



Iran - Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on Wednesday 23 May 2012

Information on whether courts in Iran, specifically Teheran, always or ever provide a return date for trial in circumstances where an arrested person has been released from jail on bail

A report issued in April 2011 by the United States Department of State notes that:

“Prisoners released on bail did not always know...when their trials would be held.”
(United States Department of State (8 April 2011) *2010 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices – Iran*)

In January 2008 a report published by Human Rights Watch notes:

“Court authorities release detainees on bail without providing set trial dates or issue suspended sentences in order to keep those detained under the constant threat of re-arrest and renewed detention.” (Human Rights Watch (January 2008) *“You Can Detain Anyone for Anything”, Iran’s Broadening Clampdown on Independent Activism*, p.23)

A report published in August 2011 by Still Human Still Here points out the following:

“In June 2010, Christian pastor Behrouz Sadegh-Khandjani, Mehdi Furutan, Mohammad Beliad, Parviz Khalaj, and Nazly Beliad were arrested on charges of apostasy, holding political meetings, blasphemy, and —crimes against the Islamic order. The Revolutionary Court in Shiraz found the five men guilty of crimes against the Islamic order and sentenced each to one year in prison. After serving eight months, they were released on bail in February 2011. Their lawyer has appealed the one-year prison sentence. Reportedly, the five have been informed by authorities that they will stand trial on the blasphemy charges in the near future.” (Still Human Still Here (August 2011) *A commentary on the March 2011 Iran Operational Guidance Note*, p.11)

Commenting on another case this report also notes that:

“Though both were later released on bail, they have court cases pending against them on similarly vaguely worded charges which could lead to their imprisonment and eventual disbarment.” (ibid, p.45)

Reporters without Borders in September 2011 notes the following:

“The blogger and women’s rights activist Maryam Bahraman was freed on bail of 250 million tomans (188 million euros) on 15 September pending trial. She is charged with acting against national security, for which the minimum sentence is three years in prison. No date has so far been set for the trial.” (Reporters without Borders (28 September 2011) *Woman blogger freed on bail*)

A report published by Human Rights Watch in March 2012 notes the following:

“Security forces arrested Mohammadi in June 2010, but released her on July 1 on bail. She is currently out of prison but expects to be summoned shortly to serve her sentence’ (Human Rights Watch (8 March 2012) *Iran: Quash Convictions and Free Rights Advocates*)

A report published in 2010 by the Iran Human Rights Documentation Centre notes the following case:

“...women’s rights activist, Mehrnoosh Etemadi, was arrested in November 2009. Though she was released after paying her US \$50,000 bail the next month, she still does not have a court date.” (Iran Human Rights Documentation Centre (2010) *Islamic Republic Of Iran, Ngo Status Report On Iran’s Compliance With The International Covenant On Civil And Political Rights*, p.31)

A report issued in November 2010 by the United States Department of State states:

“On April 11, 2010, government agents arrested 19-year old Daniel Shahri, a Christian, on the basis of insulting Islam. Shahri was able to contact his parents on April 14, 2010, while being held in a prison in Isfahan. He was released on April 24, 2010 on bail and awaits a trial date.” (United States Department of State (17 November 2010) *2010 Report on International Religious Freedom - Iran*)

In June 2010 a document released by Amnesty International notes the following examples:

“Mohsen Mirdamadi...the Chairperson of the IIPF, was returned to prison on 26 May 2010 after his release on bail two months earlier in March. He was sentenced in April to six years in prison. Behzad Nabavi, a former Deputy Minister, parliamentarian and founding member of MIRO, returned to prison in late May 2010 to continue serving a five-year prison term after having been released temporarily on 16 March 2010.” (Amnesty International (June 2010) *From protest to prison – Iran one year after the election*, p.9)

This report also notes the following:

“Artin Ghanzafari was held until 2 April, when he was released on bail, only to be summoned to court again on 10 April, when he was told his release had been a ‘mistake’.” (ibid,p.19)

Commenting on detention centres the report also states:

“Once the interrogation of detainees has ended – because they have ‘confessed’ or have refused to do so, and the authorities wish to conclude their case – they are usually transferred to cells or prisons within the regular prison system to await trial. This period awaiting trial can last for months. They may also be released on bail.” (ibid, p.28).

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

References

Amnesty International (June 2010) *From protest to prison – Iran one year after the election*

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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

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