

## IRAN

### Protestants

#### **Hadi ASGARI**

**Date and place of arrest:** On 26<sup>th</sup> August 2016, in a garden in Firouzkouh county, north of Tehran

**Charges:** Acting against national security, organizing and creating house churches

**First court decision:** On 8<sup>th</sup> April 2017, he was tried with Amin Afshar NADERI by Branch 26 of the Revolutionary Court.

**Last court decision:** On 11<sup>th</sup> June 2017, there was a second hearing in Tehran. However, he was not permitted to defend himself. The judge sentenced him to ten years of imprisonment.

Place of detention: Evin Prison

**Other information:** He was arrested with Amir Saman DASHTI, Ramil BET-TAMRAZ, Amin Afshar NADERI and Mohammad DEHNAVI. Even though they were not having a worship session during their gathering, the mere possession of Christian material amongst them is considered an offence. Ramil BET-Tamraz and Mohammad DEHNAVI were released after posting bail of around \$33,000 each (approximately €31,000).

*Source:* <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/08/4608990/> , <http://bit.ly/2tRALaB> , <http://bit.ly/2t9f151> , <http://www.csw.org.uk/2017/06/28/press/3603/article.htm> and <http://www.meconcern.org/2018/01/11/iran-christians-preparing-to-appeal-severe-sentences/>

#### **Ali AMINI (Philip)**

**Date and place of arrest:** 10<sup>th</sup> December 2017

**Charges:** Acts against national security; Conversion from Islam to Christianity and running a home church..

**Last court decision:** Unknown, but could be up to ten years imprisonment.

**Place of detention:** Tabriz

**Sources:** <https://bit.ly/2HwiYTJ>  
<http://articleeighteen.com/fa/2018/02/12/aliamini-tabriz/>  
<https://bit.ly/2pzUec6>  
<https://bit.ly/2uhduQg>

#### **Victor BET-TAMRAZ**

**Charges:** Acting against national security by organising and conducting house-churches.

**Last court decision:** On 4<sup>th</sup> July 2017, Victor was sentenced to ten years imprisonment.

**Other information:** Pastor Victor is appealing against his sentence. His son Ramil is also facing charges of “acting against national security”, “organising and creating house churches”, as well as charges relating to his father’s ministry.

**Source :** <http://bit.ly/2nx2sk2> and <http://bit.ly/2GIzJRq>

### **Shamiriam Isavi Khabizeh BET-TAMRAZ**

**Date and place of arrest:** On 6<sup>th</sup> January 2018.

**Charges:** Acting against national security and acting against regime by organizing small groups, attending a seminary abroad and training church leader and pastors to act as spies.

**Last court decision:** Five years imprisonment.

**Statement of defendant:** Mrs. Isavi denies all charges. She will appeal her sentence.

**Other information:** She is the wife of imprisoned Pentecostal Pastor Victor BET-TAMRAZ who is sentenced to ten years imprisonment. Isavi and her husband were arrested in their home in Tehran on December 26, 2014, along with their son, Ramin Bet Tamraz, and 12 Christian converts. In June 2017 she was again detained and then released on bail after paying the equivalent of \$30,000.

**Source:** <http://bit.ly/2nx2sk2> and <http://bit.ly/2GIzJRq> and <http://mohabatnews.com/en/?p=3881>

### **Saheb FADAYEE**

**Date and place of arrest:** On 13<sup>th</sup> May 2016, at his house church in Rasht

**Charges:** Alcohol consumption, acting against national security

**First court decision:** In September 2016, he was sentenced to eighty lashes for drinking communion wine. On 9<sup>th</sup> February 2017, he went to file an appeal of the flogging sentence. The judge is to deliver his verdict within twenty days.

**Last court decision:** On 6<sup>th</sup> July 2017, he was sentenced to ten years in prison.

**Other information:** He was arrested with Yaser MOSIBZADEH, Yousef NADARKHANI and Mohammad Reza OMIDI. The men are all converts from Muslim backgrounds. Drinking alcohol is not illegal for Christians in Iran, but is forbidden for Muslims. The sentence reflects the state's hardline refusal to recognize the right of Muslims to change their religion.

**Source:** <http://www.releaseinternational.org/will-they-be-lashed-for-taking-communion-wine/>  
<http://www.csw.org.uk/2016/10/07/news/3286/article.htm>

### **Yusif FARHADOV**

**Age:** 23 years

**Place of residence:** Marian Colony in Green Town, Lahore

**Date and place of arrest:** On 24<sup>th</sup> June 2016, in Tehran

**Charge:** Conducting activities against national security and missionary activities

**First court decision:** He was released on bail on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2016.

**Last court decision:** On 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2017, Judge Ahmadzadeh of Iran's revolutionary court sentenced him to ten years imprisonment.

**Other information:** He was arrested with Nasser Navard GOLTAPE, Eldar GURBANOV and Bahram NASIBOV from the Republic of Azerbaijan.

*Source:* <http://www.csw.org.uk/2017/07/04/news/3609/article.htm>

## **Ebrahim FIROUZI**

**Age:** 28 years

**Place of residence:** Robat-Karim, twenty kilometres south-west of Tehran

**Date and place of arrest:** On 7<sup>th</sup> March 2013 in Tehran

**Charges:** Acting against national security, gathering, and collusion

**Statement of the defendant:** He launched and administered a Christian missionary website, and distributed Bibles. Security authorities and interrogators fabricated the allegations.

**Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code:** Penal Code Article 499 (Anyone who joins, as a member, any of the groups, societies, or branches aforementioned in article 498, shall be sentenced to three months to five years' imprisonment, unless it is proved that he had been unaware of its aims) and Article 500 (Anyone who engages in any type of propaganda against the Islamic Republic of Iran or in support of opposition groups and associations shall be sentenced to three months to one year of imprisonment).

**First court decision:** On 15<sup>th</sup> July 2013, the Revolutionary Court in Robat-Karim sentenced him to one year in prison and two years of exile to Sarbaz, a remote border city.

**Last court decision:** It was expected that he would be released on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2016. However, a new case was raised and he was sentenced to five years imprisonment by Branch 28 of the Revolutionary Court. On 11<sup>th</sup> December 2016, the sentence of five years of prison was re-affirmed.

**Place of detention:** Rajai Shahr prison

**Other information:** He is due for release from jail in January 2020.

*Source:* <http://mohabatnews.com/en/?p=3416>

## **Nasser Navard GOLTAPE**

**Age:** 23 years

**Place of residence:** Marian Colony in Green Town, Lahore

**Date and place of arrest:** On 24<sup>th</sup> June 2016, in Tehran

**Charge:** Conducting activities against national security and missionary activities

**First court decision:** He was released on bail on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2016.

**Last court decision:** On 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2017, Judge Ahmadzadeh of Iran's revolutionary court sentenced him to ten years imprisonment.

**Other information:** He was arrested with Yusif FARHADOV, Eldar GURBANOV and Bahram NASIBOV from the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Source: <http://www.csw.org.uk/2017/07/04/news/3609/article.htm>

### **Eldar GURBANOV**

**Age:** 23 years

**Place of residence:** Marian Colony in Green Town, Lahore

**Date and place of arrest:** On 24<sup>th</sup> June 2016, in Tehran

**Charge:** Conducting activities against national security and missionary activities

**First court decision:** He was released on bail on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2016.

**Last court decision:** On 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2017, Judge Ahmadzadeh of Iran's revolutionary court sentenced him to ten years imprisonment.

**Other information:** He was arrested with Yusif FARHADOV, Nasser Navard GOLTAPE and Bahram NASIBOV from the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Source: <http://www.csw.org.uk/2017/07/04/news/3609/article.htm>

### **Yaser MOSIBZADEH**

**Date and place of arrest:** On 13<sup>th</sup> May 2016, at his house church in Rasht

**Charges:** Alcohol consumption, acting against national security

**First court decision:** In September 2016, he was sentenced to eighty lashes for drinking communion wine. On 9<sup>th</sup> February 2017, he went to file an appeal of the flogging sentence.

**Last court decision:** On 6<sup>th</sup> July 2017, he was sentenced to ten years in prison.

**Other information:** He was arrested with Saheb FADAYEE, Yousef NADARKHANI and Mohammad Reza OMIDI. The men are all converts from Muslim backgrounds. Drinking alcohol is not illegal for Christians in Iran, but is forbidden for Muslims. The sentence reflects the state's hardline refusal to recognize the right of Muslims to change their religion.

Source: <http://www.releaseinternational.org/will-they-be-lashed-for-taking-communion-wine/>,  
<http://www.csw.org.uk/2016/10/07/news/3286/article.htm> ,  
<http://www.csw.org.uk/2017/06/28/press/3603/article.htm>

### **Yousef NADARKHANI**

**Date and place of arrest:** On 13<sup>th</sup> May 2016, at his house church in Rasht

**Charges:** Alcohol consumption acting against national security

**First court decision:** In September 2016, he was sentenced to eighty lashes for drinking communion wine. On 9<sup>th</sup> February 2017, he went to file an appeal of the flogging sentence.

**Last court decision:** On 6<sup>th</sup> July 2017, he was sentenced to ten years in prison.

**Other information:** He was arrested with Yaser MOSIBZADEH, Saheb FADAYEE and Mohammad Reza OMIDI. The men are all converts from Muslim backgrounds. Drinking alcohol is not illegal for Christians in Iran, but is forbidden for Muslims. The sentence

reflects the state's hardline refusal to recognize the right of Muslims to change their religion.

*Source:* <http://www.releaseinternational.org/will-they-be-lashed-for-taking-communion-wine/>  
<http://www.csw.org.uk/2016/10/07/news/3286/article.htm> ,  
<http://www.csw.org.uk/2017/06/28/press/3603/article.htm>

### **Mohammad Reza OMIDI**

**Date and place of arrest:** On 13<sup>th</sup> May 2016, at his house church in Rasht

**Charges:** Alcohol consumption, acting against national security

**First court decision:** In September 2016, he was sentenced to eighty lashes for drinking communion wine. On 9<sup>th</sup> February 2017, he went to file an appeal of the flogging sentence.

**Last court decision:** On 6<sup>th</sup> July 2017, he was sentenced to ten years in prison.

**Other information:** He was arrested with Yaser MOSIBZADEH, Saheb FADAYEE and Yousef NADARKHANI. The men are all converts from Muslim backgrounds. Drinking alcohol is not illegal for Christians in Iran, but is forbidden for Muslims. The sentence reflects the state's hardline refusal to recognize the right of Muslims to change their religion.

*Sources:* <http://www.releaseinternational.org/will-they-be-lashed-for-taking-communion-wine/> <http://www.csw.org.uk/2016/10/07/news/3286/article.htm> ,  
<http://www.csw.org.uk/2017/06/28/press/3603/article.htm>

### **Massoud REZAIE (Church of Iran)**

**Date and place of arrest:** In October 2012

**Charges:** Action against national security and propaganda against the regime

**Last court decision:** On 16<sup>th</sup> July 2013, he was sentenced to five years in prison.

### **Mohammad ROGHANGIR (Church of Iran)**

**Date and place of arrest:** In October 2012

**Charges:** Action against national security and propaganda against the regime

**Last court decision:** On 16<sup>th</sup> July 2013, Mohammad Roghangir was sentenced to six years in prison. He started serving his sentence in July 2014.

**Place of detention:** Adel Abad prison in Shiraz

### **Eskandar REZAEI**

**Date and place of arrest:** at his home in Lar, on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2017

**Charges:** Acting against national security

**Last court decision:** On 28<sup>th</sup> December 2017 Eskandar was sentenced to eight years in prison.

**Place of detention :** Quran Branch of Adel-Aabad prison in Shiraz

**Other information:** Police confiscated several hundred copies of the New Testament from his home. Soroush was also arrested in July 2017. He was initially held at the intelligence offices before being transferred to Adel-Aabad prison. Soroush was released on bail of 350-million Toman (approximately USD 95,000) on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2017. Eskandar was released on bail of 500-million Toman (approximately USD 140,000) on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2017. He was also detained after a previous arrest in October 2012 and was released in 2015.

**Source:** <http://www.meconcern.org>

## Soroush SARA EI

**Date and place of arrest:** December 28<sup>th</sup> 2017

**Charges:** Acting against national security and forgery (as pastor of his church in Shiraz).

**Last court decision:** At the 4<sup>th</sup> branch of the Revolutionary Court in Shiraz, on 28<sup>th</sup> December 2017, Soroush was sentenced to eight years in prison.

**Other information:** As the pastor of the Church of Shiraz was arrested for issuing letters for students seeking exemption from Islamic studies classes.. Following the court hearing, Eskandar Rezaie and Soroush Saraie were each sentenced to seven years in prison for "action against the National Security" and one year for proselytising and forming house meetings. They are appealing the sentences. He was also detained after a previous arrest in October 2012 and was released in 2015.

**Source:** <http://www.meconcern.org>

## Catholics

### Anousheh REZA-BAKHSH

**Date and place of arrest:** On 20<sup>th</sup> February 2017, in Urmia in the Western Azerbaijan province in northwestern Iran

**Charges:** Spying for and contact with foreign countries

**Place of detention:** Evin prison, ward 4

**Other information:** She was arrested alongside Soheil Zagarzadeh SANI, her son. There has been no further update on her whereabouts and well-being since the day of their arrest. Soheil Zargarzadeh Sani is a psychology university student in his senior year. A group of intelligence officers raided their home and confiscated their books, including their Bibles and some books on Christian theology. The mother and son who were arrested were converts to the Catholic Church and had never been arrested before for their faith or any other reason.

**Source:** <http://mohabatnews.com/en/?p=3381>

## **Soheil Zagarzadeh SANI**

**Date and place of arrest:** On 20<sup>th</sup> February 2017, in Urmia in the Western Azerbaijan province in northwestern Iran

**Charges:** Spying for and contact with foreign countries

**Place of detention:** Evin prison, ward 4

**Other information:** He was arrested alongside Anousheh REZA-BAKSH, his mother. There has been no further update on their whereabouts and well-being since the day of their arrest.

Soheil Zargarzadeh Sani is a psychology university student in his senior year. A group of intelligence officers raided their home and confiscated their books, including their Bibles and some books on Christian theology. The mother and son who were arrested were converts to the Catholic Church and had never been arrested before for their faith or any other reason.

*Source:* <http://mohabatnews.com/en/?p=3381>

## **Muslims**

### **Sufis/ Dervishes: Nematollahi Order**

## **Hamid-Reza ARAYESH**

**Place of residence:** Kavar county in Fars Province

**Date and place of arrest:** In September 2011 (released in anticipation of process)

**Charges:** Spreading corruption on the earth, membership of illegal group (being Dervish/friary), assembly and collusion with the intent to disrupt national security, causing physical harm and violation of public order, carrying illegal weapons and *Moharebeh* (enmity with God)

**Statement of the defendant:** He says he is affiliated with the Nematollahi Gonabadi Sufi Order.

**First court decision:** In October 2013, he was sentenced to permanent exile in the province of Khuzestan by Branch 2 of the Revolutionary Court of Shiraz.

**Last court decision:** In May 2014, he was sentenced to four years in prison and paying blood money (*diyeh* - to compensate the injuries caused to Basijis and plaincloth forces) by the 1<sup>st</sup> branch of the General court in Kavar.

## **Omid BEHROUZI**

**Date and place of arrest:** On 27<sup>th</sup> October 2011



**Charges:** Membership in a sect endangering national security, propaganda against the state, insulting the Supreme Leader, disturbing the public mind, establishing and membership in a deviant group, disrupting the public order

**Statement of the defendant:** He says he contributed to the Sufi website Majzooban-e Noor (<http://www.majzooban.org/en>).

**Last court decision:** He was sentenced to 7 ½ years in prison by Branch 15 of Tehran's Revolutionary Court.

**Place of detention:** Evin Prison, Tehran

## **Kazem DEGHAN**

**Place of residence:** Kavar County in Fars Province

**Date and place of arrest:** In September 2011 (released in anticipation of process)

**Charges:** Spreading corruption on the earth, membership of illegal group (being Dervish/friary), assembly and collusion with the intent to disrupt national security, causing physical harm and violation of public order, carrying illegal weapons and *Moharebeh* (enmity with God)

**Statement of the defendant:** He says he is affiliated with the Nematollahi Gonabadi Sufi Order.

**First court decision:** In October 2013, he was sentenced to permanent exile in the province of Sistan and Baluchestan by Branch 2 of the Revolutionary Court of Shiraz.

**Last court decision:** In May 2014, he was sentenced to four years in prison and required to pay blood money (*diyeh* - to compensate the injuries caused to Basijis and plaincloth forces) by the 1st branch of the General court in Kavar.

## **Mohammad-Ali DEGHAN**

**Place of residence:** Kavar County in Fars Province

**Date and place of arrest:** On 13<sup>th</sup> May 2013

**Charges:** Enmity against God, assembly and collusion against national security, undermining national security, membership in organisations that aim to disrupt national security, involvement in a skirmish and causing physical harm, violation of public order, carrying illegal weapons, participating in the gatherings with the aim of overthrowing the Islamic Republic and enmity against the God and corruption on earth

**Statement of the defendant:** He says he is affiliated with the Nematollahi Gonabadi Sufi Order.

**Article of the criminal/ civil/ administrative code:** Penal Code Article 183 (Any person who resorts to weapons to cause terror and fear or to breach public security and freedom shall be considered as a *mohareb* [enemy of God] and corrupt on earth), Article 186 (All the members and supporters of a group or an organised association which have waged armed rebellion against the Islamic State, whilst the core of that organisation or group exists, shall be regarded as *moharebs* [enemies of God] provided that they know the stance of that group



or organisation and have effective activities and efforts in support of its aims), Article 187 (Any person or group that plots to overthrow the Islamic State and to that end gathers weapons and explosives, as well as those individuals who knowingly and freely provide effective financial facilities or means and weapons to them, shall be regarded as *mohareb* [enemy of God] and corrupt on earth), Article 610 (When two or more individuals collude and conspire to commit crimes against the national or foreign security of the country or prepare the facilities to commit the aforementioned crimes, unless they are regarded as *mohareb* [enemies of God], shall be sentenced to two to five years' imprisonment), Article 498 (Anyone, with any ideology, who establishes or directs a group, society, or branch, inside or outside the country, with any name or title, that constitutes more than two individuals and aims to perturb the security of the country, if not considered as *mohareb* [enemy of God] shall be sentenced to two to ten years' imprisonment), and Article 499 (Anyone who joins, as a member, any of the groups, societies, or branches aforementioned in article 498, shall be sentenced to three months to five years' imprisonment, unless it is proved that he had been unaware of its aims).

**Last court decision:** On 29<sup>th</sup> May 2014, he was sentenced to four years in prison and required to pay blood money (*diyeh* - to compensate the injuries caused to Basijis and plaincloth forces) by the 1st branch of the General court in Kavar.

**Place of detention:** Adel Abad prison

## **Amir ESLAMI**

**Age:** 35 years

**Date and place of arrest:** On 4<sup>th</sup> September 2011

**Charges:** Assembly and collusion against national security, propaganda against the system, membership in a sect endangering national security, propaganda against the state, insulting the Supreme Leader, disturbing the public mind, establishing and membership in a deviant group, disrupting the public order

**Statement of the defendant:** He says he contributed to the Sufi website Majzooban-e Noor (<http://www.majzooban.org/en>).

**Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code:** Penal Code Article 500 (Anyone who engages in any type of propaganda against the Islamic Republic of Iran or in support of opposition groups and associations shall be sentenced to three months to one year of imprisonment) and Article 610 (When two or more individuals collude and conspire to commit crimes against the national or foreign security of the country or prepare the facilities to commit the aforementioned crimes, unless they are regarded as *mohareb* [enemies of God], shall be sentenced to two to five years' imprisonment).

**Last court decision:** He was sentenced to 7 ½ years in prison by Branch 15 of Tehran's Revolutionary Court.

**Place of detention:** Evin Prison, Tehran

## **Afshin KARAMPOUR**

**Date and place of arrest:** In September 2011

**Charges:** Membership in a sect endangering national security, propaganda against the state, insulting the Supreme Leader, disturbing the public mind, establishing and membership in a deviant group, disrupting the public order

**Statement of the defendant:** He says he contributed to the Sufi website Majzooban-e Noor (<http://www.majzooban.org/en>).

**Last court decision:** He was sentenced to 7 ½ years in prison by Branch 15 of Tehran's Revolutionary Court.

**Place of detention:** Evin Prison, Tehran

**Other information:** Karampour chose not to appear or defend him himself in court, and refused to file appeal in protest against numerous pre-trial irregularities and ill-treatment in detention by Intelligence Ministry agents.

### **Hamid-Reza MORADI SARVESTANI**

**Date and place of arrest:** On 4<sup>th</sup> September 2011

**Charges:** Membership in a sect endangering national security, propaganda against the state, insulting the Supreme Leader, agitating the public consciousness, disruption of public order

**Statement of the defendant:** He claims he contributed to the Sufi website Majzooban-e Noor (<http://www.majzooban.org/en>).

**Article of the criminal/ civil/ administrative code:** Penal Code Article 183 (Any person who resorts to weapons to cause terror and fear or to breach public security and freedom shall be considered as a *mohareb* [enemy of God] and corrupt on earth), Article 186 (All the members and supporters of a group or an organised association which have waged armed rebellion against the Islamic State, whilst the core of that organisation or group exists, shall be regarded as *moharebs* [enemies of God] provided that they know the stance of that group or organisation and have effective activities and efforts in support of its aims), Article 187 (Any person or group that plots to overthrow the Islamic State and to that end gathers weapons and explosives, as well as those individuals who knowingly and freely provide effective financial facilities or means and weapons to them, shall be regarded as *mohareb* [enemy of God] and corrupt on earth), Article 610 (When two or more individuals collude and conspire to commit crimes against the national or foreign security of the country or prepare the facilities to commit the aforementioned crimes, unless they are regarded as *mohareb* [enemies of God], shall be sentenced to two to five years' imprisonment), Article 500 (Anyone who engages in any type of propaganda against the Islamic Republic of Iran or in support of opposition groups and associations shall be sentenced to three months to one year of imprisonment), Article 514 (Anyone who, by any means, insults Imam Khomeini, the founder of the Islamic Republic, and/or the Supreme Leader shall be sentenced to six months to two years' imprisonment), Article 618 (Anyone who disrupts the order and public peace or prevents people from their business by crying out and creating a row and outrageous behaviour or by assaulting other people shall be sentenced to three months to one year of imprisonment and up to seventy-four lashes), and Article 698 (Anyone who, with the intent

to cause damage to someone or disrupt the opinion of the authorities or the public, sends a letter, complaint, correspondence, petition, report, or distributes printed or written paper, signed or unsigned, that contains false attributes of acts to an individual or legal person, whether explicitly or implicitly, and whether or not it causes physical or spiritual damages, or damages the victim's prestige, shall be sentenced to two months to two years' imprisonment, or up to seventy-four lashes).

**Last court decision:** He was sentenced to 10 ½ years in prison by Branch 15 of Tehran's Revolutionary Court.

**Place of detention:** Evin Prison, Tehran

**Other information:** He is the brother of Salehedin MORADI SARVESTANI.

### **Farshid YADOLLAHI**

**Date and place of arrest:** In September 2011

**Charges:** Membership in a sect endangering national security, propaganda against the state, insulting the Supreme Leader, disturbing the public mind, establishing and membership in a deviant group, disrupting the public order

**Statement of the defendant:** He claims he contributed to the Sufi website Majzooban-e Noor (<http://www.majzooban.org/en>).

**Last court decision:** He was sentenced to 7 ½ years in prison by Branch 15 of Tehran's Revolutionary Court.

**Place of detention:** Evin Prison, Tehran

### **Sufis/ Dervishes: Yarsan (Ahl-e hagh) Order**

### **Younes AGHAYAN**

**Age:** 32 years

**Place of residence:** Miandoab

**Date and place of arrest:** In October 2004

**Charges:** Carrying ammunition and arms, armed resistance against the Islamic Republic of Iran

**Statement of the defendant:** He claims he followed the Ahl-e Hagh faith.

**First court decision:** In January 2005, branch 2 of Mahabad Revolutionary Court sentenced him to five years in prison and death.

**Last court decision:** On 19<sup>th</sup> August 2015, his sentence was reduced to lifetime in prison when Iran's Supreme Leader declared an amnesty for some prisoners.

**Place of detention:** Urumia Prison

**Other information:** In October 2004, the police raided his village to remove signs with religious writings of Yari faith. He was arrested because he resisted the raid and confronted the police.

### **Bakhsh Ali MOHAMMADI**

**Place of residence:** West Azerbaijan Province

**Date and place of arrest:** In 2004

**Charges:** Enmity against God

**Statement of the defendant:** He claims he followed the Ahl-e Hagh faith.

**First court decision:** He was sentenced to death.

**Last court decision:** In 2013, he was sentenced to five years imprisonment.

**Place of detention:** Urumia prison. On 4<sup>th</sup> November 2013, he was transferred to Yazd central prison.

**Other information:** He was arrested and tried alongside Abdollah QASEMZADEH and Sahand Ali MOHAMMADI. The three were given a shared fine of 400 million Tomans blood money.

### **Sahand Ali MOHAMMADI**

**Place of residence:** West Azerbaijan Province

**Date and place of arrest:** In 2004

**Charges:** Enmity against God

**Statement of the defendant:** He claims he followed the Ahl-e Hagh faith.

**First court decision:** He was sentenced to death.

**Last court decision:** In 2013, he was sentenced to five years imprisonment.

**Place of detention:** Urumia prison. On 4<sup>th</sup> November 2013, he was transferred to Ardakan prison.

**Other information:** He was arrested and tried alongside Abdollah QASEMZADEH and Bakhsh Ali MOHAMMADI. The three were given a shared fine of 400 million Tomans blood money.

### **Abdollah QASEMZADEH**

**Place of residence:** West Azerbaijan Province

**Date and place of arrest:** In 2004

**Charges:** Enmity against God

**Statement of the defendant:** He claims he followed the Ahl-e Hagh faith.

**First court decision:** He was sentenced to death.

**Last court decision:** In 2013, he was sentenced to five years imprisonment.

**Place of detention:** Urumia prison

**Other information:** He was arrested and tried with Bakhsh Ali MOHAMMADI and Sahand Ali MOHAMMADI. The three were given a shared fine of 400 million Tomans blood money.

## Sunni Muslims

The Report of the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Iran dated 13<sup>th</sup> March 2014 lists eighty-eight Sunni Muslims (thirteen Baluchis and seventy-five Kurds) who were in prison in 2014: thirty-one were sentenced to death; eight were serving prison terms ranging between ten and twenty years; twenty-five received prison terms from five to nine years, and all the others less than five years.

The official charges are usually: Enmity against God (Clauses 183, 186 & 187) – Assembly and collusion against national security (Clause 610) – Undermining national security (Clause 498) - Membership in organisations that aim to disrupt national security (Clause 499) – Espionage (Clause 501) – Involvement in Salafi and terrorist groups.

### **Hassan AL-HAIDARI ABO WALID (Naim al-Haidari)**

**Age:** 37 years

**Place of residence:** Al-Thawra

**Date and place of arrest:** On 26<sup>th</sup> August 2017, Al-Ahwaz

**Charges:** He was charged with being Sunni.

**Last court decision:** He has been sentenced to prison for an unknown period of time.

**Place of detention:** Unknown

**Source:** <http://acfh.info/en/?p=2410>

### **Hafez-Tohid GHOREISHI**

**Date and place of arrest:** In September 2014

**Statement of the defendant:** He claims he preached Sunni Islam.

**First court decision:** He was sentenced to ten years in prison.

**Last court decision:** The prison term was reduced to seven years.

**Place of detention:** Raja'I Shahr prison in Karaj

### **Edrees NEMATI**

**Date and place of arrest:** On 9<sup>th</sup> March 2011

**Charges:** Enmity against God

**Statement of the defendant:** He claims he preached Sunni Islam.

**Last court decision:** He was sentenced to death by Branch 28 of the Revolutionary court of Tehran.

**Place of detention:** Rajai Shahr prison, Karaj

**Other information:** He was tortured and forced to make filmed confessions that were broadcasted on state television.

## **Naser PIRI**

**Date and place of arrest:** On 11<sup>th</sup> August 2014 in Zahedan

**Statement of the defendant:** He claims he preached Sunni Islam.

**Last court decision:** Islamic Revolutionary Court of Sanandaj sentenced him to five years in prison.

**Place of detention:** Sanandaj Central Prison

**Other information:** Mr. Piri previously had been arrested once before and was under investigation for approximately fifteen months by the Ministry of Intelligence in Sanandaj. After being released on bail, he was acquitted of the charges.

## **Shia Muslims**

### **Ayatollah Mohammad Kazemni BOROJERDI**

**Date and place of arrest:** In October 2006

**Charges:** Enmity against God and spreading propaganda against the regime

**Statement of the defendant:** He claims he was advocating the separation of religion and state, and speaking out on behalf of the rights of Iran's religious minorities as well as those of the Shi'a Muslim majority.

**First court decision:** In 2007, a Special Clerical Court sentenced him to death.

**Last court decision:** He was sentenced to eleven years in prison.

**Place of detention:** Evin Prison's Ward for the clergy

**Other information:** In addition to the imprisonment, the government banned him from practicing his clerical duties, and confiscated his home and belongings. During his imprisonment he was threatened several times with execution. He has finished his prison sentence but there are doubts that the Iranian Regime will ever release him.

*Source:* <http://bit.ly/2n9T1Is>

### **Hesameddin FARZIZADEH**

**Age:** 25 years

**Place of residence:** Meshkinsharh

**Date and place of arrest:** November 2014 at home

**Charges:** Insulting the Prophet Mohammad and Ayatollah Khomeini

**Last court decision:** The Criminal Court of Meshkinshahr in Ardabil province sentenced him to seven years of in prison and seventy-four lashes and death (for apostasy).

**Place of detention:** Meshkinshahr Prison

**Other information:** The charge of apostasy stems from a book written by him, entitled “From Islam to Islam”, in which he examines the history of Shi’a Islam and raises questions about certain facets of Shi’a beliefs.

*Source:* <https://deathpenaltynews.blogspot.be/2015/06/iran-iranian-writer-sentenced-to-death.html>

### **Amir GOLESTANI**

**Date and place of arrest:** On 20<sup>th</sup> August 2013, in Tehran

**Charges:** Propaganda against the regime, insulting the Supreme Leader, publishing obscene photographs, conspiracy and blasphemy

**First court decision:** He was sentenced to twenty years and one day in prison by Branch 28 of the Revolutionary Court.

**Last court decision:** The initial verdict was upheld by the Appeals Court.

### **Ayatollah Mohammad Reza NEKOUNAM**

**Date and place of arrest:** In January 2015, in Qom

**Charges:** Insulting a religious figure

**Statement of the defendant:** He says he criticized the fatwa that was issued by Ayatollah Makaram Shirazi against high speed Internet.

**Last court decision:** He was sentenced to five years in prison by a Special Clerical Court.

**Place of detention:** Saheli prison, in Qom

*Source:* <https://www.en-hrana.org/ayatollah-nekounam-transferred-hospital-tehran>

### **Seyed Masoud SEYED TALEBI**

**Date and place of arrest:** On 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2013

**Charges:** Gathering and collusion against national security, propaganda against the regime, blasphemy

**First court decision:** He was sentenced to fifteen years and one day in prison.

**Last court decision:** He was sentenced to twenty years and one day in prison by Branch 28 of the Islamic Revolutionary Court.

**Other information:** His case was considered as an incomplete case in the branch 54 of the Appeal Court, and then was sent to the branch 28 of the Revolutionary Court. In this court, a new charge of blasphemy was added to the verdict.

### **Baha'is**



The 2017 Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Iran stated that **90 Baha'is were in detention as of 2017**. In April, the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention ruled that the detention of 24 members of the Baha'i community was arbitrary and in violation of their human rights. HRWF Database comprises about sixty documented cases.

The official charges for Baha'i prisoners in Iran are usually: Forming an illegal cult - Acting against national security – Espionage – Propaganda against the regime - Posing a threat to the holy regime of the Islamic Republic by teaching Bahaist ideas through communication with the usurper country of Israel – Plotting overthrow - Membership in an anti-Islamic group – Membership in illegal groups and assemblies - Membership in the deviant sect of Baha'ism with the goal of taking action against the security of the country, in order to further the aims of the deviant sect and those of organisations outside the country.

It appears that Baha'is are almost exclusively prosecuted for participation in their community affairs, including by facilitating educational services and publicly engaging in religious practices, such as attending devotional gatherings.

A number of prisoners are lecturers or work for the Baha'i Institute for Higher Education, an organisation aiming to provide higher education to Baha'is, as they are often barred from attending Iran's other universities.

### **Sina AGHDAS**

**Place of residence:** Mashhad

**Date and place of arrest:** On 11<sup>th</sup> July 2012 in Mashhad

**Charges:** Acting against national security by teaching the Baha'i faith

**Statement of defendant:** He claims that he made reference to a Quranic verse to highlight political/religious discrimination.

**Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code:**

**First court decision:** On 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2017, he was sentenced to one year imprisonment after two court sessions in branch eight of the Revolutionary Court in Mashhad.

**Place of detention:** Vakil Abad Prison of Mashhad

**Other Information:** He was arrested by security guards during a visit to the homes of two Baha'i residents. He was arrested with Shayan TAFAZOLI and Khashayar TAFAZOLI.

*Source:* <https://www.en-hrana.org/3-bahais-sentenced-prison-terms>

### **Hana AGHIGHIAN**

**Place of residence:** Gorgan

**Date and place of arrest:** Gorgan

**Charges:** She is a member of the Baha'i faith

**First court decision:** A court in Gorgan sentenced her to nine years in prison.

**Last court decision:** A court of appeal reduced her sentence to one year and nine months in prison.

**Place of detention:** In June 2017, she surrendered herself to Amir Abad Prison

*Source:* <http://iranpresswatch.org/post/17812/two-bahais-sent-gorgan-prison/>

### **Shahab DEGHANI**

**Place of residence:** Tehran

**Date and place of arrest:** In July 2012

**Charges:** Propaganda against the regime

**Statement of the defendant:** He claims to be a member of the Baha'i faith

**First court decision:** He was sentenced to four years in prison by Branch 28 of the Islamic Revolutionary Court in Tehran. He started serving his sentence on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2014.

**Last court decision:** The appeals court upheld the sentence.

**Place of detention:** Raja'i Shahr prison in Karaj

**Other information:** He is married to Shomeis MOHAJER.

### **Shahram ESHRAGHI**

**Place of residence:** Isfahan

**Statement of the defendant:** He claims to be a member of the Baha'i faith

**First court decision:** He was sentenced to four years in prison, of which one is suspended by Section 1 of the Revolutionary Court of Yazd.

**Last court decision:** On 16<sup>th</sup> April 2014, the provincial Appeals Court upheld the sentence. He started serving his sentence on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2015.

**Place of detention:** Isfahan prison

### **Shamim ETTEHADI**

**Place of residence:** Yazd

**Date and place of arrest:** In March 2013

**Charges:** Propaganda against the regime and acting against national security

**Statement of the defendant:** He claims he broadcasted a video of the destruction of the Baha'is graveyard to a foreign TV channel.

**Last court decision:** On 16<sup>th</sup> June 2013, the Revolutionary Court of Yazd sentenced him to five years in prison.

**Other information:** He was previously arrested in 2011 and sentenced to ninety-one days of prison in March 2012. The appeal court changed it to three years of suspended prison. He is the son of Azam MOTAHARI.

## **Yekta FAHANDEZH-SA`ADI**

**Place of residence:** Shiraz

**Date and place of arrest:** On 19<sup>th</sup> March 2017

**Charges:** Propaganda against the regime and collusion

**First court decision:** On 16<sup>th</sup> June 2016, she was sentenced by Judge Doctor Sadati to five years in prison.

**Last court decision:** In December 2016, the Court of Review in Shiraz reduced her five-year sentence to two years in prison and a three-year suspended sentence.

**Place of detention:** Adel Abad prison

**Other information:** She was one of fifteen Baha'is arrested in Shiraz in 2010. On February 3, 2012, she was again arrested by agents from the Ministry of Intelligence and spent 82 days in the Ministry of Intelligence's Detention Facility 100 in Shiraz. She was released on bail and later charged with propaganda against the regime and undermining national security. She was given a five-year suspended sentence, but was later acquitted by the Court of Review.

*Source:* <https://sensday.wordpress.com/2017/03/26/yekta-fahandezh-saadi-begins-her-prison-sentence/>

## **Sheida GHODDUSI**

**Date of arrest:** In 2015

**Charges:** She is a member of the Baha'i faith.

**Last court decision:** The Golestan province Revolutionary Court sentenced her to eleven months imprisonment in 2015.

**Other information:** She began her prison sentence on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2017. She appealed the court's decision and is waiting for sentencing information.

*Source:* <http://bit.ly/2tmfHWI>

## **Saba GOLSHAN**

**Place of residence:** Isfahan

**Statement of the defendant:** He claims to be a member of the Baha'i faith

**First court decision:** He was sentenced to five years in prison, one year of which is suspended, by Section 1 of the Revolutionary Court of Yazd.

**Last court decision:** On 16<sup>th</sup> April 2014, the provincial Appeals Court upheld the sentence. He started serving his sentence on 12<sup>th</sup> August 2015.

**Place of detention:** Isfahan prison

## **Behnam HASSANI**

**Place of residence:** Gorgan

**Date and place of arrest:** Gorgan

**Charges:** She is a member of the Baha'i faith

**First court decision:** A court in Gorgan sentenced her to nine years in prison.

**Last court decision:** A court of appeal reduced her sentence to one year and nine months in prison.

**Place of detention:** In June 2017, she surrendered herself to Amir Abad Prison

*Source:* <http://iranpresswatch.org/post/17812/two-bahais-sent-gorgan-prison/>

## **Shahnam JADHBANI**

**Date and place of arrest:** On 17<sup>th</sup> October 2012, in Minudasht

**Charges:** Propaganda in favour of the Baha'i faith and against the Islamic Republic by being members of an illegal organization, implementing proselytizing projects in Golestan Province, and collaborating with enemy states by actively promoting sectarian, anti-Islamic and anti-Shia objectives

**Last court decision:** In February 2016, he was sentenced to eleven years in prison.

**Other information:** He suffered a heart attack during his detention and spent three days in hospital, but was returned to his cell and remained there despite suffering severe pain.

*Source:* <https://sensday.wordpress.com/2016/01/26/24-bahais-in-gorgan-sentenced-to-a-total-of-193-years-in-prison> , <https://www.iranhumanrights.org/2016/03/twelve-bahais-allege-torture-in-detention/> , <http://cts.thesentinelproject.org/reports/view/1500?l=te>

## **Jamaloddin KHANJANI**

**Age:** 82 years

**Date and place of arrest:** On 14<sup>th</sup> May 2008, in Tehran or Mashhad

**Charges:** Espionage, propaganda against the regime, assembly and collusion against national security

**Statement of the defendant:** He claims to be a leader of the Baha'i community

**First court decision:** In August 2010, he was sentenced to twenty years in prison (the longest terms of any current prisoners of conscience in Iran).

**Second court decision:** The sentences were upheld by the appeals court.

**Last court decision:** In November 2015, his sentence was reduced to ten years in prison.

**Place of detention:** Evin prison or Rajae Shahr prison

**Other information:** He was arrested alongside Fariba KAMALABADI, Afif NAEMI, Saeid REZAIE, Mahvash SABET, Behrouz TAVAKKOLI and Vahid TIZFAHM. In September 2010, the authorities verbally informed the seven Baha'is that their twenty years sentences were reduced to ten years. Then, March 2011, prison authorities told them in that their initial twenty years sentences had been reinstated. On 22<sup>th</sup> April 2015, Iranian police demolished the home belonging to Mr. Khanjani in Semnan.

## **Manuchehr KHOLOUSI**

**Place of residence:** Mashhad

**Date and place of arrest:** On 29<sup>th</sup> November 2013

**Charges:** Propaganda against the regime

**Statement of the defendant:** He claims he was teaching the Baha'i faith.

**Last court decision:** On 8<sup>th</sup> July 2014, the Revolutionary Court of Mashhad sentenced him to six years in prison.

**Place of detention:** Minab prison

**Other information:** In 1999, Mr. Kholousi was sentenced to death for being a Baha'i. This sentence was reduced to one year in prison in the appeal court. He is the father of Nika and Nava Kholousi.

### **Nava KHOLOUSI**

**Place of residence:** Mashad

**Date and place of arrest:** On 30<sup>th</sup> March 2014

**Charges:** Propaganda against the regime

**Statement of the defendants:** She claims she participated in Baha'i activities.

**Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code:** Articles 499 (Anyone who joins, as a member, any of the groups, societies, or branches aforementioned in article 498, shall be sentenced to three months to five years' imprisonment, unless it is proved that he had been unaware of its aims), and Article 500 (Anyone who engages in any type of propaganda against the Islamic Republic of Iran or in support of opposition groups and associations shall be sentenced to three months to one year of imprisonment).

**First court decision:** She was sentenced to 4 ½ years in prison.

**Last court decision:** The initial verdict was confirmed by branch 20 of the Appeals Court of Khorasan Razavi.

**Place of detention:** Vakilabad prison

**Other information:** She was arrested alongside her sister, Nika KHOLOUSI. They are the daughters of Manuchehr KHOLOUSI.

### **Nika KHOLOUSI**

**Place of residence:** Mashad

**Date and place of arrest:** On 30<sup>th</sup> March 2014

**Charges:** Propaganda against the regime

**Statement of the defendants:** She claims she participated in Baha'i activities.

**Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code:** Articles 499 (Anyone who joins, as a member, any of the groups, societies, or branches aforementioned in article 498, shall be sentenced to three months to five years' imprisonment, unless it is proved that he had been unaware of its aims), and Article 500 (Anyone who engages in any type of propaganda against the Islamic Republic of Iran or in support of opposition groups and associations shall be sentenced to three months to one year of imprisonment).

**First court decision:** She was sentenced to six years in prison.

**Last court decision:** The initial verdict was confirmed by branch 20 of the Appeals Court of Khorasan Razavi.

**Place of detention:** Vakilabad prison

**Other information:** She was arrested alongside her sister, Nava KHOLOUSI. They are the daughters of Manuchehr KHOLOUSI.

## **Vahed KHOLOUSI**

**Date and place of arrest:** In March 2010 (released on bail)

**Charges:** Collaboration and conspiracy to commit crimes against national security, membership in the Baha'i Faith and active participation in affairs of that community and contributing to its spread, propaganda against the regime of the Islamic Republic

**Statement of the defendant:** He claims membership and active participation in organizations defending both the right to education and human rights.

**First court decision:** In June 2011, he was sentenced to five years in prison by branch 28 of the Revolutionary Court of Tehran.

**Last court decision:** The initial sentence was upheld by the Appeals Court. He started serving his sentence on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2015.

**Place of detention:** Hall 12 of Section 4 in Rajai Shahr prison

**Other information:** Mr. Vahed Kholousi is a civil rights activist. He was expelled from the university because of his Baha'i membership.

## **Peyman KOUSH-BAGHI**

**Charges:** Baha'i membership, acting against national security

**First court decision:** In May 2015, he was sentenced to five years in prison by Branch 28 of the Revolutionary court of Tehran.

**Last court decision:** The Appeals Court upheld the initial verdicts.

**Place of detention:** Evin prison

**Other information:** He was arrested alongside his significant other, Azita RAFIZADEH. They have a four-year-old son and they are both professors at the Baha'i Institute for Higher Education (BIHE). He began serving his sentence on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2016.

## **Adel NAEIMI**

**Place of residence:** Tehran

**Date and place of arrest:** In May 2014 in Tehran

**Charges:** Baha'i membership and propaganda against the regime

**Statement of the defendants:** They claim they were engaging in peaceful practice of their Baha'i faith

**Last court decision:** On 24<sup>th</sup> April 2013, he was sentenced to eleven years in prison by branch 28 of Revolutionary Court.

**Place of detention:** Rajai-Shahr prison and Evin prison

**Other information:** He was arrested alongside his relatives, Elham FARAHANI and Shamim NAEIMI. He is the elder brother of Afif NAEIMI.

### **Afif NAEIMI**

**Age:** 53 years

**Date and place of arrest:** On 14<sup>th</sup> May 2008, in Tehran or Mashhad

**Charges:** Espionage, propaganda against the regime, assembly and collusion against national security

**Statement of the defendant:** He claims to be a leader of the Baha'i community

**First court decision:** In August 2010, he was sentenced to twenty years in prison (the longest terms of any current prisoners of conscience in Iran).

**Second court decision:** The sentences were upheld by the appeals court.

**Last court decision:** In November 2015, his sentence was reduced to ten years in prison.

**Place of detention:** Evin prison or Rajae Shahr prison

**Other information:** He was arrested alongside Fariba KAMALABADI, Jamaloddin KHANJANI, Saeid REZAIE, Mahvash SABET, Behrouz TAVAKKOLI and Vahid TIZFAHM. In September 2010, the authorities verbally informed the seven Baha'is that their twenty years sentences were reduced to ten years. Then, March 2011, prison authorities told them in that their initial twenty years sentences had been reinstated.

### **Sudabeh Mehdi NEJAD**

**Place of residence:** Gorgan

**Date and place of arrest:** Gorgan

**Charges:** She is a member of the Baha'i faith

**First court decision:** A court in Gorgan sentenced her to six years in prison.

**Last court decision:** A court of appeal reduced her sentence to one year and six months in prison.

**Place of detention:** In June 2017, she surrendered herself to Amir Abad Prison

*Source:* <http://iranpresswatch.org/post/17812/two-bahais-sent-gorgan-prison/>

### **Mitra NURI**

**Place of residence:** Gorgan

**Date and place of arrest:** Gorgan

**Charges:** She is a member of the Baha'i faith

**First court decision:** A court in Gorgan sentenced her to six years in prison.



**Last court decision:** A court of appeal reduced her sentence to one year and six months in prison.

**Place of detention:** In June 2017, she surrendered herself to Amir Abad Prison

*Source:* <http://iranpresswatch.org/post/17812/two-bahais-sent-gorgan-prison/>

### **Keyvan PAKZADAN**

**Date and place of arrest:** On 1<sup>st</sup> June 2016, outside of his sister's home in Tehran

**Charges:** Membership in the Baha'i Administration

**Last court decision:** On 27<sup>th</sup> February 2017, he was sentenced to five years in prison by Judge Moqayesseh.

**Place of detention:** Evin prison

**Other information:** His home and workplace were searched and also his sister's effects. He was held for thirty-four days before being released on bail.

*Source:* <http://iranpresswatch.org/post/17083/> ; <http://wp.me/pNMoJ-2QJ> ;

<https://senseday.wordpress.com/2016/06/05/one-new-arrest-in-tehran-2/> ;

<https://senseday.wordpress.com/2017/03/01/keyvan-pakzadan-sentenced-to-5-years-in-prison/>

### **Rofia PAKZADAN**

**Place of residence:** Gorgan

**Date and place of arrest:** She was arrested along with Parivash Shojaei on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2012 by agents at their homes, and released on bail until their sentences were issued. She was released on bail on a temporary basis

**Charges:** She is a member of the Baha'i faith.

**First court decision:** A court in Gorgan sentenced her to nine years in prison.

**Last court decision:** A court of appeal reduced her sentence to one year and nine months in prison.

**Place of detention:** On 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2017, she surrendered herself with Parivash Shojaei to Amir Abad Prison

**Other information:**

*Source:* <http://iranpresswatch.org/post/17812/two-bahais-sent-gorgan-prison/>

### **Shayda QODOUSI**

**Date and place of arrest:** On 17<sup>th</sup> October 2012, in Gorgan

**Charges:** Propaganda in favour of the Baha'i faith and against the Islamic Republic by being members of an illegal organization, implementing proselytizing projects in Golestan Province, and collaborating with enemy states by actively promoting sectarian, anti-Islamic and anti-Shia objectives

**Last court decision:** In February 2016, he was sentenced to eleven years in prison in relation to his arrest in 2012.

**Other information:** He was arrested in 2012, and sentenced in 2016, along with twenty-three other Baha'is.

*Source:* <https://sensday.wordpress.com/2016/01/26/24-bahais-in-gorgan-sentenced-to-a-total-of-193-years-in-prison/> , <https://sensday.wordpress.com/tag/gorgan/>

### **Azita RAFIZADEH**

**Charges:** Baha'i membership, acting against national security

**First court decision:** In June 2014, she was sentenced to four years in prison by Branch 28 of the Revolutionary court of Tehran.

**Last court decision:** The Appeals Court upheld the initial verdicts.

**Place of detention:** Evin prison

**Other information:** She was arrested alongside her significant other, Peyman KOUSH-BAGHI. They have a four-year-old son and they are both professors at the Baha'i Institute for Higher Education (BIHE). She began serving her sentence on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2015.

### **Saeid REZAIE**

**Age:** 56 years

**Date and place of arrest:** On 14<sup>th</sup> May 2008, in Tehran or Mashhad

**Charges:** Espionage, propaganda against the regime, assembly and collusion against national security

**Statement of the defendant:** He claims to be a leader of the Baha'i community

**First court decision:** In August 2010, he was sentenced to twenty years in prison (the longest terms of any current prisoners of conscience in Iran).

**Second court decision:** The sentences were upheld by the appeals court.

**Last court decision:** In November 2015, his sentence was reduced to ten years in prison.

**Place of detention:** Evin prison or Rajae Shahr prison

**Released:** On 16<sup>th</sup> February 2018 Mr. Rezaie was released after 10 years imprisonment.

**Other information:** He was arrested alongside Fariba KAMALABADI, Jamaloddin KHANJANI, Afif NAEMI, Mahvash SABET, Behrouz TAVAKKOLI and Vahid TIZFAHM. In September 2010, the authorities verbally informed the seven Baha'is that their twenty years sentences were reduced to ten years.

*Sources:* <https://www.bic.org/news/fourth-member-yaran-released>

### **Pune SANAEI (Teimuri)**

**Place of residence:** Gorgan

**Date and place of arrest:** Gorgan

**Charges:** She is a member of the Baha'i faith

**First court decision:** A court in Gorgan sentenced her to nine years in prison.

**Last court decision:** A court of appeal reduced her sentence to one year and nine months in prison.

**Place of detention:** In June 2017, she surrendered herself to Amir Abad Prison

**Other information:**

*Source:* <http://iranpresswatch.org/post/17812/two-bahais-sent-gorgan-prison/>

### **Afshin SEYYED-AHMAD**

**Date and place of arrest:** On 28<sup>th</sup> June 2016, at Evin court

**Charges:** Propaganda against the regime, assembly and conspiracy

**Last court decision:** On 28<sup>th</sup> June 2016, he was sentenced to 3 years' imprisonment.

**Place of detention:** Hall 12 of Rajai Shahr prison

*Source:* <http://iranpresswatch.org/post/17219/>

### **Parisa SHAHIDI**

**Place of residence:** Gorgan

**Date and place of arrest:** Gorgan

**Charges:** She is a member of the Baha'i faith

**First court decision:** A court in Gorgan sentenced her to nine years in prison.

**Last court decision:** A court of appeal reduced her sentence to one year and nine months in prison.

**Place of detention:** In June 2017, she surrendered herself to Amir Abad Prison

**Other information:**

*Source:* <http://iranpresswatch.org/post/17812/two-bahais-sent-gorgan-prison/>

### **Parivash SHOJAEI**

**Place of residence:** Gorgan

**Date and place of arrest:** She was arrested along with Rofia Pakzadan on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2012 by agents at their homes, and released on bail until their sentences were issued. She was released on bail on a temporary basis

**Charges:** She is a member of the Baha'i faith.

**First court decision:** A court in Gorgan sentenced her to nine years in prison.

**Last court decision:** A court of appeal reduced her sentence to one year and nine months in prison.

**Place of detention:** On 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2017, she surrendered herself with Rofia Pakzadan to Amir Abad Prison

*Source:* <http://iranpresswatch.org/post/17812/two-bahais-sent-gorgan-prison/>

## **Khashayar TAFAZOLI**

**Place of residence:** Mashhad

**Date and place of arrest:** On 11<sup>th</sup> July 2012 in Mashhad

**Charges:** Acting against national security by teaching the Baha'i faith

**Statement of defendant:** He claims that he made reference to a Quranic verse to highlight political/religious discrimination.

**First court decision:** On 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2017, he was sentenced to one year imprisonment after two court sessions in branch eight of the Revolutionary Court in Mashhad.

**Place of detention:** Vakil Abad Prison of Mashhad

**Other Information:** He was arrested by security guards during a visit to the homes of two Baha'i residents. He was arrested with Shayan TAFAZOLI and Sina Aghdas.

*Source:* <https://www.en-hrana.org/3-bahais-sentenced-prison-terms>

## **Shayan TAFAZOLI**

**Place of residence:** Mashhad

**Date and place of arrest:** On 11<sup>th</sup> July 2012 in Mashhad

**Charges:** Acting against national security by teaching the Baha'i faith

**Statement of defendant:** He claims that he made reference to a Quranic verse to highlight political/religious discrimination.

**Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code:**

**First court decision:** On 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2017, he was sentenced to one year imprisonment after two court sessions in branch eight of the Revolutionary Court in Mashhad.

**Place of detention:** Vakil Abad Prison of Mashhad

**Other Information:** He was arrested by security guards during a visit to the homes of two Baha'i residents. He was arrested with Khashayar TAFAZOLI and Sina AGHDAS.

*Source:* <https://www.en-hrana.org/3-bahais-sentenced-prison-terms>

## **Nazi TAHGHIGHI**

**Place of residence:** Gorgan

**Date and place of arrest:** Gorgan

**Charges:** She is a member of the Baha'i faith

**First court decision:** A court in Gorgan sentenced her to six years in prison.

**Last court decision:** A court of appeal reduced her sentence to one year and six months in prison.

**Place of detention:** In June 2017, she surrendered herself to Amir Abad Prison

*Source:* <http://iranpresswatch.org/post/17812/two-bahais-sent-gorgan-prison/>

## **Farahnaz TEBYANIAN (Farah Sanaei)**

**Place of residence:** Gorgan

**Date and place of arrest:** In Gorgan

**Charges:** She is a member of the Baha'i faith

**First court decision:** A court in Gorgan sentenced her to nine years in prison.

**Last court decision:** A court of appeal reduced her sentence to one year and nine months in prison.

**Place of detention:** In June 2017, she surrendered herself to Amir Abad Prison

**Other information:** She began her prison sentence on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2017.

*Source:* <http://bit.ly/2tmfHWI>

<http://iranpresswatch.org/post/17812/two-bahais-sent-gorgan-prison/>

## Pooya TEBYANIAN

**Date and place of arrest:** On 11<sup>th</sup> June 2011

**Charges:** Acting against National Security and propaganda against the system.

**Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code:** Article 498 (Anyone, with any ideology, who establishes or directs a group, society, or branch, inside or outside the country, with any name or title, that constitutes more than two individuals and aims to perturb the security of the country, if not considered as *mohareb* [enemy of God] shall be sentenced to two to ten years' imprisonment), and Article 500 (Anyone who engages in any type of propaganda against the Islamic Republic of Iran or in support of opposition groups and associations shall be sentenced to three months to one year of imprisonment).

**Last court decision:** He was sentenced to six years and a half in prison by the court of Judge Ayn Al-Kamal in 2011.

**Place of detention:** In solitary confinement in the central prison of Semnan

## Vahid TIZFAHM

**Age:** 42 years

**Date and place of arrest:** On 14<sup>th</sup> May 2008, in Tehran or Mashhad

**Charges:** Espionage, propaganda against the regime, assembly and collusion against national security

**Statement of the defendant:** He claims to be a leader of the Baha'i community

**First court decision:** In August 2010, he was sentenced to twenty years in prison (the longest terms of any current prisoners of conscience in Iran).

**Second court decision:** The sentences were upheld by the appeals court.

**Last court decision:** In November 2015, his sentence was reduced to ten years in prison.

**Place of detention:** Evin prison and Rajae Shahr prison

**Released from detention:** 21<sup>st</sup> March 2018

**Other information:** He was arrested alongside Fariba KAMALABADI, Jamaloddin KHANJANI, Afif NAEMI, Saeid REZAIE, Mahvash SABET and Vahid TIZFAHM. In

September 2010, the authorities verbally informed the seven Baha'is that their twenty years sentences were reduced to ten years.

**Source:** <https://bit.ly/2pCeucj>

### **Houshmand Dehghan YAZDALI**

**Place of residence:** Gorgan

**Date and place of arrest:** In Gorgan

**Charges:** She is a member of the Baha'i faith

**First court decision:** A court in Gorgan sentenced her to six years in prison.

**Last court decision:** A court of appeal reduced her sentence to one year and six months in prison.

**Place of detention:** In June 2017, she surrendered herself to Amir Abad Prison

**Source:** <http://iranpresswatch.org/post/17812/two-bahais-sent-gorgan-prison/>

### **Maryam Dehghan YAZDALI**

**Place of residence:** Gorgan

**Date and place of arrest:** In Gorgan

**Charges:** She is a member of the Baha'i faith

**First court decision:** A court in Gorgan sentenced her to six years in prison.

**Last court decision:** A court of appeal reduced her sentence to one year and six months in prison.

**Place of detention:** In June 2017, she surrendered herself to Amir Abad Prison

**Source:** <http://iranpresswatch.org/post/17812/two-bahais-sent-gorgan-prison/>

### **Mojdeh ZOHOORI (Fahandej)**

**Place of residence:** Gorgan

**Date and place of arrest:** In Gorgan

**Charges:** She is a member of the Baha'i faith

**First court decision:** A court in Gorgan sentenced her to nine years in prison.

**Last court decision:** A court of appeal reduced her sentence to one year and nine months in prison.

**Place of detention:** In June 2017, she surrendered herself to Amir Abad Prison

**Other information:**

**Source:** <http://iranpresswatch.org/post/17812/two-bahais-sent-gorgan-prison/>

### Erfan-e Halghe

According to Fars News Agency, on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2015, forty followers of Erfan-e Halghe were arrested. Among them, sixteen instructors of this spiritual movement were convicted of committing crimes. They were sentenced to a total of thirty-seven years in prison for insulting the sacred and subject to fines amounting to 130 million Toman for acquiring illicit wealth. According to HRANA News Agency, the same thing happened on 24<sup>th</sup> August 2015, in Qom, when after nine days of peaceful protest against the death sentence of Taheri (founder of Erfan-e Halghe in Iran), a group of Halghe activists was arrested.

#### **Fahime A'RAFI**

**Date and place of arrest:** On 25<sup>th</sup> August 2015

**Charges:** Insulting the sanctities

**Statement of the defendant:** Claims to have participated in a peaceful demonstration for freedom of religion

**First court decision:** Sentenced to five years in prison

**Last court decision:** The initial sentence was upheld by branch 54 of the Appeals Court.

**Place of detention:** Gharchak prison in Varamin

#### **Ardeshir SHAHNAVAZ**

**Date and place of arrest:** On 27<sup>th</sup> June 2015, in Tehran

**Charges:** Blasphemy, acquiring illicit wealth, interference in medical affairs

**Statement of the defendant:** He claims he is a supporter of the "Course of Erfan-e Halgheh"

**Last court decision:** He was sentenced to five years in prison and fined thirty-million Tomans by Branch 15 of the Revolutionary Court.

**Place of detention:** Rajai Shahr (or Evin Prison)

#### **Mohammad TAJIK PAZOUKI**

**Date and place of arrest:** In June 2015, in Tehran

**Charges:** Insulting the sanctities

**Statement of the defendant:** He claims he was participating in a peaceful demonstration for freedom of religion

**First court decision:** He was sentenced to five years in prison by Branch 26 of the Revolutionary Court.

**Last court decision:** Branch 54 of the Appeals Court upheld the initial verdict.

**Place of detention:** Evin prison