



# FREEDOM OF RELIGION OR BELIEF VICTIMS

# IRAN

## Introduction

These victim profiles are illustrative of those in the Frank R. Wolf Freedom of Religion or Belief Victims List database. Mandated by the amended International Religious Freedom Act of 1998, the Victims List documents individuals who are detained, imprisoned, tortured, disappeared, forced to renounce their faith, or subjected to house arrest due to their religious activity or religious freedom advocacy.

## Religions of Individuals in Iran on the FoRB Victims List

- Bahá'í
- Christian – Protestant
- Christian – Unspecified/Other
- Erfan-e-Halgeh
- Jewish
- Muslim – Shi'a
- Muslim – Sunni
- Muslim – Unspecified/Other
- Unspecified
- Yarsani



### Mahvash Sabet

Religion or Belief: Baha'i  
 Arrested: July 31, 2022  
 Sentence: 10 Years' Imprisonment  
 Reports of Torture: Yes  
 Charges: Aiming to disrupt national security  
 Reason for Persecution: Leading the Baha'i community

### BAHA'IS

Baha'is face severe repression by Iran's government, which considers the group a "deviant sect of Islam." Recent amendments to Iran's Islamic Penal Code specifically target Baha'is. Members of the community are subject to closure of their businesses, denial of higher education, arrest, and prolonged detention on spurious charges.



### Joseph Shahbazian

Religion or Belief: Christian - Protestant  
 Arrested: February 2025  
 Sentence: 10 Years' Imprisonment  
 Charges: Involvement in leading house-churches, gathering and collusion

### CHRISTIANS

Christians in Iran face government harassment and severe limitations on the practice, teaching, worship, and observance of their faith. Muslims who convert to Christianity are often singled out for persecution, with security forces frequently raiding Christian house churches and imprisoning Christian converts under false pretenses.



### Hamid Gharehassanlou

Religion or Belief: Muslim - Sufi  
 Arrested: November 4, 2022  
 Sentence: 15 Years' Imprisonment (Originally Death)  
 Reason for Persecution: Protesting religious freedom conditions

### GONABADI SUFIS

Gonabadi Sufis are systematically targeted in Iran as a Muslim religious minority. Several community members have been arrested, imprisoned, and tortured. In recent years, Gonabadi Sufi prisoners have suffered deliberate medical negligence including denial of essential medication and lack of medical treatment following torture, leading to permanent damage.



## FREEDOM OF RELIGION OR BELIEF VICTIMS: **IRAN**

### **DIED IN CUSTODY**

Mahsa Amini  
Seyyed Sadrullah Fazeli Zare  
Yusef Mehrdad

### **UNKNOWN**

Abdolreza Miraghasi  
Adel Naimi  
Afshin Bulbulan  
Ali Sani  
Anoush Rayeneh  
Arezou Mohammadi  
Ataollah Melaki  
Atieh Salehi  
Behnam Eskandarian  
Milad Davardan  
Mitra Bandi Amirabadi  
Mohsen Afrouz  
Narges Nasri  
Roya Melaki  
Shahdokht Khanjani  
Shahram Naderi

### **NOT RELEASED**

Abdolaziz Omarzahi  
Abdollah Barahouie  
Abdollah Kouhi  
Abdolsadeh Azari  
Abdulmajid Moradzahi  
Abolfazl Pour-Hosseini  
Abolfazl Ahmadzadeh-Khajani  
Afif Naeimi  
Aida Najafloo  
Alireza Nourmohammadi  
Amanollah Balochi  
Ameen Khaki  
Amin Sharifi  
Arash Moradi  
Arash Nabavi  
Atollah Zafar  
Behieh Manavipour  
Elaheh Mohammadi  
Elham Choubdar  
Elham Shareghi Arani  
Enayatollah Naeimi  
Farhang Sahba  
Fariba Kamalabadi  
Farid Alavi  
Farid Zirgi Moghaddam  
Farzaneh Gharehassanlou  
Fateme Sephiri  
Fathi Mohammad Naghsbandi

Gholamreza Keyvanmanesh  
Golrokh Ebrahimi Iraee  
Hakop Gochumyan  
Hami Bahadori  
Hamid Gharehassanlou  
Hasan Nisi  
Hayedeh Ram  
Hessamuddin Mohammad Joneydi  
Homayoun Khanlari  
Hossein Mohammadi  
Jome Naami  
Joseph Shahbazian  
Kamran Hekmati  
Kamyar Habibi  
Keyvan Rahimian  
Kia Nourinia  
Mahsa Mohammadi  
Mahsa Tirgar Bahnemiri  
Mahvash Sabet  
Mansour Amini  
Marjan Davari  
Maryam Nematollahi  
Mazaher Heydari  
Mehdi Rahimi  
Mehran Shamlou  
Mina Karami  
Mishak Manavipour  
Mohammad Chegini  
Mohammad Golbaz  
Mohammad Nouri  
Mojahed Kourkour  
Mojdeh Falahi  
Mojgan Samimi  
Morteza Faghanpour-Saasi  
Mostafa Khosraji  
Nahaleh Shahidi  
Nakisa Hajipour  
Nakisa Sadeghi  
Naser Navard Goltapeh  
Neda Fotouhi  
Negin Rezaie  
Niloufar Hamedi  
Nima Mahin Bakht  
Noushin Mesbah  
Parisa Roohi Zadehan  
Parizad Hamidi Shafagh  
Payam Vali  
Rameleh Tirgarnejad  
Reza Radmanesh  
Reza Rasaei  
Sabin Yazdani  
Sadaf Sheikhzadeh  
Saeed Soltanpour

Sakineh Behjati  
Saman Ostovar  
Sanaz Tafazoli  
Sepehr Ziaee  
Shadi Shahidzadeh  
Shahnaz Sabet  
Shahzad Mastouri  
Shakila Monfared  
Sina Dehghan  
Sina Shahri  
Soroush Iqani  
Teymur Hosseini  
Valiollah Ghadamian  
Zahra Gholami  
Zeynab Jalalian  
Zhila Shahriari

### **RELEASED**

Abbas Dehghan  
Abdolhamid Masoumi Tehrani  
Abdollah Esmaili  
Abdolreza Ali Haghnejad  
Afnaneh Nematian  
Afsaneh Emami  
Afshin Azimi  
Ahmad Iranikhah  
Ahmad Sarparast  
Aida Rasti  
Akbar Biranvand  
Alborz Eskandari  
Alhan Hashemi  
Ali Akbar Dadashi  
Ali Nazari  
Ali Reza Azadravesh  
Ali Reza Lak  
Amin Malekzade  
Amin Zolfaghari  
Amir Nouri  
Anahita Khademi  
Anis Sanaie  
Anisa Fanaian  
Anooshavan Avedian  
Arash Rasekhi  
Arash Zamani  
Ardeshir Ashayeri  
Ardeshir Fanaian  
Armaghan Zabihi  
Atash Shahkarami  
Ayub Pour Rezazadeh  
Azita Rafizadeh  
Babak Hosseinzadeh  
Babak Moradi  
Babak Taghian





## FREEDOM OF RELIGION OR BELIEF VICTIMS: **IRAN**

Salehoddin Moradi  
Sam Samimi  
Saman Khadem  
Samin Ehsani  
Samin Maghsoudi  
Samiyeh Gholinejad  
Sanaz Hekmat-Shoar  
Sara Ahmadi  
Sara Mottaghi  
Sekhavat Salimi  
Sepideh Rashnu  
Sevada Aghasar  
Seyed Ali Dakei  
Seyed Farhad Zalnouri  
Seyed Fariborz Shah-Ebrahimi  
Seyed Fereydoun Taheri  
Seyed Foad Shah-Ebrahimi  
Seyed Shahoo Shah-Ebrahimi  
Seyyed-Karam Abbasi  
Seyyed-Soroush Abbasi  
Shabnam Tebianian  
Shafiqh Eslami  
Shaghayegh Bahrami  
Shaghayegh Khaneh-Zarin  
Shahnam Jazbani  
Shahram Fallah  
Shahram Najaf-Tomaraci  
Shahrooz Eslamdoust  
Shahrouz Esmacili  
Shayan Gholami  
Shayan Senai  
Shiva Kashani-Nejad  
Shokoufeh Yadollahi Farsi  
Sholeh Shahidi  
Siamak Honarvar  
Siavash Hayati  
Siavash Kaliani  
Sina Entesari  
Sirous Zabihi  
Soheil Arabi  
Sohrab Naghipour  
Soori Babaei Chegini  
Soroush Agahi  
Suzan Eid Mohammadzadegan  
Syeed-Amin Abbasi  
Vahed Kholousi  
Vahid Khamoshi  
Vesal Momtazi  
Yalda Firouzian  
Yasaman Ariani  
Yashar Rasti  
Yekta Fallah  
Youcef Nadarkhani

Zahra Sedighi-Hamadani  
Zaman Fadaei  
Zhila Sharafi Nasrabadi