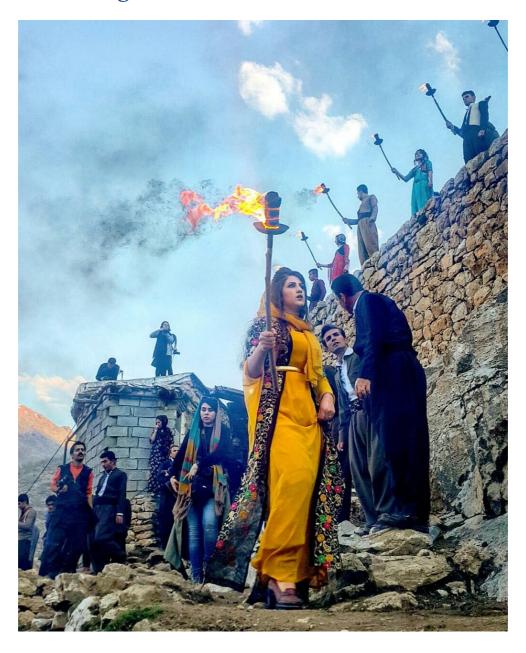


## Human Rights Violations in Kurdistan of Iran



Annual Report on the Situation of Human Rights in Kurdistan of Iran in 2020

Kurdistan Human Rights-Geneva (KMMK-G)

February 2021



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#### I. Introduction

This report provides up-to-date data and analysis on the situation of human rights in Kurdistan of Iran from January 1, 2020 until December 31, 2020, prepared for the attention of the OHCHR Iran desk, UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Iran, UN agencies, media, governments and public attention.

Similar to previous years, the persecution, execution, imprisonment and extra-judicial executions of Kolbaran (border couriers or tradesmen)



remain alarmingly high, with the Islamic Republic justifying much of its atrocities under the pretexts of guarding the country's security.<sup>1</sup>

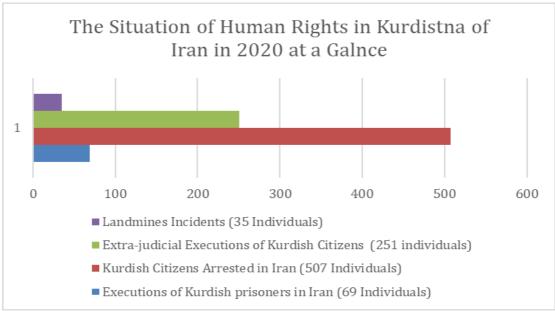
This report specifically addresses the recent crackdowns on Kurdish civil activists in Iran, executions, political prisoners, extra-judicial executions of Kolbaran (Border Couriers) and landmine incidents affecting Kurdish civilians from January 1, 2020 until December 31, 2020.

Kurdish people in Iranian Kurdistan have yet again endured the highest number of executions of political prisoners in Iran in 2020. Sixty-nine (69) Kurdish prisoners have been reported executed but the KMMK-G has been able to identify only the names of 37 of them. Four (4) of the nine (9) prisoners executed for belief and opinion are Kurds. Seventy-two (72) *kolbar* (border couriers or tradesmen) were killed and 179 injured; and 9 landmine explosion fatalities and 26 landmine injuries were reported in Kurdistan of Iran. In addition, at least, 507 Kurdish citizens were arrested and 145 of them were sentenced to long years of imprisonment.<sup>2</sup>

1 Rouhani Meter: < http://rouhani.ir/event.php?event\_id=63> and IRNA: < https://goo.gl/YLsvPU>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Every year KMMK-G provides the details of data collected in each aforementioned category in Persian and Kurdish and happy to share with stakeholders upon requests.





#### **II.Methodology**

The Iranian authorities refuse to provide accurate data on executions, landmines, Kulbaran (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, and (f) partnering with the Human Rights Section of Kurdpa News Agency in obtaining on-the-ground information.

#### III. Recent Crackdowns on Kurdish Civil Activists in Iran



In the early days of 2021, an ongoing wave of arbitrary arrests, incommunicado detention, and enforced disappearances by the Iranian authorities, targeting scores of people from Iran's disadvantaged Kurdish minority is taking place. By February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021, at least, 135 individuals (122 men and 13 women) from Iran's Kurdish minority, including civil society activists, labour rights activists, environmentalists, writers, university students and formerly imprisoned political activists as well as individuals with no known history of activism, have been arrested by the intelligence unit of Iran's Revolutionary Guards or ministry of intelligence agents, at times in a violent manner.

To date, the Iranian authorities have failed to provide any information about the reasons for the arrests, but according to credible information gathered from informed sources, there are serious concerns that the arrests are due to the individuals' peaceful exercise of their rights to freedom of opinion, expression and association, including through involvement in peaceful civil society activism and/or perceived support for the political visions espoused by Kurdish opposition parties seeking respect for the human rights of Iran's Kurdish minority.

Based on past patterns of documented human rights violations by the Iranian authorities, the undersigned organizations are seriously concerned that those detained are at risk of torture and other ill-treatment aimed at extracting forced "confessions", and that these may be later used in grossly unfair trials for spurious national security related offences.

According to information obtained from informed sources, of the 122 individuals who remain detained, at least 61 have are being subjected to enforced disappearance, and the authorities are refusing to reveal any information about their fate and whereabouts to their families.

These abusive detention conditions, which are in violation of both Iranian law and international human rights law, are placing the detainees at a serious risk of torture and other ill-treatment, which is practiced on a widespread and systematic basis in detention centers run by Iran's security and intelligence bodies.

Revolutionary Guards and ministry of intelligence agents have subjected the families of detainees to threats and insults when they have sought information about their loved ones and warned them against speaking to the media or communicating with UN human rights bodies.

These abuses of due process render the latest arrests and detention, virtually in all cases, arbitrary and therefore unlawful.



#### Iran: Kurdish Share of Executions in 2020

The state-sponsored violence and the application of death sentences against Iranian ethnic groups and in particular the Kurdish people is increasing dramatically and disproportionally. While the Kurdish population constitutes only 13% 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.

#### Year in Review (2020)

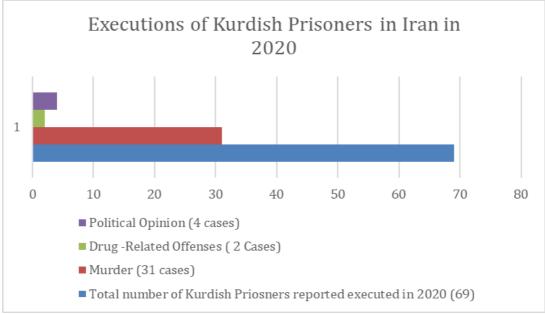
According to the data collected by the Kurdistan Human Rights-Geneva (KMMK-G), for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2020, 69 Kurdish prisoners have been reported executed but the KMMK-G has been able to identify only the names of 37 of them despite secrecy surrounding executions, and the government's refusal to publish the names and ethnicity of the executed prisoners<sup>3</sup>. Thirty-one (31) were executed for murder and four (4) for political reasons, two (2) for drug related offenses and thirty-two (32) unidentified. Over 246 prisoners are reported executed in 2020 in Iran<sup>4</sup>.

In 2020, nine (9) political prisoners were executed in Iran, four of them namely Hedayat ABDULLAHPOUR, Mustafa SALIMI, Saber SHEKH ABDULLAH and Diako RASULZADEH[1]), were Kurds, two (Abdulbaset DEHANI and Abdulhameed BALUCHZAHI) were Baluchis and the other three (Mustafa SALEHI, Navid AFKARI and Ruhallah ZAM) were Persians.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> The data collected on-the-ground on Kurdish executions varies. This can be partially due to the fact that some executions are carried out secretly or that some families may have been intimated not to report. KMMK-G has come across data as high as 69 executions in 2020, often with accompanying metadata. However, KMMK-G has decided to state the least verifiable number of executions that its on-the-ground sources have compiled. The metadata used to calculate approximate desegregation of executions reported in 2020 is from a dataset of 69 executions, applied to a minimum of 37 executions.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> https://www.iranrights.org/newsletter





Various credible NGO's reports such as Impact Iran indicate that over 55% of those executed for affiliation with a political party between 2010 and 2018, were Kurds, while a quarter were Baluchi's and over one-tenth Arabs.<sup>5</sup> The UN reports as well highlights that: "Kurdish political prisoners charged with national security offences represent almost half of the total number of political prisoners in the Islamic Republic of Iran and constitute a disproportionately high number of those who received the death penalty and are executed."

The majority of these executions take place after grossly unfair and summary trials and for crimes that do not constitute the "most serious crimes" under international law. In this context, the execution of Kurdish citizens on vaguely worded offenses such as moharebeh or "enmity against God" and fabricated security charges are examples of insufficient and unfair forms of crime formulation. The Kurdish prisoners face unfair trial and are often convicted in proceedings marked by a pattern of alleged abuses including the use of confessions driven under torture and denial of access to a lawyer. The recent cases of Hedayat ABDOLLAHPOUR, Saber SHEKH ABDULLAH, Diako RASULZADEH and Mustafa SALIMI executed in 2020 and as well as the cases of Mr. Ramin Hossein Panahi, Zaniar Muradi, Lukman Muradi, Ahed Shabab, Nasser Azizi, Kamal Ahmadinejad, all members of Kurdish

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Impact Iran fact sheet to UPR: <a href="http://impactiran.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Death-Penalty-UPR-submission-2.pdf">http://impactiran.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Death-Penalty-UPR-submission-2.pdf</a>

 $<sup>^6</sup>$  Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran : https://undocs.org/A/74/188



political parties, executed on September 8th, 2018, illustrate such pattern of unfair trials, as well as forced confessions made under torture<sup>7</sup>.

In 2020, we observed a new pattern of the executions of Kurdish political prisoners in Iran by squad firing, group executions and disappearances of the prisoners and their bodies and denial of the last visitation of the family before execution. This pattern was common in the eighties.

The secret execution and enforced disappearances of Mr. Hedayat ABDOLLAHPOUR, a Kurdish political prisoner, on 11 May 2020, in a military base in Oshnavieh, West Azerbaijan Province by squad firing, despite the UN human rights experts' multiple calls and concerns raised with the Iranian authorities, as well as the group execution of Mr. Saber SHEKH ABDULLAH, Diako RASULZADEH, exemplifies this new pattern of executions of prisoners belonging to ethnic groups and others in Iran.<sup>8</sup>

While the majority of countries (141 of 195) abandoned the death penalty, Iran continues to use capital punishment especially against ethnic groups and in particular the Kurds as a means of control of minorities and populations. It's also important to highlight that Iran continue to be one of the world's top executioner countries in the world.

#### **Imminent Risk of Executions of Kurdish Political Prisoners**

Since January 2020, the Iran's Supreme Court upheld the death sentences for four (4) Kurdish political prisoners: Mr. Haidar GHORBANI, Moheddin IBRAHIMI, Shakir BEHROOZI and Mr. Arsalan KHUDKAM.

Furthermore, on 10th of September 2020, the Iranian's Supreme Court upheld the death sentences for the third time for seven Kurdish Sunni faith political prisoners after 11 years of detention. These prisoners are Farhad SALIMI, Qasem ABASTEH, Dawoud ABDOLLAHI, Ayoub KARIMI, Anvar KHEZRI, Khosrew BESHARAT and Kamran SHEIKHEH all detained in Rajaee Shahr prison.

They have been imprisoned and sentenced to death on bogus charges such as "acting against national security", "spreading propaganda

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 $<sup>^7\</sup> https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2018/05/iran-imminent-execution-of-kurdish-man-must-be-halted/$ 

 $<sup>{\</sup>color{blue}8~ \underline{https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=26036\&LangID=EMARCHERSER_20036} \\ {\color{blue}2.} {\color{blue}2.}$ 



against the state", "membership in Salafi groups", "corruption on earth" and "moharebeh" or waging war against God. Before the 38th Branch of the Supreme Court confirmed their death sentences on September 10, the 28th Branch of the "Revolutionary Courts," presided by Mohammad Moqiseh had condemned these political prisoners to execution in 2014. Moqiseh, also known as Naserian, was reportedly a key member of the "Death Commissions," responsible for massacring political prisoners in the summer of 1988.

#### **V.Political Prisoners**

#### **Overview**

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, due to their alleged activism. The share of Kurdish political prisoners remains dramatically high in today's Iran.

#### Year in Review (2020)

Similar to previous years, the share of Kurdish political imprisonment remained dramatically high in 2020. 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>9</sup> The UN Special Rapporteur has also shed light on the disproportional arrest of Kurdish citizens in Iran "Kurdish political prisoners are said to represent almost half of the total number of political prisoners in Iran. » According to United for Iran, an NGO collecting data on Iran's political prisoners, among 162 prisoners detained and sentenced to long-term imprisonment for supporting dissidents' groups in Iran, 105 are Kurds.<sup>10</sup> This is While the Kurdish people in Iran amount only to 13% of Iran's 80 million population.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> See United for Iran's Prisoners' Atlas: < https://ipa.united4iran.org/en/prisoner/> (English)

<sup>10</sup> See also <a href="https://ipa.united4iran.org/en/prisoner/?">https://ipa.united4iran.org/en/prisoner/?</a>
gclid=Cj0KCQjwt4X8BRCPARIsABmcnOqgvVQohLx5tZ49FD0SWDjFI1wWwrTMOejQh08T60P96hGC
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Given the secrecy arounds the arrests and the authorities refusal to provide data on the arrests, data collection for this section has proven particularly difficult. KMMK-G's on-the-ground contacts have collected what they could, information about which is provided in this section.

According to KMMK-G's collected data, 507 Kurdish citizens were arrested from January 1st to December 31st, 2020. At least 145 of them were sentenced to long years of imprisonment and were charged with crimes related to civic activism and membership of Kurdish political parties. Among these prisoners, there are individuals like workers, teachers, Kolbars (border couriers), artists, human rights and environmental activists, journalists, lawyer, students, photographer, cultural activists, and others alike.<sup>11</sup>

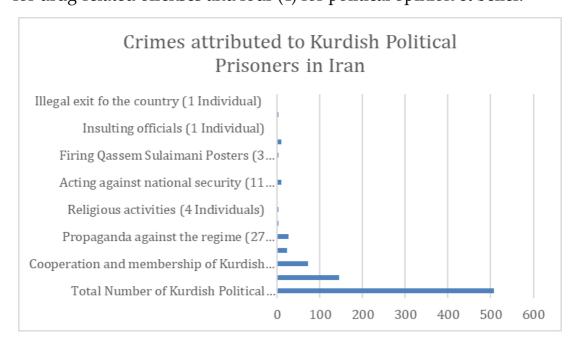
In this context, according to our data (data of KMMK-G), there are 22 civic activists, 11 students, 2 teachers and university lecturers, 4 cultural activists, 1 Women rights defender, 7 environmental activists, 1 photographer, 5 journalists, 2 singers, 1 actor, 7 labour activists, 3 lawyer, 1 member of Kurdish United Front Party, 3 soldiers, 5 media workers, 1 Yarasani faith followers, 1 athlete, 7 religious activists, 3 members of Coran Association, 2 Christian priests, 3 researchers and 49 kolbar (border courier) among those detained. There are also 12 women among the detainees.

According to KMMK-G's collected data, 507 Kurdish citizens were arrested from January 1st to December 31st, 2020, 145 of them were sentenced to long years of imprisonment. Seventy-two (72) of them were charged with the crime of cooperation and membership of Kurdish political parties, 23 charged with actions against public order by participating in protests, 27 charged for the crime for propaganda against the regime, 3 for gathering and another for disseminating lies, 4 were charged for their religious belief and activities, 1 membership of opposition groups, 11 for "acting against national security", 1 for "moharebeh" or waging war against God, 3 for putting into fire the

 $<sup>^{11}</sup>$  Please note that KMMK-G has a list of these detainees/prisoners in Persian. Since turning the list into English is beyond the bandwidth of KMMK-G at this time, it can be disclosed in Persian upon request



posters of Qassem Sulaimani, 10 for participation in gathering and protests against the blind killing of kolbaran, 1 for insulting the government officials, 3 for spying for hostile foreign countries and 1 for illegal exit from the country. Eight (8) women are among the sentenced prisoners. At least 37 Kurdish prisoners were executed: 31 for murder, 2 for drug-related offenses and four (4) for political opinion et belief.



During this period, the Iranian's Supreme Court upheld the death penalty for eleven (11) Kurdish political prisoners including Haidar GHORBANI, Moheddin IBRAHIMI, Shakir BEHROOZI, Arsalan KHUDKAM, Farhad SALIMI, Qasem ABASTEH, Dawoud ABDOLLAHI, Ayoub KARIMI, Anvar KHEZRI, Khosrew BESHARAT and Kamran SHEIKHEH.

Furthermore, despite the UN Special Rapporteur's calls on Iranian authorities, against Ms. Zara MOHAMMADI, a Kurdish language volunteer teacher was sentenced to 5 years imprisonment by the Sanandij (sine) Revolutionary Court for the sole crime of teaching the Kurdish language. She has already been arbitrarily arrested and imprisoned for six months in 2019. While the repression against Kurdish language and Kurdish cultural rights defenders, is increasing, the Iranian government in its 2021 State budget, devoted 46 billion Tomans to the Persian Language Promotion Foundation.



Knowing that the Persian language is the official, administrative and teaching language of the country.



Furthermore, the Mazandaran Supreme Court upheld a 36 months sentences against **Ms. Mujgan Kawusy**, a Yarasani Kurdish author for the alleged crime of "Propaganda Against the Regime", "Disturbing Public Order" and "Encouraging Public to Revolt against the System". On December 19, 2019, she was arrested by the Nushahr security (Etela'at) services and brought to the Revolutionary Court where she was sentenced to jail. Ms. Kawusy was arrested because of her support on social media for the protests in Kurdish cities in Iranian Kurdistan. Following the November 2019 Fuel Increase related protests, dozen of Kurdish citizens were arrested in the beginning of 2020.





**Ms. Fatema DAMAWND** from Bukan, a participant of the November's 2019 nationwide protest, was sentenced to 5 years and five months imprisonment and 30 flogs for "Gathering and Acting against State" and "Disturbing Public Order". She is serving currently her prison sentence in Urumiyeh Central Prison.

Mrs. Shehnaz (Beriwan) SADEQIFAR was also sentenced to 15 years imprisonment for "Membership in a Kurdish Political Party" and currently serves her sentence in Urumiyeh Central prison. Her daughter Ms. Aynaz Zaeree is also accused of the crime of "Membership in a Kurdish Political Party" and she is serving the detention with her mom Mrs. Shehnaz (Beriwan) SADEQIFAR in Urumiyeh Central prison without any formal conviction.

**Ms. Suhaila HEJAB**, a Kurdish lawyer from Kermanshah, was sentenced to 18 years of imprisonment for "Acting against Regime" Gathering and provoking Public disorder" and "Creating of a group for defending women rights" on 18th March 2020.

Ms. Sakina Parwane was sentenced to 5 years imprisonment and two years of interdinction of joining any political groups for the crime of



"Membership of Groups hostile to regime and aiming to destabilize the national security" on April 2020, by Judge Ayman AFSHARI of Tehran Revolutionary Court, Branch 26. She is currently serving her sentences in Qarchek and Ramin Central Prison. Her lawyer Payam DARAFSHAN was also arrested on June 8, 2020, and she doesn't any lawyer to defend her.

Mr. Afshin SHEKHISLAMI, a Kurdish civil rights activist and a member of Whadat Milli party, an authorized party in Sanandij, founded in 2018.was arrested by by Sanandij Etela'at forces on 27th of June 2020 at home. Afshin was already arrested few times. He was first arrested in 2001 and passed 2 months in jail. In 2003, he passed 3 months in jail. 2004, he passed 9 months in jail for the crime of "Propaganda against the State". Again, he was arrested on 17th February 2019 and after passing one month in jail, he was released on a 5 million Tomans bail. On 18th March 2020, Afshin was arrested by Etela'at forces and he was sentenced to 3 months jail by Sanandij revolutionary Court for the crime of "Propaganda against the State" and he was pardoned due to COVID 19 health crisis.

Finally, Afshin was arrested by by Sanandij Etela'at forces on 27th of June 2020 at home. According to her mother, this force declared that they were part of Ministry of Etela'at and local Etela'at. Since his arrest, the parents were allowed to have a single phone call with him and his lawyer wasn't allowed to visit him. Mrs. Nigar Nasri Moghddam is extremely worried and calls on the UN Special Rapporteur to intervene and save his son. She is also consenting to any communication by UN Special Rapporteurs and other independent experts and as well as the OHCHR on her son. Afshin was born on 20th of February 1976; he is a civil engineer and holds also an American resident card.

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.



# V. Extra-Judicial Executions of Kurdish Citizens known as Kolbaran (border couriers) in 2020

This section provides an overview on the situation of *Kolbaran* in Iranian Kurdistan in 2020. *Kolbaran* are border couriers who transport goods across the Iran-Iraq border, often, but not always, as part of the informal economy. *Kolbaran* is mainly practiced in the Kurdish-region of Iran where poverty and economic disparity are among the highest in the country. Although *Kolbaran* face myriads of challenges and human rights violations on a daily basis.

Even though successive Islamic Republic administrations pledge to change its security approach toward Iranian Kurdistan, the extrajudicial executions of Kurdish citizens known as Kolbaran (border couriers or tradesmen) is dramatically increasing in the recent years and proves the opposite. The indiscriminate and blind killing of Kurdish Kolbaran (plural for Kolbar) takes place in blatant violation of international obligations. Border security forces involved in indiscriminate and blind killings do not even respect the Iranian domestic laws, which authorize the use of lethal force only as a last resort.

#### Year in Review (2020)

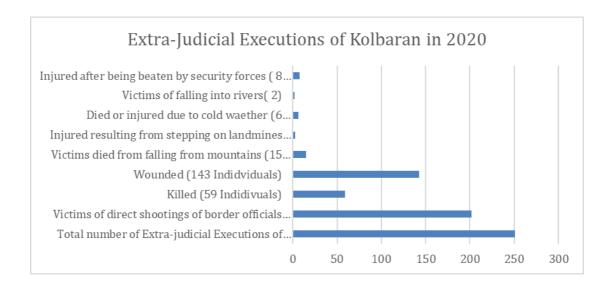
The Indiscriminate killing of Kurdish "Kolbaran" increased in 2020. The KMMK-G received reports of the extra-judicial killings of 251 Kolbaran in 2020. 72 kolbar died and 179 wounded. Of this number, 202 were victims of direct shootings of the security forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, of which 59 died and 143 were wounded. Fifteen (15) of this number died or injured after falling from the mountains when they were followed by Iranian security forces. Three (3) died or were injured as a result of stepping on landmines. Six (6) died or injured due to the cold weather conditions and snowy roads. Two (2) fell off mountains into rivers. Eight (8) were wounded after being beaten by security forces and thirteen were killed or injured after being chased and targeted in their cars by security forces. It should be mentioned that Eighteen (18) of the victims were aged under 18 years old. Four (4) of them were aged between 14 and 15 years old.

As an example, Anshar Sayadniazi, who worked as a kolbar, was only 15 years old when he lost his life. Afshar was from a poor family from Mariwan and he was forced to work as a Kolbar to earn a living and support his family. On 14th of March 2019, after being chased by the Iranian security forces, he fell down from Tata mountain in Uraman Takht, a highly risky mountainous path and died. Moreover, many kolbaran (tradesmen) were arrested and their



goods were confiscated by the authorities thus far in 2020. In addition, hundreds of horses belonging to them were shot dead.

The above data shows the sad trend of increasing of killing of Kurdish citizens who choose risky jobs of kolbaran due to discriminative policies of Iranian government and lack of investment in Kurdistan. Every year, hundreds of Kurdish citizens are killed and injured by direct shootings of Iranian border officials without any respect for Iran's internal or international legal obligations. For more details, see also this link :https://kmmk-ge.org/sd/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/KMMK-G-2020 Annual Report-for-the-Attention-of-the-OHCHR-Desk-of-the-UN-Special-Rapporteur-on-the-Situation-of-Human-Rights-in-Iran-4.pdf ) and the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, 18 July 2019, para. 87, available at: https://undocs.org/A/74/188.



### Overview of Landmine Incidents Impacting the Lives of Kurdish Civilians in 2020

**VI.Landmines Incidents** 

Year in Review (2020)



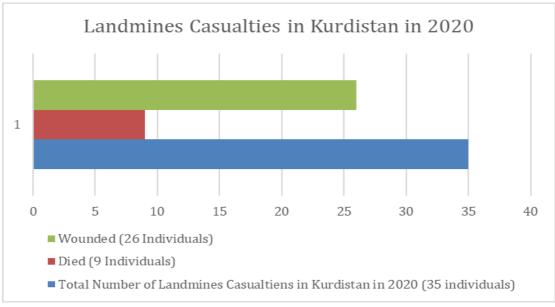
According to KMMK-G's data, in 2020, a total of 35 citizens have been victims of landmine explosions in Iranian Kurdistan; 9 Kurdish civilians were killed and 26 were wounded due to landmines explosions and unexploded remnants of the Iran-Iraq war, which ended a long time ago in 1988.<sup>13</sup> One of the victims named Payam Rostami from Kermanshah who lost his life was 14 years old. Most of the explosions took place in Ilam and Kermanshah provinces. Most of the injures are in the foot, hand and eyes.

Iranian Kurdistan is the most affected area of the country by landmines and undetonated ammunitions. The reason for this were armed conflicts: According to Iranian official statistics, during the eight yearslong Iran-Iraq war (1980-1988) the Iranian army planted more than 20 million landmines 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. During the armed conflict of 1980-1993 between government forces and Kurdish combatants the Iranian Army planted also an unknown number of mines around their barracks and compounds in many villages and cities in Kurdistan.

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.

 $<sup>^{13}</sup>$  Please note that KMMK-G has a list of these victims in Persian. Since turning the list into English is beyond the bandwidth of KMMK-G at this time, it can be disclosed in Persian upon request





#### VII. About KMMK-G

The Association for Human Rights in Kurdistan of Iran - Geneva (KMMK-G) was established in 2006 to promote democracy, respect for human rights, and social development in and beyond Iranian Kurdistan. KMMK-G strives to serve as a bridge between the Kurdish and Iranian civil society on the one hand and the United Nations agencies and International institutions on the other. Since its inception, KMMK-G has actively participated in every session of the UN Human Rights Council and other relevant UN human rights mechanisms, including the Forum on Minority Issues. Over the years, the Association has frequently submitted reports on human rights situation in Iran's Kurdistan to various UN treaty bodies and in various UN Committees' meetings. KMMK-G has regular media outreach to Kurdish and Persian media and sponsors cultural events for the Kurdish community in Europe.

As a part of its advocacy efforts, KMMK-G is hosting regularly panels and seminars in Human Rights Council sessions in Geneva and as well as at the Swiss and EU Parliaments to promote the rights of ethnic groups in Iran. Recently, the group partnered with Geneva Graduate University and Impact Iran to organize a workshop on the rights of Iran's ethnic groups and also a panel at Human Rights Council with the participation of the UN Special Rapporteur for Iran and Madam Shirin Ebadi the Peace Nobel Laureate.

KMMK-G prepares annual human rights in Kurdistan of Iran reports, and provides detailed annexes of data collected to the office of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Iran, as well as other relevant entities along with its annual reports. Click here for its <a href="https://www.kmmk-ge.org">www.kmmk-ge.org</a>.