



Q09797. Iran – Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on 28 April 2009

Information on the treatment of those who are members of or perceived as being members of a student organisation.

A report by the *UK Home Office* states:

“The 2000 parliamentary elections prompted a backlash by hard-line clerics that continued through 2006. Over the four years after the polls, the conservative judiciary closed more than 100 reformist newspapers and jailed hundreds of liberal journalists and activists, while security forces cracked down on the ensuing student protests.” (UK Home Office (21st April 2009) – *Country of Origin Reports*)

Also

“In August 2000, two leading reform intellectuals, Mohsen Kadivar and Abdul Karim Soroush were prevented by semi-official club and knife-wielding vigilantes from addressing a student convention in Khorramabad. Subsequent clashes between students and vigilantes resulted in the death of a police officer and injuries. The authorities arrested 150 people.” (ibid)

See also section 3.25 on student unrest (pg.24)

A report by the *UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office* states:

“The government routinely applies broadly conceived security laws to accuse anyone from students to women's rights campaigners to trade unionists of 'acting against national security', 'receiving funding from abroad' or 'planning a revolution'. Many of those detained for expressing their beliefs are routinely subjected to physical and psychological abuse as part of the interrogation process.” (UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office (29th March 2009) – *Annual Report on Human Rights 2008*)

A report by *Amnesty International* states:

“Four members of Amir Kabir University's Islamic Students Association (ISA) - Esmail Salmanpour, Majid Tavakkoli, Hossein Torkashvand and Koroush Daneshyar - were arrested on 5 February after a ceremony commemorating the life of Mehdi Bazargan, the first prime minister to be appointed after the February 1979 revolution” (Amnesty International (18th March 2009) - *Students in Iran face repression and arrest*)

A report by *Human Rights Watch* states:

“Two of those still being held were among 70 students detained on February 23 during a sit-in at Tehran’s Amir Kabir University. Four other students from the university who were not at the demonstration were taken from their homes the next morning, February 24, and remain in custody.” (Human Rights Watch (27th February 2009) - *Iran: Release Students Detained for Peaceful Protests*)

A report by *BBC News* states:

“All but one of the banned students were outspoken activists or worked with the Islamic Students’ Association on their campuses.” (BBC News (20th October 2006) - *Iran 'should stop student bans*)

Also,

“In the same period, 15 student associations had been suspended or banned from operating on campuses.

Iranian student organisations - once extremely active - have been less vocal in their criticism of the government since the violent suppression of major student protests in 1992 (ibid.)

A report by the *International Campaign for Human Rights in Iran* states:

“In the same period, 15 student associations had been suspended or banned from operating on campuses.

Iranian student organisations - once extremely active - have been less vocal in their criticism of the government since the violent suppression of major student protests in 1999” (International Campaign for Human Rights in Iran (14th April 2009) - *Students Beaten and Prevented from Entering Noushivan University in Babol*)

A report by the *US Department of State* states:

“According to HRW, student activists were particularly likely to be subjected to torture and abuse.” (US Department of State (25th February 2009) – Iran: *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices 2008*)

Also,

“In July 2007 the families of three student activists arrested in May and June 2007 sent an open letter to the judiciary chief alleging that security forces tortured their sons in Evin Prison where they remained in solitary cells during the year. Although the judiciary chief reportedly ordered an investigation into the allegations, according to human rights activists, the results of the investigation were not released to the public” (ibid)

And,

“On April 10, HRW called for the government to investigate allegations of torture of activists Behrooz Karimizadh, Peyman Piran, Ali Kantouri and Majid Pourmajid, members of the organization Students Seeking Freedom and Equality whom authorities arrested in December 2007” (ibid)

A report by *Human Rights Watch* states:

“One way authorities suppress student activism is through the university disciplinary committees, which have the authority to expel or transfer students to other universities.⁸³ These committees have a record of using their powers to punish students for peaceful political activities” (Human Rights Watch (9th January 2009) - *Iran: Freedom of Expression and Association in the Kurdish Regions*)

A report by *Freedom House* states:

“Student organizations have been sidelined since the election of Ahmadinejad, and even peaceful protesters are attacked and arrested. In July 2007, a group of students at Amir Kabir University held a sit-in that was broken up by security forces. Students were beaten by police and detained without charge. Student publications and groups, even student Islamic Associations, were shut down during the year. The Alumni Association of Iran was also raided by security officials, who arrested 10 members, ransacked their homes, and confiscated their belongings. In September, three leaders of the Office for the Consolidation of Unity, Iran's leading student organization, and five other students were charged with endangering national security and insulting Islam.” (Freedom House (2 July 2009) – *Freedom of the World 2008*)

References

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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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BBC News
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European Country of Origin Information Network
Google
IDSN//
Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada
IRIN News
LEXIS NEXIS
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