

# ANNUAL REPORT 2024

Annual Report of Human rights situation in Iranian Kurdistan  
Hana Office of Legal affairs

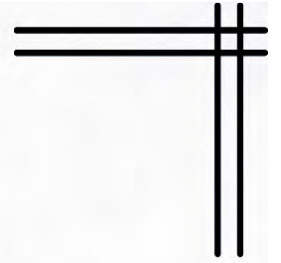


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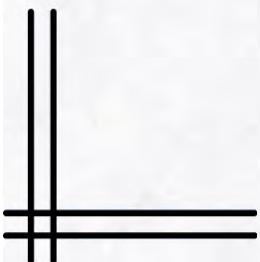
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## Preface

- The Hana Human Rights Organization, through its Office of Legal Affairs, has published its annual analytical and statistical report on the human rights situation in Iranian Kurdistan, covering the one-year period from January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2024. This report represents the culmination of the organization's continuous efforts to document human rights conditions in the Kurdish regions of Iran.

The data presented in the report have been meticulously gathered through Hana's investigations, interviews with victims of human rights violations, and information provided by credible internal sources. Given the pervasive and stringent surveillance imposed by Iranian security and intelligence agencies in Kurdish cities, Hana remains firmly committed to safeguarding the privacy and anonymity of individuals who contribute to its work.

According to Hana's monitoring of the human rights landscape in 2024, the civil and political rights of Kurdish people have been systematically violated under the pretext of national security concerns by the Islamic Republic of Iran. This repression intensified following the "Woman, Life, Freedom" uprising, which originated in Kurdish cities and sparked widespread protests across the country.

In addition to these violations, the social, cultural, and economic rights of the Kurdish population remain severely neglected. The government's failure to uphold its obligations under international human rights law has further exacerbated the already dire conditions in these areas. Despite these challenges, Hana Human Rights Organization continues to advocate for justice, accountability, and the realization of fundamental human rights for the Kurdish people.

## Background: Iran's Legal and Constitutional Framework

- The Iranian legal system is a hybrid model, combining principles of Islamic law (Sharia) with elements of civil law. According to Article 4 of the Iranian Constitution, "All civil, penal, financial, economic, administrative, cultural, military, political, and other laws and regulations must be based on Islamic criteria."

While Iran is a state party to several fundamental international human rights treaties, its constitutional framework does not explicitly recognize the supremacy of international human rights obligations. Only Article 9 of the Iranian Civil Code stipulates that treaties concluded between the Iranian government and other states shall have the force of law.

Key international human rights treaties ratified by Iran include:

The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), ratified on June 24, 1975

The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), ratified on June 24, 1975

The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), ratified on July 13, 1994

Despite these ratifications and Iran's resulting legal obligations under international law, systemic violations of these obligations have been repeatedly documented in reports by United Nations human rights bodies since the Islamic Revolution of 1979.

In a recent declaration on June 23, 2024, Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Khamenei, issued a directive stating: "Judges in courts should not consider Western human rights laws in their decisions, as this constitutes a mistake." This statement

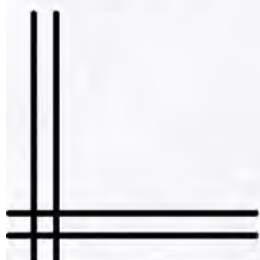
## Background: Iran's Legal and Constitutional Framework

- underscores the longstanding stance of the Islamic Republic, which perceives international human rights law as a manifestation of "Western values" that conflict with Islamic principles.

Furthermore, although Iran is inherently a multi-ethnic, multi-linguistic, and multi-religious society, political power remains highly centralized. The state has consistently failed to provide equal opportunities for various ethnic and national groups, including the Kurds, to participate in governance or exercise any degree of regional self-rule.

In the aftermath of the 1979 Islamic Revolution, Kurdish demands for internal self-determination were met with violent suppression. Ayatollah Khomeini, Iran's first Supreme Leader, issued a jihad fatwa against the Kurdish population, accusing them of rebellion. This fatwa, based on Surah Al-Fat-h (48:29) of the Quran, mobilized both the Iranian army and paramilitary forces to launch an extensive military campaign aimed at regaining control over Kurdish regions that had briefly fallen under the administration of local Kurdish political entities. The military campaign resulted in mass atrocities and a devastating loss of life across Kurdistan.

This pattern of systemic repression against the Kurdish population persists to this day. In particular, following the "Woman, Life, Freedom" uprising of 2022, which originated in Kurdish cities and spread across Iran, state-sponsored violence and crackdowns have intensified, reflecting the government's entrenched policy of suppressing Kurdish political, cultural, and social rights.



## Civil and Political Rights:

### ● 1. The Death Penalty and the Right to Life: Violations of ICCPR Obligations

Despite being a state party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and thereby obligated to adhere to its provisions, including the limitation of the application of the death penalty to the most serious crimes as outlined in Article 6, Iran continues to impose the death penalty extensively. This practice is especially alarming in Kurdistan, where executions are often carried out for offenses that do not satisfy the criteria of “the most serious crimes” as defined by international human rights standards.

Article 6 of the ICCPR enshrines the inherent right to life and emphasizes that the death penalty must be reserved exclusively for “the most serious crimes.” However, data collected by the Hana Human Rights Organization in 2024 reveal that the Islamic Republic of Iran executed at least 124 Kurdish citizens. This figure reflects only those cases that Hana can definitively verify based on legal documentation. Unverified sources suggest that the actual number may be significantly higher, but due to insufficient legal evidence, these claims remain inconclusive. Drug-related offenses constituted the primary cause of these executions, reflecting Iran's persistent failure to align its legal practices with international human rights obligations.

In addition to executions, four Kurdish prisoners died under

## Civil and Political Rights:

- unexplained circumstances while in custody in Iranian prisons during 2024. Iranian judicial authorities have failed to provide any formal explanation or investigation into these deaths, raising serious concerns about accountability and transparency within the prison system. Furthermore, systemic violence against Kurdish Kolbars remains a grave concern. In 2024 alone:

.41 Kolbars were killed by direct fire from Iranian border guards.

.216 Kolbars were injured, many of whom sustained life-altering disabilities as a result of their injuries.

## Civil and Political Rights:

### ● Landmine-Related Fatalities and Injuries in Kurdistan

The threat posed by landmines in Kurdistan continues to claim lives and cause severe injuries, particularly among civilians, including children. These mines are remnants of the Iran-Iraq War (1980–1988), with additional mines reportedly laid by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) in subsequent years.

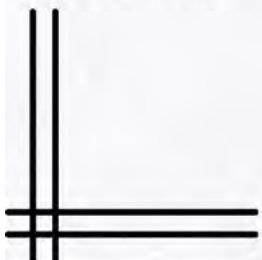
While international humanitarian law does not impose an absolute prohibition on landmines, it establishes clear restrictions to minimize their impact on civilian populations. Parties to armed conflicts are required to:

1. Maintain detailed maps of minefields.

2. Clear minefields following the cessation of hostilities to ensure civilian safety.

The Ottawa Convention on the Prohibition of Anti-Personnel Mines mandates state parties to cease the production, stockpiling, and transfer of anti-personnel mines. Despite the staggering human toll, Iran has not acceded to the Ottawa Convention.

The Iranian government justifies its non-compliance with the Ottawa Convention on the grounds of border security concerns and its ongoing conflict with Kurdish opposition groups. However, this stance continues to endanger the lives of countless Kurdish civilians in border regions.





## Civil and Political Rights:

- In 2024, 10 individuals fell victim to landmine explosions in Kurdish areas:

.5 fatalities were recorded.

.5 survivors sustained severe injuries, including permanent disabilities.

The ongoing use of landmines, combined with Iran's refusal to adhere to international humanitarian standards, constitutes a serious violation of the right to life and highlights the state's failure to fulfill its obligations under international human rights and humanitarian law.

- **2.Enforced Disappearance and Arbitrary Detention in Kurdistan**

The use of enforced disappearance and arbitrary detention by Iranian security and intelligence agencies remains a systematic strategy to instil fear and suppress dissent within Kurdish cities. In numerous cases involving Kurdish human rights defenders and political activists, intelligence agents have carried out secret arrests and enforced disappearances, often without any formal charges or legal justification. These practices constitute clear violations of Article 9 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), which guarantees the right to liberty and security of the person and explicitly prohibits arbitrary arrest and detention. Furthermore, such actions directly contradict Articles 32 and 38 of the Iranian Constitution and Article 53 of the Iranian Criminal Procedure Code, all of which enshrine protections against

## Civil and Political Rights:

- arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance, and inhumane treatment.

According to data verified by the Hana Human Rights Organization, in 2024, at least 640 Kurdish citizens were arrested and subjected to enforced disappearance by Iranian intelligence agents. These detentions often occur without legal warrants, and the individuals whereabouts remain unknown for prolonged periods, leaving families in a state of uncertainty and distress.

Moreover, the Iranian judiciary frequently dismisses complaints filed by victims' families regarding these cases, largely due to pressure exerted by security forces. This lack of judicial independence and accountability further perpetuates the cycle of impunity surrounding enforced disappearances and arbitrary detentions in Kurdistan.



## Civil and Political Rights:

### ● 3. The Right to a Fair Trial

Hana's investigations reveal that, as in previous years, the right of Kurdish activists to a fair trial was grossly violated in 2024, raising grave concerns about the situation of Kurdish political prisoners. Systematic failures within Iran's judicial system, coupled with the influence of security and intelligence agencies, have led to deeply flawed legal proceedings that fall far short of international standards for due process and fair trials.

One alarming case is that of Pakhshan Azizi, a 40-year-old humanitarian aid worker and civil society activist. On August 4, 2023, agents from the Ministry of Intelligence arbitrarily arrested Pakhshan Azizi at her family home in Tehran and transferred her to the notorious Evin Prison. Since her detention, she has endured inhumane treatment and torture, leading her to undertake multiple hunger strikes in protest her conditions and the violation of her right to a fair trial. In July 2024, Branch 26 of the Revolutionary Court of Tehran sentenced her to death on charges of "armed rebellion against the state" (baghi)—a conviction based solely on her peaceful human rights activities. The Iranian Supreme Court upheld her death sentence in January 2025, placing her at imminent risk of execution.



## Civil and Political Rights:

● In another similarly egregious case, Wrishe Moradi, a 39-year-old member of the East Kurdistan Free Woman Society (KJAR), was sentenced to death in November 2024 following a grossly unfair trial conducted by Branch 15 of the Revolutionary Court of Tehran. On August 1, 2023, agents from the Ministry of Intelligence violently arrested her in Sanandaj, Kurdistan Province, and subjected her to enforced disappearance for nearly four months, refusing to disclose her whereabouts to her family. Investigations by Hana Human Rights Organization revealed that she endured severe physical and psychological torture aimed at extracting false confessions.

Another disturbing example is the case of Rezgar Beigzadeh Babamiri, an ordinary citizen and volunteer aid worker who provided medical assistance to injured protesters during the Women, Life, Freedom uprising. On April 16, 2023, Rezgar was forcibly disappeared by Ministry of Intelligence agents. For over four months, his family was kept in complete ignorance regarding his fate and whereabouts, despite their repeated efforts to obtain information from judicial and intelligence authorities. It was later revealed that he was being held in a secret detention facility in Urmia, operated by the Ministry of Intelligence. During his detention, Rezgar was subjected to severe physical and psychological torture, including beatings that caused extensive bruising, open wounds, and a ruptured eardrum. These brutal methods were aimed at forcing him to confess to fabricated charges, including “armed rebellion against the state (baghi), espionage, and murder.” His current situation remains largely unknown, raising serious fears of a secret execution.

## Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

- Observations by the Hana reveal no meaningful progress in ensuring the protection and promotion of economic, social, and cultural rights in Kurdish regions of Iran throughout 2024. The systemic neglect and discriminatory policies of the Iranian government continue to exacerbate existing inequalities and deepen socio-economic disparities.

A primary area of concern remains discrimination on religious and ethnic grounds within the education system, particularly regarding the right to education in one's mother tongue. Despite Articles 15 and 30 of the Iranian Constitution, which obligates the state to provide free education for all citizens, and Article 27 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), which protects minority cultural and linguistic rights, Kurdish children continue to face institutionalized barriers to accessing education in their native language.

In addition, socio-economic disparities persist between Kurdish communities and other ethnic and economic groups in Iran in several key areas:

**Education:** Limited access to quality education, discriminatory practices, and insufficient resources in Kurdish-majority schools hinder academic progress.

**Employment:** A lack of sufficient economic opportunities and sustainable employment markets in Kurdish cities has resulted in high unemployment rates and widespread economic marginalization.

## Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

**Travel and Mobility:** Discriminatory restrictions on travel and bureaucratic hurdles often disproportionately affect Kurdish citizens.

**Housing:** Inadequate housing policies and lack of infrastructure development have perpetuated poor living conditions in Kurdish cities.

**Cultural Rights:** Restrictions on cultural expression and limited state support for cultural activities undermine the Kurdish people's ability to preserve and promote their heritage.

Another significant issue is the lack of legal recognition for Kolbars under Iranian labour and social security laws. Kolbars, who often risk their lives to transport goods across dangerous border regions, are excluded from basic labour protections and social welfare programs. This lack of legal status leaves them vulnerable to exploitation, unsafe working conditions, and deadly violence from Iranian border forces.

These systemic violations constitute a clear breach of Iran's obligations under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), to which Iran is a state party. Article 2 of the ICESCR obligates state parties to take steps, individually and through international assistance, to achieve the progressive realization of these rights without discrimination of any kind, including on the grounds of ethnicity, language, or religion.



## Legislative Developments and Human Rights Concerns: The New Compulsory Hijab Law in Iran

- Since the Islamic Revolution in 1979, the Iranian government has imposed compulsory veiling (hijab) for women under the orders of Ayatollah Khomeini, despite the absence of explicit legal provisions or a clear definition of hijab in Iranian law. Recently, authorities have introduced a new and draconian law that severely undermines the human rights of women and girls. This legislation imposes harsh penalties, including the death penalty, flogging, imprisonment, and other punitive measures, to suppress resistance against the compulsory hijab mandate. The law criminalizes acts described as "nudity, indecency, unveiling, and improper dressing," creating an oppressive framework for enforcing compliance.

Article 37 of the law criminalizes "promoting or propagating nudity, indecency, unveiling, or bad dressing" in collaboration with foreign entities, including media and civil society organizations. Violations may result in up to 10 years of imprisonment and substantial fines. Furthermore, if such actions are deemed to constitute "corruption on earth" under Article 286 of the Islamic Penal Code, they become punishable by death. This provision effectively means that women and girls who send videos of themselves unveiled to media outlets outside Iran or engage in peaceful activism may face the death penalty.

## Legislative Developments and Human Rights Concerns: The

### New Compulsory Hijab Law in Iran

- Article 49 mandates the immediate detention and prosecution of women and girls accused of "nudity" in public or online, with punishments including up to 10 years of imprisonment or significant fines.

The law's vagueness regarding the definition of hijab and what constitutes its violation fosters legal uncertainty, enabling extrajudicial punishments and inhumane treatment by police and security forces. This lack of clarity not only undermines the rule of law but also facilitates systemic abuses.

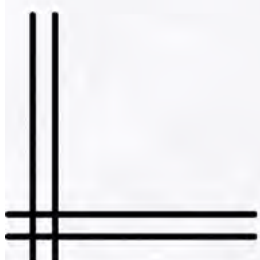
In regions like Kurdistan, the enforcement of this law exacerbates conflicts and violence against women. While the majority of Kurds are Sunni Muslims, Kurdish-Sunni jurists have not issued any fatwas endorsing compulsory hijab. Furthermore, Kurdish cultural norms traditionally afford women greater freedom in their choice of attire, which sharply contrasts with the state-imposed regulations. These cultural disparities risk escalating tensions and perpetuating violence against women in Kurdish areas. Compounding the assault on women's rights is the "Rejuvenation of the Population and Protection of the Family" (RPPF) law and its supplementary regulations.



# Legislative Developments and Human Rights Concerns: The New Compulsory Hijab Law in Iran

- This law bans the provision and education of contraceptives in health centers, criminalizes their use, prohibits sterilization, and imposes severe restrictions on pregnancy screening, disregarding the risks posed to maternal and infant health. These measures further undermine women's autonomy, jeopardize reproductive health, and endanger the lives of mothers and infants across Iran.

The recent legislative developments in Iran represent a systematic and severe violation of the fundamental rights of women and girls. The lack of legal clarity, coupled with the imposition of draconian penalties, has created an environment of fear, repression, and systemic human rights abuses. Urgent international attention and action are necessary to address these egregious violations and support the rights and freedoms of women in Iran.





Hana Human Rights Organization is an independent organization committed to promoting human rights and justice in Iranian Kurdistan through advocacy, research, and community support.

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