

# Iran



## 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.



### Mahvash Sabet

RELIGION OR BELIEF:  
Baha'i  
ARRESTED:  
July 31, 2022  
SENTENCE:  
10 Years' Imprisonment  
REPORTS OF TORTURE:  
Yes  
REASON FOR PERSECUTION:  
Leading the Baha'i community

## 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 often raiding Christian house churches and imprisoning Christian converts under false pretenses.



### Anooshavan Avedian

RELIGION OR BELIEF:  
Christian  
ARRESTED:  
September 18, 2023  
SENTENCE:  
10 Years' Imprisonment  
RELIGIOUS LEADER:  
Yes  
REASON FOR PERSECUTION:  
Leading a house church

## 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 died as a result of extreme medical negligence.



### Hamid Gharehassanlou

RELIGION OR BELIEF:  
Gonabadi Sufi  
ARRESTED:  
November 4, 2022  
SENTENCE:  
Reduced to 15 Years' Imprisonment;  
Originally Death  
REPORTS OF TORTURE:  
Yes  
REPORTS OF MEDICAL NEGLIGENCE:  
Yes  
REASON FOR PERSECUTION:  
Protesting religious freedom conditions

## Women & Girls Protesting Mandatory Hijab Laws

Iranian women and girls peacefully protesting mandatory hijab laws rooted in the government's religious interpretations have faced surveillance, harassment, arrest, incognito detention, torture, and murder. Some of the victims of this mistreatment are as young as 16.



### Golrokh Iraee

RELIGION OR BELIEF:  
Shi'a  
ARRESTED:  
November 9, 2019  
SENTENCE:  
5 Years' Imprisonment  
REASON FOR PERSECUTION:  
Writing an unpublished story criticizing the religiously grounded practice of stoning adulterers

## FoRB Victims List Stats 351 out of 2,282

Religion or Belief	# of Victims
Baha'i	167
Sufi	60
Christian	39
Yarsani	38
Unknown/Unspecified	22
Sunni	13
Shi'a	4
Unspecified/Other Muslim	4
Erfan-e Halgheh Practitioner	3
ECKist	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>351</b>

Type of Abuse	# of Victims
Imprisoned	203
Detained	139
House Arrest	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>351</b>

## Average Prison Sentence 4 Years, 7 Months

Reports of	# of Victims
Torture	20
Medical Neglect	62
<b>Total</b>	<b>82</b>



## Frank R. Wolf FoRB Victims List Background

The International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (IRFA), as amended by the Frank R. Wolf International Religious Freedom Act of 2016, requires USCIRF to:

*make publicly available, to the extent practicable...lists of persons it determines are imprisoned or detained, have disappeared, been placed under house arrest, been tortured, or subjected to forced renunciation of faith for their religious activity or religious freedom advocacy by the government of a foreign country that the Commission recommends for designation as a country of particular concern [CPC]...or by a nonstate actor that the Commission recommends for designation as an entity of particular concern [EPC].*

USCIRF developed the Frank R. Wolf Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB) Victims List—an online public database—to implement this provision for countries USCIRF recommends for Country of Particular Concern (CPC) or Special Watch List (SWL) status. The list also includes such victims located in the de facto territories of nonstate actors that USCIRF recommends for Entity of Particular Concern (EPC) status, according to the same criteria.

Due to limited resources, USCIRF is unable to identify and document all victims that meet the statutory requirement to be included on the FoRB Victims List and generally relies on receiving submissions from outside individuals and organizations. As such, the information contained in the database does not reflect country, regional, or global trends. Furthermore, percentages highlighted in this section should not be used for extrapolation purposes nor interpreted as a particular group experiencing greater violations than another or a particular country committing violations at a greater rate than others. To support this project, USCIRF invites those with credible information on victims to submit information using the Victims List Intake Form at [www.uscirtf.gov/form/uscirtf-victims-list-intake-form](http://www.uscirtf.gov/form/uscirtf-victims-list-intake-form).

## FoRB Victims List Stats Overall

Perpetrator	Victims Documented
Algeria	5
Azerbaijan	11
Burma	5
China	798
Cuba	11
Egypt	18
Eritrea	61
Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS)	2
Houthis	3
India	55
Indonesia	9
Iran	351
Iraq	2
Islamic State in West Africa Province (ISWAP)	1
Kazakhstan	16
Malaysia	4
Nicaragua	68
Nigeria	9
North Korea	11
Pakistan	87
Russia	488
Saudi Arabia	50
Sri Lanka	1
Tajikistan	16
Turkmenistan	31
Uzbekistan	88
Vietnam	81
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,282</b>

Religion or Belief	Victims Documented
Adivasi	1
Ahmadi Religion of Peace and Light	3
Baha'i	169
Bon	1
Buddhist – Hoa Hao	6
Buddhist – Theravada	3
Buddhist – Tibetan	93
Buddhist – Unspecified/Other	32
Christian – Catholic	79
Christian – Church of Almighty God	240
Christian – Jehovah's Witness	283
Christian – Orthodox	21
Christian – Protestant	150
Christian – Unspecified/Other	65
Duong Van Minh	4
ECKist (Eckankar)	1
Erfan-e Halgheh Practitioner	3
Falun Gong	217
Hindu	10
Humanist	1
Jewish	1
Muslim – Ahmadiyya	20
Muslim – Qur'anist	1
Muslim – Shi'a	40
Muslim – Sufi	64
Muslim – Sunni	412
Muslim – Unspecified/Other	233
Santeria	5
Scientologist	1
Shaman	1
Sikh	1
Yarsani	38
Unknown/Unspecified	83
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,282</b>

# Iran



## Not Released

Arash Nabavi  
Nahaleh Shahidi  
Nakisa Hajipour  
Nima Mahin Bakht  
Amin Sharifi  
Farid Alavi  
Mishak Manavipour  
Behieh Manavipour  
Hakop Gochumyan  
Mohammad Golbaz  
Reza Radmanesh  
Gholamreza Keyvanmanesh  
Mohammad Chegini  
Saeed Soltanpour  
Fathi Mohammad Naghshbandi  
Abdollah Barahouie  
Abdolaziz Omarzahi  
Abdulmajid Moradzahi  
Mostafa Khosraji  
Hasan Nisi  
Jome Naami

Abdolsadeh Azari  
Sara Mottaghi  
Mahsa Mohammadi  
Noushin Mesbah  
Soroush Iqani  
Mina Karami  
Sina Shahri  
Negin Rezaie  
Shahrzad Mastouri  
Sadaf Sheikhzadeh  
Nakisa Sadeghi  
Elham Shareghi Arani  
Rameleh Tirgarnejad  
Mahsa Tirgar Bahnemiri  
Sabin Yazdani  
Valiollah Ghadamian  
Mansour Amini  
Shadi Shahidzadeh  
Keyvan Rahimian  
Homayoun Khanlari  
Sanaz Tafazoli

Hami Bahadori  
Kamyar Habibi  
Parisa Roohi Zadegan  
Enayatollah Naeimi  
Sepehr Ziaee  
Payam Vali  
Atollah Zafar  
Zhila Shahrari  
Fariba Kamalabadi  
Mahvash Sabet  
Afif Naeimi  
Saman Ostovar  
Shahnaz Sabet  
Haydeh Ram  
Farid Zirgi Moghaddam  
Ardeshir Fanaian  
Farhang Sahba  
Anooshavan Avedian  
Sakineh Behjati  
Alireza Nourmohammadi  
Ameen Khaki

Abdolreza Ali Haghnejad  
Marjan Davari  
Abolfazl Pour-Hosseini  
Fateme Sepehri  
Golrokh Ebrahimi Iraee  
Arash Moradi  
Farzaneh Gharehassanlou  
Hamid Gharehassanlou  
Zeynab Jalalian  
Abdolrahim Kouhi  
Amanollah Balochi  
Shakila Monfared  
Mojahed Kourkour  
Maryam Nematollahi  
Elham Choubdar  
Parizad Hamidi Shafagh  
Mohammad Nouri  
Sina Dehghan  
Reza Rasaei

## Released

Shabnam Tebianian  
Anisa Fanaian  
Suzan Eid Mohammadzadegan  
Niusha Badiei Sabet  
Maria Khanjani  
Mojgan Samimi  
Shiva Kashani-Nejad  
Paridokht Shojaei  
Behnam Pour-Ahmadi  
Yekta Fallah  
Shahram Fallah  
Foad Shaker  
Shahdokht Khanjani  
Matin Gorji  
Ghazal Pakzad  
Reyhaneh Pakzad  
Yashar Rasti  
Massoud Momtaz  
Bardia Basiri  
Mona Ghodrat  
Pouya Nowroozi  
Faraz Haghighatjoo  
Farbod Alavi  
Vesal Momtazi  
Rooha Imani  
Parwa Behdad  
Pooya Saraf  
Leili Karami  
Shayan Gholami  
Shaghayegh Bahrami  
Badie Khazei  
Sirous Zabihi  
Armaghan Zabihi  
Arash Zamani  
Saman Khadem  
Aida Rasti  
Anis Sanaie  
Sam Samimi  
Mojir Samimi  
Basir Samimi  
Afnaneh Nematian  
Sanaz Hekmat-Shoar  
Bita Haghighi  
Samiyeh Gholinejad  
Mani Gholinejad  
Nazanin Goli  
Mahsa Fathi  
Golbon Fallah  
Negar Darabi  
Hengameh Alipour  
Saha Sabeti  
Behnam Momtaz

Shafigh Eslami  
Nima Shadpour  
Nematollah Shadpour  
Niloufar Hosseini  
Hanan Hashemi  
Alhan Hashemi  
Shayan Senai  
Faran Senai  
Sholeh Shahidi  
Zhila Sharafi Nasrabadi  
Negar Ighani  
Shaghayegh Khaneh-Zarin  
Saeede Khosroui  
Jamaloddin Khanjani  
Anahita Khademi  
Ebrahim Firouzi  
Abdolhamid Masoumi Tehrani  
Faezeh Abdipour  
Javad Karimzaei  
Nasrin Soutudeh  
Atash Shahkarami  
Sepideh Rashnu  
Melika Qaragozlu  
Soori Babaei Chegini  
Soheil Arabi  
Kaki Farzad Almasi  
Siavash Hayati  
Mansour Safayi  
Seyyed-Soroush Abbasi  
Syeed-Amin Abbasi  
Seyyed-Karam Abbasi  
Shahrouz Esmaeili  
Nemat Pourvali  
Mehr-Ali Hemmati  
Hamid Gorgin  
Ghadir Rahimi  
Mohammad Bahrami  
Seyed Fereydoun Taheri  
Seyed Farhad Zalnouri  
Ali Nazari  
Noshad Taheri  
Seyed Fariborz Shah-Ebrahimi  
Farzad Rahmatabadi  
Amin Malekzade  
Meraj Hemmati  
Bardia Tajdini  
Rashid Mohammadi  
Hamid Afshari  
Masoum Razavi  
Naghi Rahmani  
Faezeh Ranai  
Seyed Foad Shah-Ebrahimi

Navid Hassanlou  
Hamid Zandi Nejjad  
Meysam Azimi  
Afshin Azimi  
Seyed Shahoo Shah-Ebrahimi  
Seyed Ali Dakei  
Kamyab Heidari  
Siavash Kaliani  
Kaki Saeed Almasi  
Neda Shabani  
Peyman Manavi  
Jamileh Pakrou  
Parvan Manavi  
Soroush Agahi  
Kianoush Salmanzadeh  
Payam Shabani  
Elham Salmanzadeh  
Houman Khoshnam  
Saeed Etehad  
Siamak Honarvar  
Firoozeh Soltan Mohammadi  
Nasim Kashani Nejad  
Fariba Ashtari  
Mahboubeh Misaghian  
Saeed Naseri  
Hamid Naseri  
Afsaneh Emami  
Shahram Najaf-Tomaraei  
Haleh Gholami  
Fardin Naddafian  
Samin Ehsani  
Hiwa Yazdan Mehdi Abadi  
Amin Zolfaghari  
Sahba Farnoush  
Nasim Ghanvatian  
Mehrallah Afshar  
Arash Rasekhi  
Maral Rasti  
Mahnaz Jan Nesar  
Samin Maghsoudi  
Yalda Firouzian  
Saham Armin  
Foujan Rashidi  
Bahareh Zayni  
Payman Koushk-Baghi  
Farhad Fahandezh  
Vahed Kholousi  
Shahnam Jazbani  
Negin Ghadamian  
Sohrab Naghipour  
Manouchehr Rahmani  
Hassan Sarvestani Momtaz

Azita Rafizadeh  
Farzad Homayouni  
Mahboub Habibi  
Pezhman Shahrari  
Sevada Aghasar  
Malihe Nazari  
Joseph Shahbazian  
Morteza Mashhood Kari  
Ahmad Sarparast  
Ayub Pour Rezazadeh  
Fariba Dalir  
Hadi Rahimi  
Milad Goudarzi  
Hossein Kadivar  
Mohammed Vafadar  
Khalil Dehghanpur  
Shahrooz Eslamdoust  
Babak Hosseinzadeh  
Mehdi Khatibi  
Behnam Akhlaghi  
Kamal Naamanian  
Fateme Bakhtari  
Mahrokh Ghanbari  
Zaman Fadaei  
Mohammad Reza Omid  
Mohammad Ali Mosayebzadeh  
Naser Navard Goltapeh  
Majid Kashan  
Youcef Nadarkhani  
Mohammad Roghangir  
Sara Ahmadi  
Homayoun Zhavesh  
Nahid Behshid  
Monireh Arabshahi  
Saeed Karimaei  
Behnoud Pourrostami  
Bashir Riahi  
Ali Reza Azadravesh  
Saeed Khamoshi  
Vahid Khamoshi  
Mehdi Izadpanah  
Behrouz Sadeghi  
Mehdi Mahdaviyar  
Abdollah Esmaili  
Hossein Arang  
Akbar Biranvand  
Farnam Farhang  
Mostafa Mir Mohammadi  
Kianoush Abbaszadeh  
Mohammad Hassan Shah Reza  
Mohammad Karimaei  
Shokoufeh Yadollahi Farsi

# Iran



## Released (continued)

Mehran Asgharzadeh  
Sina Entesari  
Kasra Nouri  
Reza Entesari  
Mostafa Abdi  
Mohammad Sharifi Moghaddam  
Mohammad Reza Darvishi  
Ahmad Iranikhah  
Saeed Dourandish  
Babak Moradi  
Morteza Kangarlou

Babak Taghian  
Javad Khomeis Abadi  
Amir Nouri  
Reza Yavari Motlagh  
Ali Reza Lak  
Hesam Moeini  
Reza Sigarchi  
Sekhavat Salimi  
Nazila Nouri  
Abbas Dehghan  
Mojtaba Biranvand

Majid Moradi  
Alborz Eskandari  
Salehoddin Moradi  
Ali Akbar Dadashi  
Majid Rashidi  
Ehsan Malek Mohammadi  
Mehdi Keyvanlou  
Ardeshir Ashayeri  
Jafar Ahmadi  
Rasoul Hoveyda  
Heydar Teymouri

Mohsen Azizi  
Saeed Goudarzi  
Bakhtiar Arefi  
Noushin Jafari  
Yasaman Ariani  
Rahele Ahmadi  
Sadegh Gheysari  
Elaheh Mohammadi  
Niloofer Hamedi  
Zahra Sedighi-Hamadani  
Saba Kord Afshari

## Unknown

Shahram Naderi  
Mitra Bandi Amirabadi  
Ataollah Melaki  
Roya Melaki

Atieh Salehi  
Arezou Mohammadi  
Behnam Eskandarian  
Milad Davardan

Anoush Rayeneh  
Ali Sani  
Afshin Bulbulan  
Adel Naimi

Abdolreza Miraghasi  
Mohsen Afrouz

## Died in Custody

Mahsa Amini

Seyyed Sadrullah Fazeli Zare

Yusef Mehrdad