

# Human Rights Violations in Kurdistan of Iran

Interim Annual Report

1 January- 31 March 2020

For the Attention of the office of the UN Special  
Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights for  
Iran

Association for Human Rights in Kurdistan of Iran-Geneva (KMMK-G)  
April 23, 2020



## 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 March 31, 2020, prepared for the attention of the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Iran, UN agencies, media, governments and public attention.

## I. Executions

According to the data collected by the Kurdistan Human Rights-Geneva (KMMK-G) from January 1 to April 23rd, 2020 at least 20 Kurdish prisoners have been executed. Eighteen (18) of them for murder, one (1) for political belief and another one (1) for drug related offenses. It constitutes  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the total number of prisoners executed in Iran for the same period. Over 80 prisoners are reported executed in Iran since January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020.

Mr. Mustafa Salimi, 53, a Kurdish political prisoner and on death row for 17 years, was extradited to Iran by the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) authorities several days prior to his execution on April 11, 2020.

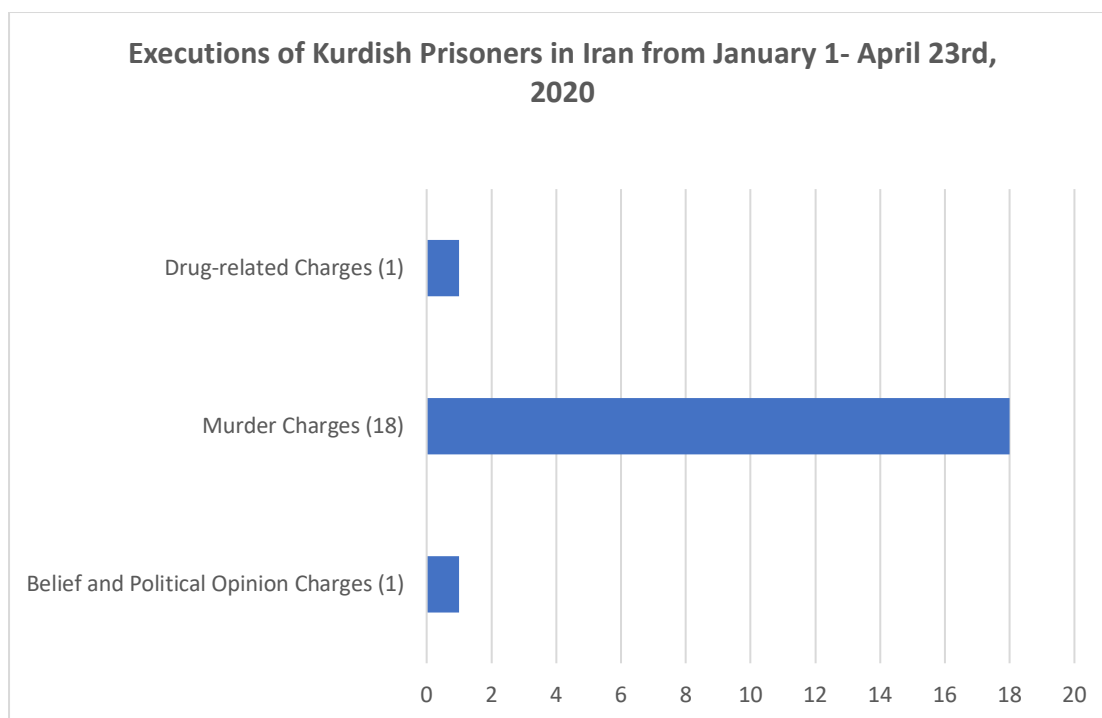
Mr. Mustafa Salimi was sentenced to moharabeh (waging war against God) and membership of a Kurdish political party (PDKI) on April 5, 2003, by Saez Revolutionary Court, by judge Gudini lacking a fair trial and due process. His death sentence was upheld later by Branch 31 of the Country Supreme Court.

On March 27, 2020, Mr. Salimi had managed to escape along with tens of other inmates during the Prison of Saqqez riots by inmates against prison conditions amid the novel coronavirus outbreak.

After his refolement to Iran, Mr. Salimi was hanged by Iranian authorities on Saturday morning 11th of April 2020. He was given a last visitation with his family on Friday, April 10.

Shayan Saeedpour, Kurdish child offender, was executed by hanging in Saqqez prison in Kurdistan Province on Tuesday 21 April. Following Salimi and Saeedpour, after the Saqqez Central Prison, a wave of executions in particular of the Kurdish citizens is taking place and since 21st of April, five other Kurdish citizens have been executed.

The Iranian authorities are expecting more riots and protests over their mismanagement of the country's affairs especially the Corona crisis and are reacting to protests in prisons over COVID-19 by using torture and ill-treatment that results in extra-judicial killings, or through executions. The authorities use the death penalty to control the minorities and the population.



## II. Political Prisoners

Similar to previous years, the share of Kurdish political imprisonment remains dramatically high in first three months of 2020 (until March 31<sup>st</sup>, 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>1 2</sup>

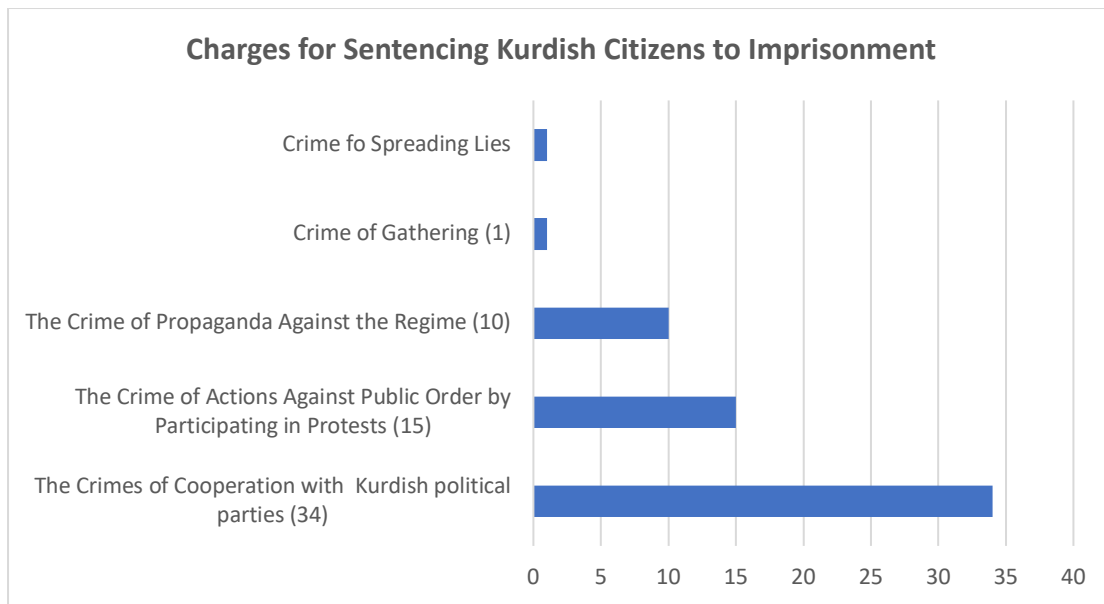
According to KMMK-G's collected data, 103 Kurdish citizens were arrested from January 1 till March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020, 58 of them were sentenced to long years of imprisonment. Thirty-four (34) of them were charged with the crime of cooperation and membership of Kurdish political parties, 15 charged with actions against public order by participating in protests, 10 charged for the crime for propaganda against the regime, 1 for gathering and another for lie (See Graphic N. 1)

### **Graphic N° 1.**

<sup>1</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>2</sup> KMMK-G's June 2017 report : < <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 death penalty for a dozen of Kurdish political prisoners including Mr. Hooshmand ALIPOUR, Khosrew BESHARAT, Farhad SALIMI, Ayub KARIMI, Dawood ABDULLAHI, Anwar KHEZRI, Qassem ABESTA and Kamran SHEKHE was upheld by the Iranian Supreme Court.

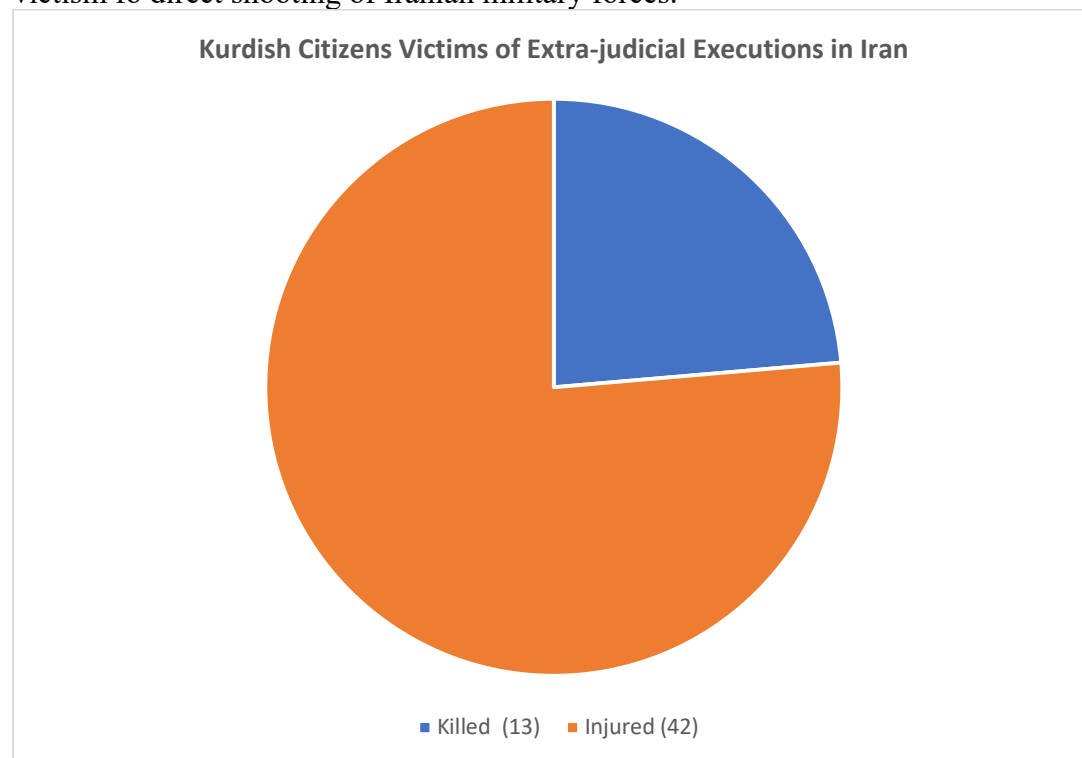
Furthermore, The Mazandaran Supreme Court upheld a 36 months sentences against Ms. Mujgan Kawusy, a Yarasani Kurdish author for the alleged crimes of “Propaganda Against the Regime”, “Disturbing Public Order” and “Encouraging Publi to Rise against the System”. On December 19, 2019, she was arrested by 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.



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.

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

KMMK-G has received reports of extra-judicial executions of 13 border couriers known as Kolbar from January 1 till April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020 with another 42 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 55 during the time period of discussion. 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 Kurdish Kolbaran were also shot dead. Zakaria Moa'atar was only 17 years old when he was injured by direct shooting of Iranian security forces. 98% of the kolbaran are victims of direct shooting of Iranian military forces.



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.