

## **Extensive and systematic Human Rights violation in Iran continues!**

Presented by: Mohsen Sazegara, President of Research Institute on Contemporary Iran

### **Ladies and Gentlemen!**

During the last three and a half decades, the Iranian people have bitterly experienced suppression of their fundamental freedoms and rights, and witnessed brutal crackdowns of pro-freedom movements in Iran. I deeply regret to say that extensive and systematic violations of human rights, persecutions, unfair trials, unfounded imprisonments, tortures, rapes and extrajudicial executions still continue, despite the pledges Mr. Rouhani had made to change this trend during his election campaign in 2013.

Regardless of some rare cosmetic and non-systemic release of a dozen of well-known prisoners in 2013 and 2014, the human rights abuses have not only continued, but also increased in many respects including, but not limited to, imprisonment of human rights activists, journalists, bloggers, university students and teachers, workers, ethnic and religious minorities, and political opposition. In 2014, the cases of arrest, detention and imprisonment of activists illustrate a 74 percent increase as compared to 2013. This average increase comprises 53 percent increase in ethnic minorities cases, 10 percent in religious, 93 percent students, 410 percent freedom of expression and conscience, and 354 percent in labor activists cases.

Another human rights violation in Iran includes, *inter alia*, persistent and pervasive assault on women on a continued basis on the pretext of disrespecting Hejab, education and employment segregation, and being banned from appearing on stage for musical performances.

Torture of political prisoners continues to coerce fabricated confessions that are then used to justify brutal crackdowns. According to first-hand reports received from former political prisoners, the main methods of torture include whipping and assault; sexual torture including rape; and psychological torture such as prolonged solitary confinement. These reports are also in conformity with the reports by Dr. Shahid, the UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Iran.

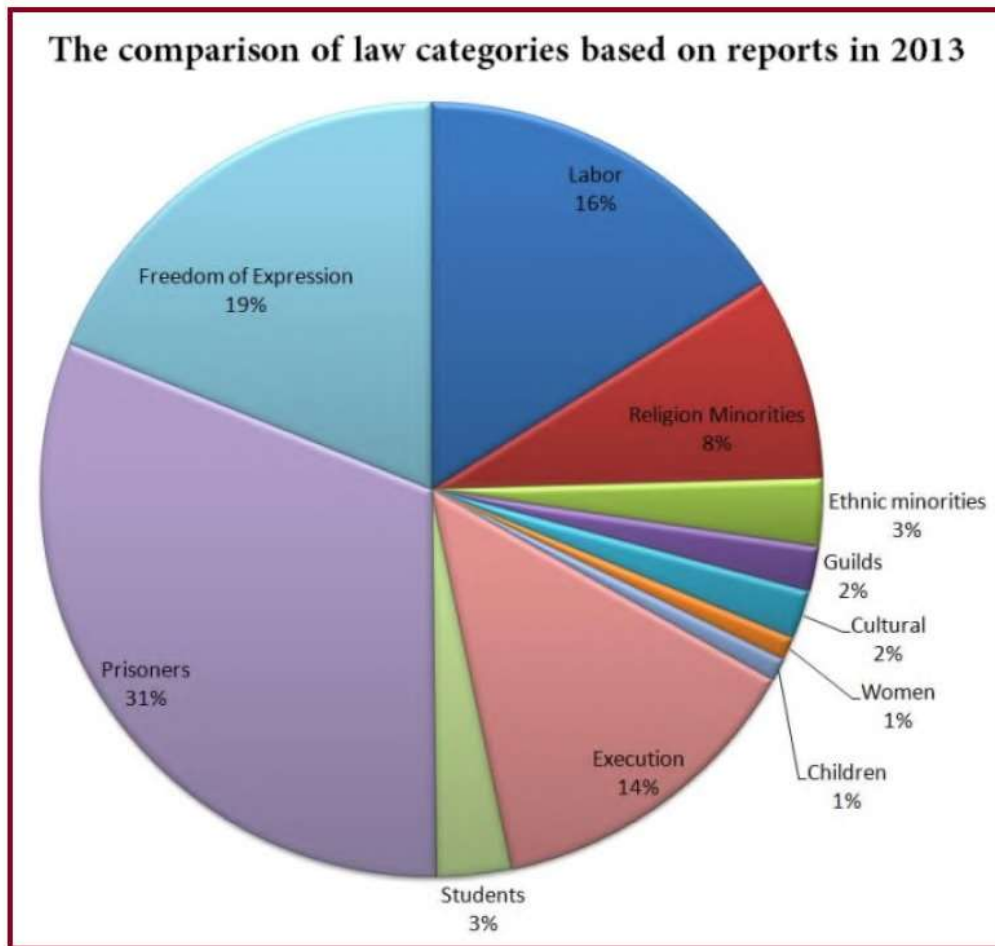
Execution in Iran has increased from 544 known cases in 2012, to more than 800 known cases in 2014, it being the highest per capita rate in the world. The numbers are, however, suspected to be higher since many of these executions are carried out in secret, and the regime has consistently refrained from releasing numbers, and denied the UN Special Rapporteur's access to the country.

These are only examples of a range of human rights violations categories. Such extensive and systematic violations of human rights should not come as a surprise. Despite talk of moderation, Rouhani has indulged impunity, and rewarded the perpetrators of such grave abuses. His present Justice Minister one Pour-Mohammadi who played, as a member of the notorious Death Committee, a key role in the 1988 Prison Massacre, has been appointed by this very "moderate" government.

In the end, I cordially submit that a Standing Subcommittee be formed under the Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa in order to monitor and take all the necessary measures to draw the world's attention to the grave human rights abuses in Iran. Enclosed, I have submitted the first two proposals to be put on the docket of this Subcommittee.

Thank you very much!

### Human Rights Abuse Reports Categories in Iran Based (2013 and 2014)



**NB:** In 2014, the most significant changes in the abuse reports were in reports about Prisoners (23% increased to 31%), Women (1% to 5%), Religious Minorities (8% to 12%) and Children (1% to 4%).

Source: *Human Rights Activists In Iran (HRA)*