

Iran: Risiken der Verfolgung und Denunzierung für Umweltaktivistinnen und -aktivisten

Schnellrecherche der SFH-Länderanalyse

Bern, 26. März 2019

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Sprachversionen
Französisch, Deutsch

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1 Einleitung

Einer Anfrage an die SFH-Länderanalyse sind die folgenden Fragen entnommen:

1. Welche Risiken hat eine kurdische Person in Iran, die für den Umweltschutz aktiv ist? Haben sich diese Risiken in den letzten fünf Jahren verändert?
2. Kann diese Person davon ausgehen, dass sie bei einer Strafverfolgung einen fairen Prozess erhält?
3. Unterstützen die iranischen Behörden aktiv Denunzierungen innerhalb von Familien? Gibt es Beispiele für Umweltaktivist_innen, die von Verwandten denunziert wurden?

Die Informationen beruhen auf einer zeitlich begrenzten Recherche (Schnellrecherche) in öffentlich zugänglichen Dokumenten, die der SFH derzeit zur Verfügung stehen, sowie auf den Informationen von sachkundigen Kontaktpersonen.

2 Situation von Umweltaktivist_innen

2.1 Unterdrückung von Umweltaktivist_innen in Iran

Mindestens 50 Umweltaktivist_innen wurden 2018 in Iran verhaftet. Unterdrückung nimmt bereits seit 2011 zu. Laut dem *Centre for Human Rights in Iran* (CHRI), das von ACCORD zitiert wurde, geraten seit Ende 2016 bestimmte Gruppen wie Journalist_innen, religiöse oder ethnische Minderheiten und Umweltaktivist_innen ins Visier des Innenministeriums (MOI) (ACCORD, 12. Juni 2017). Laut *Amnesty International* (AI) wurden diese Gruppen bereits im Jahr 2011 von den iranischen Behörden belästigt und verhaftet (AI, 2011). *Human Rights Watch* (HRW) schätzt, dass zwischen Januar und August 2018 in Iran mindestens 50 Umweltaktivist_innen verhaftet wurden (HRW, 3. August 2018).

Zunahme der Unterdrückung von Umweltaktivist_innen aufgrund von Protesten der Bevölkerung gegen Umwelterstörung, aber auch aufgrund der Verschlechterung der wirtschaftlichen Lage. Laut dem *Guardian* zeigen die Verhaftungen von neun Umweltaktivist_innen durch die iranische Revolutionsgarde Anfang 2018, dass die Behörden Umweltschützer_innen stärker kontrollieren. Die Betroffenen arbeiteten für den *Persian Wildlife Heritage Foundation* (PWHF). Obwohl der Einsatz für den Umweltschutz jahrelang ungefährlich war, wurden diese Aktivitäten in den letzten Jahren von Organisationen wie den Revolutionsgarden als Bedrohung der nationalen Sicherheit angesehen. Grund dafür ist zum einen ein wachsendes Umweltbewusstsein in der Bevölkerung und zum anderen der Ärger gegenüber der Regierung über schwere Schädigungen der Umwelt (*Guardian* 28. Februar 2019). Laut dem letzten Bericht des *UNO-Generalsekretärs* vom Februar 2019 zur Menschenrechtslage in Iran kann die jüngste Welle der Repression gegen Menschenrechtsverteidiger_innen und andere Gruppen wie Umweltschützer_innen als eine Reaktion der Regierung auf die Unzufriedenheit der Bevölkerung aufgrund der schwierigen Wirtschaftslage interpretiert werden, die sich im August 2018 wegen der Wiedereinführung der einseitigen Sanktionen noch verschärft hat (UNGA, 8. Februar 2019).

Umweltaktivist_innen der Spionage, «Verbreitung der Korruption auf der Welt», «Versammlung zur Störung der nationalen Sicherheit» oder «Infiltration» beschuldigt. Strafen zwischen sechs Monaten bis zur Todesstrafe. In seinem letzten Bericht zur Menschenrechtslage in Iran zeigte sich der *UNO-Generalsekretär* besorgt über Informationen, dass eine Einschüchterungskampagne läuft, die seit März 2018 zur Verhaftung von 43 Umweltschützer_innen geführt habe. Nur acht von ihnen wurden wieder freigelassen. Bis Ende 2018 gab es keine Informationen über den Verbleib der übrigen 35 Personen (UNGA, 8. Februar 2019). Laut HRW wurden vier dieser Personen angeklagt, «Korruption in der Welt zu verbreiten», wofür die Todesstrafe droht. Drei weitere seien wegen Spionage angeklagt worden. Eine Person sei der «Versammlung und Kollusion («collusion») zur Störung der nationalen Sicherheit» angeklagt worden. HRW sagt weiter, dass unter die vage Anschuldigung «Korruption in der Welt zu verbreiten» gemäss Artikel 286 des iranischen Strafgesetzbuchs jede Person fällt, die «[...] *extensively commits a serious crime against people's physical safety, offenses against internal or international security of the state, spreading lies, disruption of the economic system of the state, arson and destruction of properties*». Die Mindeststrafen für diese Straftat lägen zwischen sechs Monaten und fünf Jahren Gefängnis (HRW, 26. Oktober 2018). Laut HRW nutzen die Behörden die Beschuldigung der «Infiltration» ebenfalls häufig für die Inhaftierung von Umweltaktivist_innen (HRW, 7. Dezember 2018).

2.2 Situation von kurdischen Umweltaktivist_innen

Kurdische Umweltaktivist_innen werden besonders stark unterdrückt. Die Aktivisten unter ihnen werden prioritär ins Visier genommen, aber auch die anderen sind einem grossen Risiko ausgesetzt. Laut *Kayeh Kermashani*, Sprecher des *Kurdistan Human Rights Network* (KHRN), der von *ANF News* zitiert wurde, erhöhte die Regierung in letzter Zeit den Druck auf Umweltaktivist_innen im Osten von Iranisch-Kurdistan (ANF, Januar 2019). Der kurdische Journalist und Blogger *Fazel Hawramy* berichtete 2013 gegenüber dem *Danish Immigration Service* (DIS), dass er mehrere Umweltaktivist_innen kenne, die vom Regime ins Visier genommen wurden. Der kurdische Menschenrechtsaktivist *Reza Menuchehri* nennt als Beispiel eine Umweltorganisation, die in den kurdischen Regionen des Landes aktiv sei und die von den Behörden aufgelöst worden war. Fünf der aktivsten Mitglieder seien während zweieinhalb Monaten inhaftiert und gefoltert worden. Die Verhaftungen seien durch Sicherheitsbedenken begründet worden und dass die fünf Aktivist_innen Kontakt mit ausländischen Medien gehabt hätten. Laut der gleichen Quelle seien selbst weniger aktive oder sichtbare Mitglieder gefährdet, verhaftet zu werden (DIS, 2013).

Kurd_innen, die ihre ethnische oder religiöse Identität geltend machen sowie politisch Aktive im Fokus der Behörden. Seit dem Unabhängigkeitsreferendum in Irakisch-Kurdistan vom September 2017 haben die Behörden die Polizeipräsenz in den kurdischen Gebieten Irans verstärkt. Gemäss Informationen, die das *Danish Refugee Council* (DRC) und der *Danish Immigration Service* (DIS) während einer Abklärungsreise nach Teheran im September 2017 gesammelt hat, sind politisch aktive Kurd_innen und Kurd_innen, die ihre ethnische oder religiöse Identität geltend machen, im Visier der Behörden. Es würde manchmal bereits genügen, dass sich eine kleine Personengruppe auch für kulturelle und friedliche Aktivitäten versammeln würde, damit die Behörden eingreifen, die Personen befragen oder sogar verhaften. Laut einer Quelle, die von DRC/DIS befragt wurde, steht dieses repressive Verhalten der Behörden und die verstärkte Polizeipräsenz im Zusammenhang mit dem Unabhängigkeitsreferendum in Irakisch-Kurdistan im September 2017 (DRC/DIS, 23. Februar

2018). Laut einer akademischen iranischen Quelle, die von DIS 2013 befragt wurde, entwickelt sich in Iran eine neue Generation von Kurd_innen. Sie finden, die demokratische Partei Iranisch-Kurdistan sei überholt und suchen andere Arten von Organisationen, um sich zu engagieren, wie zum Beispiel Menschenrechtsgruppen oder Umweltorganisationen. Laut dem Analysten *Ziryayn Roj Helaty* vom *Tanupo Magazine*, der von DIS zitiert wurde, versuchen die Behörden, die Gesellschaft völlig zu kontrollieren, insbesondere in der kurdischen Region. Deshalb sei es nicht möglich, sich für etwas einzusetzen, selbst für grundsätzlich unpolitische Aktivitäten wie den Umweltschutz, ohne dass die Behörden darüber Bescheid wüssten und sie überwachen würden. Laut der gleichen Quelle würden einige NGOs allerdings tatsächlich als Deckmantel für politische Aktivitäten dienen. Dies sei insbesondere der Fall für einige Menschenrechts-NGOs, die kurdischen Parteien nahestehen (DIS, 2013).

Familienmitglieder einer von den Behörden gesuchten kurdischen Person riskieren Belästigung, Haft und sogar Folter. Im Jahr 2017 verhaftete die Regierung 1828 Kurden. Einige von ihnen waren Umweltaktivisten. Laut ACCORD, die einen Bericht des *UN-Sonderberichterstatters zur Menschenrechtsslage in Iran* vom März 2018 zitiert, wurden am 31. Oktober 2017 1828 Kurden aufgrund von unterschiedlichen Anklagen inhaftiert, darunter auch Einsatz für den Umweltschutz. 2017 hätte die Regierung 64 kurdische Häftlinge hingerichtet. Ausserdem seien 16 kurdische Häftlinge gefoltert oder misshandelt worden. 15 sei der Besuch ihrer Familien verboten worden und 15 weiteren sei medizinische Versorgung vorenthalten worden (ACCORD, Juli 2018). Gemäss dem *UK Home Office* besteht auch eine Reflexverfolgung für Familienmitglieder von Personen, die illegaler Aktivitäten verdächtigt werden. Dadurch soll Druck auf die Gesuchten ausgeübt werden. Sie können belästigt, verhaftet oder verhört werden. Laut dem Büro des *UN-Flüchtlingshilfswerks* (HCR) in Erbil, das im Bericht des *UK Home Office* zitiert wird, gibt es keine gesetzliche Grundlage für die Verhaftung eines Familienmitglieds einer gesuchten Person. In der Praxis könnten sie aber verhaftet und sogar gefoltert werden, damit sie das Versteck der gesuchten Person verraten. Laut einem westlichen Diplomaten könnten die Konsequenzen für die Familie einer politisch aktiven Person oder eines Mitglieds einer kurdischen Partei von Belästigung, Entlassung, Verbot zum Zugang zu höherer Bildung bis zur Untersuchung ihrer Computer reichen (*UK Home Office*, Januar 2019).

2.3 Unterdrückung von Umweltaktivist_innen ethnischer Minderheiten

Umweltaktivist_innen ethnischer Minderheiten, die von Entwicklungsprojekten der Regierung betroffen sind, werden ebenfalls unterdrückt. Laut dem *US Department of State* (USDOS) wurde die iranische Regierung im Jahr 2018 von Vertreter_innen ethnischer Minderheiten wie den *Ahwazis*, *Azeris* und *Lors* beschuldigt, die natürlichen Ressourcen, insbesondere Wasser, umgeleitet und schlecht verwaltet zu haben, damit Unternehmer, die mit den iranischen Revolutionsgarden verbandelt sind, davon profitieren. Diese Umleitungen hätten katastrophale Folgen gehabt, insbesondere die Zerstörung von Ackerflächen und die Vertreibung der Betroffenen. Die Unterdrückung der Umweltaktivist_innen und ihrer Demonstrationen hätte in den Regionen stattgefunden, in denen ethnische Minderheiten leben (USDOS, 13. März 2019). Laut ACCORD, die einen Bericht des *UNO-Sonderberichterstatters zur Menschenrechtsslage in Iran* vom August 2017 zitiert, sei die Regierung verantwortlich für die Verfolgung der arabischen ethnischen Minderheit der *Ahwazis*. Die Regierung habe ausserdem

im Jahr 2017 45 von ihnen verhaftet. Die Gründe dafür seien auch Demonstrationen gegen die Umweltzerstörung gewesen (ACCORD, Juli 2018).

3 Einhaltung der ordnungsgemässen Verfahrensabläufe und Recht auf ein faires Verfahren

Die Justizorgane verletzen internationale Normen im Hinblick auf das Einhalten von ordnungsgemässen Verfahrensabläufen und das Recht auf ein faires Verfahren. Die Rechte auf Verteidigung sind eingeschränkt, Geständnisse werden durch Folter erpresst, und Verurteilungen stützen sich häufig auf schwache oder nicht vorhandene Beweise. Laut *Michael Page*, dem stellvertretenden Leiter des Nahost-Büros von *Human Rights Watch* (HRW), haben die Strafverfahren gegen Umweltaktivist_innen, die 2018 verhaftet wurden, gezeigt, dass in Iran das Justizsystem ein Symbol für Ungerechtigkeit sei. Dieses werde als Repressionsinstrument eingesetzt würde. Mit diesen Verfahren würden die iranischen Justizbehörden internationale Normen zu fairen Urteilen verletzen (HRW, 26. Oktober 2018). Laut dem *UNO-Sonderberichterstatter zur Menschenrechtslage in Iran* gibt es in Iran eine klare Tendenz zur wiederholten Verletzung von Rechtsgarantien und des Rechts auf ein faires Verfahren. Diese Verletzungen zeichneten sich aus durch willkürliche Verhaftungen, lange Einzelhaft, Verhöre, Weigerungen, den Angeklagten Zugang zu frei gewählten Anwält_innen zu gewähren, insbesondere während der Untersuchungshaft, Schnellverfahren, bei denen das Urteil selten veröffentlicht oder schriftlich abgegeben wird, schwere Gefängnisstrafen oder die Todesstrafe für Anklagen von Spionage oder Angriff auf die nationale Sicherheit. Diese Verletzungen würden sich häufig bei den Revolutionsgerichten ereignen, die die meisten Todesstrafen aussprechen. Ausserdem würden sich die Anklagen häufig auf Geständnisse stützen, die durch psychologische Nötigung, Folter oder Misshandlung erpresst wurden. In der Regel würde von der Regierung nichts unternommen, um solche Foltervorwürfe zu untersuchen (UNHRC, 12. März 2018). Laut HRW haben Umweltaktivist_innen, die 2018 festgenommen worden waren, bestätigt, dass sie gefoltert wurden und dass sie dazu gezwungen wurden, falsche Geständnisse abzulegen. Diese Sichtweise wurde auch von zwei anonymen Quellen bestätigt, die von der Menschenrechtsorganisation befragt worden waren (HRW, 26. Oktober 2018)

Anwält_innen müssen von der Justiz zugelassen werden. Anwält_innen unter Druck durch die Regierung. Der *UNO-Sonderberichterstatter zur Menschenrechtslage in Iran* stellt fest, dass die Angeklagten teilweise von den Richtern dazu gezwungen werden, ihre Anwält_innen zu wechseln. Angeklagte, denen ein Angriff auf die nationale Sicherheit vorgeworfen wird oder andere Verbrechen, auf welche die Todesstrafe steht, müssen ihre Anwält_innen von einer Liste wählen, die der oberste Richter im Vorverfahren erstellt hat. Bestimmte Anwält_innen seien von der Liste gestrichen worden, nachdem sie bestimmte Klient_innen vertreten hatten (UNHRC, 12. März 2018). Laut HRW erlaubte die Abteilung 15 des Gerichts in Teheran, das für ein Verfahren gegen Umweltaktivist_innen zuständig war, den Verteidiger_innen nicht, die Anklageschrift vor dem Prozess durchzulesen. Der zuständige Richter hatte die Angeklagten auch dazu gezwungen, ihre_n Anwält_in von einer zuvor vom Gericht genehmigten Liste zu wählen (HRW, 26. Oktober 2018). Laut *UNO-Generalsekretär* hatten

die Umweltaktivist_innen, die 2018 verhaftet worden waren, keinen Zugang zu ihren Anwält_innen und keinen regelmässigen Kontakt mit ihren Familien. Ausserdem sei ihnen medizinische Versorgung vorenthalten worden (UNGA, 8. Februar 2019).

4 Denunzierungsrisiken für Umweltaktivist_innen durch ihre Familien oder Verwandte

Keine spezifischen Informationen zu Denunzierungsrisiken für Umweltaktivist_innen durch ihre Familien. Allerdings wurden in der Vergangenheit Personen, die zum Christentum konvertierten, durch Familienangehörige oder Verwandte denunziert. Die Regierung überwacht die Bevölkerung in hohem Masse mit Hilfe von Basij. Die SFH hat keine spezifischen Informationen über mögliche Risiken der Denunzierung von Umweltaktivist_innen durch ihre Familien oder Verwandte gefunden. Laut der E-Mail vom 16. März 2019 einer Kontaktperson der SFH, die als Anwältin arbeitet, und einer E-Mail vom 26. März 2019 von einer Kontaktperson der SFH, die als Professor der Politikwissenschaften an einer amerikanischen Universität arbeitet und Experte für die iranischen Revolutionsgarden ist, gibt es keine offizielle Politik oder Propaganda zur Förderung von Denunzierungen von Personen, die als feindlich oder der Regierung gegenüber als kritisch eingestellt eingestuft werden. Allerdings scheint es ein Denunzierungsrisiko für Personen zu geben, die in Aktivitäten involviert sind, die von den Behörden als illegal angesehen werden. Laut AI, die in einem Bericht des DIS vom Juni 2014 zitiert wurde, besteht zum Beispiel für Personen, die zum Christentum konvertiert sind, ein Risiko, dass sie von einem Familienmitglied oder einem Nachbarn denunziert werden. Dieses Risiko hängt von der Religiosität dieser Person sowie ihren Verbindungen zu den Behörden ab (DIS, 23. Juni 2014). Verschiedene Quellen, die von DRC/DIS im September 2017 in Teheran befragt wurden, schätzen dieses Risiko als gering ein. Es sei aber höher, wenn ein Familienmitglied für die Regierung arbeiten würde und/oder ihr Status im Beruf dadurch bedroht sei, dass ein Familienmitglied zum Christentum konvertiert ist. Laut einer anderen von DRC/DIS befragten Quelle sind viele Familien dem Regime gegenüber loyal und haben ein Basij-Mitglied in der Familie, einer iranischen paramilitärischen Einheit. Diese Quelle schätzt auch, dass Kinder der Familie ihre Lehrer_innen über Vorgänge zu Hause informieren könnten (DRC/DIS, Februar 2018). In einem Artikel für das *Washington Institute* weist Saeid Golkar¹ darauf hin, dass die Organisation Basij mit fast fünf Millionen Mitgliedern die grösste zivile Miliz der Welt ist. Ein eigener Basij-Geheimdienst, der in den 4000 «Basij-Distrikten» im ganzen Land präsent ist, dient als Augen und Ohren des Regimes, indem er die Aktivitäten der Bewohner_innen überwacht und Dossiers über lokale Aktivisten führt (*Washington Institute*, 5. Januar 2018). Die genaue Anzahl der Basij-Mitglieder bleibt ungewiss. In einem früheren Artikel ging Saeid Golkar unter Berufung auf die offizielle iranische Propaganda von etwa 15 Millionen Mitgliedern aus (Golkar, Dezember 2012). In einem Bericht aus dem Jahr 2013 wies die SFH darauf hin, dass es erhebliche Unterschiede zwischen den von verschiedenen Expert_innen zitierten Zahlen gab: von etwa vier Millionen (drei Millionen reguläre Mitglieder, 800'000 aktive Mitglieder und 200'000 Sondermitglieder) bis zu eineinhalb Millionen (davon etwa eine Million, 300'000 und 90'000 reguläre und aktive Mitglieder) (SFH, 25. Januar 2013).

¹ Saeid Golkar ist Assistant Visiting Professor am Department of Political Science and Public Service an der University of Tennessee und Experte für Basij.

5 Quellen

ACCORD, Juli 2018 :

« *The Amnesty International Report 2017/2018 states that “[d]ozens of environmental activists were summoned for interrogation, detained and prosecuted for participating in peaceful protests against air pollution, disappearing lakes, river diversion projects and dumping practices.”* In a February 2018 article Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL) reports that seven environmentalists were taken in custody. The detained had worked together with Iranian-Canadian environmentalist Kavous Seyed-Emami, who died in Evin prison. (RFE/RL, 12 February 2018). [...]

In a March 2018 report to the UN Human Rights Council (HRC), the UN Special Rapporteur on human rights in Iran referred to the situation of detained persons of Kurdish ethnicity as follow: “The Special Rapporteur is [...] deeply concerned by reports of individuals from the Kurdish community having been persecuted, arrested, and sentenced to death for their political affiliation or beliefs. **According to information received, as of 31 October 2017, 1,828 Kurds had been detained by the authorities on charges related to various activities such as environmental activism, eating in public during the month of Ramadan, working as border couriers engaged in smuggling illicit goods, or for celebrating the results of the referendum held in neighbouring Iraqi Kurdistan.** Information received indicates that 114 of these detainees were charged with political or security-related crimes, often for engaging in civic activism or because of their membership in Kurdish political parties. Some face long prison sentences, lashes and/or heavy financial penalties. Among these prisoners, there are individuals who are workers, teachers, kulbars (border couriers), artists, and human rights activists. In 2017, information received indicates that **at least 64 Kurdish prisoners were executed by the authorities, and at least 16 Kurdish political prisoners were reportedly subjected to torture or ill-treatment, with 31 going on hunger strikes to protest the circumstances surrounding their arrest and detention. 15 were denied basic rights such as visitation by their family members, and 15 others were deprived of adequate medical care.** [...]

An August 2017 report of the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Iran states that: “The Special Rapporteur received detailed information about the reported persecution of the Arab ethnic minority in the Islamic Republic of Iran known as the Ahwazi Arabs, which included allegations of a change in the ethnic composition of the region through the confiscation of land and the establishment of settlements. **Information about 45 cases involving the arrest and detention of Ahwazi Arabs was transmitted during the reporting period. Most of the cases seem to have taken place after participation in cultural and traditional events or protests against environmental degradation.** [...]

In terms of **recent cases of abuses and mistreatment in Iranian prisons**, in May 2018 Amnesty International (AI) reports on the situation of female prisoners of conscience from Iran’s Gonabadi Dervish religious community, who had to face “verbal abuse, including sexual slurs, and denied proper medical treatment by doctors” at Shahr-e Rey prison (AI, 25 May 2018). In June 2018 AI called for urgent action in the case of Zeynab Jalalian, an Iranian Kurdish woman whom the authorities denied access to “specialized medical care, despite her deteriorating

health in Khoy prison.” (AI, 15 June 2018). **The Center for Human Rights in Iran (CHRI) reported in June 2018 on three environmentalists who have been detained without charge for the past five months in Tehran’s Evin Prison and were subjected to torture during interrogations: “Sam Rajabi’s nose has been injured and Taher Bagherian’s front teeth have been broken and Niloufar Bayani was brought blindfolded to a meeting with her family by an agent who told her mother that Niloufar should cooperate [with her interrogators],’ a source close to the detainees’ families told the Center for Human Rights in Iran (CHRI) on June 26, 2018.” (CHRI, 28 June 2018)”** » Quelle: Austrian Centre for Country of Origin and Asylum Research and Documentation (ACCORD), Iran: COI Compilation, Juli 2018, S.97; 148; 203: www.ecoi.net/en/file/local/1441174/1226_1534925790_iran-coi-compilation-july-2018-final.pdf.

ACCORD, 12. Juni 2017:

« *Meanwhile, a recent article by the Center for Human Rights in Iran (CHRI), a New York-based non-profit organization, published in March 2017, notes **that since late 2016/early 2017, the MOI has “increasingly targeted civil and women’s rights advocates, journalists, dual nationals, ethnic and religious minorities, environmentalists, the administrators of social media pages, and relatives of protesters.*** » Quelle: Austrian Centre for Country of Origin and Asylum Research and Documentation (ACCORD), Query response on Iran: Procedural and legal information about arrest and detention procedures by different security organs [a-10097], 12. Juni 2017: www.ecoi.net/en/document/1402686.html.

AI, 2011:

« **Urging the authorities to cease harassing and arresting civil society activists, including students’ and women’s rights activists, environmentalists, journalists, human rights defenders and members of professional associations, such as the Teachers’ Trade Associations.**» Quelle: Amnesty International (AI), Further information on Urgent Action: 106/11 [MDE 13/045/2011], 15 April 2011: www.amnesty.de/urgent-action/ua-106-2011-1/abstimmungsueber-ngo-gesetz-vertagt?destination=node%2F5309%3Fsupport-type%3D%26node-type%3D%26country%3D52%26topic%3D%26from-month%3D0%26from-year%3D%26to-month%3D0%26to-year%3D%26submit-x%3D46%26submit-y.

ANF News, Januar 2019 :

« **During the past week, at least 12 civil and environmental activists were arrested in the cities of Sine (Sanandaj), Kamyaran and Baneh in Rojhilat, East Kurdistan.** Security forces have transferred the detainees to Sanandaj city Information Detention Center.

Kaveh Kermashani, a spokesman for the Kurdistan Human Rights Network (KHRN), said that pressure has increased on environmental activists in eastern Kurdistan, and Iran’s intelligence covered the detainees’ head with black sacks during raids. He added that the prisoners were beaten by security forces and have not been allowed to visit their lawyers or their families.» Quelle: ANF News, Iran arrested 12 Kurdish civil activists in one week, 9. Januar 2019: <https://anfenglish.com/kurdistan/iran-arrested-12-kurdish-civil-activists-in-one-week-32004>.

DRC/DIS, 23. Februar 2018:

« **Kurds asserting their ethnic and religious identity are a target, as well as Kurds engaging in or associated with political activities. Further, Kurds promoting or perceived to be promoting separatism are also a target.** Families, individuals or tribes who are affiliated with women rights are also a target. (...) Middle East Consultancy Services stated that Iranian Kurds are free to celebrate cultural occasions such as Norooz. However, cultural events becoming political are an issue. Middle East Consultancy Services mentioned as examples shouting political statements or carrying political iconography during the celebrations. **Other activities that may trigger the attention of the authorities are gatherings of more than a few people. The authorities might interrogate the gathered people and arrest or question them without further prosecution, or with subsequent prosecution.** This type of interference is intended to discourage people from gathering and to send a signal that the authorities are keeping individuals and groups under surveillance, Amnesty International said. Furthermore, it is reasonable to assume that people active on the social media are under some kind of monitoring by the authorities, an associate professor noted.[...]

Regarding the presence of the Iranian authorities in the Kurdish areas, Amnesty International stated the Ministry of Intelligence is present, and to some degree the Revolutionary Guard, too. The situation is different in Tehran, where the Revolutionary Guard is more present than the Ministry of Intelligence. **The source added that the presence of police increased in Kurdistan in connection with the Iraqi Kurdistan independence referendum of 25 September 2017, due to rallies and gatherings held by people supporting the voting in the neighbouring country. 19. According to the source, even when peaceful cultural activities remain purely cultural without a political aspect to them, the authorities can decide to intervene, including intervening in the name of protecting Islam or public decency.** Cultural rights of minorities are routinely violated, contrary to Iran's international obligations. Amnesty International added Iran is sensitive with regard to activities related to separatism and autonomy, including peaceful activities; the source underscored, however, it is difficult to say when the line is crossed, and why the authorities interfere in specific activities. 20. Gatherings of more than a few people will trigger the authorities' attention. The authorities might further interrogate the gathered people and arrest or question them without further prosecution, or with subsequent prosecution. **This type of interference is intended to discourage the ability to peacefully exercise the right to freedom of assembly, and to send a signal that the authorities are keeping individuals and groups under constant surveillance.** Generally, people in Iran, and not only Kurds, know they might be monitored by the authorities. 21. The source assumed that more men than women were targeted by the authorities. [...]

Meeting with an anonymous source, Tehran, 15 September 2017 [...] Presence and activities of the Iranian authorities in the Kurdish areas in Iran 34. **The source stated the Iranian General Security Forces do conduct surveillance in the Kurdish areas. The security forces do not only monitor activities and movements among the Kurdish activists but also their families.** When the General Security Forces notice unusual movements, the involved persons will be summoned and interrogated. The source informed the General Security Forces might make investigations on persons whose family members have strong links with former prominent Kurdish activists. The interrogation will be about affiliation with certain people, travel patterns through the border etc. Sometimes the interrogation will take place just to intimidate people and sometimes it will be to get specific information. If the person interrogated is not high profiled he will probably just be warned and released, but still monitored to see whom he meets

with. » Quelle: Danish Refugee Council (DRC) et Danish Immigration Service (DIS), Iran: Issues concerning persons of ethnic minorities, including Kurds and Ahwazi Arabs, 23. Februar 2018: www.ecoi.net/en/file/local/1426253/1788_1520517984_issues-concerningpersons-of-ethnic-minorities-including-kurds-and-ahwazi-arabs.pdf.

DIS, 23. Juni 2014 :

« *When asked what consequences a convert faces in relation to his family or social network, an international organisation in Turkey considered that a convert may be threatened by family members for example in the instance that a member of his family holds a higher ranking official position. This person may force him or her to stop his Christian activities.*

Regarding the risks of maltreatment from actors other than the authorities, the AIIS considered that the question of whether risks could emanate from family, would very much depend on how religious the family was or whether it had close ties to the authorities. As an example, it was explained that a member of the family who holds a government position for example, may be asking themselves whether they could be risking their position by having a convert in the family. Depending on such factors, it was considered that there is a possibility that a family member may report on a convert. [...]

Some Christian converts may risk maltreatment from their own family members and relatives but mostly, Christian converts are facing persecution at the hands of the state, according to Mansour Borji. The source found that it could happen that family members would report on their own family if somebody has converted to Christianity, often with good intentions hoping that an encounter with the authorities will have a 'deterrent' effect on them and make them forget about conversion. It could also happen that neighbors report on a convert, however, the source considered that the threat of persecution stemmed mainly from the authorities. » Quelle: Danish Immigration Service (DIS), Update on the Situation for Christian Converts in Iran; Report from the Danish Immigration Service's fact-finding mission to Istanbul and Ankara, Turkey and London, United Kingdom, 23. Juni 2014: www.ecoi.net/file_upload/1226_1403600474_rapportiranffm10062014ii.pdf.

DIS, 2013:

« *The Iran scholar pointed out that a new generation of Kurds who considers the old parties such as KDPI and their ideology to be outdated and old-fashioned, is coming up in Iran. This new generation would rather be active through grassroots organizations, human rights groups, environment NGO's etc., and do not want to be bound in their activities by the old parties. [...]*

Asked about the Iranian authorities' reaction towards non-political activities, such as NGOs working on the environment, conditions for women etc. in the Kurdish area of Iran, analyst Ziryan Roj Helaty (Tanupo Magazine) explained that the regime wants control of everything that is going on and that it is not possible to be active as an NGO unless the regime is informed. However, some NGOs are a cover for political activities, particularly human rights NGOs which have sometimes been affiliated with Kurdish political parties. Even if these NGOs do not have a political purpose they will be under surveillance by the regime, and some NGOs will even work for the regime. During the reform period under president Khatami there were some independent organizations in the Kurdish area of Iran but

they could not continue their activities when Ahmedinejad came to power. Analyst Ziryayn Roj Helaty (Tanupo Magazine) informed the delegation that the presence of the Kurdish Iranian opposition parties in Iran is based on sympathizers rather than real members. In this respect, it would not be possible for KDPI and Komala to be active via NGOs. **When asked whether non-political organizations and NGOs are targeted by the Iranian regime, Fazel Hawramy, a Kurdish journalist and blogger, informed the delegation that he knew of people in Marivan city who worked as environmentalists and who were targeted by the regime.** Fazel Hawramy added that arrest of NGO activists are often based on political charges, such as having connections to family members who are members of KDPI or Komala or PJAK. According to Fazel Hawramy, the Iranian law says that an accused person cannot be punished if there is no evidence against him, but **the authorities tend to press and torture people to make them confess and in this way finds an excuse to punish them.** Chief editor Sardar Mohammad and Chairman of the board of directors Asos Hardi (Awene Newspaper) believe that **people working with environmental issues in the Kurdish region of Iran are not targeted by the Iranian regime. However, if an issue is considered political, the persons involved might face problems.** From their own line of work, Sardar Mohammad and Asos Hardi (Awene Newspaper) knew of organizers of literature and poetry events who have been subjected to investigations by the authorities in Iran. According to the source, the Iranian regime in general tends to consider all Kurdish cultural activities as being political, particularly activities within the field of literature. [...]

According to an NGO working with asylum seekers and refugees in Iraq, NGOs working with issues such as youth, literature, or music do not face difficulties, but those working with human rights, democracy, women or other political issues should expect problems. According to the source, anybody talking about human rights in Iran is at risk. **Environmental issues can also be seen as political by the regime and activists working with these issues are thus targeted.** [...]

Reza Menuchehri (KMMK) provided information about an environmental organisation in the Kurdish areas of Iran. This organisation worked for the preservation of nature and wildlife and was active in fire fighting in forests. The authorities dissolved the organisation and five of the most active members, who were all university students, were detained for two and half months during which they were subjected to torture. They were arrested due to security charges and accusations of being in contact with foreign media. They were recently released on bail, but two of them were upon release displaced to universities in faraway cities. These five together with other activists were warned by the authorities not to pursue their prior activities and to stay away from any activities related to the upcoming elections (in June 2013). **Regarding the less active members, the source stated that these were also at high risk, and imprisonment could happen any time. However, the strategy of the regime was, according to the source, that by getting to the most active members first, the organisation would be dissolved by itself. During imprisonment, the parents of the five environmental activists were denied access to see them and told not to mention the imprisonment under any circumstances. This was all done orally. The families were also contacted by third persons sent by officials and told that it would be better for their detained children if the families kept quiet.** Reza Menuchehri (KMMK) added that this environmental organization was both highly informative and very efficient and was for instance able to gather tens of persons by text-messages in a short time in order to extinguish fires in forests. All in all, hundreds were active in this organisation. Activists were not formal members but were simply called upon when for instance a fire broke out. [...]

According to Reza Menuchehri (KMMK) the government of Iran tries to monitor everything, including small organisations and groups as well as individual activities. However, it was emphasized that the higher the number of activists in an organization, the more sensitive the government will be. » Quelle: Danish Immigration Service (DIS), Iranian Kurds; On Conditions for Iranian Kurdish Parties in Iran and KRI, Activities in the Kurdish Area of Iran, Conditions in Border Area and Situation of Returnees from KRI to Iran; 30 May to 9 June 2013, 30. September 2013, S.9-10; 58-60: www.ecoi.net/en/file/local/1133789/1226_1380796700_fact-finding-iranian-kurds-2013.pdf.

DRC/DIS, Februar 2018:

« Neighbours, who have become aware of unusual activities around a house, can cause a house church to be revealed for the authorities. A foreigner interacting with Christians in Iran added that otherwise, the authorities do not have the possibility to know about the house church as members are discrete about it. **It is unlikely that a family member will report to the authorities on a converted family member. However, it occurs in cases where the family member is a government employee or whose professional and/or social status is affected by the Christian family member. One source added that many families are loyal to the regime and have a Basij member within the family. If there are children in the family, they could also inform their teachers about activities in their homes, at school. [...]**

Converts who tell their family about their conversion risk getting into trouble; they risk exclusion and threats from the family who might think that the converted family members will create a problem for them. According to one source many converts do not tell their families about the conversion. » Quelle: Danish Refugee Council (DRC) et Danish Immigration Service (DIS), Iran: House Churches and Converts, Februar 2018: www.ecoi.net/en/file/local/1426255/1788_1520517773_house-churches-and-converts.pdf.

Golkar Saeid, Dezember 2012:

« In addition to religious training, Basij members must pass many political courses in order to strengthen their political loyalty to the Islamic regime and to the Supreme Leader in particular. These courses teach that the doctrine of jurist guardianship is not only a religious idea: it is the best form of government. In this form of government, a wise and pure person becomes the leader. This contrasts with the governments in other countries that enable corrupt politicians to rule. Moreover, the Islamic regime has dual legitimacy according to these trainings: religious legitimacy and popular legitimacy. Another significant topic in the Basij IPT courses is 'knowing the enemy' [doshman shenasi]. The enemy is comprised of the individuals, groups, organizations, and countries that want to overthrow the glorious Islamic Republic through methods such as war, coup, riots, colour revolutions, and cultural invasions.

The number of Basiji members remains uncertain. The Islamic Republic's propaganda states that more than 15 million of Iran's inhabitants are members of this organization. However, according to one estimate, currently only about four million people are members (three million regular members, 800,000 active members, and 200,000 special members). » Quelle: Saeid Golkar, Organization of the Oppressed or Organization for Oppressing: Analysing the Role of the Basij Militia of Iran, Dezember 2012, S.458-459:

https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Saeid_Golkar/publication/271626027_Organiza-tion_of_the_Oppressed_or_Organization_for_Oppressing_Analys-ing_the_Role_of_the_Basij_Militia_of_Iran/links/5b2cf3e30f7e9b0df5bbba3f/Organization-of-the-Oppressed-or-Organization-for-Oppressing-Analysing-the-Role-of-the-Basij-Militia-of-Iran.pdf.

Guardian, 28. Februar 2019 :

« In early 2018, nine environmental experts and activists from the Persian Wildlife Heritage Foundation (PWHF) were arrested in Iran. Disregarding their international reputation for tireless efforts to protect Iran's endangered Asiatic cheetahs, the country's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) accused them of being agents of the CIA, Mossad and MI6. The IRGC, which acts as an alternative, hardline centre of power in Iran, claimed that PWHF was using environmental activism as a cover for a mission to disrupt national security. It accused them of collecting "sensitive" environmental information and using camera traps to monitor Iran's ballistic missile programme.

A few weeks later, one of them, Kavous Seyed Emami, died suspiciously in an alleged suicide at Tehran's notorious Evin prison. His grieving wife, Maryam Mombeini, is still banned from leaving the country to join her two sons in Canada. The rest of the group are still in "temporary detention". Four of them have been charged with "spreading corruption on the earth", a crime that can carry the death penalty. The rest face serious security charges for "cooperation with hostile governments" and "acts against national security". **Their 300-page indictment was finally disclosed to them in a trial behind closed doors that began a few weeks ago.**

While the country's civilian ministry of intelligence has stated it believes the activists are innocent, the IRGC is determined to trumpet the discovery of another spy network. This heartrending story is yet more evidence of what I know from personal experience to be a trend: **a move by security forces to start policing the environmental sector in Iran.** [...]

Environmental problems recognise no borders and have the power to unite people regardless of their beliefs, cultures, ethnicities, and socio-economic status. Precisely this power, however, makes the environmental sector vulnerable to the attention of authoritarian elements. **For years it was a safe space for activism in Iran, but the combination of general environmental awareness and increasing public anger at the government for a range of grave environmental problems has convinced some that this space is now a threat to national security.**

The loss of hope is destructive for any environmental movement. Faced with this kind of persecution, **Iran's environmental community has become scared and confused.** » Quelle: The Guardian, The environment was once a safe space for activism in Iran. No longer, 28. Februar 2018: www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/feb/28/environment-safe-space-activism-iran-hardline-forces.

HRW, 5. Februar 2019 :

« Iran's judicial authorities are violating fair trial standards in the case of eight environmentalists who have been detained for over a year, Human Rights Watch said today.

Authorities should immediately open an impartial and transparent investigation into the torture allegations the accused have raised during the trial.

*On January 30, 2019, Houman Jokar, Sepideh Kashani, Niloufar Bayani, Amirhossein Khaleghi, Sam Rajabi, Taher Ghadirian, Abdoreza Kouhpayeh, and Morad Tahbaz, members of a local environmental group, the Persian Wildlife Heritage Foundation, appeared in court for the opening of the **trial on accusations of spying. Branch 15 of Tehran's revolutionary court, which is overseeing the trial, did not allow the defendants' lawyers to review the indictment prior to the session. Judge Abdolghassem Salavati of Branch 15 also restricted the defendants' choices for lawyers to a list approved by the judiciary. During the trial, one of the detainees interrupted the session, claiming that they were tortured and coerced into making false confessions, a source confirmed to Human Rights Watch.***

"The gravity of due process violations against these activists over the past year, and the recent allegation of torture and forced confessions, has reinforced the reality that the judiciary is a tool of repression and a symbol of injustice," said Michael Page, deputy Middle East director at Human Rights Watch. "The highest-ranking authorities should immediately investigate this allegation of torture, immediately call for the release of these activists, and end the grave abuses against them."

*On January 30, Mohammad Hossein Aghasi, a lawyer Rajabi has chosen to represent him, tweeted that he had **not been allowed to represent his client in the court. Two sources who asked not to be named due to the risk of reprisal, said that the 300-page indictment against the environmentalists is solely based on a forced confession in detention.***

*During the second trial session, on February 2, Bayani stood up, said that she rejected the accusation of spying, and described abuse she said she had experienced in detention. "If you were being **threatened with a needle of hallucinogenic drugs [hovering] above your arm, you would also confess to whatever they wanted you to confess,**" Bayani told the court on February 2, a source with close knowledge of the case confirmed.*

The Revolutionary Guards' Intelligence Organization arrested seven of the defendants on January 24 and 25, 2018, as well as Kavous Seyed Emami, an Iranian-Canadian university professor. The authorities arrested another environmentalist, Abdoreza Kouhpayeh, on February 25, who is being tried with seven other activists.

*On October 24, 2018, Abbas Jafari Dolatabadi, the Tehran prosecutor, said at a news conference that the authorities had finalized indictments for the activists. He said that **four face the charge of "sowing corruption on earth," which includes the risk of the death penalty, claiming that the activists were "seeking proximity to military sites with the cover of the environmental projects and obtaining military information from them."** On January 30, the Islamic Republic News Agency reported that **three others are charged with spying** and one person is **charged with assembly and collusion against national security.***

*Several senior Iranian government officials have said that they did not find any evidence to suggest that the detained activists are spies. On May 22, the Iranian Student News Agency (ISNA) reported that Issa Kalantari, the head of Iran's Environmental Institution, said during a speech at a biodiversity conference that the government had formed **a committee consisting of the ministers of intelligence, interior, and justice and the president's legal deputy,***

and that they had concluded there was no evidence to suggest those detained are spies. On February 3, Mahmoud Sadeghi, a member of Parliament from Tehran, tweeted that according to the information he has received, the National Security Council headed by President Hassan Rouhani also did not deem their activities of the detained conservation activists to be spying.

In January, two labor rights activists, Ismael Bakhshi and Sepideh Gholian, also alleged that they had been tortured when the authorities detained them in November. Instead of conducting a transparent investigation of their allegations, the authorities arrested both activists shortly after in what appears to be an act of reprisal.[..]

“If President Rouhani wants anyone to believe he does not agree that detainees are being routinely tortured in Iran, now is the time to act,” Page said. “The president should directly intervene as the head of the national security council, and order a transparent investigation.”»
Quelle: Human Rights Watch (HRW), Iran: Environmentalists’ Flawed Trial, 5. Februar 2019: www.ecoi.net/en/document/1457603.html.

HRW, 7. Dezember 2018 :

*« Two academics with ties to Australian universities are among those arrested or required to go to a police station to face questioning in Iran during a weeks-long crackdown. **The Iranian authorities claim those arrested used scientific projects as a cover to infiltrate Iran and create obstacles for the country’s plans to increase its birth rate. The accusation is another use by Iranian authorities of the vaguely defined word ‘infiltration,’ a word the authorities have repeatedly used to justify the detention of academics and environmentalists. [...]***

The phrase “infiltration” became the watchword for Iranian intelligence agencies for domestic enemies they claimed were national security “threats.” Since then, dozens of dual and foreign nationals, as well as Iranian citizens, have been arrested by Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) Intelligence Organization and accused of being part of the Western “infiltration” network.

The detained dual and foreign nationals come from all walks of life, but the cases have in common a near-total absence of due process. Officials use smear campaigns against them and lack concrete evidence of any crime. Iranian authorities should ensure the rights of these detainees and grant them fair trials to end this grave misjustice. » Quelle: HRW, Family Planning Scholar Arrested on Vague Accusations in Tehran, 7. Dezember 2018: www.ecoi.net/en/document/1454437.html.

HRW, 26. Oktober 2018 :

*« **Iranian authorities have issued indictments against eight detained environmental activists that could lead to the death penalty,** Human Rights Watch said today. Iranian authorities should immediately release these activists who have been arbitrary detained for nine months unless they can produce evidence to justify the charges against them and guarantee a fair trial. [...]*

Under article 286 of Iran's penal code, "Any person, who extensively commits a serious crime against people's physical safety, offenses against internal or international security of the state, spreading lies, disruption of the economic system of the state, arson and destruction of properties" can be considered among the "corrupt on earth" and sentenced to death if the court finds "the intention to cause extensive disruption in the public order, or creating insecurity, or causing vast damage or spreading corruption and prostitution in a large scale, or the knowledge of effectiveness of the acts committed." Otherwise, the sentence can be between six months and five years. » Quelle: HRW, Iran: Environmentalists Face Capital Charges, 26. Oktober 2018: www.ecoi.net/de/dokument/1447933.html.

HRW, 3. August 2018 :

« Iranian authorities should immediately release eight environmental activists detained for six months unless they can immediately charge them with recognizable crimes and produce evidence to justify their continued detention, **Human Rights Watch said today. Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) intelligence organization has arrested at least 50 environmental activists across the country since January 2018. [...]**

On January 24 and 25, the IRGC intelligence organization arrested several members of a local environmental group, the Persian Wildlife Heritage Foundation, accusing them of using environmental projects as a cover to collect classified strategic information. It is unclear what classified strategic information these individuals could potentially collect, as the foundation works to conserve and protect Iran's flora and fauna, including the Asiatic Cheetah, an endangered species found in the country. On February 10, the family of Kavous Seyed Emami, a well-known environmentalist and professor arrested as part of this crackdown, reported he had died in detention under unknown circumstances. Iranian authorities have claimed Seyed Emami committed suicide, but they have not conducted an impartial investigation into his death.

On July 31, Mohammad Hossein Aghasi, a lawyer for the detained sons of the Rajabi and Ghadirian families, told Human Rights Watch the prosecutor has not allowed him to represent his clients and has not given him a chance to read their cases. » Quelle: Human Rights Watch (HRW), Iran: Environmentalists Face Arbitrary Detention, 3. August 2018: www.ecoi.net/en/document/1439893.html.

SFH, 7 Juni 2018:

« **Dénonciation par des membres de la famille ou des voisins. Selon Amnesty International (AI, cité par DIS, juin 2014), pour une personne convertie, le risque d'être dénoncée par la famille dépend de son degré de religiosité et de ses liens avec les autorités. Il est possible qu'une personne convertie soit dénoncée par un membre de sa famille ou par des voisin-e-s (AI ; Mansour Borji, tous deux cités par DIS, juin 2014). Diverses sources citées dans le rapport de DRC/DIS estiment qu'il est peu probable que les membres de la famille dénoncent aux autorités une personne convertie (DRC/DIS, 23 février 2018). Cependant, cela peut se produire lorsque le proche travaille pour le gouvernement ou lorsque son statut est affecté par la conversion (Middle East Concern, cité par DRC/DIS, février 2018). De nombreuses familles sont fidèles au régime et comptent parmi elles des membres des Basij. Le risque existe également que les enfants informent les enseignant-e-s à l'école des activités qui se déroulent chez elles/eux (information transmise par une source anonyme à**

RDC/DIS, février 2018). » Quelle : Schweizerische Flüchtlingshilfe (SFH), Iran : menaces pesant sur les personnes converties, 7 Juni 2018, S.14 : www.osar.ch/assets/herkunftslander/mittlerer-osten-zentralasien/iran/180607-irn-konvertierte-fr.pdf.

SFH, 25. Januar 2013:

« *Mitgliederzahl. Die genaue Zahl der Mitglieder der Basij bleibt unklar. Die offizielle iranische Propaganda spricht von rund 15 Millionen Mitgliedern.22 Schätzungen von Experten gehen weit auseinander: Von rund vier Millionen (drei Millionen reguläre, 800'000 aktive und 200'000 Spezialmitglieder) bis zu anderthalb Millionen (davon rund eine Million reguläre, 300'000 aktive und 90'000 Spezialmitglieder).* » Quelle: SFH, Iran: Ausstieg aus der Basij, 25. Januar 2013, S.3: www.osar.ch/assets/herkunftslander/mittlerer-osten-zentralasien/iran/iran-retrait-du-basij.pdf.

UK Home Office, Januar 2019 :

« 10.5.5 The FFM report also stated: '... Asked how the regime treats the family of someone who has been caught with a flyer, UNHCR Erbil answered that the family will be harassed until the wanted person shows up. The regime will sometimes detain a family member and interrogate him for a few hours and then release him; or the regime will hold one of the family members in detention. When asked in which cases family members will be harshly or mildly punished, UNHCR Erbil answered that there is no basis in the Iranian law to detain a family member to a person whom the authorities has failed to arrest. However, in practice once the authorities find out that a person who has actively been working against the government has escaped from them, they would interrogate the family members and sometimes detain them for a while and use torture to make them confess about the whereabouts of the wanted person. 'As regards pressure on the families of Kurdish political activists and Kurdish political party members, a Western diplomat and expert on Iran informed the delegation that the Iranian authorities put the families under pressure. This can be done by removing them from their positions in the public sector, frequently calling them in and asking them questions, calling the families to threaten them with imprisonment and with depriving them of access to higher education or employment in public positions, investigating their computers, etc.' » Quelle: UK Home Office, Iran: Kurds and Kurdish political groups, Januar 2019, S.36: www.ecoi.net/en/file/local/2002538/CPIN - IRN - Kurds_and_Kurdish_pol_groups.pdf.

UNGA, 8. Februar 2019 :

« *Le Secrétaire général est préoccupé par les informations faisant état de l'intimidation, de l'arrestation et du placement en détention de défenseurs de l'environnement. Selon les informations reçues, 43 défenseurs de l'environnement ont été arrêtés depuis mars 2018 et seulement huit d'entre eux ont été remis en liberté. En décembre 2018, on ignorait toujours ce qu'il était advenu des autres défenseurs arrêtés et où ils se trouvaient.*

En janvier, Kavous Seyed Emami, directeur de la Persian Wildlife Heritage Foundation, et huit autres membres de la fondation ont été arrêtés. Ils étaient accusés d'avoir recueilli des informations classifiées sous couvert de projets environnementaux.

Kavous Seyed Emami est décédé en garde à vue et son épouse est sous le coup d'une interdiction de voyager. Le 21 février, plusieurs titulaires de mandat au titre des procédures spéciales ont exprimé publiquement leur préoccupation quant à sa mort et à l'arrestation d'autres défenseurs des droits de l'homme liés à l'environnement. Le Gouvernement n'a pas encore fourni d'informations indiquant si une enquête indépendante et impartiale a été menée sur les circonstances de la mort de Kavous Seyed Emami. Dans ses observations, il a déclaré que l'enquête et un examen médico-légal avaient confirmé la thèse du suicide.

*Selon des témoignages émanant notamment des autorités iraniennes, **le comité gouvernemental chargé d'enquêter sur les activités des défenseurs de l'environnement détenus a conclu à l'absence de preuve d'espionnage.** Cependant, le 24 octobre, le Procureur de Téhéran a confirmé que les intéressés avaient été inculpés pour « corruption sur terre », un crime passible de la peine de mort. Il ressort **des informations reçues par le HCDH que les défenseurs se sont vu refuser l'accès à un avocat de leur choix et qu'ils ont été privés de soins médicaux et de contacts réguliers avec leur famille.** [...]*

*D'une manière générale, la situation en République islamique d'Iran a été marquée par l'incidence des difficultés économiques et financières du pays sur l'exercice de divers droits par les Iraniens. L'accès au travail, à la nourriture, à l'eau, aux soins de santé et à d'autres biens de première nécessité s'est de ce fait révélé difficile pour de nombreux Iraniens, malgré les mesures prises par les autorités pour résoudre ces difficultés. **Les effets conjugués d'un mécontentement de longue date lié aux problèmes économiques et d'une aggravation de la situation du fait du rétablissement des sanctions unilatérales depuis août 2018 ont conduit à des manifestations sporadiques dans l'ensemble du pays. Les autorités ont réagi en proposant des réformes, mais aussi en exerçant une répression essentiellement dirigée contre les défenseurs des droits de l'homme et les avocats spécialistes des droits de l'homme, les défenseurs des droits des travailleurs, les utilisateurs des réseaux sociaux et les défenseurs de l'environnement.** Les cas d'application de la peine capitale, y compris à des mineurs délinquants, sont restés nombreux, malgré une diminution globale du nombre d'exécutions depuis la modification de la loi sur le trafic de stupéfiants. Des cas de torture, de détention arbitraire et de procès non conformes aux normes internationales ont continué d'être signalés, ainsi qu'une discrimination persistante à l'égard des femmes et des membres des minorités ethniques et religieuses. » Quelle: Assemblée Générale des Nations unies (UNGA), Situation des droits de l'homme en République islamique d'Iran; Rapport du Secrétaire général [A/HRC/40/24], 8. Februar 2019, S.11,19:*

<https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G19/028/78/PDF/G1902878.pdf?OpenElement>.

UNHRC, 12. März 2018:

*« The situation of Mohammad Ali Taheri, the founder of a spiritual movement, writer and practitioner of alternative medicine theories, who was sentenced to death, is also of concern. His trial took place amidst serious due process concerns, and a number of his followers were arrested and reportedly coerced into giving confessions. His appeal was heard before the Supreme Court, which overturned the death penalty sentence, and reportedly remanded the case back to the trial court. **However, no written or formal decision is available. It is understood that the verdict would only be made available to a lawyer who is approved by the head***

of the judiciary, and that he was told to appoint an approved lawyer. The Special Rapporteur reiterates the call made by the High Commissioner for Human Rights for the withdrawal of charges against him and his release. [...]

Right to a fair trial.

In many of the cases described in the present report, and on the basis of the consistent reports which continue to be received, the Special Rapporteur is struck by the pattern of reported violations related to due process and fair trial in the Islamic Republic of Iran in particular with respect to human rights defenders, trade unionists, journalists, political prisoners and prisoners of conscience, and members of opposition, minority and religious groups, foreign and dual nationals.

The pattern is often characterised by an arbitrary arrest; prolonged solitary confinement; interrogation; denial of access to a lawyer of choice, in particular during the investigative phase; short trials after which the verdict is rarely published or provided in written form; and the issuance of long prison or death penalty sentences based on charges related to espionage or national security. In many cases, such patterns occur within the context of revolutionary courts, which are reported to be responsible for the majority of death sentences on the basis of available data. In a number of cases, the prosecution case has rested upon confessions extracted through reported psychological coercion or torture or other ill treatment, with no investigation carried out after such allegations have been made.

In the course of her missions, individuals that the Special Rapporteur met described similar patterns. A number also described how defendants had been put under extreme pressure by judges to change their lawyers. It is further recalled that defendants accused of national security, political, capital, or press crimes, and those accused of such offences that carry life sentences are obligated to select legal counsel from an official pool of lawyers chosen by the head of the judiciary during the pre-trial stage. In 2015, the Bar Association reportedly called for this to be reconsidered, however the Special Rapporteur regretfully notes that no changes have been made. In previously provided responses, the Government has maintained that the Revolutionary Courts are no different from other courts; trials are conducted in accordance with the law, with all rights of the accused guaranteed; and that verdicts must be well reasoned out and documented.

*Further underpinning the concerns outlined, the Special Rapporteur continued to receive information concerning the **ongoing harassment of lawyers and judges**. In one case reported to the Special Rapporteur, a lawyer was beaten and detained for being late to a court session. **The Special Rapporteur also heard accounts of lawyers being disbarred or rejected for membership to the bar association after having represented certain defendants.** In previous responses the Government has indicated that according to the Constitution, the Judiciary is independent. [...]*

*The Special Rapporteur is [...] **deeply concerned by reports of individuals from the Kurdish community having been persecuted, arrested, and sentenced to death for their political affiliation or beliefs.** According to information received, as of 31 October 2017, 1,828 Kurds had been detained by the authorities on charges related to various activities such as environmental activism, eating in public during the month of Ramadan, working as border couriers engaged in smuggling illicit goods, or for celebrating the results of the referendum held in*

neighbouring Iraqi Kurdistan. Information received indicates that 114 of these detainees were charged with political or security - related crimes, often for engaging in civic activism or because of their membership in Kurdish political parties. **Some face long prison sentences, lashes and/or heavy financial penalties. Among these prisoners, there are individuals who are workers, teachers, kulbars (border couriers), artists, and human rights activists.** In 2017, information received indicates that at least 64 Kurdish prisoners were executed by the authorities, and at least 16 Kurdish political prisoners were reportedly subjected to torture or ill-treatment, with 31 going on hunger strikes to protest the circumstances surrounding their arrest and detention. 15 were denied basic rights such as visitation by their family members, and 15 others were deprived of adequate medical care. [...]

The health situation of Zeynab Jalalian in this regard is of continuing concern. She has been on medicinal strike since February 2017 to protest the lack of adequate medical care afforded to her. She is serving a life sentence following her arrest in 2007 for alleged membership of a prohibited group. » Quelle: UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC), Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran [A/HRC/37/68], 12. März 2018, S.11-12; 14, 16-17:

www.ecoi.net/en/file/local/1443624/1930_1537276852_g1806060.pdf.

USDOS, 13. März 2019:

«**According to HRW, since January the IRGC's intelligence organization had arbitrarily arrested at least 50 environmental activists across the country and imprisoned them without bringing formal charges or evidence. These included several environmentalists affiliated with the Persian Wildlife Heritage Foundation who were arrested in January for espionage. They were accused of using environmental projects as a cover to collect classified information.** In July family members of Houman Jokar, Sepideh Kashani, Niloufar Bayani, Amirhossein Khaleghi, Sam Rajabi, Taher Ghadirian, Abdolreza Kouhpayeh, and Morad Tahbaz demanded their release in a published open letter, saying the environmentalists had been imprisoned for six months without a "shred of evidence." [...]

Another widespread complaint among ethnic minority groups during the year, particularly among Ahwazis, Azeris and Lors, was that the government diverted and mismanaged natural resources, primarily water, often for the benefit of IRGC-affiliated contractors. According to reports from international media and human rights groups, these practices had devastated the local environment on which farmers and others depended for their livelihoods and well-being, resulting in forced migration and further marginalization of these communities. **Throughout the year the government forcefully cracked down on environment-related protests that were largely centered in these ethnic minority communities. According to international media reports, in July the government forcefully suppressed protests over the scarcity of clean water in Khorramshahr, Khuzestan Province. Hundreds were arrested and at least four protesters were reported killed after security forces opened fire on the crowd.**[...]

Authorities suppressed legitimate activities of Kurdish NGOs by denying them registration permits or bringing security charges against persons working with such organizations. Authorities did not prohibit the use of the Kurdish language in general. » Quelle: US Department of State (USDOS), Country Report on Human Rights Practices 2018 - Iran, 13. März 2019: www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/2018/nea/289205.htm.

Washington institute, 5. Januar 2018:

« As for the Basij, it has become the largest civil militia organization in the world, with around five million members spread among twenty-four branches and divided into four main rankings: regular, active, cadre, and special. They form a cluster network consisting of Basij bases, districts, and regions. Although the bases are the lowest organizational level, their high visibility (50,000 locations throughout Iran) makes them the Basij's true grassroots backbone. Each Basij resistance district controls ten to fifteen bases and is home to local security and military forces. These districts are in turn controlled by IRGC regional branches. Depending on size, some cities have more than one IRGC region (e.g., Tehran). (...) Iran has more than seventeen different security organizations, with three main bodies involved in internal intelligence: the Ministry of Intelligence, the IRGC Intelligence Organization (IRGC-IO), and the Intelligence and Public Security Police (PAVA), a branch of the NAJA. All of them are directly or indirectly overseen by the Supreme Leader. Despite ongoing power conflicts between these bodies, they typically work hand-in-hand in to protect the regime.

These organizations have penetrated Iranian society through two main networks, the Herasat and IRGC-IO. The Intelligence Ministry has established Herasat branches in every civilian organization and university in the country, tasking them with identifying potential security threats. Herasat officials reportedly surveil employees (e.g., by monitoring their communications), act as informants, and influence hiring and firing practices.

The IRGC-IO also has its own broad social network, the Basij intelligence staff (stead-e khaberi-e Basij), whose members are present throughout Iran's estimated 4,000 Basij districts. Much like the Herasat, Basij intelligence officers act as the regime's eyes and ears by monitoring citizen activities and keeping files on local activists.

PAVA is responsible for gathering intelligence in neighborhoods and penetrating Iran's guilds, arresting any workers who are deemed too subversive. To do so, it runs a network of local informers (mokhber mahali) to collect news and rumors. PAVA has also been tasked with conducting religious activities and ferreting out homes used for Christian worship. » Quelle: The Washington Institute, Iran's Coercive Apparatus: Capacity and Desire, 5. Januar 2018: www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/view/irans-coercive-apparatus-capacity-and-desire.

Die Schweizerische Flüchtlingshilfe SFH setzt sich dafür ein, dass die Schweiz das in der Genfer Flüchtlingskonvention festgehaltene Recht auf Schutz vor Verfolgung einhält. Die SFH ist der parteipolitisch und konfessionell unabhängige nationale Dachverband der Flüchtlingshilfe-Organisationen. Ihre Arbeit finanziert sie durch Mandate des Bundes sowie über freiwillige Unterstützungen durch Privatpersonen, Stiftungen, Kantone und Gemeinden.

SFH-Publikationen zu Iran und anderen Herkunftsländern von Asylsuchenden finden Sie unter www.fluechtlingshilfe.ch/herkunftslaender.

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