



Iran - Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on 4 and 5 January 2012

Treatment of returned failed asylum seekers in Iran

In May 2011 *Amnesty International* notes:

“In February 2011, Rahim Rostami, a 19-year-old member of Iran’s Kurdish minority who had arrived in Norway as an unaccompanied minor, and whose asylum claim had been rejected by the Norwegian authorities, was forcibly returned by Norway to Iran where he was reportedly arrested. He is believed to still be detained, with bail reportedly having been denied. On 17 February 2011, an article written by a former Supreme Court judge appeared in Iran newspaper, a daily paper published by the Iranian government. Referring to existing laws that enable Iran’s judiciary to bring charges against Iranians for alleged violations of Iranian law committed while outside Iran, the article stated that failed asylum-seekers could be prosecuted for making up accounts of alleged persecution. On 26 April 2011, *Kayhan* newspaper, which is controlled by the Office of the Supreme Leader, also reported that Iranians are seeking asylum ‘on the pretext of supporting the opposition’. “ (Amnesty International (6 May 2011) *Student Activists Held In Iran*)

A document in March 2011 released by *Iran Human Rights* states:

“According to reports that reliable sources have given to Iran Human Rights (IHR), a Kurdish asylum seeker who was extradited from Norway to Iran on February 9th 2011, is in danger of torture and ill-treatment at Tehran’s Evin prison.” (Iran Human Rights (23 March 2011) *A Kurdish asylum seeker extradited from Norway to Iran is in danger of torture and ill-treatment at Tehran’s Evin prison*)

In May 2011 an article in *The Guardian* states:

“Six Iranians who have been on hunger strike for 32 days in protest at plans to send them back to Tehran have held a demonstration outside the Home Office amid growing concern over their health.” (The Guardian (6 May 2011) *Iranians on hunger strike protest against deportation*)

This article also notes:

“The group’s new lawyer, Hani Zubeidi, said their plight had been reported in several countries since the Guardian ran the story - including Iran.

‘They would be in very real danger if they were return now simply because they have been featured criticising the regime even without the fact that they were involved in the anti-regime protests and were tortured.’ “ (ibid)

A report issued in August 2011 by *Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty* notes that:

“The number of Iranians seeking asylum in European countries has risen steadily over the past two years, RFE/RL’s Radio Farda reports.” (Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (18 August 2011) *Number Of Iranians Applying For Asylum In Europe Rises*)

No further information on this issue could be found among sources consulted by the RDC within time constraints.

References

Amnesty International (6 May 2011) *Student Activists Held In Iran*
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Iran Human Rights (23 March 2011) *A Kurdish asylum seeker extradited from Norway to Iran is in danger of torture and ill-treatment at Tehran's Evin prison*
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This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Refugee Documentation Centre within time constraints. This response is not and does not purport to be conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum. Please read in full all documents referred to.

Sources Consulted

Amnesty International
BBC News
Electronic Immigration Network
European Council on Refugees and Exiles
European Country of Origin Information Network
Freedom House
Google
Human Rights Watch
Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada
Institute for War & Peace Reporting
Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre
International Crisis Group
International Relations and Security Network
Iran Human Rights Documentation Centre
IRIN News
Lexis Nexis

Minority Rights Group International
Online Newspapers
Refugee Documentation Centre E-Library
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Reliefweb
Reuters
United Kingdom Home Office
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