation of the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association as protected by the ICCPR (article 21). When excessive force leads to death (as seen on July 16th) there exists an additional violation of the non-derogable right to life.

**click link to view Spreading Justice profile of violator*

