



Crackdown resumed instead  
of attending to  
flood victims

**Monthly Report**  
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## Crackdown resumed instead of attending to flood victims

The flood crisis continued to overshadow all other issues in Iran throughout the month of April. All Iranian provinces have been affected by floods. At least two million citizens are in need of humanitarian aid and more than half a million have been displaced, losing their homes and all their belongings. Instead of sheltering people, the regime's Red Crescent is selling them tents for 500,000 tomans, each.

According to an MP, in Khuzestan, alone, at least 300,000 houses have been destroyed. Hedayatollah Khademi said if the damages by floods is equal if not more than the damages caused by the eight-year war with Iraq. Other sources describe the incident as the worst natural disaster happening in Iran in the past 15 years, affecting 2,000 cities and town in 31 provinces.

The situation of flood victims is critical, as many are stranded in remote areas without access to food, clean water, medicine, clothing and heating.

And yet the regime, instead of attending to the needs of the affected citizens, has brought in their mercenary paramilitary troops from Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan, to quell the outraged residents of flood-hit areas.

In addition, the regime has stepped up its social crackdown. Women activists and political prisoners have not been exceptions. The regime also summoned hundreds of drivers in Tehran to warn them against flouting the compulsory veil inside their cars.

### New arrests and imprisonments

Former political prisoner **Fatemeh (Hoorieh) Ziaii Azad**, 56, was taken to the Women's Ward of Evin Prison on April 9, 2019, to serve one and a half years in prison. Despite her age and serious illness, Multiple Sclerosis (MS), Fatemeh Ziaii was arrested for the fourth time in autumn 2014 and freed in winter 2015 on a 100-million-toman bail. She was subsequently sentenced to 1.5 years in prison.



Civil activist **Yasaman Ariani**, 23 and an actress, was rearrested at home on April 10, 2019 when security agents holding her arrest warrant broke into her residence. On April 8, 2019, Yasamin had announced that she had been banned from playing in a play called "Actors' Studio" on the order of the Ministry of Guidance. Ms. Ariani had been arrested in August 2018 for taking part in protests in Tehran. She had been released from Evin Prison in February 2019.



On April 11, 2019, Mrs. **Monireh Arab-Shahi** was arrested upon referring to Vozara detention center to inquire about her daughter, Yasamin Ariani. She was transferred to the notorious Qarchak Prison on the next day.



Civil activist **Mojgan Keshavarz** was arrested on April 25, 2019, at her home in Tehran by agents of the Ministry of Intelligence and Security (MOIS). Ms. Keshavarz was beaten in front of her 9-year-old daughter and taken away to an unknown location. Mojgan Keshavarz (aka Maya) was a volunteer helping the flood stricken residents of Lorestan.



Two female labor activists were among the nine activists arrested on April 26, 2019, in a gathering observing the International Labor Day. Ms. **Parvin Mohammadi**, Vice President of the Free Union of Iran Workers, and Ms. **Haleh Safarzadeh**, a workers' activist, were incarcerated in a bid to prevent formation of any gathering on the International Labor Day. Parvin Mohammadi had been



previously arrested on January 29, 2019, for her activities in defense of the rights of Iranian workers. She remained in Evin Prison until March when she was released on bail.

Civil activist **Akram Nasirian** was arrested on April 29, 2019, by the State Security Force (SSF) and transferred to Evin Prison in Tehran. Ms. Nasirian, a member of the Association of Neday-e Zanan-e Iran and a volunteer helping the flood victims, disappeared on April 29, 2019.



**Sara Zahmatkesh**, 24, a women's rights activist and a social sciences expert from Paveh, was arrested on April 21, 2019, by agents of the intelligence department of Paveh and taken to an unknown location. No information is available on her fate. Ms. Zahmatkesh heads the Jiar-Tin Women's Association.

### Sentences for civil and human rights activists

Teachers activist **Fatemeh Bahmani** was sentenced to one year in prison and a fine of 2 million tomans. She is charged with "misinformation to disrupt public order by posting falsities on the internet." Ms. Bahmani and her husband were arrested by in Arak on November 11, 2018, during one of the nationwide strikes by teachers.



**Rahelah Rahemi Pour** was ordered to pay 80 million Rials instead of going to jail for one year. She was sentenced by Tehran's Revolutionary Court on the charge of "propaganda against the state" for corresponding with the UN about the fate of her brother and her niece. The decree was issued by the revision court on April 9, 2019. The clerical regime started putting pressure on [Ms. Rahemi Pour](#) when the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances started to look into her complaint and inquired the Iranian regime about her brother and niece, both of whom were killed in 1984.



### Violations of the rights of political prisoners

The family of political prisoner **Atena Daemi** found out on April 7, 2019, that their daughter had been deprived of having any visitations when they went to Evin Prison to visit her for the first time in the Persian New Year.



Sufi woman, **Sima Entesari**, was brutalized on April 15, 2019, by an inmate in the notorious Qarchak Prison. She was injured in the head and shoulder. The assailant said prison officials had promised to "reconsider" her request for a parole if she harassed Sufi women.



**Sanaz Allahyari** has been kept in detention without sentence after over 100 days. Ms. Allahyari is under tremendous psychological pressure.

### Woman arrested and detained for advertising her hairdresser

On April 24, 2019, a hairdresser was arrested for advertising her beauty shop in the city of Babol, northern Iran. She posted a banner in one of the streets and posted its picture on the internet. She is now under custody and her beauty shop has been sealed. (The state-run Tabnak news agency- April 24, 2019)



## Moral Security Police sends text messages to warn against mal-veiling

The Moral Security Police of Tehran sent thousands of text messages to warn commuters against flouting the compulsory veil behind the wheels. In an interview with the state-run IRNA news agency, Hossein Rahimi, the commander of Tehran's police, announced "The police will identify and deal with vehicles whose passengers remove their veils." He added, "Regardless of who takes off the veil in a car, the texts are sent to the car owners and the Moral Security Police holds the owner accountable." (The state-run IRNA news agency - April 25, 2019)

As for the recipients of the text messages, he noted, "Those who are summoned will be released after committing themselves in writing that they will not repeat the offense. Should the offense be repeated, the accused will be charged and referred to a court of law." He reiterated the police had no qualms about continuing to enforce the harsh restrictions on women's head covering.



## AI urges Iranian regime to stop harassing women for protesting veiling laws

Amnesty International issued a [statement](#) on April 18, 2019, urging the Iranian regime to stop harassing, arresting and imprisoning women's rights defenders peacefully protesting against Iran's degrading and discriminatory forced veiling laws.

Amnesty International also reiterated in its statement, "The criminalization of women and girls for not wearing the veil is an extreme form of gender-based discrimination and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment that deeply damages women's dignity. Instead of persecuting and jailing women who are standing up to this outrageous injustice, Iran's authorities should immediately and unconditionally release all women's rights defenders detained for their peaceful activism."

## Update on the flood crisis

Since the beginning of April, heavy rains in the western and southwestern provinces of Iran, have submerged more regions underwater.

Citing the European Commission, the United Nations estimated that at least 12 million citizens across Iran have been affected by the recent devastating floods.

The European Civil Protection Mechanism (EUCPM) says the incident has been the worst natural disaster happening in Iran in the past 15 years, affecting 2,000 cities and town in 31 provinces.

[ReliefWeb](#), the specialized digital service of United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) says [two million people are in need of humanitarian aid](#) and over half a million people have been displaced from their places of residence.

In many areas in Lorestan and Khuzestan, people were surrounded by water and had no access to water, food, clothing or heating.

270 villages in Khuzestan have been evacuated and 120,000 people have been displaced. In some places, families live in train wagons. Instead of sheltering people, the Red Crescent of Khuzestan is selling them tents for 500,000 tomans each.





Khuzestan is one of the most prolific plains in Iran and is capable of producing wheat, rice, sugar, dates, and fish for the whole country. Its residents, however, are now engaged in a life and death battle. In Ahvaz, capital of Khuzestan, sewage water has been running throughout the Pardis district, causing alarm over incidence of viral diseases and infections.

The people of the southeastern province of Sistan and Baluchestan have been hit by floods and also by grasshoppers which have destroyed their crops. The clerical regime has not yet taken any measures to deal with this situation. Some farmers say in light of the floods and the attack by grasshoppers, they are not going to have any crops for five years.

People have reported that residents of the flood-hit areas in Sistan and Baluchestan are dying. They do not have clean water and are drinking from the contaminated water and getting ill. They urgently need medicine, water and food.

As a result of the mullahs' [destructive policies](#), the heavy rainfalls in spring ravaged thousands of Iranian villages and towns and devastated people's lives. More than a month after the devastating flood crisis, the regime has not taken any effective measures yet to help the people in the affected areas.

The situation of flood victims who have not received relief is critical. The only source of relief and aid for the flood victims is the solidarity and assistance from the residents of the neighboring provinces and cities. Women play an active role in these activities.

### **At least 21 women were killed in the floods**

The Coroner's Office of Shiraz announced the [names of 11 women](#) among those killed in the flash floods in this city. (The state-run ROKNA news agency – April 4, 2019)

On April 3, ROKNA reported of a 35-year-old woman in Malayer (western Iran) losing her life under the rubbles of her house wrecked by flood. The bodies of two women were pulled out of

mud and sludge in Pol-e-Dokhtar on April 4, 2019. On April 15, 2019, the body of a 29-year-old woman was found in Malihan village near Ahvaz after floods swept through Khuzestan Province.

This brings the total number of women killed by flash floods in Iran to at least 21. However, it should be stressed that the clerical regime has basically no survey systems to keep track of citizens after the floods. The regime has not announced any accurate figures on those killed or missing. It is not clear how many families have drowned in the floods with their houses.

### Plight of women - "Why should we stay alive when everything has been destroyed?"

Women and children have suffered most in the devastating floods that swept through the country. They have to endure tremendous pressure in circumstances where they have little or no access to food, water, health care and medical treatment.

Here are some excerpts of dialogues done with women in various flood-hit provinces:

A woman in Mamoulan, one of the hardest hit areas in Lorestan: "We worked hard to buy our furniture. (Flood) waters have destroyed everything. My son says why should we stay alive when water has taken away and destroyed everything?"

A family in Mamoulan, Lorestan: "Everything's been razed to the ground. What are they going to do? They bring us a few mineral waters. This is not going to solve anything for the people. All of us had a house... Now, we don't have even our own clothes, warm clothes. Ladies don't have any hygiene products. They have no shoes.

There is no medicine, at all. We have sick people with blood pressure, diabetes, etc. Powdered milk and pampers for babies. 2,000 people used to live in this village. Everyone had built their houses with great difficulties. Now, that the water has subsided, there is the threat of cholera and hepatitis. We need cranes to remove the mud and soil from our houses...."

A woman head of household in Lorestan: "I head a household. I have an elderly mother, a disabled brother, and two orphaned children. The flood washed away my house. There were three floods. Every time, I moved my furniture, but the last time, they were washed away. Everything's gone. I don't even have two blankets. There's no one (to help). What can we say. Nothing's been left for us. I have nowhere to go. I have no clothing to put on my orphaned children."

A woman in Lorestan: "So much rain pouring down is unprecedented. It had never happened before. It was just a year since we had built our house. Now, it's all ruined. We cannot sleep in here at nights... We don't have anywhere to go. We don't have any place to sit. Our house, our furniture, everything has been washed away... We don't even have a spoon to eat with."

A dressmaker in Shiraz: "Why none of the officials come to help us? The rain wasn't much to bring such huge floods. Why was our house flooded? My children have no clothes, no notebooks. Their school bags are in water. We have no clothes, no blankets, no food. We have nothing. Where can we go? How can we leave our homes behind in mud? All my electric appliances are in water. My sewing machine, my iron. Where can I bring (another one) from? All my life has been ruined? How am I going to collect them, again!"





A woman in the flood-hit Saadi district of Shiraz: "My baby is 1.5 years old. There is no powdered milk. No pampers. He doesn't have any clothing, no shoes, no socks. It's cold and we do not have warm clothing. All of our belongings have been washed away and taken to the street. My mother-in-law and husband don't have anything to wear. They borrowed clothes from neighbors to put on. No (government) agency has come to help. Only people have helped. We have no clothes. We freeze at nights. I've become sick. My child's become sick. He's got his eye infected and there's not an eye drop. He's burned himself and there's no ointment. Black water has mixed with water, and we have no water to drink."



### The extent of damages

The mullahs' Minister of Interior has announced that the damages inflicted by recent floods is 7.619 billion dollars. Some officials say it is tantamount to the damages caused by the eight-year war with Iraq, and that the regime is not capable of rebuilding the damages.

Many production units and factories have been submerged in water and destroyed. Many farms have been washed away by waters. As a result, a large number of workers and farmers have lost their jobs.

Nevertheless, the regime continues to spend the Iranian people's wealth on lucrative projects abroad, including the railroad from Shalamchah in Iran to Latakia in Syria, and a giant power plant in Latakia worth 411 million Euros.

At the same time, it is in the news that the flash floods had been predicted in January 2019 and security officials had warned senior officials in the government, including the Ministry of Power. (The state-run ROKNA news agency - April 28, 2019)