

# Human Rights Violations in Kurdistan of Iran



Interim Annual Report on the Situation of Human Rights in Kurdistan of Iran for the period: 1st January to September 30<sup>th</sup>. 2022

**Kurdistan Human Rights Association-Geneva  
(KMMK-G)**

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\* For information regarding the collected data, please contact KMMK-G.



## Introduction

This report provides up-to-date data and analysis on the situations of human rights in Kurdistan of Iran from January 1, 2022 until September 30th, 2022, prepared for the attention of the UN Special Rapporteur on the situations of human rights in Iran, OHCHR, UN agencies, media, governments and public attention.

The report also sheds light on the recent crackdown in Iranian Kurdistan provinces following the murder of Jina Mahsa Amini by Tehran's morality police.

Similar to previous Islamic Republic administrations, the current presidency of Raisi continue its security approach toward Iranian Kurdistan and other ethnic and religious groups. The persecution, execution, imprisonment and indiscriminate and blind killings of *Kulbaran* (border couriers or tradesmen) remain alarmingly high. This report specifically addresses executions, political prisoners, indiscriminate killings of *Kolbaran* (Border Couriers) and landmine incidents affecting Kurdish civilians from January 1, 2022 until September 30th, 2022.

Every year KMMK-G provides the details of data collected in each aforementioned category in Persian attached to its annual human rights violations in Kurdistan report.

## Methodology

The Iranian authorities refuse to provide accurate data on executions, landmines, *Kolbaran* (border couriers) and other issues. In order to get the most credible data, KMMK-G collects and verifies up-to-date information in the following ways: (a) conducting interviews with the family of the victims, (b) conducting interviews with the lawyers of the victims, (c) contacting and receiving information from various institution, on-the-ground local networks, as well as informants within authorities and governmental entities, (d) monitoring the Islamic Republic's official statements, state media and publications, (e) receiving information from informal news agencies, in obtaining on-the-ground information.

## I. Recent protests and crackdowns in Iranian Kurdistan

This summary report provides up-to-date data on the current situation of unrest in four Kurdish majority populated provinces of Ilam, Kermanshah (Kermashan), Kurdistan (Sine) and Western Azerbaijan (Wermê) for the



period of 16 September until 11 November 2022. It sheds light on the number of Kurdish protestors killed, injured, and detained.

The Kurdistan Human Rights Association-Geneva (KMMK-G) has been able to collect testimonies of the victims by interviewing a large number of protestors who were released on bail or who have been able to flee to Iraqi Kurdistan. The KMMK-G has also been able to collect on-ground information through its on-ground local networks and contacts in Kurdistan provinces.

The recent nationwide protests were sparked by outrage at the death in custody of Jina Mahsa Amini, a 22-year-old woman from Iranian Kurdistan, on 16 September 2022, days after being arrested by Tehran's "morality" police for not complying with the country's discriminatory and abusive compulsory veiling laws.

The protests started in Sine (Saqez) during the funeral of Jina Amini and then followed by a general strike in all Kurdistan provinces on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2022. On the evening of the same day, the general strike turned quickly to street protests all over Iranian Kurdistan with the slogan "Jin, Jiyan, Azadi" ["Women, Life, Freedom"], chanted by young women taking off their Islamic veils. The protests quickly expanded to other major cities in Iran and the slogan this time was chanted in Farsi, "Zan, Zendegi, Azadi" by Iranian women while also taking off their veils. The demands of the protestors were broadened for fundamental political and social change towards the protection and fulfilment of human rights.

### **Kurdish protestors killed**

From the start of the protest in Kurdistan on the 19<sup>th</sup> of September 2022 until 11 November 2022, the Kurdistan Human Rights Association-Geneva (KMMK-G) has been able, through its on-ground contacts and investigations, to identify the names of at least 68 Kurdish protestors who were killed during this time. Ten (10) of them were women. Twelve (12) of the victims were aged under 18 years old.

- Twenty-five (25) of the victims were from Sine or Kurdistan province,
- Twenty-three (23) of the victims were from Wermê or Western Azerbaijan province,
- Fifteen (15) of the victims were from Kermashan or Kermanshah province,
- Three (3) of the victims were from Ilam



- Three (3) of the Kurdish protestors were killed in a non-Kurdish provinces such as Tehran and Quchan.

The KMMK-G provides the list of the victims upon demand. It is worth noting that most of Kurdish cities have double names, a Persian-official name and a Kurdish one.

### **Injuries**

In the period between 16 September 2022 until 10<sup>th</sup> November 2022, 69 Kurdish protestors have been confirmed by KMMK-G to have been wounded by Iranian security forces' direct shootings. Four of the victims are women.

- Twenty (20) of the victims are from Sine or Kurdistan province,
- Forty-five (45) of the victims are from Wermê or Western Azerbaijan province,
- Two (2) of the victims is from Kermashan or Kermanshah province,
- Two (2) of the victims are from Ilam.

According to several eyewitnesses, many of the injured protestors did not seek care from governmental health centers due to fear of reprisals and detentions. A protestor who fled outside the country reported to KMMK-G that he was shot on the 22<sup>th</sup> of September in a Kurdish city during the first round of the protests by direct shootings of the security forces. He was then taken to a private house and got medical care from a medical doctor hours after he was shot. Videos of ambulances taking the protestors to detention facilities have gone viral on social media. An estimated number of 3500 Kurdish protestors are reported injured during the past 7 weeks and received care in private houses by private doctors.

### **Detainees**

Since the 16<sup>th</sup> of September, KMMK-G has been able to register the names of 960 Kurdish protestors detained by Iranian security forces. One hundred forty-one (141) of them are women and 809 are men.

- Three hundred forty-one (341) of the protestors detained are from Sine or Kurdistan province,
- Three hundred seventy-one (371) of them are from Wermê or Western Azerbaijan province,
- One hundred forty-nine (149) are from Kermashan or Kermanshah province,



- One hundred (100) are from Ilam,
- Thirty-one (31) of the detainees are under 18 years of age and 4 of them are only 14 years old.

The detainees are subjected to severe forms of physical and mental torture including blackmail, sexual abuse and/or threats of it, manipulation, and infliction of physical suffering such as breakage of legs and hands.

According to several detainees who were released and interviewed by KMMK-G, the prisons in Kurdistan provinces are full and the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps' (IRGC) Intelligence (Itla'at) forces are using basements and housing buildings with individual rooms to detain protestors. The protestors undergo severe physical and mental torture by IRGC in these facilities.

A woman protestor who was arrested twice since the recent nationwide protests and released by paying a heavy bail, told KMMK-G: *"I was detained and confined to a solitary cell in Itla'at (IRGC Intelligence) facility. This is a place where detainees are not transferred to the judiciary system, and they undergo beatings and torture. Later, I was taken to a building, which looked like a house and again I was held in a solitary cell. There are many houses in town with individual rooms and many protestors are held there."*

Two student protestors who were detained in a basement for one week also declared to KMMK-G that they *"were held for a week in a huge basement full of protestors"*. They *"were beaten by cables and iron sticks"*.

The detainees include, but are not limited to, ordinary citizens, women activists, rights activists, environmental activists, journalists, teachers, workers, university and school students, singers, and athletes.

Ms. Waran MOHAMMDINAJAD, a student in Arts University in Yazd and a member of Nojin Cultural Association, was detained in her home without prior warning on 13th of October 2022. She is a colleague of Ms. Zara MOHAMMADI a Kurdish teacher from Nojin Cultural Association who is serving a five years sentence in Sanadaj Central Prison for teaching Kurdish language. On Wednesday 19th of October that Ms. Waran has started a hunger strike protesting his prisons conditions and her unlaw detention.

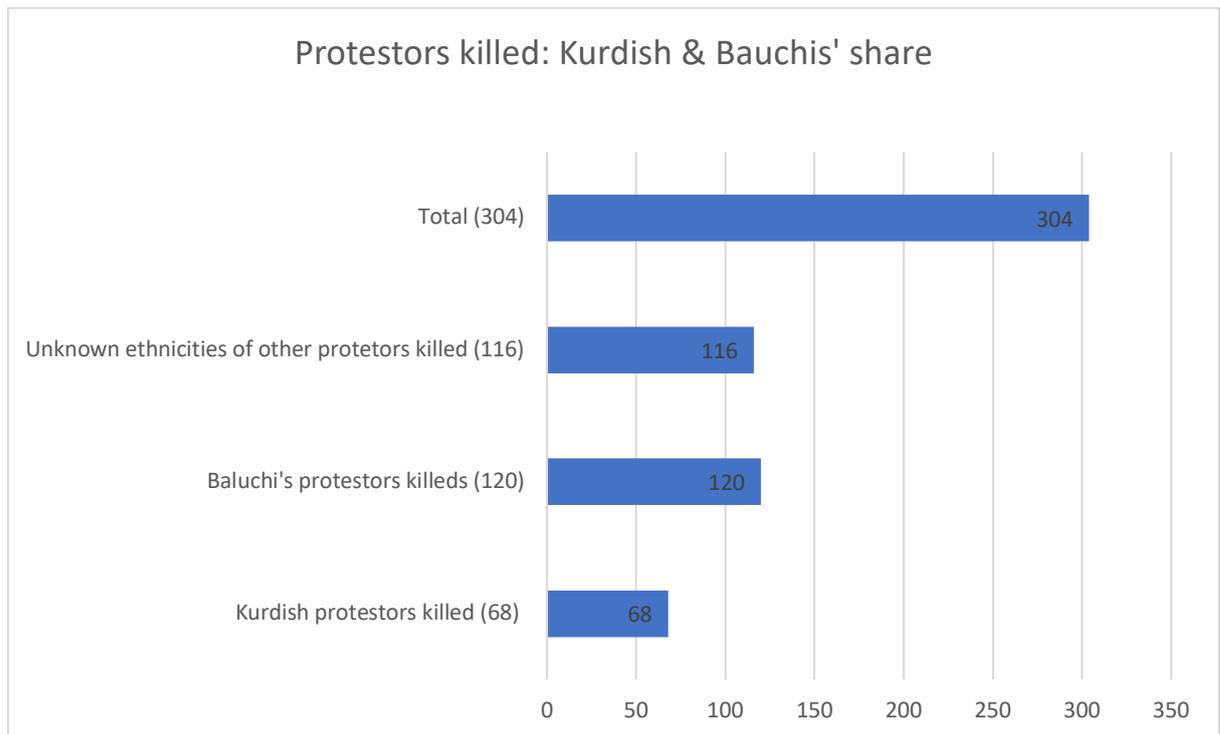
As of the 10<sup>th</sup> of November, at least 310 protestors have been confirmed killed



by the Iranian security forces' shootings<sup>1</sup> in the nationwide protests.

According to Baloch Activist Campaign and Amnesty International, by the 10<sup>th</sup> of November, 120 Baluchi citizens were killed by Iranian security forces<sup>2</sup>.

**Among the 304 killed in the recent nationwide protests, 188 of them were Baluchis and Kurds.**



<sup>1</sup> <https://iranhr.net/en/articles/5520/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2022/10/iran-at-least-82-baluchi-protesters-and-bystanders-killed-in-bloody-crackdown/>

## **Saman Yasin Seyedi at imminent risk of execution**



Saman Yasin Seyedi a young Kurdish Yarasani faith rapper and musician, aged 27, from Kermanshah (Kermashan in Kurdish), was arrested and held in Tehran's notorious Evin Prison on 2<sup>nd</sup> of October 2022 in relations to nationwide protests.

On 29th October 2022, following a 11 minutes trial conducted by disreputable juge Salavati in charge of Tehran's Islmaic Revolutionary Court (branch 15), Saman Yasin was charged with "*moharebeh*" or "waging war against God," in a hazily-defined offenses which carry the death penalty.

His "crime" is his participations in the current protests and his critical music. The family has hired a lawyer for his case, but the lawyer has not yet been able to see Saman with his case and they weren't allowed to access the trial, according to his family.

In a video released of the trial by Iranian national tv, the infamous judge Salavati who has already sentenced over 300 Kurdish prisoners to the death penalty in the past decades, has accused Saman Yasin of "detaining a pistol during a protest" and "assembly and collusion against national security". Saman Yasin refused all these accusations. Saman appeared weak, lost weight and undergone physical and mental torture according to a close member of his family.

Saman Yasin is a socio-political critical singer and rapper. He raps about inequality, oppression and unemployment and denounces the regimes repression of the protestors. Few other rappers like Tomaj Salehi (Persian) were also arrested.



We strongly believe that charging of Saman Yasin to the crime of “*moharebeh*” is related to his songs and to his ethno-religious backgrounds, (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IHu3N1Q9CJ8> ). His Kurdish ethnicity and Yarsani faith, singing both in Kurdish and Farsi, are reasons for the government to sentence him to the death penalty and make his case an example for all other rappers and musicians in the country.

Since the beginning of the protests on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2022, dozens of Kurdish singers including Mr. Hossein Safamanesh and Aziz Waissi were detained for their public support and songs and video clips for the protestors.

The death penalty of Saman Yasin was pronounced in a moment where members of Iran’s parliament called and voted in favor of introducing the death penalty for protestors and a dozen of mostly Baluchi and Kurdish were sentenced to “*moharebeh*” and are at risk of the capital punishment.

Given the Iranian judiciary, parliament and public calls and intimidations from IIRG commanders, we are extremely concerned about the fate of Saman Yasin and he is at imminent risk.

Over half of the total number of victims of the nationwide protests in Iran are Baluchis and Kurds and this shows the disproportionate use of lethal force by security forces against minorities in ethnic territories.

The Iranian Kurdistan has been the scene of resistance and defiance against the regime since its inception in 1979. Since then, Kurdistan has been perceived, framed and treated as a hostile group by Iranian state and its media. The level of repression has been historically higher than any other part of Iran.

## II. Executions

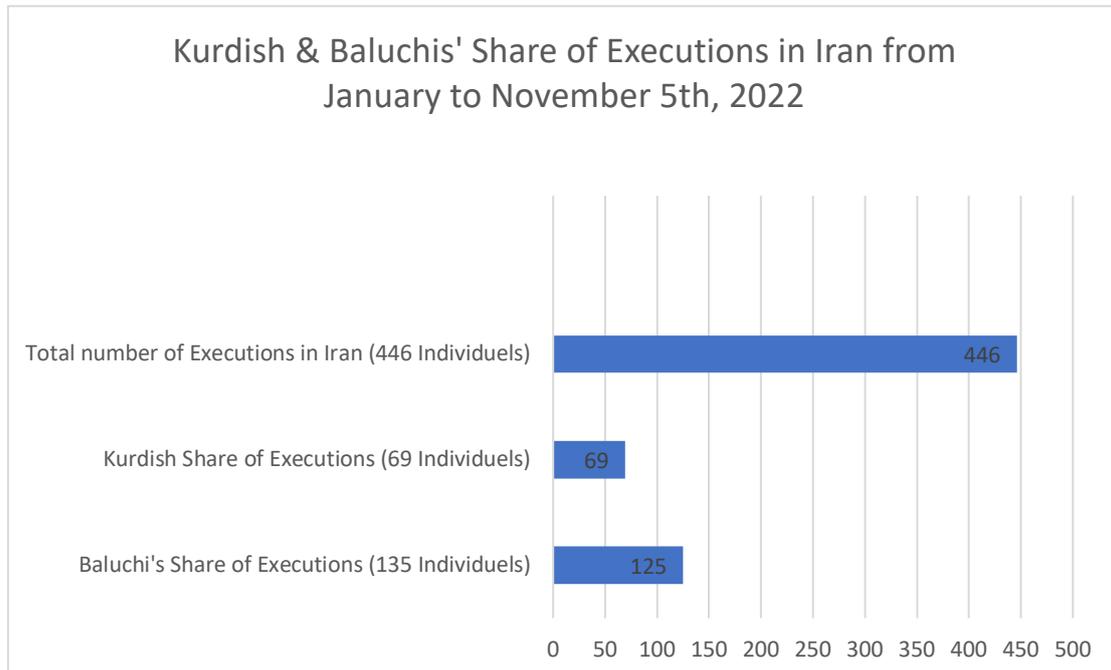
According to the data collected by the Kurdistan Human Rights-Geneva (KMMK-G) from January 1 to November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022, at least 70 Kurdish prisoners have been executed. Thirty-five (35) of them for murder, twenty-four (24) for drug related offenses, two (2) for robberies and three (3) were sentenced to *moharebeh* (waging war against God). It constitutes 1/5 of the total number of prisoners executed in Iran for the same period. At least, 446 prisoners are reported executed in Iran since January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022.



Mr. Jahanbakhsh Abbasi and Mr. Mehran Naghdi, in a hasty and unfair trial, were sentenced to the death penalty by the judge Mohammad Razm the director of Lorestan Judiciary for the crime of *Moharebeh* (sabotage by putting fire into the fuel stations) on February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019. They were executed on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2022 in Khuram Abad. Another Kurdish political prisoner Mr. Firuz Musilu was executed in Urumyieh (Wermê) Central prisoner for membership of a Kurdish political party.



Two Baluchis political prisoners Mr. Abdulhameed Ismaelzahi and Mr. Delsahd Sarani were executed in Zahedan on 21 January 2022 for the crime of *moharebeh*. Two others Mr. Mohsen Ghanbar Zahiylah and Ayanallah Ghanbar Zahi were also executed for the crime “*Baghi*” riot against the state. The total number of Balochis prisoners executed by 13<sup>th</sup> of September 2022, are at least 135 according to the Baloch Campaign Activists.



Two Ahwazi-Arab political prisoners named Majed Amoudi and Ghadir Nassery were executed on July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022 in Ahwaz.

Mr. Mehdi Salehi from Bakhtari, one of the November 2019 protestors was also executed in Isfahan.

Eleven of the twelve prisoners reported killed in Iran under beatings and torture in IIRCG detention facilities in 2022, are Kurdish.

The state-sponsored violence and the application of death sentences against Iranian ethnic groups and in particular the Kurds and Baluchi's is increasing dramatically and disproportionately. While the Kurdish population constitutes only 15% of the total 80 million population, the number of Kurdish executions for political and security related charges is over 55%.

Iran has one of the highest execution rates globally. Kurdish prisoners face unfair trials and are often convicted in proceedings marked by a pattern of abuses including the use of confessions made under torture and the denial of access to a lawyer. The authorities use the death penalty to control the minorities and the population.

### III. Political Prisoners

Similar to previous years, the share of Kurdish political imprisonment remains dramatically high in 2022 (until September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022). According to

on-the-ground findings of KMMK-G, Kurdish political prisoners represent almost half of the total number of political prisoners in the country.<sup>3 4</sup>

According to KMMK-G's collected data, from January 1 until September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022, 471 Kurdish citizens were arrested, at least 81 of them were sentenced to long years of imprisonment and including to the death penalty for Mr. Hatam Azdemir a Kurdish political prisoner. Eighty-three (83) were arrested for cooperation with Kurdish political parties. Seventy-two (72) of them were arrested for the participation and organization of Newroz (new year) celebration and fifteen (15) of them were charged with actions against public order by organizing Newroz, twenty-two (22) were arrested for labour activism and one of them was charged, Nineteen (19) teachers were arrested and one of them charged for the crime for propaganda against the regime, seven (7) other civil activists and three (3) religious activists were also arrested. The fate of 257 detainees is unclear and the whereabouts of 75 others are unknown. This include four political activists namely Mr. Mohsen Mazloum, Mohammad Faramarzi, Wafa Azar and Pajman Fatehi.

So total Kurdish citizens detained by Iranian security forces including those related to the recent unrest, are 1'109 individuals. The Kurdistan Human Rights Association-Geneva registered the names of the all 1'109 Kurdish individuals.



<sup>3</sup>United for Iran's Prisoners' Atlas: < <https://ipa.united4iran.org/en/prisoner/>> (English)

*Note:* United for Iran's database reports on 954 cases of Kurdish citizens currently imprisoned.

<sup>4</sup> KMMK-G's June 2017report : <<http://www.kmmk-ge.org/2017/06/07/bi-annual-summary-report-for-the-attention-of-the-un-special-rapporteur-on-the-situation-of-human-rights-for-iran/>> (English)



During this period, the Saqez Revolutionary Court has summoned nine (9) teachers with the names of Awat Razawi, Leila Anayat, Taher Hamedi, Taher Qaderzadeh, Amanj Amini, Aziz Marzi, Ahmed Qaderi, Khaled Abdullahi and Sulaiman Abaassi for their participation in a protest in support of the strike of the teachers before the education ministry of Saqez.

Furthermore, on the occasion of the 1<sup>st</sup> May, international labour day, 17 Kurdish labour activists were called to present themselves to Sipah Itela'at (IRCG Intelligence) office in Saqez.

### **Ms. Zara Mohammadi's Case**

Activist and Kurdish language teacher Zara Mohammadi is currently serving a five year prison sentence on charges of national security offenses. Ms. Mohammadi is a co-founder of the Nojin Cultural Association, a civil society organization with an official license from the Interior Ministry (certified in 2013).

As part of the organization's efforts to empower the Kurdish community, Ms. Mohammadi taught Kurdish language and literature to children in and around Sanandaj. In addition to her educational work, Ms, Mohammadi collected donations for victims of an earthquake in Kermanshah. She also initiated campaigns to disinfect streets and public places in Kurdistan province during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The activist's original 2019 sentence of ten years imprisonment was commuted to five years following an appeal. During the appeal that followed the sentence, a disagreement arose between the two judges who were conducting the trial. One of the judges disagreed with the sentence, and refused to sign it. Following this, the other judge requested that a second colleague (who was not previously involved in the case) sign the sentence. The final sentence was orally read to Ms. Mohammadi, but not legal document was officially delivered to her. On January 2022, Ms. Mohammadi was instructed by the authorities (via SMS text message) to present herself to the authorities to begin serving her sentence. Activists within Iran and members of the international community have called for her release and a halt to the persecution of minority civil society and cultural expression in Iran.

### **Kaymarth Latifi's Case**

On 15 February, 2022, Kaymarth Latifi, a Kurdish language teacher, civil activist, and former member of the Mawlana Sanandaj Association, was arrested by Itela'at or Intelligence of Sipah of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) for interrogation for the charges of cooperating with Kurdish political parties. He was then transferred to Sanandaj Central Prison. On 10 April, 2022, he was taken again to the IRGC detention facility for



interrogation. He was denied access to legal counsel during detention. His family members were threatened with imprisonment if they spoke publicly.

The bank accounts of four members of Mr. Latifi's family were frozen by the state. Ms. Arezu Latifi, Mr. Latifi's sister, was also taken into detention for interrogation. During interrogation, she suffered physical beatings and she was instructed not to disclose information about the detention of her brother. Currently, Mr. Kayumarth Latifi is subjected to arbitrary detention by the IRGC for further interrogation.

Evidently, the Kurdish community remains one of the most suppressed groups in the country, with individuals being persecuted, arrested and in many cases sentenced to death penalty due to their alleged activism. Similar to previous years, the Kurdish political prisoners represent half of the total number of political prisoners in Iran.

#### IV. Extra-Judicial Executions of Kolbaran (border couriers or tradesmen)

KMMK-G has received reports of extra-judicial executions of 36 border couriers known as Kolbar from January 1 till September 23rd, 2022 with another 235 individuals working as Kolbar injured at the border due to reasons such as shooting and landmine explosions among others. This brings the total incidents reported regarding shootings and discriminate killings of Kolbaran to 272 during the time period of discussion.

Since March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022, only in Nawsud border region in Kermanshah, fifty (50) Kolbaran were victims of direct shootings of border security forces. Two of them were killed 48 injured.

Two of the kolbaran named Farhan Minayee and Ramin Bawajani were only 15 and 16 years old who were injured by direct shootings of Iran border officials in Nawsud boder in Kermanshah.

Moreover, many kolbaran (tradesmen) were arrested and their goods were confiscated by the authorities thus far in 2022. In addition, hundreds of horses belonging to Kurdish Kolbaran were also shot dead.

**Cases of kolbaran, victims of Iranian border officials' extrajudicial executions in Iranian Kurdistan.**

Mr. Ramyar Ebrahimi son of Hossein, born on 19.11.1991, from Alan region in Sardasht, west Azerbaijan, Iranian Kurdistan, lost both eyes due to Iranian border officials direct shootings. Ramyar comes from a poor family from Sardasht, stopped his schooling at an early age as of 10 years old and started working as kolbar at the age of 10 to help his family.

On the 30.12.2013 in the Sardasht border zones of Sariderwi, between Iranian and Iraqi Kurdistan, Ramyar and his fellow kolbaran with a dozen of horses fell to an ambush of Iranian border officials. Ramyar was arrested, insulted, beaten by 5-6 Pasdar and then one of the Pasdar - member of Iranian Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) grounded Ramyar, put a foot on his neck and shot him two bullets on the head, right side. Ramyar survived the shooting but lost both eyes.



Mr. Khaled Ahamadian, from Sheno or Ashnaviah in Farsi, Wester Azerbaijan, born on 6 January 1991, son of Hassan, married and father of two children.

On 22 February 2017, Mr. Khaled Ahamadian with his fellow kolbaran (7 individuals) fell to an ambush in the village Dalawan border in Piranshar,

western Azerbaijan province. While trying to flee a dozen of border officials, he was shot on the head from behind and lost both eyes. The border officials left him alone without any assistance. 6 hours later, he was found by other fellow kolbaran and was brought to a hospital. Mr. Ahmadian filed a complaint to the authorities, but the authorities didn't pay any attention to his complaint.



Mr. Osman Saeedi son of Mohammed Amin, from Bejwê village, in Alan region of Sardasht, west Azerbaijan, Iranian Kurdistan, 45 years, father of 3 children.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2009, early in the morning, Mr. Osman Saeedi was arrested with his two horses in the Sariderwi, Sardasht border region by Iranian forces. He was tortured and then killed by two bullets in the heart.

According to mother Mrs. Pourhabibeh Saeedi, his son didn't run away, and he didn't want to leave his horses because he couldn't afford to buy new ones. He stayed with his horses hoping that the border officials will only confiscate his goods but will let him and his horses safe. Unfortunately, instead, he was cruelly beaten and shot dead in the heart with his two horses by border officials.

Mr. Nader MOHAMMADI son Mam Hossein, born on 21.09. 1987 in Tiabat village of Alan region of Sardasht, Western Azerbaijan, Iranian Kurdistan, was shot and paralyzed by Iranian border officials on the 15th January 2014.

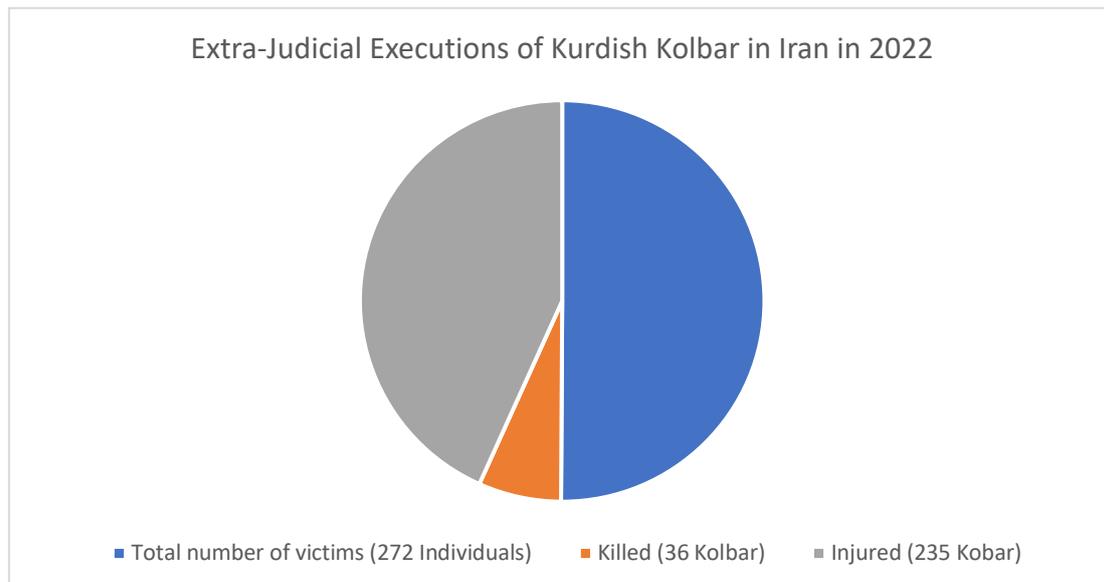
Mr. Mohamamdi was arrested, beaten, then a border official put his gun on his back and shot him in order to cut his spinal cord.

Mr. Mohamamdi hired four lawyers and after 8 years of the incident, he didn't receive any compensation from the authorities.



Mr. Jian Alipur, the brother of the well-known Kurdish political prisoner Mr. Hooshmand Alipur, was shot dead in the Sardasht border area on 14th October 2021. Jian was married and father of 2 children named Omid and Ayandeh.





Due to high rates of unemployment, and land contamination caused by landmines and explosive remnants of the Iran-Iraq war that hamper seriously the daily life of civilians particularly the farmers, the nomads, the shepherds and traders, the Kurdish youth and farmers from four Kurdish provinces of Kermanshah, Kurdistan, Ilam and Wermê (West Azerbaijan) engage in carrying commodities, such as tea, tobacco and fuel to earn a living.

## V. Landmine Incidents Affecting Kurdish Civilians

Various international bodies and entities such as the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) on Iran (2010) and the Committee on the Rights of the Child (January 2016) have made observations and recommendations, urging the Islamic Republic to clear its territory of landmines and all the remnants of the Iran-Iraq war (1980-1988). Nevertheless, despite international and domestic efforts, the Islamic Republic refuses to cooperate with international NGOs and entities, and to ratify the Ottawa Mine Ban Treaty.

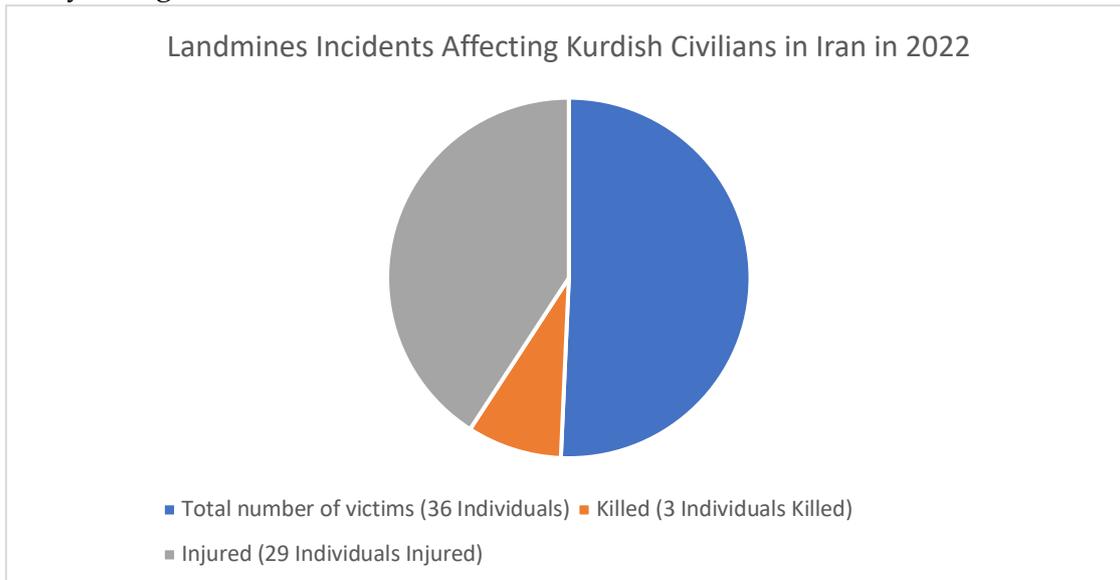
According to KMMK-G's data, thus far this year (January 1, 2022 till September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022), a total of 35 citizens have been victims of landmine explosions in Iranian Kurdistan; 6 Kurdish civilians were killed and 29 were wounded due to landmines explosions and unexploded remnants of the Iran-Iraq war, which ended a long time ago in 1988. Five of the victims were minors: Saman Moradkhani Mehran, Ilam, who was wounded, is only 12 years old. Most of the explosions took place in Ilam and Kermanshah provinces.

It is also important to note that according to Iranian official statistics, during to eight years-long Iran-Iraq war (1980-1988), more than 20 million landmines have been planted in Iranian Kurdistan and Khuzestan province that hamper



seriously the daily life of civilians particularly the farmers, the nomads, the shepherds and traders. Essentially, an area of about 4 million and 200 thousand hectares is contaminated by mines and explosive materials.

Iranian Kurdistan is the most affected area by landmines and undetonated ammunitions. The reason for this was armed conflict of 1980-1993 between government forces and Kurdish combatants. Reportedly, the Iranian Army planted unknown number of mines around their barracks and compounds in many villages and cities in Kurdistan.



## Conclusion

The Islamic Republic does not seem even remotely willing to stop its outrageous human right violations. Iran's policy of instilling fear and intimidation among members of ethnic nationalities, in particular Kurds, remained actively and aggressively in place thus far in 2022. Meanwhile, the emergence of the Kurds as an inevitable part of a viable solution to a stable Middle East increases Islamic Republic's paranoia of its Kurdish populations at home, despite Kurds' modest request for equality and federalism.

The Supreme Leader, Ali Khamenei, as well as the Islamic judiciary and the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC), fear even the slightest signs of empowered ethnic communities, Kurds in particular. Yet, the Supreme Leader remains the ultimate decision-maker of the country. In short, despite repeated calls from the United Nations to the Iranian authorities in regard to human rights violations, the Islamic Republic's policy to suppress Kurdish populations remained as forceful as ever in 2022.

Recent crackdown on Kurdish civil activists in Kurdistan emerged in 2021 and general strikes in other ethnic territories such as Baluchistan and Ahwaz attest to the growing frustration of ordinary Iranian citizens with economic



and political hardships in the country. Instead of effectively addressing these grievances, the Islamic Republic responds by detaining peaceful protestors and intensifying existing repressive measures.

### About KMMK-G

*The Kurdistan Human Rights Association - Geneva (KMMK-G) aims to promote democracy, respect for human rights and social development in and beyond Kurdistan of Iran.*

*To that end, the Association commits itself to fight against any form of discrimination towards ethnic and religious minorities within the region, defend political prisoners, fight for the abolition of the death penalty, and promote women's and children's rights. In addition, the KMMK-G intends to increase public awareness on the situation of human rights in all Kurdish regions and to promote the rights and integration of the Kurds wherever they live.*

*Established in Geneva in 2006, the KMMK-G constitutes a bridge between the Kurdish civil society, the United Nations Agencies and NGOs and participates actively in all the sessions of the Human Rights Council, the ESCR, the CPR Committee, the UPR and the UN Forum on minority issues and presents them with reports on the situation of Human Rights in Kurdistan of Iran ([www.kmmk-ge.org](http://www.kmmk-ge.org)), (<http://www.kmmk-ge.org/?p=426&lang=en>). Moreover, the Association frequently gets in touch with various United Nations organs in order to submit reports to them on the situation of human rights in the Kurdistan of Iran.*

*The KMMK-G is, therefore, a recognized source of information. Its reports are published on the website of the United Nations Human Rights Council and the High Commissioner of Human Rights. The Association also frequently publishes articles in Kurdish and Iranian media.*

*The KMMK-G is also active within the Geneva and Swiss communities. Swiss political parties regularly consult with the Association about the Kurdish issue and immigrants' integration. Furthermore, the KMMK-G supports the Kurdish diaspora living in exile by organising conferences, cultural events and language courses.*