



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 19th 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 19th 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 10th 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 22th 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 16th 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 I’tla’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 10th of November, at least 310 protestors have been confirmed killed by the Iranian security forces’ shootings¹ in the nationwide protests.

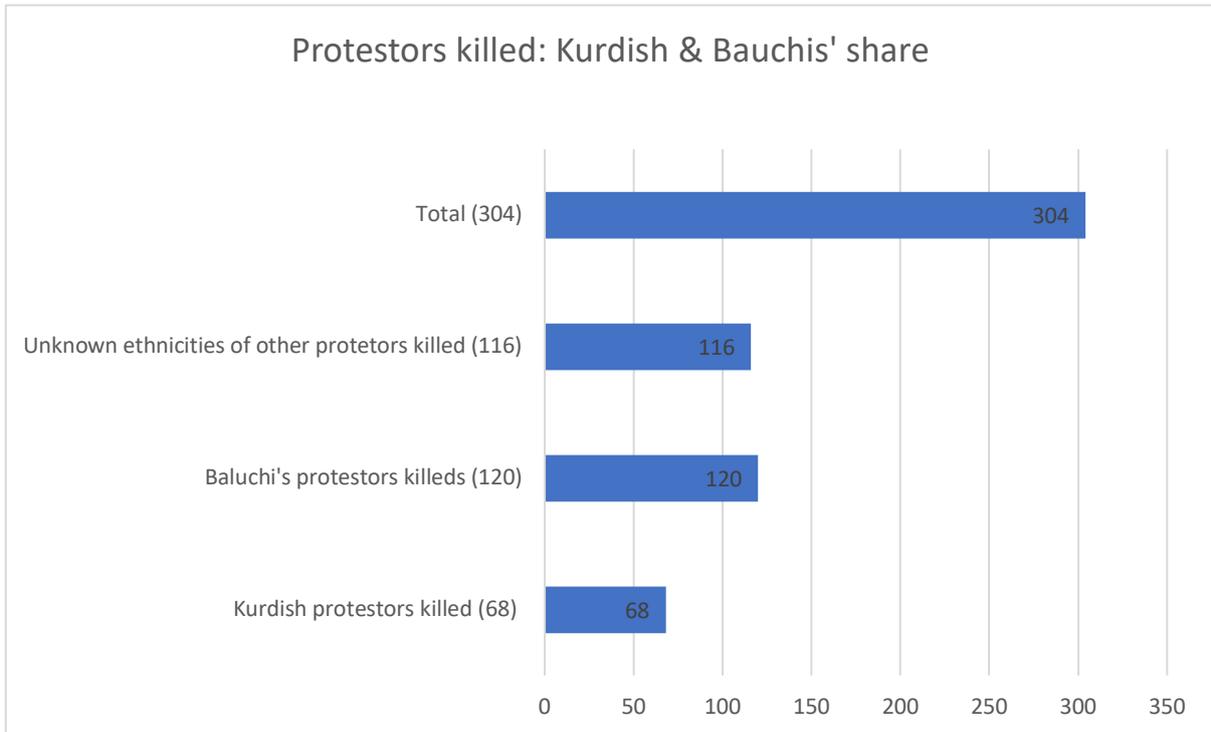
According to Baloch Activist Campaign and Amnesty International, by the 10th of November, 120 Baluchi citizens were killed by Iranian security forces².

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

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



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



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 2nd 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 Islamic 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 16th 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.



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The Association for Human Rights in Kurdistan of Iran-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/?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.