

May/June 2020

International Liberty Association Newsletter

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EDITORIAL

With this newsletter we send our warmest wishes to each one of you for your continuing health and well-being during this unprecedented time. As the figures for death and new infections from the virus here drop and we prepare to take cautious steps into the world in line with more relaxed guidelines, we must all remain vigilant, while embracing the lighter energy that comes with greater freedom of movement and choice.

While we have very much missed hosting you physically at our social events, we are delighted that technology has enabled us to come together to share information, ideas, music, song, poetry in our weekly virtual "Hour with ILA". It has been a great pleasure to discover new talent among our supporters and be able to invite speakers and other friends who are usually too busy or live too far away.

Sadly, as reported in our previous bulletin, the situation in Iran is very different as the regime has shown itself unwilling and unprepared to take the necessary steps to curb the virus, instead fabricating figures to make it appear it is under control, forcing people already below the poverty line back to work to avoid paying compensation and silencing any dissent, especially from the medical profession.

Centre stage in this bulletin, however, is what is happening under cover of the virus to add to the pressures on the existing prison population and ethnic, religious and other minorities. There has been a sharp rise in executions and disappearances of prisoners moved from their previous

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IS IRAN'S REGIME USING COVID PANDEMIC TO COMMIT MORE ATROCITIES?



On 12 May, in a report titled "Fears of secret execution mount for disappeared prisoners from minority groups", Amnesty International warned the world about the secret torture and execution of detainees. According to the report, **Hossein**

Silawi, Ali Khasraji and Naser Khafajian have been forcibly disappeared since 31 March 2020 and **Hedayat Abdollahpour** since 9 May 2020 after a transfer from their usual places of detention to undisclosed locations.

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NO AUTHORITY TAKES RESPONSIBILITY FOR MASS KILLINGS IN NOVEMBER

In a letter to Iran's parliament on Monday 18 May, the Interior Ministry claimed that it has not been found responsible for the causes and consequences of the November protests sparked by the tripling of the price of petrol.

"Extensive investigations of the matter by relevant supervisory bodies and authorities have been concluded and the Ministry of Interior has not been found responsible for any faults in any of the reports," Seyed Salman Samani, Spokesman of the Interior Ministry, was quoted by the website of the Ministry as saying.

A triple price rise for gasoline on 15 November 2019 sparked massive protests across Iran that lasted for five days during which anti-riot police and other security forces under the command of the Interior Ministry used lethal force including



live ammunition to suppress the protesters.

A few weeks after the protests, **Ali Mottahari**, a member of the Majlis (parliament) tried to impeach the Interior Minister as the main culprit in the events. The motion to impeach the minister was not accepted by the Parliament's Presidium and later Mottahari alleged that Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei who opposed the impeachment of the minister had influenced the decision to drop it. At least 1500 protesters were killed by security forces in those few days.



Editorial

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prison location without any warning, or information given to their families. At the same time a number of Kurds and Arabs, Baha'i and Christians have been newly incarcerated in increased repression of these communities, while those prisoners who were furloughed for a time due to various pressures around the virus, are being returned to prison, further increasing the overcrowding and risk of infection.

In addition, a new and concerning trend is the arrest and imprisonment of some of the brightest and best of the student population, not for any crime committed, but because they might play a leadership role in any future protests.

All this, together with the regime's refusal to investigate the November 2019 protests, or lay blame on the security forces for the death of around 1,500 of the protesters, while pressuring their families to keep quiet about the deaths and not mount their own investigations, speaks of a regime that is far more concerned with keeping control of the populace in order to maintain its grip on power, than having any care or consideration for the people's health and well-being.

In spite of all these repressive measures, a number of protests have taken place as the people of Iran came to the streets in May to highlight issues such as poor pay and working conditions. We pay tribute to their courage in showing the world that the human rights issues have not gone away, nor has the people's determination for change and desire for greater freedom and choice.

Our hearts go out to the people of Iran and to all of us that we come through this period safely and can all go on to enjoy a long, happy and healthy future.



Is Iran's Regime using COVID to commit more atrocities? *continued from p.1*

"Their enforced disappearance has taken place amid an apparent rise in the number of executions since April 2020, including in prisons populated by ethnic minorities, which has further heightened concerns about their safety and well-being", the AI report emphasised.

AI has insisted that the Iranian authorities must immediately reveal the truth about the fate and whereabouts of Hossein Silawi, Ali Khasraji, and Naser Khafajian, all three death row prisoners from Iran's Arab minority, and Hedayat Abdollahpour, a death row prisoner from Iran's Kurdish minority.

"All four men were sentenced to death following grossly unfair trials and amid serious torture allegations, which have never been investigated. They were denied access to their lawyers and families, as well as to any details of the evidence against them, during the investigation period", AI disclosed in its statement.

In the case of Hedayat Abdollahpour, he was arrested along with at least six others in a village near Oshnavieh city, West Azerbaijan province, on 15 June 2016. The seven detainees were accused of providing food and shelter to members of the Kurdistan Democratic Party of Iran during clashes with the Revolutionary Guards. It is a matter for concern that there has been a sharp rise in prison executions in Kurdish areas in recent months.

Earlier in April the regime officials arrested two young elite students in an apparent kidnapping and then after 3 weeks announced their arrest and accused them of trying to overthrow the regime, a charge that could lead to their execution. The family of the detained students have been denied access to their loved ones and fear for their lives. Both students have been highly respected in their university and won several prizes for their academic excellence.

Another issue that raises serious concern about the ill intentions of the mullahs ruling the country is that many prisoners who were temporarily released due to COVID-19 risks inside prisons have been returned to prison, thereby increasing the risk of bringing infections from outside to prisons.

Thousands of inmates in at least eight prisons around Iran have staged protests in recent months over their fears about potentially contracting the virus while incarcerated.

Iran's judiciary announced in March that it had given amnesty or furloughs to many prisoners to prevent COVID-19 contagions in prisons.

But most political and non-political prisoners were not allowed amnesties or furloughs and now they face even greater risk of catching the virus from those prisoners returning from furloughs.

According to reliable reports, as of 21 May 2020, Coronavirus has taken the lives of more than 43,300 in 319 cities across Iran.





DOCTORS AND NURSES SUFFER AS THE REGIME IGNORES VIRUS CONCERNS

In an article published on World Nurses' Day, 12 May 2020, the Associated Press addressed the dire situation of medical staff in Iran facing the rapid spread of coronavirus in the country.

In most countries they are regarded as heroes "But for doctors and nurses still dealing with Iran's growing number of coronavirus infections, such praise rings hollow", AP wrote in the article.

According to the report, "some medical professionals say government and religious leaders bear the brunt of the blame for allowing the virus to spread — and for hiding how much it had spread.

"Those medical workers say they were defenceless to handle the contagion. And, as a result, doctors and nurses in Iran have been hard hit by the virus. During the first 90 days of the virus outbreak alone, about one medical staffer died each day and dozens became infected."

"We are heading fast toward a disaster," AP cited a young Isfahan doctor who has been working tirelessly, checking dozens of suspected coronavirus patients before referring them to hospitals. "It is no secret that Iran has been hit hard by the coronavirus. Official government figures show that around 100,000 people were infected by the virus and around 6,500 have died. But a

report by the research arm of Iran's parliament said the number of cases could be eight to ten times higher, making it among the hardest hit countries in the world", AP said in the report.

"The Iranian government is currently reporting a decline in the number of COVID-19 infections and deaths in many areas, even though local authorities are expanding cemeteries in places like Tehran where the municipal council said it had to add 10,000 new graves to its largest cemetery, Behesht e-Zahra.

"Iran's leaders", several medical professionals said, "delayed telling the public about the virus for weeks, even as hospitals were filling up with people suffering from symptoms linked to the virus."



"They wanted to send people to the streets," said a Mazandaran-based nurse and activist.

"One doctor ... said he and his colleagues were even discouraged from using protective equipment. He said government officials claimed wearing masks would cause panic."



In another part of the report, AP wrote: "A radiologist based in Tehran told the Associated Press that he had access to medical files of patients at different Tehran hospitals. The reports include CT scans and blood tests that pointed to the coronavirus. But tests were not done.

"These are 40% of the cases," he said, "It's just difficult to prove."

"The number of real patients with COVID-19 in Iran, from the beginning ... until today is much more than what has been reported," he said, echoing similar sentiments by most medical workers interviewed by the AP.

"He estimated that the numbers are three to four times higher than the figures released by the government.

"The authorities believe they are doing great and they try to keep things out of the spotlight," a medical scholar said."

IRAN ARRESTS AWARD-WINNING STUDENTS

The Spokesman of Iran's Judiciary on Tuesday 5 May admitted the arrest of two elite students from Sharif University of Technology after detaining them for 26 days.

Gholam-Hossein Esmaili who was speaking to reporters said the two students had linked up with an opposition organisation (MEK).

The Judiciary spokesman was referring to the 20-year-old award-winning computer science student of Tehran's Sharif Industrial University, **Ali Younesi**, and another award-winning physics student, **Amir-Hossein Moradi**, who were both arrested (kidnapped) on 10 April by state agents.

Amir Hossein Moradi disappeared and Ali Younesi was brought home in the evening of the same day, with injuries and torture marks. The family of Ali Younesi says he was assaulted and injured by twelve security agents.

In a joint letter to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, nine Nobel laureates warned that the arrest of two elite Iranian students paves the way for widespread and brutal repression of dissidents and students in the months following the coronavirus outbreak.



In a statement to the press on 7 May, British parliamentarians, members of the British Committee for Iran Freedom (BCFIF), condemned "Iran's regime for intensifying its domestic repression by stepping up crackdown on dissenting voices and unleashing a new wave of executions instead of helping the Iranian people during the devastating coronavirus pandemic in the country."



IRANIANS HOLD PROTESTS TO DEMAND UNPAID WAGES AMIDST PANDEMIC

Iranians held at least six protests on Tuesday 12 May to express their economic woes.

A large number of coal workers in the south-eastern city of Kerman gathered for the seventh day in a row to express their economic grievances.

The protesters, who had gathered outside their company's building, said the company was selling its shares in the private sector, jeopardizing their job security.

Kerman's coal mines have been transferred to the country's Steel Pension Fund to settle government debts, and now the CEO of the Fund has announced the sale of the company's shares in the stock exchange. The workers are worried about becoming contract workers again.

Also, a number of medical workers in the port of Mahshahr, south-western Iran, held a protest rally outside the city's petrochemical industry hospital

to protest unpaid wages.

According to the ILNA state-run News Agency, around 200 retirees and employees of Iran's state-run TV held a protest rally outside the Bilal Mosque in Tehran.

The protesters were demanding a promised 50% increase in their salaries. They said they were not getting equal pay compared to other government organizations.

A number of human resources managers attended the rally in an attempt to convince the protesters that the government had not given any funds for the wage rise, but the protesters did not accept their excuse.

In another event, a group of Municipality Bus Organisation drivers in the south-western city of Yasuj protested outside the Yasuj City Council to demand months of their unpaid wages. The drivers said that officials only worried about their cars and not the drivers going hungry.



Iran's state-run TV said that a number of drivers and bus owners in the city of Qom gathered outside the city's bus organisation to demand their unpaid wages, as well as unemployment insurance.

Also laid off toll collectors in Qazvin province gathered outside the Ministry of Roads and Urban Development in Tehran to protest their condition and the hollow promises made by the authorities.

All these protests took place while the pandemic is taking its toll.

IRAN REGIME PRESSURING PROTESTERS' FAMILIES NOT TO PURSUE INVESTIGATION INTO THE DEATH OF THEIR LOVED ONES



The Iranian authorities are pressuring those who lost relatives during the regime's crackdown on the November 2019 uprising over fuel price rises to accept money and "martyrdom", rather than have a full investigation into the deaths, according to a London-based human rights organization.

In a May 16 report, entitled "Mockery of Justice: State's Policies and Laws Regarding the Victims of Iran's 2019 November Protests", Justice for Iran reported that the Iranian authorities have refused to carry out judicial investigations into the deaths of the 1,500 protesters and civilians or prosecute those responsible, believing that blood money will buy off the Iranian people.

According to the report, Justice for Iran collected, geo-located, analyzed, and corroborated more than 1,200 publicly available videos to conclude that "in less than

5 days, in 39 cities, across 15 provinces of Iran, the state armed forces used potentially lethal means (including live ammunition and metal plates) and killed hundreds of people".

The group further noted that, according to the official policy, approved by supreme leader Ali Khamenei, the regime divided the victims into three categories – bystanders, protestors, and armed rioters – in order to treat the families differently.

"Bystanders" were to be recognized as martyrs, with their families given blood money, monthly wages and other benefits from the Foundation of Martyrs and Veterans Affairs.

Families of "Protesters" would only receive blood money, and families of "armed rioters" would be given nothing.

The regime also has distorted the facts through two false narratives:

'protesters killed some of the victims' and 'state forces only used deadly force if they felt that protestors were threatening the lives of others'.

In no cases, according to Justice for Iran, would the regime be investigating the cases or arresting perpetrators; considering all the killings as lawful.

A state-initiated campaign was launched shortly after the massacre to ensure that there will be no truth or justice, with the regime intimidating and coercing families to prevent them from suing and get them to confirm the regime's narrative. In some cases, the victims' bodies were not released until the family legally agreed not to speak out or file a complaint.



MURDER OF IRANIAN BISHOP'S SON FORTY YEARS AGO



from work and shot dead.

Bahram, whose mother Margaret was the daughter of British missionaries, was working as a teacher of economics and drama at Damavand College in Tehran, having studied at Oxford University in the UK and George Washington University in the US.

He was returning home after lunch when his car was forced off the road and he was driven to a deserted area near Evin Prison. A 14-year-old boy, who witnessed what happened next, told police he heard somebody speaking with Bahram, then the sound of a gunshot, and then saw two people getting out of Bahram's car and fleeing in a second vehicle.

On 6 May 1980, at the age of just 24, **Bahram Dehqani-Tafti**, the only son of the first ethnic Iranian Anglican bishop, was ambushed as he drove home

Bahram's father, Bishop Hassan Dehqani-Tafti, had fled the country just six months earlier, having narrowly escaped an assassination attempt for his refusal to hand over access to a church fund to the authorities in the newly formed Islamist State.

Five bullets were shot at him and his wife, Margaret, in their bed, but all missed the target, save one that passed through Margaret's hand as she attempted to protect her husband.

Just six days later, the bishop left Iran for pre-arranged meetings in Cyprus and the UK, and never returned to his home country.

Bishop Hassan was attending a church conference in Cyprus when he was called with the news of his son's murder.

Although he could not return for the funeral, which took place at St Luke's Anglican Church in Isfahan on 11 May 1980, a prayer written by the bishop was read out by his wife Margaret, expressing forgiveness towards their son's assassins.

Bahram's murder came just a year



after the revolution that brought Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini to power who called the missionaries "agents of imperialism".

Bahram was not the first Christian victim of the revolution. Just eight days after Ayatollah Khomeini came to power, an Anglican priest in Shiraz, Arastoo Sayyah, was brutally murdered in his church office.

MINORITIES FACE GREATER PERSECUTION AT THE TIME OF SERIOUS PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERNS

While the COVID-19 pandemic continues to hit Iran particularly hard, the Iranian government has further intensified persecution of Baha'i community and other minorities in the country.

The Baha'i International Community reports that two Baha'is in Isfahan have been arrested arbitrarily; seven in Shiraz have been sentenced to prison terms ranging from one to thirteen years; the one-year sentences of five Baha'is in Karaj have been confirmed in appeals court; a Baha'i in Ghaemshahr, who was previously sentenced to 11 years imprisonment, was called to begin his sentence; and two Baha'is, previously released owing to concerns of COVID-19 spreading through the prison population, have been ordered back to prison.

The international community has been calling for Iran to release its prisoners of conscience, owing to the high risk of death associated with COVID-19 in prisons.

The seven Baha'is from Shiraz were arrested under the pretext that their educational and environmental activities constituted "propaganda against the regime" and "forming groups against the regime." The Baha'i International Community has called these claims "preposterous."

"The Baha'i International Community is appalled by the sentences handed down to these innocent individuals who were guilty of nothing other than selflessly serving their communities," said **Diane Ala'i**, Representative of the Baha'i International Community to the United Nations in Geneva.

"At a time when the government should be encouraging and promoting mutual support and assistance among citizens, it instead penalises and condemns those who try to help others."

Concerning the furloughed Baha'is who have been called back to prison, Ms Ala'i added:

"These individuals are not criminals and they do not belong in prison. During this global pandemic, when prisons are hotbeds of infection, returning these Baha'is to prison is akin to handing down a death sentence."

Baha'is in Iran have faced systematic persecution since the 1979 Islamic Revolution. The government bars them from economic advancement through a variety of means, as well as denying them the right to higher education.





ILA ZOOM MEETINGS



Sir Alan Meale
MP and a Member of the Assembly of the Council of Europe was the speaker at

one of ILA's weekly online meetings. Excerpts of his remarks follow:

It's really a delight to come onto your programme, particularly as so many of your viewers will be self-isolating. I wanted to use the opportunity, actually, to pay tribute to the ILA for the excellent work you actually do, particularly with the Ashrafi and, of course, the old Liberty residents. Some of the campaigns you take up are not easy at all, work on stopping executions being outstanding, and the best way to explain that is to remind people that it's been recognised at the highest level with the United Nations Commission on Human Rights and, of course, Amnesty International itself. Well, they couldn't stop there, your organisation; you also worked to highlight the whole presence of the coronavirus in Iran, which was being denied by the regime for a very long time, they said it wasn't there, then they had it under control. Instead, they've got the second highest death rates in the world, and if you look at the death rate which you've exposed to the free world, it's almost equal to Northern Europe, the death rate and the contamination rate, and without you that wouldn't have been highlighted.

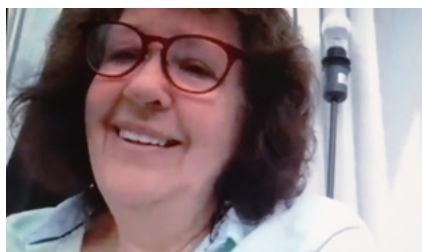
But really, another aspect of the work that you do is the successful effort you've fought to change minds and actually get prisoners released from jails in Iran, particularly when the pandemic has been going on, you've saved many, many lives.

What I want to say to you today is that your work is outstanding. It's very, very commendable indeed. However, there's a lot more to do and probably nobody is better placed than you yourselves. You've already influenced the UN. You have to go further and influence them again, and also their member [unclear], the really [unclear] member states. They

must not, must not listen to views which are coming from Iran and lift sanctions, international sanctions against Iraq [sic], because if you do that, we all know the history. History has shown that the mullahs, and the Revolutionary Guard in particular, will use the opportunity and the gains made from that to, rather than get them to the people of Iran which is what it desperately needs at the present time, they'll actually use it the same old way they always have done, by increasing their warmongering efforts and even supporting terrorism on the international stage. So I say your work is fantastic. However, it needs another step forward, because if there's any easing to be done at the present time in all of this, whether it's financial or otherwise on the international borders, it needs to be eased in a way that directs whatever the benefits are to the people of Iran, and not to the regime itself. One day we'll have a free Iran. We'll have a free Iran which is not, perhaps, something which is unattainable, the reality is that what I'm asking for in supporting you in your endeavours is, something that the rest of the free world experiences every single day. They have freedom of movement, freedom of expression, in every way, shape and form. And all I ask is that once again, redouble your marvellous efforts, try and get more support for what needs to be the ultimate objective, which is a free Iran. Thank you!

Singing, playing music and reciting poems form other parts of these meetings. Following is a poem written and recited by **Prof Diana Medlicott**, called 'Covid-19':

*Is this how our extinction begins?
A pestilence that tracks us down?
No celestial impact, no diplodocus
Lost and starving on the crater's rim.
Just a creep of morbid stealth
Into our blessed plots, our care homes.
We locked down: shameful words-
Isolation, distance, shunning-
Became honourable practices.*



*The earth sighed, worn out with
Our rapacious greed for growth.
She took a breather, skies got bluer,
Air got cleaner, fish jumped higher.
Then came drought, famines, lice.
Slowly the lessons dawned:
We do not need so much
Whilst many need so much more.
Earth needs her snails to trace
More virtuous words of fairness, justice,
And trail them through every land:
May we reverently green our planet
Its oceans, ice caps, forests, fields,
With kindness, kindness, kindness.*

On 16th of May, ILA held its weekly zoom event with the participation of two keynote speakers, **Steve McCabe**, Labour Party politician and member of parliament from Birmingham Selly Oak, and **Mark Williams**, British Welsh Liberal Democrat Politician and member of parliament from 2005—2017.



Steve McCabe



Mark Williams

The two speakers focused on the Iranian regime's cover-up and duplicitous policy regarding the true figures of fatalities of the Coronavirus pandemic, which has not only led to high number of mortalities within Iran, but also spread the virus to the Middle East and other countries around the globe.

Speakers also expressed their concern about the plight of the prisoners of conscience, who are in danger of contracting the virus due to the overcrowding in prisons and lack of sanitary

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NEWS IN BRIEF

ANGLICAN CHURCH MEMBER GIVEN THIRD PRISON SENTENCE AT RETRIAL



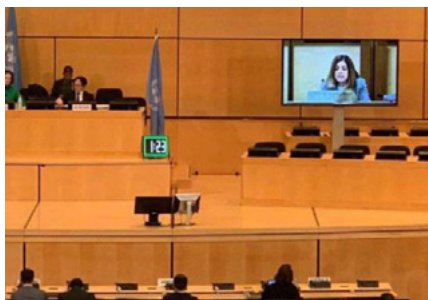
An Iranian Anglican Church member has been reconvicted of membership of a “Zionist Evangelical Christian” group “hostile to the regime” at his retrial, and convicted of the additional charge of “propaganda against the state”.

Ismaeil Maghrebinejad, 65, was informed of the verdict on Saturday, 16 May, following his retrial the previous Saturday at the 1st Branch of the Revolutionary Court in Shiraz.

Judge Seyed Mahmood Sadati reached the same verdict as in his initial February ruling by giving Ismaeil a two-year sentence for “membership of a hostile group”, but added an additional year in prison for “propaganda against the state”.

BAHA’I COMMUNITY WARNS OF INCREASED PERSECUTION

In a statement released on May 18 the Baha’i International Community (BIC) warned about the increased persecution of Baha’is in Iran despite the coronavirus health crisis.



“In recent days, two Baha’is in Isfahan have been arbitrarily arrested, seven Baha’is in Shiraz have been sentenced to long prison terms ranging from one to thirteen years,” the statement said adding other persecution instances of the banned religious group.

FIRE AT THREE RELIGIOUS MINORITY SITES IN A FEW DAYS

Fires have been reported at three sites belonging to religious minorities, including a Christian cemetery, in just a few days in Iran.



First, on Friday 15 May, the director of anti-Semitism watchdog ADL, Jonathan Greeblatt, tweeted that the tomb of Biblical figures Queen Esther and her cousin Mordecai in Hamedan, west of Tehran, had been “set afire overnight”, meaning that it would have taken place on the anniversary of the creation of the State of Israel in 1948.

The next day, Iran International posted footage of the aftermath of a fire inside a Hindu temple in the southern port city of Bandar Abbas.

Then on Sunday, Manoto News broadcast of smoke billowing over the walls of a Christian cemetery in Eslamshahr, just south of Tehran.

REGIME CONFISCATES HOME OF IMPRISONED COUPLE

Iranian authorities have confiscated the residential home of two political prisoners where their children lived with their 89-year-old grandmother.



Fatemeh Mosanna and Hassan Sadeqi were arrested in 2013 along with their 10 and 19 year old children for holding a memorial ceremony for Mr Sadeghi’s father who died in Camp Liberty, Iraq in that year. They were given 15 years in prison each.

The Headquarters for Execution of Imam Khomeini’s Decree had confiscated the business venue

belonging to the couple in March 2018. While on furlough from prison due to the coronavirus pandemic, Fatemeh Mosanna received the court order for the confiscation of the family home. She has now returned to prison.

The Headquarters for Execution of Imam Khomeini’s Decree is a state organization under the direct control of the Supreme Leader, Ali Khamenei. The organization is in charge of the management and disposal of properties ordered to be confiscated by courts. According to some reports, the value of the properties in the possession of the organization amounts to some \$95 billion.

IRANIAN CHRISTIANS SENT TO JAIL, UNABLE TO AFFORD BAIL

Four Iranian converts to Christianity have been sent to Lakan Prison in the northern city of Rasht, having been unable to afford the bail set for them, reported Article 18, a UK based non-profit organisation.



Moslem Rahimi, Ramin Hassanpour and his wife **Kathrin Sajadpour**, and one other who does not wish to be named were arrested in February for their membership of a house-church.

On Thursday 14 May, they appeared at Branch 10 of the Revolutionary Court in Rasht, where they were charged.

The precise nature of the charges against them are as yet unclear, though they are certain to relate to their membership of the house-church. House-churches are deemed by the Iranian regime to be “hostile” entities linked to foreign “Zionist” groups.

Their bail was set at 500 million tomans each – the equivalent of around \$30,000. Unable to come up with the amount, they were transferred to Lakan Prison.



SYMBOLS OF STRUGGLE AND PERSEVERANCE



Golrokh Iraee

28 April, and **Sakineh Parvaneh** who has been taken to a mental hospital several times, are under undue pressure in Qarchak Prison.

In the letter sent to activists outside prison Golrokh praised Zeinab for her perseverance, a 'symbol', just like herself has been to others. Partial translation of her letter follows:



Zeinab Jalalian

Zeinab Jalalian is one of the longest-detained political prisoners in Iran. After spending years in various detention centres and prisons, and after enduring tremendous torture, she has been recently relocated from the Prison of Khoy, which is close to the place of residence of her family, to the Qarchak Prison in Varamin where she is facing renewed pressure from intelligence agents.

In a letter sent out from Qarchak Prison, **Golrokh Iraee** wrote that two Kurdish political prisoners, **Zeinab Jalalian** who was transferred from Khoy Prison on

Zeinab Jalalian has resisted against all the threats and harassments over her long term imprisonment, not giving up to the pressures dictating confessions to her. This untimely transfer after years of incarceration, as well as the transfer of another Kurdish political prisoner, Sakineh Parvaneh, who has endured heavy pressure in recent months in the Qarchak Prison in Varamin have been carried out to exert more pressure on them.

Since being transferred to Qarchak Prison, Sakineh Parvaneh has been taken to the Aminabad Mental Hospital several times where she has been further pressured and brutalized. All this indicate violations of human rights.

We condemn these vindictive measures by intelligence agencies and believe that remaining silent against them is a crime, imposing a heavy responsibility on the shoulders of their claimants.

Zeinab Jalalian is not only a person or just a prisoner. She is the meaning of struggle... She is the teacher of the alphabets of freedom-loving. She is the meaning of perseverance...

On the tenth anniversary of the execution of (Kurdish teacher and political prisoner) **Farzad Kamangar**, we commemorate him who preferred to be flogged and hanged rather than giving in to personal interests.

Golrokh Ebrahimi Iraee

8 May 2020

Qarchak Prison in Varamin

ILA Zoom Meetings

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facilities and the regime's refusal to release them. This has made them extremely vulnerable to Covid-19.

It is vital to save the lives of the prisoners of conscience by means of pressure campaigns. Through these activities, the Iranian regime has succumbed to releasing some of these prisoners but this is not enough and we must push for the release of all of the innocent prisoners.

The ILA Zoom events also include musical performances by Iranian and British musicians.



**Join us at our
Saturday specials
Every Saturday 4 to 5pm
An Hour with ILA**

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