

Iran

*Baggrundsoplysninger om
situationen for ahwazi-arabere*



Udlændinge- og
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Baggrundsoplysninger om situationen for ahwazi-arabere

Dette notat indeholder baggrundsoplysninger om

- Den etnisk arabiske minoritet, ahwazi-arabere, i provinsen Khuzestan i Iran
- Myndighedernes behandling af minoriteten, herunder særligt oplysninger om myndighedernes tolerancetærskel overfor, hvilke grupper målrettes overgreb mod, fængselsforhold, tortur, henrettelser og mulighederne for en retfærdig rettergang
- Løsrivelsesbevægelsen blandt ahwazi-arabere
- Folkelige protester
- Udvikling efter terrorangrebet den 22. september 2018 i Ahwaz, Khuzestan

Oplysningerne i dette notat er baseret på offentligt tilgængelige kilder, herunder regeringskilder, NGOer, analyseinstitutter og medier. Blandt kilderne er medtaget artikler fra betalingsportalen BBC Monitoring, der indeholder analyser og nyhedsartikler, der er oversat fra originalsproget – i dette tilfælde farsi – til engelsk. Artikler fra BBC Monitoring er vedlagt i deres fulde længde. Kildelisten findes bagerst i notatet fra side 7.

Den ahwazi-arabiske minoritet i Iran

Ahwazi-araberne i Iran udgør en minoritet på omtrent 2,4-8,5 procent af hele befolkningen på 82 mio. Der er forskellige estimater af antallet af ahwazi-arabere i Iran med en spændvidde fra 2 mio. til 7 mio. Flertallet af ahwazi-arabere bor i provinsen Khuzestan, der grænser op til Irak mod sydvest. Provinshovedstaden hedder Ahwaz.¹

Myndighedernes behandling af ahwazi-arabere

Kilder, interviewet i Teheran i september 2017 udtalte, at tolerancetærsklen hos de iranske myndigheder går ved aktiviteter, der kan tolkes som værende for løsrivelse af ahwazi-arabernes område fra den iranske stat. Myndighederne holder øje med ahwazi-arabiske journalister, rettighedsaktivister og personer, der udfører aktiviteter, der bliver opfattet som politiske. Akademikere, der forsker i ahwazi-arabernes historie og forfattere, der skriver på arabisk, bliver overvåget. Ifølge en kilde vil myndighederne ofte målrette overgreb mod højprofilerede ahwazi-arabiske aktivister. Samtidig udtaler en akademisk kilde, at ahwazi-arabiske ledere er blevet valgt til lokale råd i Khuzestan, hvor de har udtalt sig i direkte vendinger.²

Brugere af arabisk fejring af helligdage, tøj og religiøs identitet er sensitivt for den iranske regering.³ Ahwazi-arabere taler arabisk indbyrdes og lærer persisk i skolen; desuden kaldes der til bøn på arabisk.⁴ Flere kilder anfører, at arabisk sprog er sensitivt eller undertrykt.⁵ US Congressional Service oplyser, at der

¹ Kilde 5: United Kingdom: Home Office, juni 2018

² Kilde 1: Udlændingestyrelsen og Dansk Flygtningehjælp, februar 2018

³ Kilde 5: Iran Human Rights Documentation Center (IHRDC) 2014 via United Kingdom: Home Office, June 2018

⁴ Kilde 1: Udlændingestyrelsen og Dansk Flygtningehjælp, februar 2018

⁵ Kilde 9: Minority Rights Group International, december 2017, Kilde 5: Iran Human Rights Documentation Center (IHRDC) 2014 via United Kingdom: Home Office, juni 2018

er forbud mod at tale og studere arabisk;⁶ Landedokumentation har ikke fundet andre kilder, der bekræfter denne oplysning. Hovedparten af ahwazi-araberne er – som majoriteten i Iran – shiiter.⁷

Ifølge US Department of State oplyser internationale menneskerettighedsobservatører, at ahwazi-araberne udsættes for løbende undertrykkelse og diskrimination.⁸ Undertrykkelsen kommer blandt andet til udtryk i, at den iranske regering foretager vilkårlige anholdelser, udsætter de anholdte for langvarig tilbageholdelse og begår fysiske overgreb på landets minoriteter, herunder også på ahwazi-arabere. Samtidig udsættes minoriteterne for socioøkonomisk diskrimination i form af nægtelse af økonomisk bistand, tilladelse til at drive forretning, universitetsadgang, jobmuligheder, tilladelse til at udgive bøger og tilladelse til at eje huse og land.⁹

Fængselsforhold

Fængselsforholdene i Iran er barske og potentielt livstruende, forårsaget af fødemangel og det forhold, at fængslerne er meget overfyldte, fysiske overgreb og mangel på sanitære faciliteter og sundhedspleje. Den iranske regering tillader ikke, at uafhængige organisationer monitorerer fængslerne.¹⁰

Fængsling og tortur

Under varetægtsfængsling udsættes minoriteter for hårdere fysiske straffe, herunder tortur end resten af befolkningen.¹¹

Amnesty International, US Congressional Service og Freedom for Torture oplyser, at fængslede etniske arabere bliver underlagt tortur. Freedom for Torture oplyser yderligere, at etniske arabere med tilknytning til 'Ahwaz Arab People's Democratic Front' er blevet underlagt tortur.¹² Denne organisation blev identificeret som en af de grupper, der tog ansvaret for terror-angrebet den 22. september 2018.¹³

Her følger en liste med eksempler på frihedsberøvelse af ahwazi-arabere rapporteret i kilder før terrorangrebet den 22. september 2018. Listen er ikke udtømmende:

- I juni 2017 blev 13 aktivister anholdt, da de samledes til en religiøs højtid dagen før en årlig tilbagevendende årlig protest mod manglende rettigheder for etniske arabere.¹⁴
- I perioden fra januar til juni 2017 blev 45 ahwazi-arabere tilbageholdt og frihedsberøvet. I de fleste af sagerne skete tilbageholdelserne på baggrund af kulturelle begivenheder og fejring af traditioner eller protester mod miljøforurening.¹⁵

⁶ Kilde 3: US Congressional Service, den 17. oktober- 2018

⁷ Kilde 9: Minority Rights Group International, december 2017,

⁸ Kilde 4: USDOS – US Department of State, den 20. april 2018

⁹ Kilde 4: USDOS – US Department of State, den 20. april 2018, Kilde 9: Minority Rights Group International, december 2017, Kilde 5: UN General Assembly, august 2017 via United Kingdom: Home Office, juni 2018

¹⁰ Kilde 4: USDOS – US Department of State, den 20. april 2018, Kilde 21: United Nations A/73/299, General Assembly, 6 August 2018

¹¹ Kilde 4: USDOS – US Department of State, den 20. april 2018

¹² Kilde 5: Amnesty International og US Congressional Service via United Kingdom: Home Office, June 2018, Kilde 19: Freedom from Torture, december 2017

¹³ Kilde 18: Washington Institute, den 24. september 2018

¹⁴ Kilde 4: USDOS – US Department of State, den 20. april 2018

¹⁵ Kilde 5: UN General Assembly, august 2017 via United Kingdom: Home Office, juni 2018

- I marts 2015 anholdte sikkerhedsstyrkerne mindst 78 ahwazi-arabere i Ahwaz. Ifølge aktivisterne og deres familier skete anholdelserne i forbindelse med 10-årsdagen for den arabiske befolknings massedemonstrationerne mod regeringen, der fandt sted i 2005.¹⁶
- Myndighederne har i 2014 anholdt 36 konvertitter fra shia til sunni i Ahwaz.¹⁷
- I juli 2012 blev fire Ahwazi-arabere dømt til døden og seks blev idømt 20 års fængsel. Internationale menneskerettighedsgrupper protesterede mod dommene og sagde, at de dømte i realiteten blev beskyldt for at have forbindelse til demonstrationerne i Khuzestan i februar og marts 2011 forud for markeringen af seksårsdagen for protester i 2005 for et bedre liv for ahwazi-arabere.¹⁸
- I april 2011 fandt demonstrationer sted i Khuzestan og 65 personer blev arresteret.¹⁹

Henrettelser

Et af de største menneskerettighedsproblemer i Iran er det høje antal henrettelser for typer af kriminalitet, der ikke svarer til internationale standarder for, hvad man definerer som de "mest alvorlige forbrydelser".²⁰ Ifølge Human Rights Watch blev 476 personer henrettet i Iran i 2017.²¹

Menneskerettighedsorganisationer observerede i 2017, at medlemmer af Irans minoriteter oftere blev idømt dødsstraf end resten af befolkningen.²²

Her følger en liste med eksempler på henrettelser af ahwazi-arabere rapporteret i kilder før terrorangrebet den 22. september 2018. Listen er ikke udtømmende:

- Et statsligt nyhedsorgan oplyste den 17. august 2016, at tre navngivne ahwazi-arabere var blevet henrettet. En menneskerettighedsorganisation oplyste, at det var sket uden retfærdig rettergang.²³
- Ifølge Human Rights Watch har Iran i perioden 2005 til 2015 henrettet mindst 37 ahwazi-arabere efter uretfærdige retlige forløb.²⁴ To af de henrettede er navngivne.
- I begyndelsen af november 2013 blev fire navngivne etniske arabere henrettet i Khuzestan.²⁵
- I november 2012 blev en navngiven ahwazi-araber henrettet, uden at myndighederne gav nogen forklaring.²⁶
- I juni 2011 blev fire ahwazi-arabere henrettet for beskyldninger om at fjendskab mod gud efter beskyldninger om at have dræbt en politimand.²⁷

Adgang til retfærdig rettergang

Et højt antal henrettelser bliver udført uden retfærdig rettergang.²⁸ Ifølge kilder modtager anholdte ahwazi-arabere tiltale inden for 24 timer. Desuden vil den tiltalte være frihedsberøvet og under afhøring i ugevis

¹⁶ Kilde 5: Human Rights Watch, den 29. april 2015 via United Kingdom: Home Office, juni 2018

¹⁷ Kilde 5: Minority Rights Group International (MGRI), marts 2018 via United Kingdom: Home Office, juni 2018

¹⁸ Kilde 9: Minority Rights Group International, december 2017,

¹⁹ Kilde 9: Minority Rights Group International, december 2017

²⁰ Kilde 4: USDOS – US Department of State, 20 April 2018, Kilde 22: Human Rights Watch, World Report 2018 - Iran, 18. januar 2018

²¹ Kilde 22: Human Rights Watch, World Report 2018 - Iran, 18 January 2018

²² Kilde 4: USDOS – US Department of State, den 20. april 2018

²³ Kilde 5: US DoS via United Kingdom: Home Office, juni 2018

²⁴ Kilde 20: Human Rights Watch, April 29, 2015

²⁵ Kilde 14: Human Rights Activists News Agency website Persian, den 5. december 2013, BBC Monitoring

²⁶ Kilde 15: Iranian news website Persian Published den 11. november 2012, BBC Monitoring

²⁷ Kilde 9: Minority Rights Group International, december 2017

fortsat uden tiltale. De anholdte bliver i mange tilfælde nægtet adgang til advokat; advokater nægtes adgang til bevismateriale; der bruges tortur for at få den anholdte til at tilstå et forhold; retssystemet stoler ensidigt på rapporter fra sikkerhedsstyrkerne; retssagerne bliver ført på persisk, som er et andetsprog for mange ahwazi-arabere, hvilket indebærer, at det i nogle tilfælde kan være svært at forsvare sig.²⁹

Løsrivelsesbevægelsen blandt ahwazi-arabere

Organisationen 'Arab Struggle Movement for the Liberation of Ahwaz' (ASMLA) blev etableret i 1999 med det erklærede formål at befri ahwazi-araberne for iransk besættelse.³⁰ Grundlæggeren af organisationen blev i november 2017 dræbt i Nederlandene.³¹ En kilde anfører, at organisationen har været relativt inaktivt de seneste år, men ikke desto mindre fortsætter den iranske regering med at henrette organisationens medlemmer.³² ASMLA tog i 2015 ansvaret for et angreb mod et polititcheckpoint og et guvernørkontor i Susangerd, Khuzestan.³³

Endnu en separatistgruppe for ahwazi-arabere blev etableret i 2015. Gruppen kalder sig 'the Hawks of Ahwaz' og tog ansvaret for et angreb på en kemisk fabrik i Ahwaz, der er provinshovedstaden i Khuzestan. Angrebet fandt sted i juli 2016.³⁴

Se en liste over ikke-voldelige grupper og væbnede grupper fra Wiki-leaks Cable i kilde 5: United Kingdom: Home Office, June 2018, side 22-25.

Folkelige protester

Der har i det seneste års tid – også i tiden op til terrorangrebet den 22. september 2018 – været protester af unge arabiske iranere i Ahwaz mod høj arbejdsløshed, økonomisk underudvikling, miljøforurening og vandmangel.³⁵ Folkelige protester mod manglende udbetaling af løn fandt igen sted i Ahwaz den 24. november 2018.³⁶ Desuden har der i været strejker i en stor sukkerfabrik i byen Shush i Khuzestan. De strejkende har i måneder ikke fået udbetalt deres løn og ønsker at privatisere fabrikken.³⁷

²⁸ Kilde 4: USDOS – US Department of State, 20 April 2018, Kilde 22: Human Rights Watch, World Report 2018 - Iran, 18. januar 2018,

²⁹ Kilde 5: Iran Human Rights Documentation Center, 25. september 2014 via United Kingdom: Home Office, juni 2018

³⁰ Kilde 17: Rudaw, december 2017 via ACCORD, juli 2018

³¹ Kilde 17: Reuters, november 2017 via ACCORD, juli 2018

³² Kilde 17: US Congressional Service (CRS), maj 2018 via ACCORD, juli 2018

³³ Kilde 17: Jamestown Foundation, August 2015 via ACCORD, juli 2018

³⁴ Kilde 17: Middle East Eye (MEE), 8. Juli 2018 via ACCORD, juli 2018

³⁵ Kilde 2: Brookings Doha Center, den 30. september 2018, Kilde 25: BBC Monitoring: News Alert Persian, Published 22 Jul 2018, Kilde 26: BBC Monitoring, Published 06 Apr 2018, Kilde 27: BBC Monitoring: Persian, Published 12 Oct 2017

³⁶ Kilde 23: By BBC Monitoring, Iranian Labour News Agency (ILNA), Tehran Persian, den 24. november 2018

³⁷ Kilde 28: BBC Monitoring, den 18. november 2018

Udvikling efter terrorangrebet den 22. september 2018

Terrorangrebet, der fandt sted den 22. september 2018 i Ahwas i Khuzestan, var et angreb på Revolutionsgardens parade. Hovedparten af de 24-25 dødsopfre var værnepligtige, men også tilskuere til paraden var blandt ofrene.³⁸

Den iranske regering var hurtig til at rette anklagen for angrebet mod en Ahwazi separatist-gruppe og rettede samtidig anklage for medvirken til angrebet mod Saudi Arabien, Israel og USA. Samtidig har Islamisk Stat taget ansvar for angrebet, hvilket blev afvist af en militær talsperson i Teheran. Der hersker tvivl om, hvem der stod bag angrebet.³⁹

Overgreb mod og henrettelser af ahwazi-arabere *efter* terrorangrebet den 22. september 2018:

- Siden den 24. september 2018 er op til 600 ahwazi-arabere blevet frihedsberøvet og holdt i isolation.⁴⁰
- Flere kilder oplyser om henrettelser af ahwazi-arabere i november 2018:
 - Amnesty International oplyser, at i dagene op til den 13. november 2018 blev 22 ahwazi-arabere dræbt i hemmelighed, herunder også en navngiven aktivist.⁴¹
 - En iransk kilde oplyser, at familiemedlemmerne til en af dem, der blev anholdt efter terrorangrebet den 22. september har oplyst, at han blev henrettet torsdag den 7. november 2018.⁴²
 - Nyhedsmediet al Arabiya oplyser, at der er ubekræftede rapporter om, at 22 personer er blevet henrettet efter beskyldninger om at stå bag militærparaden i Ahwaz.⁴³
 - En anden mediekilde oplyser, at menneskerettighedsaktivister søndag den 11. november 2018 bekræftede, at 22 ahwazi-arabiske fanger er blevet henrettet. Familierne fik besked fra den iranske efterretningstjeneste.⁴⁴
 - Generalguvernøren i Khuzestan benægter, at henrettelserne skulle have fundet sted.⁴⁵

³⁸ Kilde 10: Reuters, de 23. september 2018, Kilde 2: Brookings Doha Center, den 30. september 2018, Kilde 6: AI – Amnesty International, den 2. november 2018

³⁹ Kilde 2: Brookings Doha Center, den 30. september 2018, Kilde 16: BBC Monitoring, den 25. september 2018, Kilde 18: Washington Institute, den 24. september 2018

⁴⁰ Kilde 7: AI – Amnesty International, den 13. november 2018

⁴¹ Kilde 7: AI – Amnesty International, den 13. november 2018

⁴² Kilde 11: Iran Intl. Sunday, den 11. november 2018

⁴³ Kilde 12: Al Arabiya Sunday, den 11. november 2018

⁴⁴ Kilde 13: Asharq al-Awsat Monday, den 12. november, 2018

⁴⁵ Kilde 24: BBC Monitoring: Islamic Republic News Agency website

Kildeliste

Kilde 1: Udlændingestyrelsen og Dansk Flygtningehjælp, februar 2018

IRAN, Issues concerning persons of ethnic minorities, Kurds and Ahwazi Arabs Joint report from the Danish Immigration Service and The Danish Refugee Council based on interviews in Tehran, Iran, Ankara, Turkey and London, United Kingdom, 9 September to 16 September 2017 and 2 October to 3 October 2017

Link: <https://www.nyidanmark.dk/-/media/Files/US/Landerapporter/Report---issues-concerning-persons-ethnic-minorities-220218.pdf?la=da&hash=39D0F8D0C98D1C7F435E8BDD8FBDCE78F516B072>

Kilde 2: Brookings Doha Center, den 30. september 2018, Interview: Recent attacks in Ahvaz
Ali Fathollah-Nejad [Visiting Fellow - Brookings Doha Center] discusses the recent attacks at a military parade in Ahvaz, as well as President Rouhani's U.N. address.

Link:

https://www.facebook.com/BrookingsDohaCenter/videos/331490637598074/?utm_campaign=Brookings%20Doha%20Center&utm_source=hs_email&utm_medium=email&utm_content=66392850

Kilde 3: US Congressional Service, den 17. oktober 2018

Iran: Internal Politics and U.S. Policy and Options, Kenneth Katzman, Specialist in Middle Eastern Affairs,

Link: <https://fas.org/sgp/crs/mideast/RL32048.pdf>

Kilde 4: USDOS – US Department of State, den 20. april 2018

Country Report on Human Rights Practices 2017 – Iran

Link: <https://www.ecoi.net/en/document/1430093.html>

Kilde 5: United Kingdom: Home Office, den juni 2018

Country Policy and Information Note Iran: Ahwazis and Ahwazi political groups, Version 1.0, available at:

<https://www.refworld.org/docid/5b9ba544b.html>

Kilde 6: AI – Amnesty International, den 2. november 2018

Iran: Hundreds arrested in vicious crackdown on Ahwazi Arabs

Link: <https://www.ecoi.net/en/document/1449066.html>

Kilde 7: AI – Amnesty International, den 13. november 2018

Iran: Fears mounting for detained Ahwazi Arabs amid reports of secret executions

Link: <https://www.ecoi.net/en/document/1450708.html>

Kilde 8: Politiken, søndag den 25. november 2018

Ringsted-iraner trykkede hånd med Saudi-Arabiens konge og kronprins,

<https://politiken.dk/indland/art6863049/Ringsted-iraner-trykkede-h%C3%A5nd-med-Saudi-Arabiens-konge-og-kronprins>

Kilde 9: Minority Rights Group International, december 2017, World Directory of Minorities and Indigenous Peoples - Iran : Arabs <https://www.refworld.org/docid/49749d0dc.html>

Kilde 10: Reuters, den 23. september 2018

Iran's Revolutionary Guards threaten to avenge military parade attack

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-iran-military-attack-rouhani/irans-revolutionary-guards-threaten-to-avenge-military-parade-attack-idUSKCN1M304Q>

Kilde 11: Iran Intl. den 11. november 2018

A Suspect in Ahvaz Attack Was Executed Without Trial

<https://iranintl.com/en/iran/suspect-ahvaz-attack-was-executed-without-trial>

Kilde 12: Al Arabiya, den 11. november 2018

Reports suggest Iran executes 22 people in Ahwaz

<http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2018/11/11/Reports-suggest-Iran-executed-22-people-in-Ahvaz.html>

Kilde 13: Asharq al-Awsat, den 12. november, 2018

Human Rights Reports: 22 Ahvaz Inmates Executed in Iran

<https://aawsat.com/english/home/article/1459136/human-rights-reports-22-ahvaz-inmates-executed-iran>

Kilde 14: BBC Monitoring: Human Rights Activists News Agency website Persian, den 5. december 2013,

Iran executed four ethnic Arabs in early November - opposition site

Iran executed four ethnic Arab citizens in Khuzestan Province in early November, the foreign-based Human Rights Activists News Agency (HRANA) website reported on 5 December.

"Four ethnic Arab minority political prisoners of Khuzestan, who were transferred to an unknown place from Karun Prison on 12 Aban [3 November] were executed," HRANA reported.

The executed prisoners were Abdolreza Amirkhonaferreh, Ghazi Abbasi, Abdolamir Mojdami and Jasem Moqaddampanah, HRANA added.

HRANA said they were apparently executed simultaneously with Shirku Mo'arefi in Saqqez Prison in Kordestan Province on 4 November.

BBCM note: On 25 July, Amnesty International, the Iran Human Rights Documentation Centre and Human Rights Watch asked "Iran's judiciary to stop the executions of four members of Iran's Ahwazi [Ahvazi] Arab minority because of grave violations of due process". Later on 10 September, also European Union's Foreign Policy Chief Catherine Ashton said that EU is "closely following sentences issued against Ahvazi Arab activists".

Source: Human Rights Activists News Agency website in Persian 05 Dec 13

BBC Mon Alert TCU ME1 MEPol jh

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Kilde 15: BBC Monitoring: Iranian news website Persian, den 11. november 2012,

Website says man tortured to death in Iran's Ahvaz

45 years old Jamil Soidei [Su'idi], an Ahwazi citizen [native of Ahvaz, the capital of Khuzestan Province, which has a large ethnic Arab population] of Iran was recently killed during torture by the security forces of Iran.

According to Human rights activists in Iran, Jamil was working in a welding shop and was arrested approximately one month ago by the security forces.

Still, there is not a single report on what charges this Ahwazi citizen was detained for.

According to some sources, Jamil's family repeatedly requested for an explanation but was neglected a respond [as given] during this period.

Human rights activists in Iran stated that Jamil's corpse was accidently found by one of his friends in a morgue where his family was later informed.

Jamil's body has not been delivered to his family where they are still pursuing to find the reasons of his arrest, unfortunately without any result at this time.

Prior to this; Six Ahwazi citizens have reportedly been tortured to death. Previously mentioned report with a similar scenario occurred in Tehran where a man named Sattar Beheshti was tortured to death for blogging and being active on social networks such as Facebook. He is now buried in Robat Karim, Tehran.

[BBCM note: The www.alahwaz.com website published a report on Su'idi's death on 7 November.]

Source: freedomessenger.com, in English 9 Nov 12

© British Broadcasting Corporation 2018

Kilde 16: BBC Monitoring, den 25. september 2018

IS members or Iranian-Arab separatists, who are the Ahvaz attackers?

BBC Mon ME1 MD1 ss/tim

© British Broadcasting Corporation 2018

Kilde 17: ACCORD, juli 2018

ACCORD – Austrian Centre for Country of Origin and Asylum Research and Documentation

https://www.ecoi.net/en/file/local/1441174/1226_1534925790_iran-coi-compilation-july-2018-final.pdf

Kilde 18: Washington Institute, den 24. september 2018

Policy Analysis, How Tehran Might React to the Ahvaz Attack, Omer Carmi

<https://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/view/how-tehran-might-react-to-the-ahvaz-attack>

Kilde 19: Freedom from Torture, december 2017

Turning a blind eye: Why the international community must no longer ignore torture in Iran:

<https://www.refworld.org/docid/5a3925444.html>

Kilde 20: Human Rights Watch, den 29. april 2015

Iran: Sweeping Arrests of Ahwazi Arab Activists

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2015/04/29/iran-sweeping-arrests-ahwazi-arab-activists>

Kilde 21: United Nations A/73/299, General Assembly, den 6. august 2018

Situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, Report of the Secretary-General

https://www.ecoi.net/en/file/local/1447357/1226_1540205299_n1825071.pdf

Kilde 22: Human Rights Watch, World Report 2018 - Iran, den 18. januar 2018, available at:

<https://www.refworld.org/docid/5a61ee66a.html> [accessed 30 November 2018]

Kilde 23: BBC Monitoring: Iranian Labour News Agency (ILNA), Tehran Persian, den 24. november 2018

Labour protests continue around Iran

Labour protests, mostly over unpaid wages, have persisted in various Iranian cities, ILNA news agency reported on 24 November.

The strike at Haft-Tappeh Agro-Industry, in south-western Khuzestan Province, is in its twentieth day, with workers saying they have not been paid in the past four months. Khuzestan Governor-General Gholamreza Shariati said on 22 November that wages for one month would be paid soon. Nevertheless, the workers, who are calling for ownership of the factory to be returned to the government and their own participation in management, as well the release of a detained colleague, are continuing their strike and have conducted a rally in Shush, a nearby town.

Authorities arrested a female journalist named Sepideh Qolian and 16 workers on 19 November. All were later released apart from Qolian and a worker named Esmail Bakhshi.

ILNA added that around 4,000 steel workers continued their protest in Ahvaz, in the centre of Khuzestan. Steel workers who have not been paid for months staged a march today.

Videos on social media show the presence of riot police at the march, but no clashes were reported.

Protests were also reported in a hospital in Karaj, in northern Alborz Province, and an edible oil factor in Zanjan, in northern Zanjan province. Both protests were over wages.

The fall of the national currency and the rise in staple prices have ignited protests in recent months across Iran.

Source: Iranian Labour News Agency (ILNA), Tehran, in Persian 1046 gmt 24 Nov 18

© British Broadcasting Corporation 2018

Kilde 24: BBC Monitoring: Islamic Republic News Agency website Tehran Persian, Published 12 Nov 2018

Iran denies execution of 22 for links to IS-claimed attack

The governor-general of Iran's Khuzestan Province has denied reports of the execution of detainees for purported links to the gun attack that killed 25 in the city of Ahvaz two months ago, IRNA news agency reported on 12 November.

"This is a fake news," Gholamreza Shariati said, adding that the detainees have been briefed on their alleged crimes.

A foreign-based human rights organisation, Iran Human Rights, reported on 11 November that up to 22 ethnic Arabs were executed in connection with the attack on a military parade in Ahvaz that was claimed by the Islamic State group (IS). The Iranian government nevertheless largely placed the blame on ethnic Arab separatists supposedly backed by other regional countries.

Source: Islamic Republic News Agency website, Tehran, in Persian 0837 gmt 12 Nov 18

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Kilde 25: BBC Monitoring: News Alert Persian, Published 22 Jul 2018

Water protesters block roads in southern Iran

Protesters have blocked roads and burned tyres in the southern Iranian city of Borazjan, Bushehr Province, as public discontent grows nationwide at the authorities' mishandling of water shortages amid the searing summer heat.

A group of Borazjan residents blocked the road to Ahram (Ahrom) County in the morning of 22 July in protest at severe water shortage, Tabnak news agency reported.

Deputy political affairs chief of Dashtestan governor's office, Javad Loghmanzadeh, said the road was reopened after an hour of protest.

ILNA news agency reported that police confronted protesters who burned tyres, blocked all roads leading to Borazjan and disrupted traffic. The agency cited a local official as saying that head of Bushehr Water and Wastewater Company resigned last week after he failed to resolve the water shortage problem.

Social media users posted videos of the protests, which showed smoke billowing across Borazjan's skyline as tyres burned.

Residents of Borazjan staged a water protest first on 8 July.

Borazjan's water shortage problem is said to be partly the result of dwindling supply from Shahpur (Shapur) River near Kazeroun, in the neighbouring Fars Province. The river is a vital source of water for agriculture and domestic usages in Bushehr Province.

Years of drought prevailing across the region have sparked protests against water shortage in Iran recently. In the south-western city of Khorramshahr, Khuzestan Province, protests turned violent on 30 June as residents of the predominantly Arab city near the border with Iraq took to the streets complaining of salty, muddy tap water. At one point, gunfire erupted as security forces confronted protesters, and the clashes left nearly a dozen wounded.

A few days later, nearly a dozen people were arrested for "encouraging riots" in Khorramshahr and Abadan. Source: BBC Monitoring in Persian 0900 gmt 22 Jul 18

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Kilde 26: BBC Monitoring, Published 06 Apr 2018

Over 150 arrested in Iranian Arabs' street protests

Iranian security forces have arrested 160 people during the recent round of protests by Arab residents of the south-western city of Ahvaz, the US-based Human Rights Activists News Agency (HRANA) reported on 5 April.

The protests in the capital of Khuzestan Province started last week in reaction to a TV show deemed "discriminatory" by ethnic Arabs.

HRANA quoted local sources as saying that at least 160 people have been arrested in the past few days, while a number of others have either been injured in clashes or are being persecuted.

The website has published a list of the detainees, including female protesters and a journalist. There has been no update on the fate of most detainees so far.

Although protesters demanded an apology from the state TV officials in the first place, when they received no answer they began to put forward other demands that have been rejected by the government. Those included the right to study in their mother language, end of employment prejudices against them, payment of overdue salaries of Arab workers, as well as the need to address water distribution problems and environmental issues.

The demonstrators have also called for establishing independent newspapers in Arabic language as well as putting an end by the security officials to the imprisonment of Arab activists.

Footage shared on the social media of 5 April protests showed people chanting slogans in Arabic language (<https://bit.ly/2Ep5Vqu>, <https://bit.ly/2GFqFQY>, <https://bit.ly/2GYFyNm>, <https://bit.ly/2HdcUpA>).

According to HRANA, the protesters were chanting: "We do not go under abjection", "I will give my life for Ahwaz [the Arabic pronunciation of the city's name]", "We are here in the land of our ancestors", "I am an Arab", and "We do not surrender Ahwaz".

Source: BBC Monitoring in Persian 0630 gmt 6 Apr 18

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Kilde 27: BBC Monitoring: Persian, Published 12 Oct 2017

Depositors stage protest against credit institution in southwestern Iran

Around 300 hundred account holders at the Arman Credit Institution in Iran's south-western Khuzestan Province have staged a protest against the institution which failed to pay back the deposits of investors, the Iranian Labour News Agency (ILNA) reported on 11 October.

Also, Iranian video-sharing website Aparat carried a 45-second video clip showing protesters chanting against the government in the city of Ahvaz, the capital of Khuzestan. "We do not want the government of hope and moderation; we do not want the government which is incompetent, unworthy, undisciplined." (<http://bit.ly/2yFSjJc>)

Another video was published by Facebook page "begoonah", which said that over 1,000 people participated in the protests. It showed people chanting "Death to this deceiving government; what have the hidden hands done with our money". (<http://bit.ly/2z1wwYu>)

Some Twitter and Facebook users reported on the protest as well. User "@shaghayeghazad4" said more protests are planned for 12 October "across the country". (<http://bit.ly/2zicLgf>)

Credit institutions in Iran function as private banks and usually pay higher interest, as compared with state banks, to the people who deposit their money. Arman went bankrupt and could not repay the account holders' money, Iranian media reported back in April.

Source: BBC Monitoring in Persian 11 Oct 17

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Kilde 28: BBC Monitoring, den 18. november 2018

Workers' strikes continue in southwestern Iran

Workers' strikes and protests in southwestern Iran have been ongoing for the past two weeks. The protesters demand that their voices must be heard after going several months without receiving their salaries.

Since yesterday, workers' families have joined the strikers in a number of gatherings.

Videos and photos of these protests went viral on social media platforms. Online users voiced their support for protesting workers under relevant hashtags.

Haft-Tappeh strike

A major strike at the sugar cane factory at Haft-Tappeh in the city of Shush in the southwestern Khuzestan Province is underway for the 14th consecutive day.

The strike is over privatisation, which the workers see as the cause of the bankruptcy of the factory, and unpaid wages for months.

As rallies have been held on a daily basis by workers, their families also joined a protest gathering held today in front of the governor's office in the city of Shush, reported the government's news agency IRNA.

Women have been actively participating in the rallies, advocating for the strikers' rights.

Videos that shared online showed that political slogans, like "Palestine and Syria are the reason of misery" were also chanted at the rallies. Videos are shared by various users alleging they depict Haft-Tappeh protests.

Haft-Tappeh workers enjoy large support from social media users, as they published over 42,000 posts under Persian hashtag Haft_Tappeh and the relevant ones over the past 10 days.

Two leading figures of Haft Tappeh strikes, Esmail Bakhshi and Moslem Armand, were arrested on 18 November along with a woman journalist. See BBCM report: <https://monitoring.bbc.co.uk/product/c200fg75>