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Human rights violations against the Bahá'ís in the Islamic Republic of Iran

1. Despite agreeing to recommendations concerning the Bahá'í religious community in its 2019 Universal Periodic Review (UPR), Iran has instead escalated persecution in the four years since. The human rights situation for Bahá'ís has deteriorated across the country, with violations affecting their civil, political, economic, social, educational, and cultural rights.

2. In this submission for the fourth cycle of the UPR, we will discuss the recommendations that Iran acknowledged during its third review, which clearly pertain to Bahá'ís. These recommendations, made by 24 states (see **Annex 1**), have been categorised into the following topics:

- Unlawful arrests, arbitrary detentions, home raids, violations of due process and the disproportionate impact on women
- Economic persecution
- Denial of the right to education
- Denial of the right to practise one's belief, including cultural rights, desecration and destruction of Bahá'í cemeteries, and violation of burial rights
- Incitement to hatred

3. A list of other recommendations specifically mentioning the Bahá'ís that were not supported by the Iranian government can be found in **Annex 2**.

4. The incidents documented in this report represent only the most significant acts of persecution and human rights abuses during the past four years. These numbers do not encompass the routine acts of discrimination to which Bahá'ís in Iran, whether as individuals or as a community, are subjected on a daily basis.

5. The following recommendations on various themes from the third cycle of the UPR on Iran, which were fully or partially supported by the Iranian government, have **not been implemented** as they apply to Bahá'ís:

Unlawful arrests, arbitrary detentions, home raids, violations of due process and the disproportionate impact on women

- *26.56 Continue its efforts in bringing its national legislation into compliance with international obligations (Kyrgyzstan)*

- *26.145 Ensure that prison conditions comply with the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules), in particular by providing adequate health care (Austria)*
- *26.170 Guarantee the right to a fair trial, including the right to choose one's lawyer, including for those accused of offences related to national security (Switzerland)*
- *26.174 Continue strengthening the judicial system, especially in relation to the rights of women and children (Bhutan)*
- *26.179 Align laws and practices on the right to a fair trial and on the rights to freedoms of opinion and expression, of peaceful assembly and association, and of religion and belief with international obligations and commitments, by removing restrictions against human rights defenders, lawyers, journalists, and ethnic and religious minorities, including the Baha' i community (Lithuania)*

6. Recommendation 26.56 urges the incorporation of international human rights instruments into national legislation. Although Iran ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) in 1975, Bahá'ís continue to face violent home raids and confiscations of belongings, arbitrary arrests, summons, and interrogations by government officials solely based on their religious beliefs. Since the last review cycle, there have been over 437 arrests and 91 summonses for interrogation, all based on trumped up charges. This discrimination violates Article 2 of the ICCPR, (non discrimination), Article 18 (freedom of religion) and Article 27 (rights of minorities).

7. Recommendation 26.145 calls for decent conditions within detention facilities. However, Bahá'ís continue to endure harsh conditions, including solitary confinement with frequent interrogations. Many detainees lack proper sleeping arrangements and are forced to sleep on cold floors, exacerbating pain for those who are medically vulnerable. Access to hot water is often restricted, and detainees are deprived of outdoor prison spaces for fresh air, one of the most basic rights of detainees.

8. In Evin prison, many Bahá'í detainees suffer from inadequate access to water and healthy food. Parents are forcibly separated from their children and denied family visits, intensifying their emotional anguish. Despite the deteriorating condition of some inmates, they do not receive necessary medical attention or check-ups.

9. During interrogations, some prisoners have experienced physical and psychological threats, such as the threat of having boiling water poured on them, being hit on the head and back of the neck and having objects pushed into the sides of bodies.

10. Recommendation 26.174 underscores the importance of protecting women within the judicial system. However, the situation for Bahá'í women in Iran reveals a starkly different reality. Since the

previous cycle, there have been **1,053** reported incidents involving women. In the wake of the Mahsa Amini uprising, the Iranian government has intensified its persecution of Bahá'í women through arbitrary arrests and detention, prison sentences and summonses, home raids and property confiscations, and heightened surveillance.

11. Currently, Bahá'í women make up two-thirds of all Bahá'í prisoners in Iran. Following the protests, a significant number of Bahá'ís, especially women, were arrested, with some being held without due process and their whereabouts remaining unknown. Since early March alone, 72 out of 93 Bahá'ís summoned to court or prison have been women.

12. The Iranian government also targeted the elderly and infirm women through a series of home invasions in Hamedan in November 2023, resulting in harassment and, in some cases, hospitalizations due to trauma, stress, cardiac arrest and mild stroke. There has also been a rise in cases of mothers forcibly separated from their young children and who are denied family visits during incarceration.

13. Recommendations 26.170 and 26.179 relate to the rights to due process and a fair trial. Yet again, these have **not been implemented** for the Bahá'ís in Iran. Bahá'ís who are brought to court and put on trial based on false and unjust allegations are often mistreated, devoid of the due legal process. Many Bahá'ís are denied access to their lawyers up until the last moment, and these lawyers are given inadequate time to prepare their arguments. Judges are heavily biased and often make crude and defamatory remarks against the defendant Bahá'ís. In both criminal and civil cases, judges or prosecutors often merely cite the fact that a defendant or plaintiff is a Bahá'í as sufficient evidence against them. Further cases are outlined in **Annex 3**.

Economic persecution

- *26.184 Continue its efforts to implement the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Iraq)*

14. Recommendation #26.184 was supported by the Iranian government, yet has **not been implemented**. Notably, Article 6 of the Covenant outlines the right for everyone to work and gain a living which they freely choose to accept. However, following the establishment of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the government commenced a systematic campaign to deny Bahá'ís the right to work and employment, with the number of incidents of economic persecution since 2019 totalling **167**. Bahá'ís face constant harassment in their professions and workplaces and have been barred from employment in the public sector. This has been exacerbated by a [letter](#) dated 9 April 2007 to county police forces about “perverse Bahá'í sect” prohibiting Bahá'ís from select businesses and occupations.

15. For the last several years, Iran has utilised a strategy of systematically sealing Bahá'í-owned businesses deemed to have acted illegally simply for temporarily closing to observe a Bahá'í holy day. Other business owners are sometimes pressured by the authorities to dismiss any Bahá'í employees and are penalised if they fail to comply. The fundamentalist religious dogma espoused by the authorities, that Bahá'ís are “unclean,” also excludes them from the food services, hospitality, health care, and other sectors, before the denial of their right to even train in such fields. The government also confiscates or freezes the assets of community funds and savings institutions. An estimated 15,000 Bahá'í individuals lost their savings in these seizures, and many also had their pension benefits terminated.

16. Article 11 of the Covenant also stipulates the right to an adequate standard of living. Yet again, this has **not been implemented**, as another form of economic strangulation of Bahá'ís is the seizure of properties and farmland. For instance, Bahá'í-owned rice paddies in Ahmedabad and Mazandaran provinces were seized last month, leading to the destruction of crops and irrigation berms. Such measures contribute to economic disenfranchisement, making it increasingly difficult for Bahá'ís to maintain their livelihoods. Further cases are outlined in **Annex 4**.

Denial of the right to education

- *26.209 Continue efforts to guarantee equal access to the right to education for all (Tunisia)*
- *26.214 Enhance its efforts to make sure that all nationals have access to university education (Algeria)*

17. Despite Iran's support for international recommendations #26.209 and #26.214 advocating for equal access to education, the government continues to systematically deny Bahá'ís this fundamental right. A [1991 memorandum](#) explicitly mandates the expulsion of Bahá'í students from universities and pushes Bahá'í children towards schools promoting ideologies contrary to their faith. Furthermore, a [2020 directive](#) in Mazandaran Province mandated the surveillance of Bahá'ís and encouraged efforts to convert Bahá'í students to Islam, violating their right to freedom of religion. In 2023, the government's discriminatory practices continued, by introducing a mandatory [declaration form](#) that requires Bahá'í university applicants to renounce their beliefs for admission, forcing them to choose between their faith and education.

18. Since 2019, **201** Bahá'ís have been denied entrance to university. This figure is likely to be higher due to reporting challenges within Iran. Bahá'í senior high school students are also aware of the systematic denial of university entrance and may choose not to apply as a result. Moreover, the Bahá'í Institute of Higher Education (BIHE), established to provide education for those denied access, was raided, materials confiscated, and a student protesting the raid was beaten up in front of his mother. The harassment and violent assaults on students seeking alternative avenues for education, after being denied access due to official state policy, underscore the lengths to which Iranian officials will go to obstruct Bahá'ís from obtaining higher education.

19. These actions demonstrate a blatant disregard for the right to education, Iran's systematic targeting of Bahá'ís through discriminatory policies and violent actions highlights the urgent need for international pressure to ensure equal educational opportunities for all citizens. Further cases are outlined in **Annex 5**.

Denial of the right to practise one's belief, including cultural rights, desecration and destruction of Bahá'í cemeteries, and violation of burial rights

- *26.305 Eliminate all forms of discrimination against religious and ethnic minorities, including the Bahá'ís, Christians and Ahwazi Arabs, and ensure respect for their religious freedoms and cultural rights (Bahrain);*
- *26.311 Identify and remedy all laws that have a discriminatory impact on persons belonging to the ethnic or religious minorities, including the Baha'i community (Iceland)*
- *26.316 Put an end to the persecution of religious minorities, including Bahá'ís, for their participation in social, education and community activities which are part of their religious practices (Luxembourg)*
- *26.317 Amend article 13 of the Iranian Constitution to ensure that all religious minorities, including Muslims, Christians, Christian converts, Jews, non-believers, Zoroastrians and the Bahá'í in the country, are recognized and able to fully enjoy the right to freedom of religion and belief (Netherlands)*

20. Despite international recommendations urging Iran to protect religious freedom, the government continues to discriminate against Bahá'ís. Article 13 of the Iranian Constitution, recognising only Zoroastrian, Jewish, and Christian minorities, effectively denies Bahá'ís their fundamental right to practise their faith. Article 14, while seemingly promising equal treatment, includes a caveat allowing persecution of those deemed a threat to Islam, a provision consistently used against Bahá'ís due to their faith being considered heresy.

21. This institutionalised discrimination manifests in various aspects of Bahá'í life. Holy places, cemeteries, and properties are routinely confiscated, vandalised, or destroyed, while burial practices are restricted. The levelling of over 30 graves containing 55 deceased Bahá'ís by government agents in February 2024, exemplifies this disregard for their sacred spaces. In addition, access to other cemeteries is often denied, and graves are vandalised, adding insult to injury for grieving families.

22. Beyond religious practices, the government systematically targets Bahá'í community activities, including spiritual education classes for children and institutional meetings. Bahá'ís involved in humanitarian efforts, such as aiding earthquake victims or Afghan child refugees, have also faced

arrest, revealing a disturbing trend of punishing those who seek to help others. This exclusion extends to the cultural sphere, with Bahá'í musicians being barred from performing at concerts, highlighting the government's attempt to isolate the community.

23. Furthermore, Bahá'ís face restrictions on online expression, with bans on publishing content and threats of arrest for supporting the Bahá'í International Community's "[OurStoryIsOne](#)" campaign on Instagram. This digital crackdown further limits their ability to share their experiences and advocate for their rights.

24. Despite international calls for religious freedom, Iran continues to violate the rights of Bahá'ís. The systematic targeting through discriminatory laws, restrictions on religious practices, and limitations on community activities and cultural expression demonstrates a pervasive disregard for their fundamental human rights. The international community must continue to advocate for the protection of Bahá'ís in Iran and hold the government accountable for its oppressive policies. Further cases are outlined in **Annex 6**.

Incitement to hatred

- *26.162 Continue to enact and fully implement legislation that seeks to promote and protect the rights to freedom of the media, speech and religion (Ghana);*
- *26.52 Pursue initiatives to continue promoting dialogue, cooperation and tolerance between different cultures and religions (Armenia)*

25. As mentioned, Iran has violated the freedom of religion highlighted in Recommendation 26.162 due to non-recognition of Bahá'ís in the Iranian Constitution. The recommendation also emphasises freedom of media and speech. However, the Iranian government has abused these freedoms to incite hate campaigns against the Bahá'ís. Similarly, Recommendation 26.52 promotes interreligious tolerance. No progress has been made on that front; instead, there has been an escalation in efforts to incite hatred, intolerance and mistrust towards the Bahá'í community.

26. Orchestrated hate campaigns against the Bahá'ís in Iran has intensified since the previous review cycle. These are characterised by widespread dissemination of misinformation through both traditional and social media, employing repetitive and coordinated tactics to provoke public hostility against the Bahá'í community.

27. Social media has become the primary platform for spreading anti-Bahá'í sentiment. Since 2019, approximately **418,457** posts of hate speech materials have appeared on government-controlled social media and web pages. The same negative content is often republished under different titles to reinforce misinformation, and identical messages are broadcast simultaneously across various sites, indicative of a well-organised campaign. For example, religious leaders, including Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, have issued several decrees labelling Bahá'ís as “deviant,” “morally

corrupt,” “misguided,” or “unclean.” Moreover, misinformation and false accusations have portrayed the Bahá’ís as agents for Israel, spies for foreign governments, promoting premarital sex and initiators of the September 2022 protests. These tactics seek to provoke societal hostility and discrimination against the Bahá’ís, entrench negative stereotypes in the public consciousness, affect the psychological well-being of the Bahá’í community, foster division and undermine social cohesion in Iran.

28. Several online hate campaigns emerged in 2023, primarily propagated by state news agencies affiliated with the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) and Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. In July 2023, the regime’s cyber army and the IRGC-supported institute Masaf coordinated an online campaign using the hashtag [#امیرکبیر مجکریم](#), celebrating historical violence against the Bábis and calling for increased persecution of Bahá’ís. Further examples are outlined in **Annex 7**.

Conclusion and Recommendations

29. This report reveals the Iranian government's complete failure to uphold its commitments regarding the Bahá’ís. Since 2019, their situation has deteriorated alarmingly, with violations becoming increasingly severe and frequent. International monitoring remains the sole lifeline for the protection of this community. Only through concrete legal and administrative reforms that guarantee the Bahá’ís' full freedoms can Iran truly live up to its human rights commitments.

30. The Bahá’í International Community proposes the following recommendations to improve the human rights situation for Bahá’ís in Iran:

- Call on the Iranian government to immediately release all arrested, detained and imprisoned Bahá’ís and drop all pending charges related solely to their faith
- Call on Iran to issue a clear and public statement recognising the Bahá’í Faith as a legitimate and recognised religion and guaranteeing the right of Bahá’ís to freely practice their faith.
- Establish a government-led commission to investigate and address education, economic and cultural discrimination against Bahá’ís within the next 12 months
- Advocate for the establishment of mechanisms for monitoring and reporting on the implementation of educational policies in Iran to ensure compliance with international human rights standards, including the rights of Bahá’í students to access education without discrimination
- Call on the Iranian government to immediately return the confiscated lands and properties of Bahá’ís, putting an end to the economic apartheid perpetrated against them
- Call on the Iranian government to immediately cease the ongoing hate propaganda against the Bahá’í community, and to promote tolerance and respect for all faiths, ensuring the dignity of every Iranian citizen regardless of their religious beliefs
- Encourage Iran to ratify other key international human rights treaties namely the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, the Convention against Torture and other Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the Convention on the

Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

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Annex 1: List of recommendations from the second cycle UPR on Iran, which are fully or partially supported by the government, but have not been implemented as they apply to Bahá'ís:

Recommendation from Third UPR	Country	Level of Support	Implementation
26.52	Armenia	Supported	Not Implemented
26.55	Russia	Supported	Not Implemented
26.56	Kyrgyzstan	Supported	Not Implemented
26.308	Cuba	Supported	Not Implemented
26.314	Japan	Supported	Not Implemented
26.318	New Zealand	Supported	Not Implemented
26.142	Canada	Supported	Not Implemented
26.145	Austria	Supported	Not Implemented
26.170	Switzerland	Supported	Not Implemented
26.174	Bhutan	Supported	Not Implemented
26.178	Germany	Supported	Not Implemented
26.162	Ghana	Supported	Not Implemented
26.177	France	Partially Supported	Not Implemented
26.180	North Macedonia	Partially Supported	Not Implemented
26.184	Iraq	Supported	Not Implemented
26.209	Tunisia	Supported	Not Implemented
26.214	Algeria	Supported	Not Implemented
26.297	Peru	Partially Supported	Not Implemented
26.298	Republic of Korea	Partially Supported	Not Implemented

26.302	Seychelles	Partially Supported	Not Implemented
26.309	France	Partially Supported	Not Implemented
26.310	Haiti	Supported	Not Implemented
26.81	Czechia	Partially Supported	Not Implemented
26.296	Switzerland	Partially Supported	Not Implemented

Annex 2: List of recommendations from the second cycle UPR on Iran, specifically regarding the situation of Bahá'ís, which were not supported by the Iranian government.

Recommendation from Third UPR	Country	Level of Support
26.179	Lithuania	Not supported
26.305	Bahrain	Not supported
26.311	Iceland	Not supported
26.316	Luxembourg	Not supported
26.317	Netherlands	Not supported

Annex 3: Examples of arrests, arbitrary detentions, home raids and violations of due process that have occurred since June 2022.

- On 17 June 2022 In Bushehr province, Ms. Haideh Ram, along with five other Bahá'ís (Borhan Esmaili [Ismaili], Maryam Bashir, Faranak Sheikhi, Minou Bashir, and Dorna Ismaili), were

sentenced to over 64 years in prison. They were convicted of charges such as involvement in propaganda activities and action against national security by spreading Bahá'í ideology

- On 31 July 2022, Mahvash Sabet and Fariba Kamalabadi, former leaders of the Bahá'í community in Iran, were arrested in Tehran and later detained in Evin Prison, with subsequent transfers to Ward 209. Despite pleas for their innocence and concerns for their health, they were sentenced on 11 December 2022, to 10 years in prison for charges related to their Bahá'í activities. Sabet, who suffers from severe health issues, endured solitary confinement and was forced to sleep sitting up on the cold floor, exacerbating her ailments. Kamalabadi's case was referred to the Court of Appeal, which upheld their sentences on 10 August 2023. Sabet, aged 70, has faced further health deterioration and was recently banned from making phone calls as retaliation for a letter describing her imprisonment.
- On 22 November 2022 Mrs. Sanaz Tafazzoli, a Bahá'í in Mashhad, was arrested while driving, taken to an unknown location, and her home was searched. After 38 days in Mashhad Intelligence Department, she was transferred to Vakilabad Prison. On 18 April 2023, her detention was extended indefinitely, with no clear explanation. Despite six months passing since her arrest, her detention order was extended once more on 20 May 2023. Mrs. Tafazzoli is denied access to a chosen lawyer, and despite bail being set at 10 billion tomans, it has been rejected. The accusations against her include "propaganda against the regime, forming and launching groups against the regime, and supporting hostile countries."
- On 19 December 2022 in Tehran, it was learned that despite the passage of 3 months since her arrest, Mrs. Armaghan Zabihi Moghadam remains in detention without due process in Ward 209 of Evin Prison. Mrs. Zabihi does not have a proper place to sleep and is required to sleep on the cold floor at night. These sleeping conditions have caused her back pain to worsen significantly. She has also been deprived of going to the prison yard for fresh air, one of the most basic rights of detainees, even inside this detention centre. Detainees in Ward 209 of Evin prison are deprived of water and healthy food. To date, there is no information about the reasons for her arrest or the charges against her.
- On 10 February 2023 In Alborz, The Karaj Revolutionary Court, in a jointly heard case, sentenced 11 Bahá'ís, 8 of whom are women, to more than 36 years of imprisonment under tazir¹ law, monetary fines, bans on residing in Alborz Province, bans on leaving the country, bans on educational and cultural activities, deprivation of social rights and other punishments. Ms. Elham Shareghi Arani, Ms. Sabin Adeyani Yazdani, Ms. Mahsa Tigrar, Ms. Nakisa Sadeghi, Ms. Sadaf Sheikhzadeh, Ms. Shahrazad Mastouri, Ms. Negin Rezaie, Mrs. Ramleh Tirgengrad

¹ [Tazir (discretionary punishment): Punishment with maximum and minimum limits determined by law and judge, respectively.]

- On 15 August 2023, Branch 11 of the Court of Appeal in Gilan Province upheld the sentences of Mr. Vesal Momtazi and Mrs. Anisa Samieyan. The couple, sentenced by the Rasht Revolutionary Court, received a combined total of nine years, six months, and four days in prison. Mrs. Samieyan was charged with "propaganda activity against the regime" and "educational activity and deviant propaganda," while Mr. Momtazi faced charges of "propaganda activity against the regime," "insulting the leadership," and "insulting Islamic law," along with a fine. Despite a petition signed by over 50 supporters affirming their lawful actions, the verdict was swiftly confirmed by the Court of Appeal, and their lawyers were denied further engagement with the judge.
- On 16 August 2023 in Fars Province, it was learned that the original sentence of Mr. Houshidar Zareie, a resident of Shiraz, was confirmed by the Court of Appeal of Fars Province. He was sentenced to six years of imprisonment, deprivation of social rights and a monetary fine in the primary court. According to the verdict issued by the Court of Appeals headed by Judges Kamran Zare and Shahrokh Jaberri, he was sentenced to six years in prison for the charge of "propaganda against the regime, and sectarian propaganda in favour of groups opposed to the regime". As an additional punishment, he was sentenced to be deprived of some social rights for five years, banned from working in cyberspace and banned from leaving the country with the cancellation of his passport for two years and to pay a fine of five hundred million tomans.
- On 16 October 2023, in Fars Province, Mr. Hasan Salehi, Mr. Vahid Dana and Mr. Saied Abedi, all residents of Shiraz, were each sentenced by Branch 1 of the Shiraz Revolutionary Court to a total of six years, one month and seventeen days of home imprisonment and movement restriction with electronic ankle bands, plus fines and social exclusions. According to the verdict, Messrs. Salehi, Dana and Abedi were sentenced to two years, seven months, and sixteen days of imprisonment under the charge of "membership in an illegal sect and enemies of the regime with the intention of disrupting the security of the country", and each to a further three years, six months, and one day of imprisonment for the charge of "sectarian propaganda activity contrary to the holy Islamic law". The electronic ankle band system limits their movement to within a thousand-metre range of their residence. In addition to the ankle band imprisonment, they were each sentenced to pay a fine of thirty-seven million and one hundred thousand Tomans in cash and to be deprived of some social rights for fifteen years as additional punishment.
- On 3 November 2023, it was learned that the Court of Appeal in Mazandaran Province sentenced 14 Bahá'ís, including Ms. Bita Haghighi and Mrs. Sanaz Hekmatshoar, to 3 years in prison and fines of thirty million tomans each. Mr. Mani Gholinejad, Ms. Negar Darabi, Mr. Sam Samimi, Ms. Mahsa Fathi, Ms. Samiyeh Gholinejad, Mr. Mojir Samimi, Mr. Anis Sanaie, Ms. Afnaneh Nematian, Mr. Basir Samimi, Ms. Hengameh Alipour, Ms. Golban Fallah, and Ms. Nazanin Goli received sentences of two years and one month in prison, with fines of fifty million tomans each. The verdict was verbally communicated, and the accused were denied access to their written verdict or legal representation. They were instructed to pay fines within ten days.
- On 7 November 2023, security agents extensively searched 33 homes in Hamadan province belonging to Bahá'ís, seizing personal items like identification documents, electronic devices, religious books, cash, property deeds, and gold items. Notably, these incidents disproportionately

targeted elderly Bahá'í women, some in their 80s, subjecting them to abuse and intimidation. Cases include but are not limited to:

- Mrs. [Parvaneh Seifi](#), an elderly lady who was so stressed that she suffered a heart attack and had to be taken by ambulance to a heart clinic for resuscitation.
- Mrs. [Rouhiyyeh Rashidi \(Abdi\)](#), another elderly lady, became seriously ill and suffered a mild stroke and required resuscitation by paramedics. She was later transferred to a hospital.
- Mrs. [Khodabakhsh Khodayari](#), another ailing elderly woman, became very stressed as a result of the home invasion and was transferred to the local hospital's Intensive Care Unit.
- Mrs. [Akhtar Naiemi](#), who suffers from Alzheimer's disease and is cared for by a nurse, was subjected to aggressive behaviour and intimidation by security agents. When the nurse refused to open the door, they then broke windows and the door to enter the home, and aggressively commenced their search.
- The home of Mrs. [Shoghangiz Saadatmand Manshadi \(Sorourian\)](#), an 82-year old woman, was forcefully broken down, her belongings searched and upended and her residence damaged in her absence. Her husband was among more than 200 Bahá'ís executed by Iran's government after the 1979 Islamic Revolution.
- On 12 November 2023, it was learned that Mr. Sirous Zabihi Moghaddam, a resident of Mashhad, was sentenced to a total of eight years in prison by Branch 1 of the Revolutionary Court of Mashhad. According to the verdict, he was sentenced to seven years in prison for the charge of "being a member of a group with the intention of disrupting national security" and one year in prison for the charge of "propaganda against the regime". The sentence is subject to appeal.
- On 17 November 2023, it was learned that Mr Foad Taefi, despite 10 days since his arrest, remains in detention without charge. This man suffers from thyroid disease and requires regular medication. When his family tried to deliver the medicines he required, the investigator assigned to his case prevented him from receiving them. Since his arrest, this man has not been permitted to have any contact with his family which has increased their concern for his welfare.
- On 22 November 2023, it was learned that Yeganeh Agahi, Arezou Sobhanian, Yeganeh Rouhbakhsh, Shana Shoghifar, Mojgan Shahrezaie and Negin Khademi remain in detention after the passage of a month since their arrest. These six women are being held in the quarantine ward of Dolat Abad prison in Isfahan. It was reported that medical care within this section of the prison is often delayed, with prisoners waiting extended periods for suitable medication. Access to hot water for bathing is also restricted to a brief period each day. Follow-up by the families of these women with the authorities has to date proved unsuccessful, and no information has been provided concerning the reasons for their arrests or the nature of any charges against them.
- On December 10 2023, in Tehran it was learned that that Mrs. Saiedeh Khozouei, Ms. Saba Sefidi, Mr. Iraj Shakour, Mrs. Samira Ebrahimi, Mr. Pedram Abhar and Mr. Arsalan Yazdani were

sentenced to a combined total of 29 years and ten months in prison by Branch 36 of the Court of Appeal of Tehran Province headed by Judge Abbas Ali Houzan.

- On March 10th, Mrs. Anisa Fanaian, a Bahá'í from Semnan, was sentenced by Judge Ali Isari of the Revolutionary Court. She received 10 years for "forming a group with the aim of disrupting the security of the country," 5 years for "deviant educational or propagandist activities against the holy laws of Islam," and 1 year for "propaganda against the regime." Additionally, she was fined 50 million Tomans, deprived of social rights for 15 years, and banned for 2 years from political and social groups. The government also confiscated US\$4350 from her family. The sentence is subject to appeal. Mrs. Fanaian's severe sentence stemmed from her efforts to provide educational support to underprivileged children. This is not her first encounter with persecution; in 2013, her husband served a 3-year sentence for his Bahá'í beliefs, and her mother served a similar sentence. Anisa herself was arrested in 2013 and initially sentenced to over 4 years in prison, later reduced to 22 months.
- On March 17, 2024, the Revolutionary Court of Semnan Province sentenced Mrs. Shabnam Tebyanian, to six months in prison and mandated her participation in "cult therapy" classes. She was charged with "propaganda against the regime through educational activities." The sentence can be commuted to a fine of 24 million Tomans. Additionally, she is banned from political and social group memberships for two years and required to attend six months of "cult therapy" sessions conducted by the Islamic Propaganda Department. Mrs. Tebyanian was arrested by security forces on August 21, 2023, as she was leaving her residence. After a brief detention, she was released on bail. During a subsequent search of her home, security agents confiscated personal belongings and materials related to the Bahá'í Faith. Mrs. Tebyanian is a mother to two young children, aged 8 and 12.
- Since the Naw-Ruz (Persian New Year) Holiday commencing on 20 March 2024, the judicial authorities in Isfahan and Mazandaran provinces have summoned forty Bahá'ís to face court proceedings of which thirty-three of them are women. In a summons served on 20 April 2024, issued by Branch 1 of Isfahan Revolutionary Court, headed by Morteza Barati, fifteen women, all residents of Baharestan, a district of Isfahan Province, have been called to appear in court on 1 May 2024. The women are named as Mojgan Pourshafi, Nasrin Khademi, Azita Rezvanikhah, Sholeh Ashouri, Mojdeh Bahamin, Boshra Motahhar, Sara Shakib, Samira Shakib, Roya Azadkhosh, Noushin Hemmat, Shourangiz Bahamin, Sanaz Rasteh, Maryam Khorsandi, Firouzeh Rastinejad, and Farkhondeh Rezvan-Pey. They have been called to defend themselves against charges of "propaganda against the Islamic Republic" and "participating in deviant preaching and teaching activities that are contrary to the Holy Sharia of Islam (under Article 500 bis of the Islamic Penal Code)." This follows from the issuance of an indictment against these fifteen women by the Isfahan Prosecutor's Office on 8 April 2024. This new summons follows a similar summons the previous week of ten other Bahá'í women from Isfahan, named as Neda Badakhsh, Bahareh Lotfi, Neda Emadi, Parastou Hakim, Yeganeh Agahi, Shana Shoghifar, Mojgan Shahrezaie, Negin Khademi, Arezou Sobhanian, and Yeganeh Rouhbakhsh. These women face charges of "propaganda activities against the religion of Islam by spreading the beliefs of the Bahá'í sect."

Annex 4: Examples of incidents of economic persecution that have occurred since June 2022.

- On 14 May 2022, a person in charge of the marriage loan department in the Central Bank located in the security and information department, stated through the internal bank telephones that based on a new government regulation promulgated in the past couple of months, marriage loans are not granted to Bahá'ís. Accordingly, after making inquiries with the Personal Status Registration Office and after verifying the Bahá'í identity of the individuals, their names were removed from the loan list.

- On 28 July 2022, it was reported that since the passing of legislation for granting loans to young couples, the Bahá'ís have often had difficulties in benefitting from this legislation. The Central Bank has subsequently announced that Bahá'í couples do not qualify to receive this loan. Recently, a young Bahá'í couple were married, and thereafter registered the marriage affidavit at the Notary Public Office and added their names and their birth certificates at the Personal Status Registration Office. When they entered the marriage loan registration website, they encountered a message stating that their marriage had not been registered. They were asked to go to the Central Bank in Tehran and pursue the matter.
- On 28 July 2022, it was reported that Mr. Bijan Rahmani, rented a clinic for a period of two years, of which about five months remains. On 7 June 2022, he was summoned to the Ministry of Intelligence Office by telephone. He initially did not appear without a written summons; however, he ultimately decided to appear and was interrogated. In addition to questions about his personal details, other questions were as follows: The duration of the clinic lease agreement; his position; the number of employees; what kind of people would visit; whether they were Bahá'ís; his role and responsibilities in the Bahá'í community.

Eventually, he was told, “You have no right to be in such a place, using these facilities. You should not be managing a public place with forty staff members. We will never allow you to continue.” They also added, “You write down here that you are not a Bahá'í, so that you can remain in this clinic. We will then help your business to flourish.” This offer was rejected by him.
- On 19 March 2023, it was learned that that four business owners, Mr. Kambiz Moradipour, Mr. Hamid Mobin, Mr. Masrour Khalili, and Sohrab Mobin, were summoned for questioning by the Ministry of Intelligence. Mr. Moradipour, who had previously been summoned by the Ministry of Intelligence Office with the sealing of his shop, was again summoned to the Federal Investigation Bureau operating under the Ministry of Intelligence in Kermanshah. He was further interrogated about what they claimed was an unauthorised closure of his business operations. Mr. Hamid Mobin, Mr. Masrour Khalili, and Sohrab Mobin were similarly questioned about their business operations.
- On 1 January 2024, it was learned that a number of medical practitioners and family counsellors in Shiraz have been threatened by the authorities to relay information about their Bahá'í patients to security agents, or risk de-registration and cancellation of business licences, in a blatant abuse of internationally recognized codes of conduct relating to doctor-patient confidentiality. (LTD²)

² Items may be shared with trusted contacts in government and non-governmental organisations only, with the understanding that they will not share it publicly but may exercise their own discretion in sharing it with other governments or organisations. Note that information coded as “LTD” may be shared publicly if necessary only and in such a way that effectively obfuscates any sensitive information, including the identity of relevant individuals and their location.

- On 2 January 2024, approximately 200 security officers and agents of the Office of Natural Resources blocked the entrance and exit roads of Ahmadabad village, preventing the movement of residents. The government agents then proceeded to confiscate and fence off the agricultural lands of the village residents, pursuant to an order signed by Mohammad Karimi, the prosecutor of Sari. Ahmadabad village is located near Sari, and the majority of its residents are Bahá'ís. The Bahá'í families residing in Ahmadabad have farmed the lands for several generations. Agents fenced off at least 60 hectares of Bahá'í agricultural land with barbed wire. About 25 hectares of the confiscated lands were under wheat cultivation which was intentionally destroyed by being driven over by heavy equipment. A representative of the governor of Mazandaran Province called this action "an operation to confiscate the seizure and dispossession of natural resources areas" by the Bahá'ís, and further claimed that "unauthorised constructions and changes of use have taken place in these lands". These are false accusations as no new construction or changes in land use have taken place on the mentioned lands and the lands have been continuously farmed by the Bahá'í owners for at least 70 years.

- It was learned on 21 February 2024 that on or about 8 February 2024 the home business premises of six Bahá'ís were sealed in Rafsanjan. Around 10 years ago, the formal business premises of a number of Bahá'ís from Rafsanjan engaged in technical fields were closed down by the authorities. Following the sealing of their premises these Bahá'ís were forced to continue their livelihoods and businesses in the courtyards or parking garages of their own homes. During these past ten years, at various times, they faced ongoing harassment and obstacles to continuing their businesses. On or about 8 February 2024, agents of the Public Places Supervision Office (*Amákin*³) sealed six home-based business premises as follows:
 - Mr. Ali Emadi (household appliance repair shop): the agents entered his home courtyard and sealed the door of the building where he was working.
 - Messrs. Sirous Payandeh and Erfan Shojaie (automobile tune-up): the parking garage door of their house and their neighbour's courtyard gate were sealed.
 - Mrs. Soudabeh Payandeh, (clothing retailer): the door of the room at the end of the garage of their house was sealed.
 - Mr. Iraj Payandeh (household appliances repair shop): the garage door at his house was sealed.
 - Mr. Saied Payandeh (automobile tune-up): the garage door at his house was sealed.
 - Messrs Ghodratollah and Misagh Naimi (household appliance repair shop); the courtyard gate of Mr. Ghodratollah Naimi's house was sealed.

Subsequent to having their livelihoods suspended as a result of their home business premises being sealed, these Bahá'ís went to the authorities at Amákin to seek redress, but have not received any response under the pretext that those responsible were not available. They were

³ [*Amákin* (Public Places Supervision Office): Responsible for the enforcement of accepted moral codes in places of work and other offices.]

told to come back again in the coming days.

- It was learned on 27 February 2024 that following the forceful and illegal confiscation of agricultural lands from Bahá'ís in the village of Ahmadabad, additional information has come to light concerning the process leading up to the confiscations. Approximately four years ago government authorities commenced new studies into the building of an irrigation dam called the Sari Zarm-Rood Dam at the end of the valley in which the Ahmadabad village is located.

According to the law the relevant authorities are required to enter into good faith negotiations to establish the value of the properties in order for them to be acquired by the Government. These negotiations commenced and the Ahmadabad community engaged the services of a lawyer to assist them with the negotiations. The government then withdrew from the negotiations and the next step that the community became aware of was the forceful intrusion of security agents and the illegal fencing and confiscation without due compensation of their properties.

- On 10 March 2024, agents of the Public Places Supervision Office (Amakin) responsible for the enforcement of accepted moral codes in places of work and other offices raided and sealed the warehouse of a plastic container distribution warehouse in Rafsanjan. The owner of the warehouse (not a Bahá'í) was a just customer of Mr. Iraj Misaghian, a Bahá'í who is a plastic goods wholesaler. The owner was then required to make representations to Amakin stating that the warehouse and all the merchandise belonged to him, and that although Mr. Misaghian had sold him some items, Mr. Misaghian did not own anything and was not in partnership with him. Once convinced of this situation Amakin agreed to unseal his warehouse.
- On 14 March 2024, agents from Amakin entered the Golbarg hairstyling school and hair salon, and, with a warrant in the name of Ms. Saghar Manouchehrzadeh, searched the premises and confiscated her mobile telephone. After ordering the personnel and the customers to leave, they sealed the premises and asked her to go to the headquarters of the Police Department responsible for the enforcement of moral behaviour and proper dress code on 16 March 2024. Ms. Manouchehrzadeh and her sister have been working in this school, which is located on one floor of her sister's house.
- On 26 March 2024, agents from the Ministry of Intelligence Office carried out a raid on the residence of Mrs. Rashedirad in Hamadan. During the operation, they confiscated a collection of books, Bahá'í writings, photographs, and merchandise belonging to her son, Mr. Kioumars Rashedirad. The agents also subjected Mr. Rashedirad and his family to verbal abuse and threats. The agents also warned of future raids on Mr. Rashedirad's shop, hinting at the confiscation of its merchandise as well. Following the raid Mr. Rashedirad sought legal

representation, only to find that the majority of lawyers in Hamadan declined to take on the case upon learning of the involvement of the Ministry of Intelligence Office, citing intimidation as the primary reason for their refusal.

- In April 2024, reports emerged revealing that two national banks, Sepah and Resalat Banks, have incorporated a question regarding religious affiliation into their account opening procedures. To date, this alteration has not been adopted by other financial institutions. In Sepah Bank, several Bahá'í individuals have stated their religious identity as "Bahá'í" without encountering any immediate issues. Nevertheless, there is growing apprehension surrounding the potential misuse of this information by governmental entities. Concerns have been raised regarding the possibility of religious identification being exploited by authorities for discriminatory practices, such as the freezing of accounts or confiscation of funds. Moreover, there is apprehension that the government might exploit this data to monitor the economic activities and status of the Bahá'ís.
- It was learned on 23 May 2024 that following raids by agents from the Ministry of Intelligence on the residence of Mrs. Rashedirad in Hamadan on March 26, 2024, her son Mr. Kioumars Rashedirad has been subjected to ongoing periodic detention, interrogations and required to post a second excessive bail payment of 8 billion tomans. The agents continued to warn of future raids on Mr. Rashedirad's business, hinting at the confiscation of his business merchandise.
- On 1 May 2024, four businesses belonging to Bahá'ís in Shahrekord and Farrokhshahr cities were sealed by the authorities under the pretext that they had closed their businesses during one of the Bahá'í holy days. Mr. Sina Moghen, Mr. Pedram Ahmadi and Mr. Farshad Moghen own radiator, exhaust and battery manufacturing businesses in Shahrekord city and Mr. Behnam Mohammadalipour owns a radiator and exhaust manufacturing business in Farrokhshahr city. These small businesses employ 7 Bahá'í and non-Bahá'í employees. The sealing of businesses belonging to Bahá'ís has been routinely carried out as in previous years relating to the temporary closure for Bahá'í holy day celebrations, while according to Article 28, Clause B of the Trade Union Law/Regulations, business owners are permitted to close their businesses for up to 15 days per year without informing the authorities. These forced business closures, which are inconsistent with the prevailing law, demonstrate that they are purely based on religiously motivated persecution.
- On 28 May 2024, an excavator, which had apparently been brought to the area the day before, started operating and entered the rice fields belonging to the local Bahá'í farmers of Ahmadabad. It moved back and forth over the rice crops destroying the irrigation berms, and then proceeded to the river, where it further destroyed the water channel from the river to the rice fields.

The day before the incident, when the Bahá'ís noticed the presence of the excavator and inquired about the reason for its presence, they were told that it was there for construction work that would be carried out in the area.

This action follows the forceful and illegal confiscation and fencing of agricultural lands from Bahá'ís in the village of Ahmadabad in January 2024. After this event, the local farmers had continued to crop the lands to sustain their livelihoods. As a result, the authorities have now taken these further steps to destroy the livelihoods of the local farmers who have owned and cropped these lands for generations.

This action has no other purpose than to disrupt the livelihoods of the local farmers in an effort to force them to abandon their illegally confiscated lands. The Bahá'ís in Ahmadabad have been systematically persecuted—including through these examples of economic apartheid—under the Islamic Republic. These land seizures, designed to forcibly displace the Bahá'í owners, constitute an example of religious cleansing by the Iranian government.

- On 13 June 2024, Mr. Hamid Monzavi and Mr. Arshia Rowhani, two Bahá'í residents of Isfahan, were each sentenced to five years in prison, a fine of 50 million Tomans, the permanent seizure of their confiscated property and a two year ban on use of the internet by Branch 1 of the Revolutionary Court of Isfahan. The printing and copying businesses of both Mr. Monzavi and Mr. Rowhani were seized on 11 September 2023 by agents from the Public Places Supervision Office and the Isfahan Ministry of Intelligence. They were later arrested in October 2023 and then released on bail of 300 million tomans. Despite the later unsealing of their businesses, all of the printing equipment, work tools and electronic devices belonging to the two men were confiscated. According to their families, the value of the seized assets from each individual exceeds half a billion tomans, and the forced closures of their businesses have caused serious financial losses on an ongoing basis.

Annex 5: Examples of Bahá'ís being denied admission or expelled from higher education since August 2022.

Students denied entry to university based on “incomplete file” in August and September 2022

Name	City	Province	Reported on
Hanna Movaffaghi	Karaj	Alborz	3-Aug-22
Hiva Badi'i	Karaj	Alborz	3-Aug-22
Behzad Barati	Mashhad	Khorasan Razavi	3-Aug-22
Fars Hamdi Hesari	Birjand	South Khorasan	4-Aug-22

Malika Malaki	Birjand	South Khorasan	4-Aug-22
Babak Yekani	Kerman	Kerman	4-Aug-22
Ataiyyeh Hemmati	Karaj	Alborz	4-Aug-22
Jinous Hemmati	Karaj	Alborz	4-Aug-22
Shamim Eidelkhani	Ardabil	Ardabil	4-Aug-22
Nasim Eidelkhani	Ardabil	Ardabil	4-Aug-22
Ahdieh Namjouyan	Isfahan	Isfahan	5-Aug-22
Tara Rouzbehan	Isfahan	Isfahan	5-Aug-22
Shiva Amin	Shahin Shahr	Isfahan	5-Aug-22
Mahsa Forouhari	Karaj	Alborz	5-Aug-22
Parsa Rowhani	Kashan	Isfahan	6-Aug-22
Saghar Shahidi	Kashan	Isfahan	6-Aug-22
Mostaan Aghdasi	Tehran	Tehran	6-Aug-22 ¹
Mona Amini	Tehran	Tehran	7-Aug-22
Samin Shahriari	Karaj	Alborz	7-Aug-22
Paniz Ghorbanpour	Tehran	Tehran	7-Aug-22
Forouzan Nikoukar	Tehran	Tehran	7-Aug-22
Arman Motlagh CFD	Tehran	Tehran	7-Aug-22
Zohreh Saiedi CFD	Tehran	Tehran	7-Aug-22
Sepideh Sharafi	Tehran	Tehran	7-Aug-22
Radman Ahrari	Tehran	Tehran	7-Aug-22

Sheida Ishani	Fardis	Alborz	8-Aug-22
Noura Mirzaie	Kerman	Kerman	8-Aug-22
Foroutan Rahmani	Karaj	Alborz	8-Aug-22
Raha Bareghi	Chabahar	Sistan and Baluchestan	8-Aug-22
Bashir Naimi	Kerman	Kerman	8-Aug-22
Roxana Babaeian	Miandoab	West Azerbaijan	8-Aug-22
Hounam Esmaili	Tehran	Tehran	8-Aug-22
Homayoun Esmaili	Tehran	Tehran	8-Aug-22
Kourosh Kariminejad	Isfahan	Isfahan	8-Aug-22
Arshia Parvin	Isfahan	Isfahan	8-Aug-22
Aria Mosleh	Isfahan	Isfahan	8-Aug-22
Rozhin Atefi	Isfahan	Isfahan	8-Aug-22
Ava Meshkin-Nafas	Kerman	Kerman	9-Aug-22
Diba Behshad	Isfahan	Isfahan	9-Aug-22
Jamshid Nourani	Tehran	Tehran	9-Aug-22
Shamim Khakzad	Tehran	Tehran	9-Aug-22
Faez Moghaddam	Urmia	West Azerbaijan	9-Aug-22
Noura (or Nava) Torabi	Karaj	Alborz	9-Aug-22
Tara Behbahani	Fardis	Alborz	9-Aug-22
Leva Haghighi	Fardis	Alborz	9-Aug-22
Badi Rowhani	Isfahan	Isfahan	9-Aug-22

Mahta Mogharrabin	Isfahan	Isfahan	9-Aug-22
Raha Golshani	Isfahan	Isfahan	9-Aug-22
Parand Hasanazadeh	Isfahan	Isfahan	9-Aug-22
Sama Misaghian	Rafsanjan	Kerman	10-Aug-22
Arasham Nayyeri	Kerman	Kerman	10-Aug-22
Neshat Abduli	Isfahan	Isfahan	10-Aug-22
Afshan Eshaghian	Isfahan	Isfahan	11-Aug-22
Shakiba Atrian	Shiraz	Fars	11-Aug-22
Hadieh Rezaie	Shiraz	Fars	11-Aug-22
Tanin Allahverdi Gorji	Sari	Mazandaran	13-Aug-22
Mobin Shahidinia	Sari	Mazandaran	13-Aug-22
Houman Khoshbin	Sari	Mazandaran	13-Aug-22
Mahsa Golzar	Shahrekord	Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari	12-Aug-22
Peyman Moghen	Shahrekord	Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari	12-Aug-22
Elaheh Mahjouri	Shahrekord	Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari	12-Aug-22
Shayan Ahmadi	Shahrekord	Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari	12-Aug-22
Sohi Golzar	Shahin Shahr	Isfahan	12-Aug-22
Afra Nikkhah	Shahin Shahr	Isfahan	12-Aug-22
Vania Shams	Shahin Shahr	Isfahan	12-Aug-22
A student	Khomein	Markazi	12-Aug-22
Bahar Bahador	Isfahan	Isfahan	12-Aug-22

Shakiba Rahmani	Isfahan	Isfahan	12-Aug-22
Faraz Agha Babaie	Isfahan	Isfahan	12-Aug-22
Dursa Rowhani	Isfahan	Isfahan	12-Aug-22
Dursa Basiri	Isfahan	Isfahan	12-Aug-22
Atousa Najafi	Isfahan	Isfahan	12-Aug-22
Sara Firouzmandi	Isfahan	Isfahan	12-Aug-22
Nikta Rasteh	Isfahan	Isfahan	12-Aug-22
Shahin Mehdiabadi	Isfahan	Isfahan	12-Aug-22
Mahtab Sadeghi	Isfahan	Isfahan	12-Aug-22
Vida Emadi	Isfahan	Isfahan	12-Aug-22
Iman Ramazanian	Isfahan	Isfahan	12-Aug-22
Tabassom [Tabassum] Hoseini	Isfahan	Isfahan	12-Aug-22
Naghme Etehad	Isfahan	Isfahan	12-Aug-22
Kimia Rowshan	Isfahan	Isfahan	12-Aug-22
Yeganeh Rouhbakhsh	Isfahan	Isfahan	12-Aug-22
Shomays Moghen	Isfahan	Isfahan	12-Aug-22
Shervin Owrang	Isfahan	Isfahan	12-Aug-22
Sobhan Moghen	Isfahan	Isfahan	12-Aug-22
Pouya Moradi	Isfahan	Isfahan	12-Aug-22
Mahsa Golzar	Shahrekord	Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari	12-Aug-22
Peyman Moghen	Shahrekord	Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari	12-Aug-22
Elaheh Mahjouri	Shahrekord	Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari	12-Aug-22

Shayan Ahmadi	Shahrekord	Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari	12-Aug-22
Sohi Golzar	Shahin Shahr	Isfahan	12-Aug-22
Afra Nikkhah	Shahin Shahr	Isfahan	12-Aug-22
Vania Shams	Shahin Shahr	Isfahan	12-Aug-22
Tabassom Eghbali	Gorgan	Golestan	16-Aug-22
Ahoura Akhlaghi	Gorgan	Golestan	16-Aug-22
Dorin Bayk Aghaie	Karaj	Alborz	16-Aug-22
Farid Bashi	Tehran	Tehran	16-Aug-22
Arad Kashaninejad	Nowshahr	Mazandaran	17-Aug-22
A student (anonymous)	Tehran	Tehran	18-Aug-22
A student (anonymous)	Tehran	Tehran	18-Aug-22
Anahita Karimi	Tehran	Tehran	18-Aug-22
Arian Hashemi	Bandar Abbas	Hormozgan	18-Aug-22
Mehryad Hamedian	Karaj	Alborz	18-Aug-22
Faress Bargh-Asa	Shahrud	Semnan	18-Aug-22
Aylin Hakemi Amjad	Tehran	Tehran	21-Aug-22
Alhan Hashemi	Shiraz	Fars	6-Sep-22
Arshia Shoghi	Tehran	Tehran	6-Sep-22
Arvin Mazidi	Tehran	Tehran	6-Sep-22
Boshra Mokhles	Tehran	Tehran	6-Sep-22
Donya Khanjani	Semnan	Semnan	6-Sep-22
Faress Haghighat	Babolsar	Mazandaran	6-Sep-22
Houman Haghighi	Tehran	Tehran	6-Sep-22
Isa Hasanzadeh	Tehran	Tehran	6-Sep-22

Leva Ziaie	Tehran	Tehran	6-Sep-22
Mani Vahedi	Tehran	Tehran	6-Sep-22
Melina Zaer	Yazd	Yazd	6-Sep-22
Mohaddese Dehghani	Fardis	Alborz	6-Sep-22
Noura Laghaie	Tehran	Tehran	6-Sep-22
Parnia Basiri	Yazd	Yazd	6-Sep-22

- On 5 May 2023: Ms. Sama Rastegar was expelled studying at Open University of Hafez Institute of Higher Education in Shiraz, studying in the fifth semester of the English language and literature course. She was expelled after refusing to write Islam as her religion in a mid-semester questionnaire.
- In July 2023, a newly implemented online enrolment process for first grade students in primary schools denied Bahá'í students from registering and being pre-enrolled for schools across the country, including in the Alborz, Tehran and Isfahan provinces. The online form required disclosure of religious affiliation but did not include any option for either 'Bahá'í' or 'other.' Some schools refused to enrol students unless the preliminary online enrolment had been completed. This situation developed despite the right of access to universal access to education for all citizens being stipulated in the Constitution. Representations were repeatedly made to the Education Ministry by Bahá'í parents to amend the online form; however, these requests did not result in any change to the form for several months.
- On January 2023: Mr. Faran Amiri Dahaj was expelled studying his Master's research in engineering at Isfahan University. Despite appealing to the Educational Assessment and Evaluation Organization. However, when he arrived at their office, he was taken to a room and met by an intimidating masked interrogator who rudely told him not to pursue the matter any further. *(Please note that this case should not be shared publicly).*
- In September 2023, many Bahá'í students across Iran who had participated in the National University Entrance Examination were called to the Educational Assessment and Evaluation Organization (*Sanjish*) to complete the entry and selection process. They were asked to complete forms which contained questions about their personal information, a biography of the applicant, their families and relatives, their activities and travels abroad. The applicants were also given a [form](#) comprising a written undertaking requiring them to disassociate

themselves from the institutions of the Bahá'í community in order to be accepted into the university, which appears to be contradictory to the Constitution and basic civil rights. The applicant's acceptance or non-acceptance into the university is contingent on the satisfactory completion of this form.

- On 29 September 2023, The Ministry of Education increased its monitoring of the registration of Bahá'í Children into private schools in Isfahan. A number of private schools have now declined to register Bahá'í children.
- On 29 March 2024: Ms. [Mahsou Salehi Roshankouhi](#), a Bahá'í student at Sari University was expelled during the third semester of a physical education programme,
- On 12 February 2024, a young group of Bahá'ís were attacked by intelligence agents. Two Bahá'í homes in Qaemshahr were searched by security forces, one of which was the home of Mrs. [Maryam Zabihi \(Zamani\)](#). Her home was raided by fifteen intelligence agents, who filmed the proceedings on arrival and searched the house and interrogated those present. They confiscated all the electronic devices and textbooks of five young Bahá'ís who were guests in the home of Mrs. Zabihi. The young Bahá'ís were at her home to sit an exam as part of their informal studies through the BIHE, an educational programme that seeks to meet the educational needs of as many young Bahá'ís as resources would allow. The raid occurred just 30 minutes after the exam started, demonstrating that the action was a targeted and deliberate attack on a group of Bahá'í youth gathered simply to study and acquire knowledge together.

Following insulting and violent behaviour of the intelligence agents towards Mrs. Zabihi, her young son, Mr. [Bahamin Zamani](#), protested their actions and as a result, the agents beat him in front of his mother. Mrs. Zabihi and four of the young Bahá'ís present were issued summonses, and were instructed to present themselves at the Intelligence Office of Qaemshahr on 17 February 2024. For further information on this case, see the [BIC press release](#).

Annex 6: Recent Examples of the denial of cultural rights, burial rights, freedom expression and association

- On 4 January 2023, four Intelligence agents entered the home of Ms. Parisa Kamali, a 25-year-old resident of Shiraz. The agents confiscated mobile phones and a laptop. They took Ms. Kamali to Detention Centre 100 in Shiraz where she was interrogated. Ms. Kamali is an epileptic and her mother delivered her medication to the detention centre which was accepted by the agents. Ms. Kamali was threatened with an extended period in jail for posting items which they described as political on the internet. Ms. Kamali is a theatre school graduate and has posted items relating to dance. She was released after 6 hours on completion of her interrogation.
- On 21 August 2023, it was learned that the authorities contacted Bahá'ís in Arak with the intention to sell by auction the parcel of land which has been used by the Bahá'ís as a cemetery for over 120 years, containing approximately 250 graves. The cemetery was confiscated in 1980 along with many other properties owned by the Bahá'í community throughout the country. The authorities told the Bahá'ís “the Bahá'í cemetery will be sold, but we cannot sell it to you. It will have to be purchased by a Muslim first”.
- On 29 August 2023, Mrs. Nazila Haghar was sentenced to 5 years in prison following the decision of the Appeal Court to uphold her conviction of May 2023. In May 2023, Mrs. Haghar was sentenced in absentia by Branch 29 of the Tehran Revolutionary Court, headed by Judge Seyyed Ali Mazloum, to five years in prison for “being a member of an illegal group with the aim of disrupting the country's security”. One of the accusations levelled against her was that she was holding educational classes for children.
- On 30 August 2023, it was learned that three Bahá'í youth from Gorgan, named Shima Khoshaien, Radin Amri and Vaghef Taefi, were summoned to the Ministry of Intelligence Office and interrogated for approximately six hours. The mother of one of these youths, Mrs. Sheida Ghoddoosi, was also summoned and questioned, and threatened with arrest and imprisonment because of an Instagram post about the “OurStoryIsOne” campaign of the Bahá'í International Community.
- On 4 September 2023, it was learned that Mrs. Nahaleh Shahidi Yazdi was arraigned and charged with "formation of a group or society for the purpose of disturbing national security," seemingly related to her aid efforts in the south of Kerman Province after the earthquake in Bam.

- On 14 December 2023, it was learned that the body of Mrs. Afagh Khosravizand (Rahimian) has been buried by the authorities in the Khavaran mass grave site adjacent to the Tehran Bahá'í Cemetery without the knowledge or participation of her family. The Rahimian family had previously chosen to donate her body to science at the Tehran medical school. At first the medical school was willing to accept the body, but after some time, the medical school rejected her body and made the unjustified statements that the family is “unreliable and will cause trouble for the university” and that “the body was contagious”
- On 1 May 2024, it was learned that a highly acclaimed young Bahá'í percussionist from Golestan province faced active discrimination based solely on his religion in a recent concert incident, igniting widespread outrage and calls for justice. Despite obtaining necessary permits, the musician was abruptly barred from performing an hour before the scheduled concert in Gorgan due to his religious affiliation, leaving both him and his fellow performers stunned. Efforts to resolve the issue were unsuccessful, prompting a wave of solidarity and condemnation from the audience and on social media.

Annex 7: Examples of hate speech and online campaigns against the Bahá'ís since August 2022.

There was a very clear increase in hateful content against Bahá'ís in Iran following the Mahsa Amini uprising. Hateful trends focused on othering, scapegoating and dehumanising Bahá'ís. Bahá'ís were accused of being behind the protests, and some female activists and protestors murdered by the state were accused of being Bahá'í. Furthermore the “woman, life, freedom” movement was portrayed as a movement that advocated promiscuity, nudity and extramarital sex in which Bahá'ís played an important role in. To further dehumanize Bahá'ís, an old hateful conspiracy theory that Bahá'ís practice incest resurfaced social media and trended, especially on X. Some users even went further by saying that engaging in incestuous acts is a prerequisite for becoming Bahá'í (please see [this analysis](#) by an Iranian fact-checking group for more details). There was also a coordinated plan where the Friday Prayer Imams attacked Bahá'ís and accused them of being anti-Hijab and being behind the protests against compulsory Hijab. The same accusation was rampant on social media. The Bahá'í principle of equality between women and men and activism of Tahiri, a leading figure in the history of the Bahá'í Faith and her endeavours for promoting equal rights for women, were highlighted and grossly misrepresented as a sexual permissiveness or depravity.

Bahá'ís were also portrayed by state actors as being created by colonial powers and supported by the Jews, as agents of the West and Israel, and as enemies of Islam, and Shiism who profane the holy month of Muharram. Several groups of Bahá'ís that were arrested in different parts of the country were formally accused of being parts of a network of espionage. Some of them have been accused of infiltrating preschools, and music institutions.

The Bahá'í Faith was portrayed in Iran as a political cult that tried to undermine the state. Bahá'í martyrs, and prisoners of conscience were portrayed as spies and agents of this “political cult” who deserved their punishments. This accusation was in particular in response to the OurStoryIsOne campaign launched by the Bahá'í International Community, to honour 10 courageous Bahá'í women, one as young as 17, and the struggle of Iranians for gender equality and justice.

In July 2023, a coordinated campaign designed to incite violence against the Bahá'í community was started on X with the hashtag [#امیرکبیر مجکریم](#). Accounts linked to the regime's cyber army and Masaf, an institute supported by the IRGC, were identified as the main propagators. The campaign, orchestrated by figures such as Ali Akbar Raefipour, a known regime propagandist and conspiracy theorist, celebrated historical acts of violence against the Bábis, the predecessors to the Bahá'í Faith. This campaign not only sought to glorify past atrocities but also called for heightened measures of persecution and violence against Bahá'ís. Numerous hateful conspiracy theories and lies against Bahá'ís were spread, such as they practice incest, they are agents of the West and Israel, they are formed by colonial powers, they are anti-Hijab, anti-Muharram, and are against Islam. This online hate campaign generated over 17.5K tweets under the hashtag, indicating a deliberate effort to create a hostile environment for Bahá'ís.

Other groups such as "[restart](#)", known for violence and vandalism, have become involved in this campaign. They promote violence against not only Bahá'ís but also other religious minorities in Iran. They used their own hashtag [ریدم به بهایی زرتشتی خارکصده جندههای بهایی ریدم به زرتشتی](#) ([یهودی حرومزاده](#)) that promote hatred and violence against Bahá'ís, Zoroastrians and Jews. The founder of the group, Seyed Mohammad Hosseini, and his following, promote an absurd conspiracy theory

that certain influential clerics and officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran are Bahá'í, Zoroastrian or Jewish, who enjoy sufferings of Muslims and defamation of Islam. It appears that the group's intention was to whitewash the regime, and to attribute its atrocities and crimes to religious minorities. Recently, they started promoting the idea that the September 2022 protests were created by the aforementioned religious minorities, with the purpose of killing Muslims. They also use very vulgar and sexual language against religious minorities.

The key players in this propaganda are state news agencies, especially those that are directly linked to the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) and Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and their propagandists on social media platforms especially X and Telegram, Friday prayer Imams, a US-based Iranian extremist group advocating for strange conspiracy theories especially against religious minorities called Restart, and an individual by the name of Hassan Ershad—who is not publicly affiliated with a governmental entity but, the extent of his activities, and the fact that he appears on media outlets sanctioned by the Iranian government, indicate a strong possibility that he is backed by a state organ.

Some of the top news agencies producing hateful content against Bahá'ís are:

- <http://www.farsnews.ir>
- <http://javanonline.ir>
- <https://www.mashreghnews.ir>
- <http://kayhan.ir>
- <http://www.rasanews.ir>
- <https://www.mehrnews.com>
- <https://www.tasnimnews.com>
- <https://www.fardanews.com>
- <http://www.jahannews.com>
- <https://www.isna.ir>
- <https://sahebkhavar.ir>
- <http://www.rajanews.com>
- <http://www.hamshahrionline.ir>
- <http://khabarfarsi.com>
- <http://peykeiran.com>
- <http://khorasannews.com>
- <https://www.khabaronline.ir>
- <http://sahebkhavar.ir>