

Appendix III

**Violations of the Recommendations regarding
Freedom of Speech, Assembly, and Association;
the Right to Dissent, Political Activity, and Human Rights Advocacy;
Freedom of the Press and Unrestricted Access to the Internet;
and the Safeguarding all Groups, Journalists and Human Rights Defenders**

III.1 Imprisoned student activist Maryam Shafipour, who was arrested in July 2013, was sentenced in February 2014 to seven years imprisonment for membership in Facebook, applying for a student visa, and working on the campaigns of the opposition leaders Mehdi Karroubi and Mir Hossein Mousavi who are under house arrest.

<http://www.iranhumanrights.org/2014/03/maryam-shafipour/>

III.2 Iran's Supreme National Security Council Secretariat filed a lawsuit against the journalist Hossein Ghadyani in February 2014 for "acting against the resolutions of the Council," after he published four articles in a Tehran newspaper criticizing Hassan Rouhani's foreign policy and the Geneva nuclear agreement. <http://www.iranhumanrights.org/2014/02/media-lawsuit/>

III.3 On February 14, 2014, Branch 14 of the Iranian Supreme Court upheld a death sentence for Rouhollah Tavana for "insulting the Prophet," who had been arrested at his home in Mashhad in October 2011. According to a court ruling ICHRI reviewed, Intelligence agents confiscated a private video recording of Tavana on his personal computer, in which he uttered the derogatory remarks. <http://www.iranhumanrights.org/2014/02/inquisition/>

III.4 In a continuing pattern of denial of press freedom and closure of publications, the authorities closed the centrist independent publication *Aseman* in February 2014. This follows the shuttering of publications such as *Bahar*, *Neshat*, *Tous*, *Tajrobeh*, and *Mehrnameh* over the past year. <http://www.iranhumanrights.org/2014/02/aseman-daily/>

III.5 In January 2014, security forces arrested over 20 workers of the Chadormalu Mine in the central province of Yazd, including the Head of the Labor Union, Mr. Hossein Jeneae, and Secretary of the Union Mr. Bahram Hassaninejad, who stopped work as part of a labor dispute. Bahram Hassaninejad, the secretary of the workers' labor union, was dismissed from his job during earlier protests in November 2013. <http://www.iranhumanrights.org/2014/01/strike-arrest/>

III.6 In January 2014, Azam Sadat Hosseini, Spokesperson for the coastal city of Behshahr's City Council in Mazandaran Province, was removed from her position because of her participation in the social network Facebook.

<http://www.iranhumanrights.org/2014/01/spokeswoman-facebook/>

III.7 Censorship of the Internet continues: On December 26, 2013, the Secretary of Iran's

Working Group to Determine Instances of Criminal Content on the Internet told Fars News Agency that blocking Tango, Viber, WhatsApp, and other mobile communications applications remain on the Working Group's agenda. Three days later, Iranian users reported Viber had been blocked in Iran; Instagram and WeChat had been blocked earlier.

<http://www.iranhumanrights.org/2014/01/rouhani-internet/>

III.8 The Narenji website specializing in Internet technology, announced on December 3, 2013, that seven members of its editorial and technical team, Ali Asghar Honarmand, Abbas Vahedi, Alireza Vaziri, Nassim Nikmehr, Maliheh Naghaei Mohammad Hossein Mousazadeh, and Sara Sajadpour, had been arrested by the Intelligence Unit of the IRGC in Kerman. On December 4, 2013, Kerman's Deputy Prosecutor announced the arrests of 16 website designers and Internet professionals in Kerman Province. The authorities alleged their ties to BBC Persian as well as opposition and Green Movement leaders. The Head of the Kerman Judiciary emphasized that there will be "maximum punishment" for such individuals, although no trials have taken place and the suspects have not yet had the opportunity to defend themselves. BBC Persian has stated unequivocally that it has no staff in Iran, and any statements to the contrary are based on false forced confessions. <http://www.iranhumanrights.org/2014/01/it-punishment/>

III.9 Quran scholar Seyed Ali Asghar Gharavi, 68, has been in solitary confinement at Tehran's Evin Prison since his November 10, 2013 arrest, which followed publication in the *Bahar* newspaper of his article, which raised scholarly questions about the historical event of Eid al-Ghadeer. In a January 3, 2014 ICHRI interview with members of Gharavi's family, they reported his poor physical conditions during their minutes-long booth visit with him after 40 days in solitary confinement. Gharavi suffers from severe back and prostate problems, and loss of muscle and nerve health in his legs, which have led to his repeated, falls recently. The Press Oversight Committee ordered the ban on *Bahar* newspaper on October 28, 2013. *Bahar's* Managing Editor, Saeed Pourazizi, is also being prosecuted.

<http://www.iranhumanrights.org/2014/01/asghar-gharavi/>

III.10 In a renewed crackdown on IT and social media professionals that began in December of 2013, IRGC Intelligence units arrested Mohammad Amin Akrami and Mehdi Rayshahri Tangestani for their social media activities <http://www.iranhumanrights.org/2013/12/irgc-facebook/> and, in early December, a group of IT professionals were shown on Iranian state television, arrested and handcuffed, charged with "Internet activities aiming for a 'soft overthrow' of the Iranian regime," and "contact with foreign media, including the BBC." Narenji, an Internet technology website, announced on December 3 that seven of its members had been arrested by an IRGC Intelligence Unit in Kerman, and the Kerman's Deputy Prosecutor announced the arrests of 16 Internet professionals, stating that the charges facing the group of individuals "who worked within a complex security-media network" included "committing cyber crimes and relations with foreigners." <http://www.iranhumanrights.org/2013/12/one-week-after-arrest-detained-internet-technologists-appear-handcuffed-on-tv/> This follows the arrest of eight individuals for publishing "blasphemous content in cyberspace," according to a Kerman

Province Judiciary statement regarding remarks by the Prosecutor for the General and Revolutionary Courts of Rafsanjan on November 25, 2013.

<http://www.iranhumanrights.org/2013/11/facebook-twitter/>

III.11 The Persian-language publication *Kaleme* reported in December 2013 (source: <http://kaleme.com/1392/09/26/klm-168550/>) that the IRGC is increasingly accessing Iranian citizens' Facebook pages by obtaining passwords from detainees that are extracted during interrogations through torture. <http://www.iranhumanrights.org/2013/12/irgc-facebook/>

III.12 In a December 2013 interview with ICHRI, several starred students (banned from higher education due to their peaceful political activities or religious beliefs) reported that they were still awaiting re-admission into universities. For example, Farshid Moghaddam Salimi, a student who has been banned from continuing his education since 2006, and Reza Arab, banned in 2012, have still not been allowed to return to university.

<http://www.iranhumanrights.org/2013/12/starred-students-2/>

III.13 Iranian musicians continue to need government authorization in order to perform and produce their music, and this is often denied for individuals that are not seen as conforming politically or ideologically to the government's views. Unlicensed musicians who perform or produce their music are frequently arrested. In December 2013, authorities arrested the Iranian rapper Amir Tataloo. <http://www.iranhumanrights.org/2013/12/bargmusic/> In October 2013, IRGC forces arrested three individuals involved in the Iranian alternative music scene, Mehdi Rajabian, his brother, and Yousef Emadi, who managed BargMusic, a portal for distributing underground music in Iran (music that has not been approved and licensed by the state), as well as a woman, Azadeh S., who was affiliated with BargMusic.

<http://www.iranhumanrights.org/2013/12/amir-tataloo/>. The Kaleme website reported that during interrogations they were pressured to make false public confessions (source: <http://www.kaleme.com/1392/09/20/klm-167823/>). At a previous August 2013 concert of Dawn of Rage, an Iranian rock band, all the musicians and the 200 guests attending the concert were arrested at a public amphitheater in Tehran.

<http://www.iranhumanrights.org/2013/12/bargmusic/> Kourosh Yaghmaei, a very popular pre-1979 pop musician, remains under a 25-year ban on his musical activities.

<http://www.iranhumanrights.org/2013/12/amir-tataloo/>

III.14 In December 2013, Iran's Police Commander Esmaeel Ahmadi Moghaddam threatened country's officials with "legal and judicial consequences" if they continue to use Facebook, and other officials and leading clerics continue to publicly advocate for the continued ban on the use of the social media site. <http://www.iranhumanrights.org/2013/12/facebook-officials/>

III.15 The authorities continue to monitor Iranians' activity on the Internet: Colonel Massoud Zahedian, Commander of the Morality Police, stated in December 2013, as quoted by the domestic Iranian news agency ISNA (Iranian Student's News Agency) (source:

<http://www.isna.ir/fa/news/92091812245/%D9%86%D8%B8%D8%A7%D8%B1%D8%AA->

[%D9%BE%D9%84%DB%8C%D8%B3-%D8%A8%D8%B1-%D9%88%DB%8C-%DA%86%D8%AA-%D9%88-%D8%A7%DB%8C%D9%86%D8%B3%D8%AA%D8%A7%DA%AF%D8%B1%D8%A7%D9%85](http://www.iranhumanrights.org/2013/12/cyber-police/)): “The Police are present on the Internet and are monitoring environments such as Facebook, Instagram, WeChat, etc.” <http://www.iranhumanrights.org/2013/12/cyber-police/>

III.16 In September 2013, Gilan Province Intelligence officials summoned and threatened the family members of VOA Persian service reporter Arash Sigarchi. His family and his wife’s family were threatened with confiscation of their assets, foreign travel bans, and imprisonment, and were pressured to convince Sigarchi to cease his work with VOA. <http://www.iranhumanrights.org/2013/10/family-voa/>

III.17 In a September 11, 2013 interview with ICHRI, the imprisoned dissident cleric Arash Honarvar Shojaee, who was arrested on October 28, 2010 and sentenced to four years in prison, 50 lashes, \$800 in fines, and lifetime defrocking as a cleric on charges of espionage, propaganda against the regime, acting against national security, and disrespecting the clergy, stated that new charges of insulting Ayatollah Khamenei had been levelled against him and that he had been sentenced to an additional year in prison for calling Khomeini a “populist” in an interview. <http://www.iranhumanrights.org/2013/09/cleric-populist/>

III.18 In July 2013, security forces continued to harass Peyman Roshanzamir, owner of “Oos Peyman” blogs and Editor-in-Chief of the “Haft-e-Tir” news website. After serving the 17-month sentence for “propaganda against the regime” and “insulting the Supreme Leader” that followed his May 2011 arrest and trial, security forces searched for him among family and friends’ houses, harassing them and pressuring the blogger to turn himself into prison even though he has not received a summons. http://www.iranhumanrights.org/2013/07/peyman_roshanzamir/

III.19 In June 2013, Saeed Madani, a political activist, academic, and member of the editorial board of the banned *Iran-e Farda Monthly*, was sentenced to six years in prison in exile in Bandar Abbas and an additional 10 years in exile for charges related to acting against the state, with the authorities citing his social activities, interviews in the press, and public statements. http://www.iranhumanrights.org/2013/06/saeed_madani/

III.20 The labor activist Afshin Osanloo, who was arrested for his labor activism in 2010, died in prison on June 20, 2013. According to the authorities, the cause of death was a heart attack, but Osanloo’s family disputes this, citing his lack of any prior heart condition and his apparent good health at their last visit with him. http://www.iranhumanrights.org/2013/06/osanloo_death/

III.21 Security forces arrested Fariba Pajouh, a journalist who worked for reformist newspapers, on July 10, 2013 at her home. Four security force members searched her home, confiscated her computer and satellite receiver, and transferred her to Evin Prison. She is being held in solitary confinement without charges. She was previously arrested in 2009 in the aftermath of the disputed 2009 elections, and imprisoned for 124 days after being released on

USD \$50,000. http://www.iranhumanrights.org/2013/07/fariba_pajouh-2/

III.22 On the day of the presidential election in Iran (June 14, 2013), authorities blocked foreign Persian-language television stations (including Voice of America and BBC Persian), shut down university campuses, and denied permissions and visas to a number of poll workers and foreign reporters. http://www.iranhumanrights.org/2013/06/election_day/. In the run-up to the election (April, May and June 2013), censorship of newspapers and news websites intensified, with publications such as *Iran Newspaper* closed and websites such as those belonging to Serat News and the Mehr News Agency blocked, political activists and campaign workers were arrested, as were political and cultural figures close to the reformist camp, foreign journalists were required to be accompanied by “minders,” journalists and activists who had been imprisoned after the 2009 elections but were on furlough were recalled to prison (for example, Bahman Ahmadi Amouee and Massoud Bastani http://www.iranhumanrights.org/2013/05/prisoners_election/), families of employees of Radio Free Europe/Radio liberty were summoned by the authorities and interrogated, journalists were subjected to intensified cyber attacks and warned not to support reformist candidates, and some of the reformist candidates running in the election were threatened by the authorities. http://www.iranhumanrights.org/2013/06/iran_election/.

III.23 Baztab Emrooz’s managing editor Ali Ghazali and the news website’s founder Foad Sadeghi were arrested in the crackdown on the press during the run up to the June 2013 election. In the five months from January through May 2013, Iranian officials arrested more than 20 reformist and conservative journalists, and several publications, including *Aseman* weekly, *Tajrobeh* monthly, and *Mehrnameh* monthly were forced to close. Sadeghi had reportedly been planning rejected candidate Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani’s media campaign for the upcoming presidential election (source: <http://ayandehonline.com/?a=content.id&id=180>.) Iranian officials arrested managing editor Ali Ghazali on April 27, just hours after Baztab Emrooz website published an article about election fraud in the disputed 2009 presidential elections. Iranian censors blocked several pro-Ahmadinejad news websites and blogs prior to the election; according to the semi-official Iranian Student News Agency, at a May 28 Media Oversight Committee meeting, six newspapers and publications received warnings (source: <http://www.kaleme.com/1392/03/07/klm-145394/>), and the Dolat-e-Bahar website, which was close to Ahmadinejad, was blocked. Earlier, several websites and blogs run by Ahmadinejad supporters, including Meyar News, Roshanaee, Baharna, Bahar Online, Bardasht News, Emtedad-e-Mehr, Taffakor Imani, Armanshahr, and Shafiee Kia, were also blocked. Serat News, a conservative news website, was also blocked on May 25. http://www.iranhumanrights.org/2013/05/ghazali_sadeghi/ In addition, during the same period, security officials summoned and phoned a number of journalists, warning them not to support reformist candidates. http://www.iranhumanrights.org/2013/05/prisoners_election/

III.24 Student activist Ashkan Zahabian, a former Mashhad University student and member of the Daftar Tahkim Vahdat Student Organization General Council, was arrested and transferred to Babol’s Mati Kola Prison on May 27, 2013. The family stated that no summonses had been

served to them and that the arrest, which the authorities claimed was in order to carry out the sentencing of an earlier case against him, had taken place in the absence of due process and serving of requisite summonses. He has been repeatedly arrested and imprisoned, severely beaten during his arrests, banned from university, put in solitary confinement and/or kept with dangerous criminals, and denied critical medical care needed as a result of his hunger strike to protest his conditions as well as abuse inflicted during interrogations.

http://www.iranhumanrights.org/2013/05/ashkan_zahabian/

III.25 ICHRI was told in May 2013 by sources close to some of the disqualified candidates in Iran's presidential election that after registering for the elections, security organizations contacted the reformist candidates for the Tehran City Council elections, asking them to state their position against Mir Hossein Mousavi, Mehdi Karroubi, and the Green Movement or to withdraw their applications. <http://www.iranhumanrights.org/2013/05/city-council/>

III.26 Three high-ranking reformist figures, diplomat Bagher Asadi, Jamileh Karimi, and Abdolhamid Moafian, were arrested during March and April of 2013, in the run-up to the June 2013 presidential election. http://www.iranhumanrights.org/2013/05/bagher_asadi/

III.27 In other detentions of political figures prior to the 2013 presidential elections, former Member of Parliament Hossein Loghmanian and four reformist activists from Hamadan Province (Mohammad Reza Afkhami, Hadi Ehtezazi, Amin Faridian, and Ms. Rahimi) were arrested in March 2013 while on their way to Tehran to meet with former president Mohammad Khatami. http://www.iranhumanrights.org/2013/04/loghmanian_arrest/

III.28 A crackdown on journalists began on January 26, 2013, when Iranian officials arrested two journalists, Soleiman Mohammadi and Milad Fadi Asl. The next day, security forces raided the offices of five publications, *Shargh*, *Bahar*, *Arman*, and *Etemad* newspapers and *Aseman* Weekly, and arrested nine other journalists. The arrests continued into the following days, with the following journalists arrested and released on bail: Motahareh Shafiee, Ali Dehghan, Fatemeh Sagharchi, Javad Daliri, Hossein Haghchi, Keyvan Mehregan, Narges Joudaki, Akbar Montajebi, Rayhaneh Tabatabaee, Milad Fadai Asl, Pouria Alami, Pejman Mousavi, and Soleiman Mohammadi, Nasrin Takhayori, Sasan Aghaee, and Saba Azarpeik. On March 3, security forces arrested an editor at the magazine *Mehrnameh*, Mohammad Javad Rouh. On March 6, officials banned *Aseman* weekly, *Tajrobeh* monthly, and *Mehrnameh* monthly, and arrested the Maghreb newspaper's license holder Mohammad Mehdi Emam Naseri and political desk editor Alireza Aghaee Rad. http://www.iranhumanrights.org/2013/03/mehrnameh_aseman/