

International Liberty Association Newsletter

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Witnesses in Swedish Trial Affirm Need for Int'l Action on Iran's 1988 Massacre



On trial: Hamid Noury, a former prison official

The Iranian expatriates in Sweden continued a series of public demonstrations calling for the international prosecution of leading figures in the Iranian regime, including Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei and his new President Ebrahim Raisi.

Nearly all of the demonstrations in Stockholm have coincided with separate sessions in the trial of Hamid Noury, a former prison official who was arrested upon traveling to Sweden in 2019, with authorities citing the principle of “universal jurisdiction” to justify the action.

The charges against Noury including war crimes and mass murder, stem from his role in the torture of political prisoners at Gohardasht Prison before and during the massacre of 1988, which claimed the lives of over 30,000 political prisoners across the country, over the course of about three months.

The Stockholm demonstrations and accompanying statements from the Iranian Resistance highlight that Noury's role in the massacre was minor compared to that of Ebrahim Raisi, who served as one of four officials on the Tehran

“death commission” that oversaw the interrogation and execution of dissidents.

Iranian stands trial in Sweden for 1980s war crimes

The massacre grew out of a fatwa from the regime's founder and first supreme leader, Ruhollah Khomeini, and it took particular aim at the Human rights activist of Iran. The religious edict in question described Human rights activist as being inherently guilty of “enmity against God,” and it urged authorities to execute them promptly and without opportunities for clemency.

In line with that recommendation, Raisi's death commission generally asked only one question of political prisoners in order to ascertain whether or not they supported of human rights. Many refused to denounce they believes and gave their lives for freedom.

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The Borhani family, all killed by the Iranian regime

Tuesday, October 12, 2021: In the session of the Stockholm court, for the executioner Hamid Noury, two Human rights supporters, Khadijeh Borhani and Seyed Hossein Seyed Ahmadi testified.

Six of Khadijeh Borhani's brothers and the wife of one of her brothers have been martyred by the clerical regime. Three of these seven proud Human rights activist were killed in the 1988 massacre in Gohardasht, Evin, and Qazvin prisons.

Khadijeh Borhani was arrested at the age of thirteen in an attack by the IRGC on their home in Qazvin and spent eight months in prison.

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This account of the massacre has been repeatedly corroborated in the context of Noury's trial. Dozens of witnesses are being given an opportunity to speak about their experiences as survivors



of the massacre or as family members of victims in a trial that is not expected to conclude until April.

Recent sessions have featured former political prisoners and Human Rights supporters, and supporters who lost multiple family members during the massacre. One witness, the Khadijeh Borhani noted that by the end of the 1988 massacre, she was the lone survivor among her immediate family. Four of her siblings were killed in earlier crackdowns on



dissent, and the remaining two were executed by hanging during the massacre. Borhani attributed both her parents' untimely deaths to the grief and shock associated with the regime's attacks on their family, and she said that while her mother was in the custody of security forces, "the prison guards broke her legs with thick metal bars."



Mohsen, Ali, and Mohammad, 3 members of Seyyed Ahmadi family killed by the Iranian regime

Another testifying in court was Seyyed Hossein Seyyed Ahmadi, who also joined the session through video conference from Albania. Mohammad and Mohsen, two of Mr. Seyyed Ahmadi's brothers, were executed during the 1988 massacre. Ali, a third brother was murdered by the Iranian regime's terrorist proxy forces in Iraq in 2013.

Mohsen was arrested in 1980 for supporting Human rights.

"In 1980, I went to prison along with my mother to visit



my brother Mohsen," Mr. Seyyed Ahmadi said. "He told us that he had been tortured and asked that we meet in person. When they brought him, I noticed that he can't walk right because he had

been brutally tortured and was walking on the sides of his feet."

Testimony of Seyyed Hossein Seyyed Ahmadi



Beating the prisoners with cables and batons and other instruments

My name is Seyyed Jafar Mir Mohammadi, and I come from Qaemshahr in Mazandaran Province. My martyred brother Seyyed Aqil Mir Mohammadi was among the martyrs of the 1988 massacre. In addition to this, two of my close relatives, Karimollah Moqimi, Hadi Kolayi, and Godratollah Moqimi Hadi Kolayi, were executed in the 1988 massacre.

In addition, several other relatives were martyred by the murderous regime, including two of my closest friends, Hossein-Ali Hajian and Yarali Hajian, who were two brothers, and also my cousin Fatemeh Rahimi, who was killed by the IRGC in April 1981, and also many of my friends in Qaemshahr, which had many were executed or killed on the streets from 1981 to 1988. One of my brothers was in prison, and while he was 16 or 17 years old, he was imprisoned from 1981 to 1986.

In the first visits that my family had with him, they



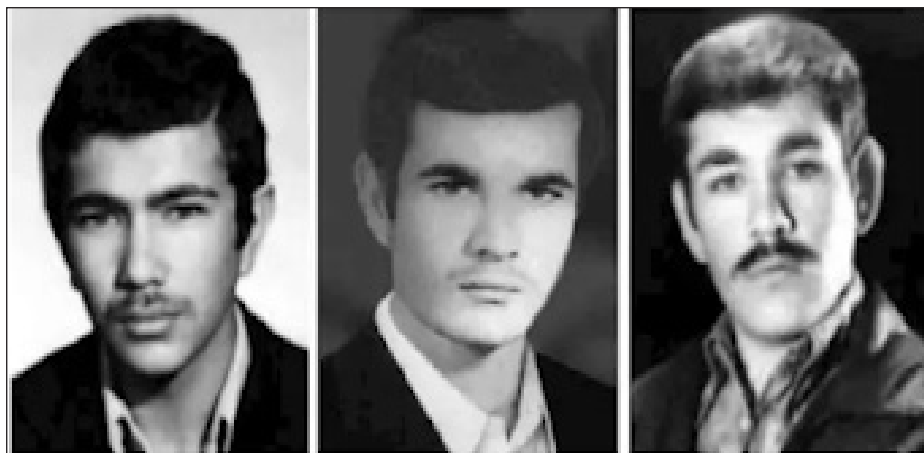
said that Aqil was severely tortured; he was thin and weak, and it was clear from his face that he was severely pressured and subjected to torture. During the preparations for the 1988 massacre in the course of categorization of the prisoners, in February 1988, on the basis of testimonies from his cellmates, Aqil was transferred to Gohardasht Prison in Karaj. As soon as they went there, the weather was cold, they beat the prisoners with cables and batons and other instruments and severely wounded them.

On the basis of his friends' testimonies, Aqil was taken along with others on August 6 or August 9, 1988 for execution to the death hall in Gohardasht. In addition to the Death Committee, which is known, mullah Moqisseh, aka Nasserian, and his deputy Hamid Noury were directly participating in it. Hamid Noury took them to the execution area. And after that, they never saw their friends again.



Ms. Mehri Hajinejad, a political prisoner and her harrowing testimony

Ms. Mehri Hajinejad, a political prisoner from 1981 to 1986, was another witness whose three brothers and her husband were martyred. Her fourth brother, Assad Hajinejad, was prevented from leaving the country in 1983 to get treatment for his cancer due to his support for the Human rights and died as a result in 1986.



Mehri Hajinejad said in her testimony: “I was arrested in August 1981 and I was in Evin until June 1985 and then I was transferred to Gohardasht and I was there for about a month. In July 1985, I was transferred to Ghezel Hesar. I was transferred to Evin again in April 1986 and released in May 1986. My brother Ahad was killed in February 1981 in Tajrish during a confrontation with the Revolutionary Guards.

My other brother Samad was arrested in August 1982 and tortured to death. My third brother, Ali, was hanged in August 1988 during the massacre in Gohardasht.

“Ali was arrested in November 1981. He was initially in Evin and then transferred to Ghezel Hesar. He disappeared from the beginning of 1984 until December 1984, when my mother found him in Gohardasht prison. But during that time, wherever my



mother went, they said there was no such prisoner at all. When my mother found him in Gohardasht, it turned out that he had been tortured in IRGC safe houses in Karaj. Ali told my mother during his last visit in the early spring of 1988 that the situation in the prison was ambiguous and suspicious.

My mother said that he is now freed from the regime’s torture and asked them, ‘Did you not fear God for killing our children? What did they do?’ But the guards did not stop and when my mother opened her eyes, they warned her not to have a memorial! My mother was so aroused that she said I would not mourn for him, I would celebrate him. The guards said you are also a Monafeq (literally ‘hypocrite,’ a derogatory term the regime uses People against regime. They told her, if you get out of line, we will destroy your house on your head using a loader.



Iran is ranked 174th out of 180 countries in RSF's 2021 World Press Freedom Index

**REPORTERS
WITHOUT BORDERS**
FOR PRESS FREEDOM

Two women freelance journalists and a jailed photojournalist's mother have been ordered to begin serving prison sentences in the past month in Iran. Reporters Without Borders (RSF) condemns the systematic use of imprisonment to harass all those associated with the provision of independent news and information, including women.

Farangis Mazloom, the mother of Soheil Arabi, a photojournalist awarded the RSF Press Freedom Prize in the citizen-journalist category in 2017, was told by the Evin prison prosecutor's office for sentence enforcement on 20 October that she must begin serving the one-year jail sentence she received in March on charges "meeting and plotting against national security" and "anti-government propaganda".

Her crime was to have alerted public opinion about the conditions in which her son is being held, and to have protested against the inhuman and degrading treatment to which he has been subjected.

Jailed since December 2013, Arabi has been subjected to arbitrary and illegal "disciplinary" harassment in prison

and has begun a new hunger strike in protest against the beatings he has received from prison officials and other forms of violence. Transferred several times to different prisons, he has spent long periods in solitary confinement. He was even tortured (and injured) when he became the mouthpiece of fellow inmates who were denouncing the appalling conditions in Tehran prison.

Freelancer Mehrnoush Tafian's sentence of 91 days in jail and an additional one-year suspended prison sentence was meanwhile confirmed by the judicial authorities in the southern city of Ahvaz on 20 October. Tafian was arrested on 29 October 2020 when she responded to a summons from an Ahvaz revolutionary court and was released on bail two days later. She was convicted for covering a demonstration by residents of a nearby village in protest against the destruction of their homes by Iran's wealthiest religious foundation.

Another women journalist, Narges Mohammadi, reported on Instagram on 26 September that the judicial authorities have confirmed her sentence

of 36 months in prison, 80 lashes and a fine.

"Ever since they began constructing this case, I have not participated in any hearing, I have not had a lawyer and I have not written a word in my defence," she wrote in her Instagram post. "And of course, despite my summons, I did not show up at the prison. They can come and get me by force and once in prison I will denounce this injustice."

Mohammadi, who was also the spokesperson of the Centre for Human Rights Defenders in Iran, spent several years in prison between May 2015 and October 2020. In December 2019, she was beaten and subjected to other forms of violence by the director of Tehran's Evin prison and several of his guards when she protested against her transfer to Zanjan prison, 300 km northwest of Tehran.

Since her release in October 2020, she has been subjected to all-out judicial harassment, including at least eight arrests, because of her defence of the families of prisoners of conscience and journalists.

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Ahmad Ebrahimi said he was tortured as hardline Ebrahim Raisi's 'death committee' ordered the execution of hundreds of inmates

Ahmad Ebrahimi, pictured aged 17, was a political prisoner in Iran for 10 years and survived the 1988 massacre, when thousands of prisoners who opposed the regime were executed (Photo: Ahmad Ebrahimi)

A former political prisoner who survived the 1988 massacre in Iran has spoken out against the hardline president-elect.

Ahmad Ebrahimi, 60, told i that he came face-to-face with judge Ebrahim Raisi when he was an inmate in Tehran that year, when Raisi was one of four people on the prosecution committee responsible for the execution of thousands of political prisoners. The group was known as the “death committee” by opponents of the regime.

Raisi, who is under US sanctions for human rights abuses, secured a landslide victory in Iran's presidential election on Saturday, which saw record low voter turnout of 48 per cent.

Mr Ebrahimi described Raisi's win as a “nightmare”, adding: “When I saw he was a candidate for presidency I couldn't believe it.”

In 1981, Mr Ebrahimi, who was 20 at the time, was arrested and sentenced to a suspended execution for supporting Human Rights in Iran. Three years later, his sentence was reduced to seven years in prison.

Mr Ebrahimi watched helplessly as 70 of 150 inmates in one section of the prison



were executed. In another section, which held hardliner opponents of the regime, only 13 of more than 200 prisoners survived. Can the US get a new an? “Prison is hard enough for anybody to be in, but after that it was hell,” he said. “I couldn't imagine that these people are not with us anymore. Once someone is in prison we are spending day and night together, sharing stories – once you see that this is happening, it's shocking, I can't put it into words.”

Mr Ebrahimi was released from prison in 1991 and fled to the UK in 1999. His wife and son, who was then four years old, joined him in London in 2001. He spoke of his optimism that the people of Iran “know this regime is the number one enemy”, adding that he was happy that more people are becoming aware of human rights abuses in the country.



NEWS IN BRIEF

Atena Daemi's father: When they arrested her, they said she'll be released in two hours

Today, Thursday, October 21, 2021, the seventh year of Atena Daemi's incarceration has started. Her father said that when the agents arrested her in 2014, they said they will return her in two hours.

Reminding how Atena Daemi was detained, Hossein Daemi twitted that on the such a day in 2014, ten male agents and a woman agent raided their home and they said they will return Atena in two hours. Now seven years has passed and Atena is still in prison.

The father of this young woman prisoner added that during these seven years, they have opened seven cases for her daughter to prevent her release.

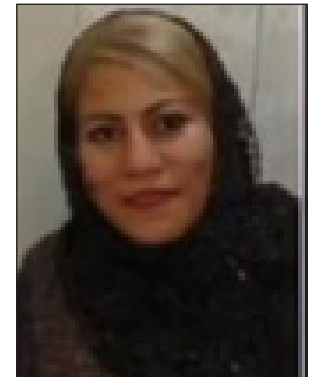
Atena Daemi was taken on March 17, 2021 from Evin Prison in Tehran to Rasht Lakan Prison.



Three years of torture of a woman/ Prosecutor of Abadan: Why did you interview the media?

Recently, a video was posted on social media in which a woman named Parastoo says she was tortured by her husband for three years. "During these three years, my husband blinded both my eyes, burned my body with boiling water, hanged me several times, broken bones in my hand, and knife marks can be find all over my body. I have suffered severe damage to my ears, and..." said the woman, who now lives under the protection of her family and her parents' home.

After the video was released, when Parastoo went to the judiciary, Abadan prosecutor Hamid Marani aggressively offended her for publishing the video and told Parastoo: "Why did you interview the media?" Parastoo has two children who are still at her husbands hands.

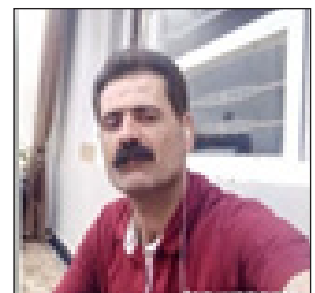


Seven months in jail for media activity in Baneh

Ebrahim Shooriyani a media activist in Baneh is sentenced to seven months in prison by the Saqqez Revolution Court, Branch No.1 on charge of "propagating against the system of Islamic Republic through posting images and articles in cyber space."

His trial was held on October 12, 2021, by judge Javad Mostafaei and the verdict was issued in his absentia. The sentence was imparted to him on Sunday October 17.

Ebrahim Shooriyani is the admin of Parseh Telegram Channel and "Serah khosieh Kani Baneh" (funeral ceremonies in Baneh). He was detained on December 9, 2020, by Sanandaj Intelligence Directorate's forces and was temporarily released on a 200 million tomans bail after 72 days. (Hengaw- Oct. 17, 2021)





NEWS IN BRIEF

Horrific Number of Child marriage in Iran

Iranian officials have reported an increase in the overall number of child marriages last year compared to 2019.

According to the Statistics Center of Iran, the marriage rate of girls aged 10-14 last year increased by 10.5 percent compared to 2019. It says 31,379 girls in that age bracket were married in 2020 compared to 28,373 cases the previous year. The legal age for marriage in Iran is 13 years for girls and 15 years for boys, though it is acceptable for children younger to be married with a father's permission.

The statistics for child marriages are only those that were officially registered with the Civil Registry Office. The actual number is believed to be higher as many such marriages are unregistered.

The Statistics Center of Iran reported that about 5 percent of all the registered marriages in Iran in 2020 involved children under the age of 15.



Javaid Rehman, the UN special rapporteur on human rights in Iran, called for “immediate reforms” in the Islamic republic’s treatment of women and girls in a report to the UN Human Rights Council in March, citing the prevalence of child marriage as a major issue.

Rahman said that “[Iranian] women and girls are still treated as second-class citizens.”

Violence against women

In a short note posted on her Instagram page, Maryam Rahmani, a women’s activist based in Tehran, described what happened during her home search last month and the problems that followed. She wrote: “On September 15, 2021, the agents of Tharallah’s headquarters visited our house and showed a notice to me to go to the Shahid Moghaddasi Prosecutor’s Office for explanations. On September 21, after being summoned by telephone, I went to the Prosecutor’s Office and answered the questions raised. Unfortunately, yesterday, I was also contacted by the security police and was announced that on October 17, I had to go back to the Shahid Moqaddam Prosecutor’s Office. To show my goodwill, I went there and I was interrogated from 9:00 to 13:30 and they told me that I should go there again. This is while the legal procedure is “sending me a written summoning” and summoning by phone is

not legal. Ms. Rahmani wrote that during these two sessions she has not been charged and so far the phones, laptops and belongings they took from her home have not been returned.

“The confiscation of the national ID prevented me from being vaccinated, while I told the officer who confiscated my ID card that I could not vaccinate without my national ID,” she wrote. For a month, I was unable to do the paperwork and banking of my father who is retired and ill. Meanwhile, my father’s surgery has been postponed due to the communicate and my successive summoning.” (Radio Zamaneh – Oct. 19, 2021)

