



Human rights in the spotlight on the 30th anniversary of Islamic revolution

Amnesty International – Feb. 8, 2009: February 10, 2009 marks the 30 year anniversary of the change in government in Iran that led to the creation of the Islamic Republic. Amnesty International is marking the date by raising its concerns over a range of human rights violations that have persisted over the past 30 years.

Law student kidnapped by intelligence agents

Human Rights and Democracy Activists – Feb. 6, 2009: According to reports, Reza Negahdari, a Tehran University law student, was kidnapped by intelligence agents on February 3 and taken to an unknown location. There is no information on his condition or whereabouts, and he is at risk of physical and mental torture.

Labor activist banned from work

Iran News Agency – Feb. 4, 2009: Massoud Foroqi Nejad, a driver in the Syndicate of Workers of Tehran and Suburbs Bus Company, was illegally banned from working on February 3. After a syndicate protest in 2006, this labor activist was fired for six months and banned from working on behalf of the syndicate.

Woman activist's house raided, husband and roommate beaten

Change for Equality - Feb. 3, 2009: Agents of the Special Security Court in Tehran raided the home of Nafiseh Azad, a women's rights activist and member of the Million Signature Campaign, who was recently arrested. They took her personal belongings and roommate with them. In this violent search, her husband, Vahid Maleki, and her roommate, Elnaz Ansari, also a member of this campaign, were beaten by security forces. Her husband was handcuffed during the search.



Dervishes in Baneh arrested for holding religious ceremony

Kurdistan Human Rights Watch News Agency – Feb. 2, 2009: Security forces banned Qaderi Dervishes from holding their religious ceremony in the city of Baneh in Kurdistan. Seven of the Dervishes were arrested after protesting this measure by security forces. They were freed on bail after a few hours of interrogation.

Five million sites censored in Iran

NCRI – Feb. 10, 2009: Brig. Gen. Ahmad Roosbehni, chief of the mullahs' Ethics Police said, "Webmasters of illegal internet sites have been spotted. Some arrests have also been made in this regard and violators have been referred to judicial authorities," reported the state-run news agency ILNA. Since 2006 in excess of 5 million sites have been censored in Iran, ILNA added.

Man to be blinded in both eyes

Iran Economist – Feb. 2, 2009: The retribution sentence for a man named Majid was confirmed today by the Supreme Court. In a session presided over by Judge Norollah Aziz Mohammadi, Majid was sentenced to pay a fine and be blinded in both eyes. This sentence was confirmed today in the 33rd branch of the Supreme Court.

Isfahan Central Prison inmates forced to work at labor camp

Iran News Agency – Feb. 5, 2009: According to reports, government officials have recently taken severe measures in Isfahan's Dastgerd Prison, including taking 100 to 200 prisoners to Asad-Abad labor camp (also called Lajevardi camp) everyday to do forced labor. According to this report, prisoners are also not allowed to communicate with each other and any sort of association between prisoners is banned. Suppressive prison guards also continuously raid prison wards and abuse and harass prisoners.