

Flygtningenævnets baggrundsmateriale

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Titel:	Legal Aid Board. Information on activities carried out by government agents at secret prisons in Tehran since June 2009. Information on police officers/military personnel being detained/tortured there.
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Refugee Documentation Centre (Ireland)
LEGAL AID BOARD

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Information on activities carried out by government agents at secret prisons in Tehran since June 2009. Information on police officers/military personnel being detained/tortured there.

A report issued in April 2011 reviewing events of 2010 by the *United States Department of State* notes:

“Some prison facilities, including Evin Prison in Tehran, were notorious for cruel and prolonged torture of political opponents of the government. Authorities also maintained unofficial secret prisons and detention centers outside the national prison system where abuse reportedly occurred. The government reportedly used white torture especially on political prisoners, often in detention centers outside the control of prison authorities, including Section 209 of Evin Prison.” (United States Department of State (8 April 2011) *2010 Human Rights Report: Iran*, Section 1c Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment)

The *International Campaign for Human Rights in Iran* in March 2011 notes that:

“...officials have ignored or failed to adequately investigate credible allegations of extensive torture and ill treatment at other prisons, including Evin Prison, Rajaei Shahr Prison, and other prisons in the provinces, as well as several secret detention centers controlled by the Revolutionary Guards and the Intelligence Ministry.” (International Campaign for Human Rights in Iran (March 2011) *Official Distortion And Disinformation: A Guide To Iran's Human Rights Crisis*, p.12)

A paper issued in December 2010 by *Human Rights Watch* points out:

“In addition, since 1993 there have been numerous secret, unlawful, or temporary detention facilities that have operated outside the control of the State Prisons Organization, administered by various security forces including the national police. Torture and ill treatment regularly took place in these facilities.” (Human Rights Watch (December 2010) *Human Rights Issues Regarding the Islamic Republic of Iran; Submitted by Human Rights Watch to the UN Human Rights Committee on the occasion of its Pre-Sessional Review of Iran*, p.6)

A report issued in May 2010 by the *Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights* states:

“Reports from the Islamic Republic of Iran indicate a pattern of incommunicado detention of political prisoners in secret, or at least unofficial, detention facilities.” (Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (20 May 2010) *Joint study on global practices in relation to secret detention in the context of countering terrorism (Iran excerpt)*)

In March 2011 the *International Campaign for Human Rights in Iran* notes that:

“Since 14 February, Iran’s intelligence and security agents have held four prominent opposition figures, Mir Hossein Mousavi, Mehdi Karroubi, Zahra Rahnavard and Fatemeh Karroubi, in incommunicado detention with no confirmation of their whereabouts. Several Iranian officials have insisted they are in their homes and under ‘house arrest.’ However, credible reports indicate that they have been moved to a ‘safe house’ or a secret detention center, possibly at Heshmatieh garrison in Tehran.” (International Campaign for Human Rights in Iran (6 March 2011) *A Brief History of “House Arrests” and Detentions in “Safe Houses”: What Will Be the Fate of Disappeared Leaders?*)

Mineah in September 2010 notes:

“The Iranian security forces stepped into action to prevent opposition protesters coming out onto the streets and hijacking the annual anti-Israel demonstration last week. The last Friday of Ramadan is designated Quds (‘Jerusalem’) Day in Iran, and is used by the regime as a ritual show of anti-Israeli and anti-American sentiment.” (Mineah (17 September 2010) *Quiet Intimidation in Iran*)

This report also states:

“Another tactic the security services used in the run-up to Quds Day was to summon individuals for questioning at various secret locations, one of which has been identified as a location five levels below ground in a building on Tehran’s Motahari Street.” (ibid).

Commenting on an individual case, a report issued in March 2011 by the *United Nations Human Rights Council* states:

“Following his last arrest in July 2009, he was held in detention in a secret section of Evin Prison” (United Nations Human Rights Council (2 March 2011) *Report of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention : addendum*, p.59)

In November 2010 a refugee case processed by the *New Zealand: Refugee Status Appeals Authority* states:

“The next day, 22 July 2009, the appellant was arrested at her home and detained because of her past profile, not her participation in the protests. She was blindfolded, kicked down the stairs and taken by plainclothes police, to a secret detention centre in Tehran where she was held for the next 15 days.” (New Zealand: Refugee Status Appeals Authority (16 November 2010) *Refugee Appeal No. 76530*, p.8)

No further information on these issues could be found among sources available to the RDC.

References

Human Rights Watch (December 2010) *Human Rights Issues Regarding the Islamic Republic of Iran; Submitted by Human Rights Watch to the UN Human Rights Committee on the occasion of its Pre-Sessional Review of Iran*
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<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2010/nea/154461.htm>

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This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Refugee Documentation Centre within time constraints. This response is not and does not purport to be conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum. Please read in full all documents referred to.

Sources Consulted

Amnesty International

BBC News

Danish Immigration Service

Electronic Immigration Network

European Council on Refugees and Exiles
European Country of Origin Information Network
Freedom House
Global Detention Project
Google
Hands Off Cain
Human Rights Watch
Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada
Institute for War & Peace Reporting
Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre
International Crisis Group
International Relations and Security Network
Iran Human Rights Documentation Centre
IRIN News
Lexis Nexis
Minority Rights Group International
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Refugee Documentation Centre E-Library
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Reliefweb
Reuters
United Kingdom Home Office
United States Department of State
UNHCR Refworld
World Organisation Against Torture