



Monitoring Human Rights in Iran

Period: 1 May 2006 – 31 May 2006

Compiled by NCRI's human rights working group - <http://www.ncr-iran.org>

Death sentences, executions

Young man sentenced to death

ISNA (state-run news agency) May 02 – Death sentence for a 26-year-old Afghan man, accused of killing his wife, was upheld by country's Supreme Court, ISNA reported. The name of the man was not mentioned in the report.

A 17-year-old boy in death row

Etemaad newspaper (state-run), May 02 – A young boy accused of killing one of his relatives in a family dispute, is waiting to be executed, Etemaad newspaper wrote. The paper identified the boy only by his first name, Nemat.

Execution of a Woman in public

Iran newspaper (state-run), May 03 – A woman was hanged in the city of Selseleh of the Lorestan province on Tuesday, Iran newspaper reported. Farzaneh Sadeghi was accused of murder and was hanged in public in the presence of juridical officials, according to the paper.

Execution in Ahwaz

Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), May 07 – A man was hanged in the volatile Khuzistan province, home to country's Arab minority, according to a report by IRNA. "The death sentence for the convicted Mohammad M. was carried out on Sunday in Karoun Prison of Ahwaz", the report said with elaborating.

Two men, one woman hanged in Iran

Khorassan (state-run newspaper), May 22 –A man identified only as Abdolvahed N. was hanged in the south-eastern town of Zahedan on charges of kidnapping and armed robbery, Khorassan newspaper reported. The daily also reported that an Iranian woman and a foreign man were hanged in the north-eastern province of Khorassan-Razavi. The woman was only identified by the initials M.M. and the man was identified as A.H. They were accused of murdering the woman's husband.

Two men hanged

IRNA (state-run news agency), May22 - A man, identified as Masoud Narouee, was hanged in Zahedan Prison, IRNA reported. He was charged with drug trafficking. The news agency also reported that a man from the western Iranian town of Khorramabad was hanged in public in the early hours of the day. Majid Sagvand had been accused of murder.

Prisoner hanged in volatile Iran province

Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), May 31 – Iranian authorities hanged a man in a prison in the south-eastern province of Sistan-va-Baluchistan, IRNA reported. Abdol-Hamid Narouee was hanged in Zahedan Prison charged with possession of an illegal weapon and armed robbery, according to the report. The province has been the scene of numerous attacks by armed insurgents against government and security officials recently.

Arrests, Torture and inhumane punishments

Two young men street-paraded in Tehran

ISNA (state-run news agency), May 03 – Iranian authorities street-paraded two young men in central Tehran on charges of “hooliganism”, *ISNA* reported on Wednesday. The news agency also published a photo of the pair as they were being paraded with their hair shaven off like a cross and long sticks passed through their sleeves. The young men, identified as Masoud and Mehdi, were also accused of using a knife as a weapon in Tehran’s Nezam-Abad district.



Religious preachers and their lawyers sentenced to jail and flogging

Kargozaran (state-run newspaper), May 04 – Dozens of Islamic mystics and their lawyers have been sentenced to jail and flogging, the daily *Kargozaran* reported on Thursday. Altogether, 52 Islamic mystics, or “Sufis”, were sentenced to jail time and flogging and received a fine, the daily wrote. They were charged with “disrupting public order”. They were from among 1,000 Sufis who were arrested in February for taking part in anti-government riots in the holy city of Qom, south of Tehran. Their two lawyers, Farshid Yadollahi and Omid Behrouzi, were also sentenced to one year behind bars and 74 lashes and fined 10 million Rials (\$1,000). Both of the men were also barred from working as lawyers for five years.

54 people flogged in Iran for attending mix-sexed party

Iran newspaper (state-run), May 05 – Iranian authorities flogged 54 people for attending a mixed-sex party in the northern province of Mazandaran, the daily *Iran* reported. The men and women were arrested by the “anti-vice police” in a park in the suburbs of the town of Babol as they were partying during the night, according to the daily. The report said that all 54 men and women were flogged inside the offices of the Ministry of Justice in Babol.

Rights group calls for release of two journalists held in Iran

RSF, May 27 – The international press freedoms organisation Reporters Without Borders demanded on Saturday the “immediate release” of two Iranian Azeri journalists who were detained by authorities following mass anti-government demonstrations earlier this week by ethnic Azeris in north-west Iran. Amin Movahedi was detained on Friday in the city of Meshkinshar and Orouj Amiri was arrested on Thursday in the nearby city of Marand, the group said in a statement. “Absolutely no charges have been brought against Movahedi and Amiri and the authorities have not said where they are being held”, it said. “These journalists are being subjected to illegal harassment simply for working independently”.

Freedom of Opinion and Expression

Iranian philosopher Jahanbegloo arrested

Reuters, May 03 - Prominent Iranian philosopher and writer Ramin Jahanbegloo has been arrested on unspecified charges, judiciary officials said on Wednesday. Deputy Tehran Prosecutor Mahmoud Salarkia told the ISNA students news agency Jahanbegloo was being held in the capital's notorious Evin prison, where most of Iran's jailed political dissidents are held. Charges against Jahanbegloo, who also holds Canadian citizenship, "will be announced after the interrogations," an unnamed judiciary official told the Etemad-e Melli newspaper.

Ban on wearing of T-Shirt and short sleeved shirts in Univeristies

advarNews (state-run website), May 06 - AdvarNews reported that in some of the University units outside Tehran, officials have put statements on the walls that say entry will be denied to male students wearing T-Shirts or short sleeved shirts. Those who break the rule will be reported to the order-keeping committee.

Protest in Tehran University

Radio Farda (RFE/RF) May 22 – Students in Tehran University gathered on Monday to protest to what they called “a huge wave of undemocratic and anti-student changes that has created a police atmosphere in the Universities”. One student leader, Farid Hashemi, says “recent actions by security officials who used an iron cane to break the fingers of a Kurdish student of the law faculty for distributing papers in the social science faculty, insulting behaviors in the entry of the University towards male and female students, and incapability of University officials were main motivations for today’s protest”.

54 Baha'is arrested in Iran

Baha'i World News Service (BWNS), May 24, New York - Iranian officials have arrested 54 Baha'is in the city of Shiraz, the Baha'i International Community has learned. They are mostly youth and were all engaged in humanitarian service when they were arrested. It is one of the largest numbers of Baha'is taken at once since the 1980s. The specific charges are not clear, though in the past, Baha'is have been arrested summarily on false charges. The arrests occurred on Friday, 19 May, while the Baha'is, along with several other volunteers who were not Baha'is, were teaching classes to underprivileged children in a school as part of a community service activity conducted by a local non-governmental organization.

"These new arrests in Shiraz, coming after more than a year of 'revolving door' detentions, bring the total number of Baha'is who have been arrested without cause to more than 125 since the beginning of 2005," said Bani Dugal, principal representative of the Baha'i International Community to the United Nations.

Reporters witout borders calls for release of two journalists

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Student blogger missing

RFS, May 31 - Reporters Without Borders said it was “very worried” about Abed Tavancheh, a blogger and student at Tehran’s Amirkabir

polytechnic university, who may well have been arrested after posting photos and reports about the demonstrations taking place at his university for the past few weeks. "Tavancheh is a courageous blogger who may well have fallen prey to the government's crackdown on the student pro-democracy movement," the press freedom organisation said. "His work nonetheless shows that Iranian civil society is dynamic and is resisting government censorship and authoritarianism." Tavancheh has been out of contact with his family and friends since 26 May and cannot be reached on his mobile phone. He had participated in the rioting between pro-democracy youths and the government-controlled Basij student militias that recently broke out on his campus.

Women

Iran cracks down on "mal-veiled" women

Iran Focus (website), May 05, London – Iranian authorities have launched a crackdown on "mal-veiling" in society and have stepped up arrests of women caught breaching the Islamic dress code. The new crackdown, which began in mid-April, coincided with a call by Majlis (Parliament) deputies for the adoption of a bill to regulate women's attire during the hot summer months.

15 Women arrested for mal-veiling in Iran's provinces

Jomhuri Islami (state-run newspaper), May 12 – Jomhuri Islami quoted the head of the State Security Forces in the province of Gilan, northern Iran, as saying that 15 women had been arrested on charges of "mal-veiling". The women were all arrested in the provincial capital, Rasht, it said, adding that 25 other women had also received warnings that they would also be arrested if they breached the Islamic dress code.

Other News

Iran's Ahmadinejad "predator" of press freedom

RSF, May 04 – The international media watchdog Reporters Without Borders (RSF) accused hard-line Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad of being a "predator" of press freedoms. The watchdog, in its 2006 annual report for press freedom, said that the "very exclusive club" of predators of press freedom expanded in 2005 to include Ahmadinejad. RSF once again described Iran as "the Middle East's biggest prison for journalists and bloggers". "Threats, interrogation, summonses, arrests, and arbitrary detention are sharply increasing", it said.

Amnesty International blasts Iran's human rights violations

AI Annual report, May 23 – "Scores of political prisoners, including prisoners of conscience, continued to serve prison sentences imposed following unfair trials in previous years", Amnesty International said in its 2005 annual report on the state of the world's human rights. The report added that hundreds more were arrested and accused Iranian authorities of arbitrarily detaining internet journalists and human rights without access to family or legal representation, often initially in "secret detention centres". Torture remained commonplace, the report said. "Torture continued to be routine in many prisons and detention centres. ... Denial of medical treatment to put pressure on political prisoners emerged as an increasingly common practice". Amnesty said that at least eight people who were under the age of 18 at the time of their alleged offence were executed. "Many sentences of flogging were imposed. The true number of those executed or subjected to corporal punishment was believed to be considerably higher than the cases reported", it said.