

پشت پرده امنیت اجتماعی

گزارشی مستند و تکان دهنده از پشت پرده
طرح موسوم به ارتقاء امنیت اجتماعی

An Independent
and Moving News Release
About Recent Social Crackdown in

KEHRZIK CAMP



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An Independent and Moving News Release About Recent Social
Crackdown in Iran: KEHRZIK CAMP

Published by the Human Rights Activists in Iran



In May of 2007 the Iranian police, namely the National Security Police and the Army (Niruye Entezami) started a brutal social crackdown in Iran, particularly in Tehran.

However, the Iranian public was only aware of what they read and heard in state owned and controlled media outlets. Because the victims of this brutal operation had no way of defending and fighting for their rights Human Rights Activists in Iran has put together this news release, in order to inform the world of what really happened. This was prepared with the help of those who were released unconditionally or on bail, as well as from those who are currently in Evin, Gohardasht and other prisons.

The Start of this Operation:

In this operation 32 police stations, 12 National Security Police Stations as well as 5 Intelligence Ministry Offices were involved.

Police Stations:

The police stations involved in this operation were Bahanar, Pasdaran, Valiasr, Khoramshahr, Mirzayi Shirazi, Namju, Palestine, Azadi, baharestan, Pirouzi, Hosamoleydin Abusayid, Panzdahe Khordad, Ayatollah Saidi, Hala Ahmar, Khazane Bokharayi, Javadiye, Saharkhan, Mehr Abad, Abouzar Ghafari, Dahome Farvardin, Darband, Shaheed Bahonar, Kollah Douz, Seyed Jamaledin Asad Abadi, Tehran Pars, Farjam, Pirouzi, Vali Asr, Nazi Abad, Fadayiyane Islam and Khavaran.

National Security Police Offices:

Shemiranat, SeyedKhandan, Nilufar, Hafte Hoz, Khaje Nezam, Khavaran, Irq, Meydane Har as well as three other offices.

Army Basis:

Central Office in Tehran, Northern Office in Tehran, Southern Office in Tehran, Eastern Office in Tehran, Western Office in Tehran.

Arrests:

Arresting Individuals in their Homes:



Photo : Ebrahim Noroozi

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Individuals such as Commander Mamouli who had 100's of masked police officers with him would attack people's homes, climbing roofs, breaking down doors and attacking the individuals. They would beat sons in front of their mothers and sisters, fathers in front of their children and husbands in front of their wives. After severe beatings they would drag these individuals into the streets either half-naked or in their pajamas.

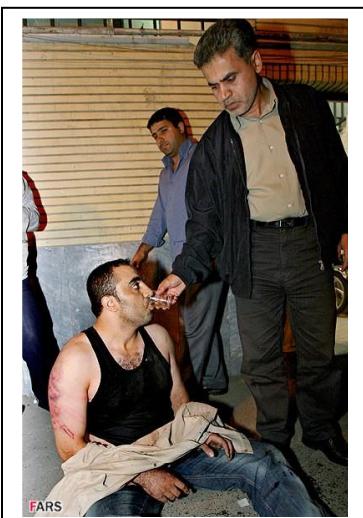
There were no boundaries to these attacks, nothing to stop the officers from breaking down the main doors of the house or the doors to rooms, even when there were small children in the rooms. There were also no rules against destroying private property.

In order to create greater fear and to force neighbors into the streets, the police officers would fire at the doors, walls, and ceilings of the houses of the people they were arresting, without having any consideration for the effect this would have particularly on children and the elderly.

Once on the streets they would force the individuals under arrest to use the microphones in the police cars to confess to crimes they had not committed or to say insulting things about themselves and their loved ones.

The individuals arrested in their homes in general did have previous criminal convictions but no new charges pending against them.

Arrest of Individuals in the later days:



The people that were arrested after the first wave of arrests generally had no criminal records or pending criminal charges, and were arrested only in order to increase the list of those arrested under the pretense of having committed serious crimes. Most of these individuals were released without any charges laid against them after the first 4 months.

These individuals who were arrested were mostly those hanging out in parks or street corners, those suspected of selling illegal CD's, tapes, movies and alcohol, street vendors, as well as individuals known for frequenting coffee shops and other places where young men and women gather and socialize.

Transfer of Individuals in Custody to the National Security Police Stations:

Many people who had been charged with minor crimes such as theft under or an ordinary assault and were in custody at the time were transferred to the National Security Police Stations in order to increase the number of those who were arrested and were to be sent to Kehrzik Camp.

All these individuals were charged with minor crimes and the only reason for their transfer to the Kehrzik Camp was the need for the police to increase the list of those who were arrested, under the pretense of having committed very serious crimes.

Where Prisoners were Incarcerated before begin Transferred to the Kehrzik Camp:

Arrested Individuals in Police Stations:

Many of these people after the arrest and the initial beatings which consisted of kicking, punching and beatings with electrical cables were transferred to police stations.

The large number of prisoners in the National Security Police Stations:



It can be said that about 80% of those arrested were arrested by the National Security Police and the beatings and torture in the National Security Police Offices were much worse than those in regular police stations. The treatment of the individuals arrested by the National Security Police was so extreme to the point of having the individual's arms or legs broken before taking them to the stations.

The torturers included Captain Reza Safri, Major Akbar Mohammadi, Saeed Ali Mohammad Hosseini, Mr. Zafarani and Mr. Musivand and Hadi Zalghadir who were in charge of torture and obtaining false confessions from these innocent people.

The Central National Security Office:



The Central National Security Office, which is in Ashraf Abad, was the main station where the arrested individuals were taken, which was also the smallest office and had the least amount of space for prisoners. Many of the families of those arrested held protests in front of this particular office. The torturers in this location had a large range of power and

conducted some of the worst tortures under the order of commander Radan and Commander Mahmoud Barg Zanm.

This location had the capacity for imprisonment of 70 people however, 350 people at a time were held captive at this location, and it was crowded to the degree where people would be thrown on top of each other and torture of prisoners would take place in front of other prisoners. 20 masked security guards at a time would enter the cells and would start beating prisoners with cables, sticks and chains and give them electric shocks.

The hair of all individuals was shaved as they entered the station and while they were being beaten by security guards Commander Radan entered the station and stated "We have been ordered by the highest officials in this country to do this and the soldiers are just carrying out orders. They have the right to beat and torture you and if anyone dies I will take responsibility for it" The beatings continued after this speech until many had broken arms or legs and many

more had lost consciousness.

Because the cells were so packed the soldiers were having a difficult time beating and torturing those who were in the back of the cells, therefore they would handcuff many prisoners together, throw them on the floor and walk over them to reach those who were in the back of the cells.



These individuals were kept in this station for two weeks without any medical attention to their injuries and broken bones.

Unfortunately number of individuals lost their lives at this time and because the soldiers were masked only a few of them were identified namely: Mr. Zaferani and Mr. Musivand.

In order to stop being tortured some prisoners were forced to put their head inside the toilet bowl and lick it and others were forced to beat on the rest of the prisoners.

False Confessions Under Torture:

The security forces tried forcing the prisoners to confess to crimes they had not committed under torture, this was particularly bad in the National Security Police Station, particularly forcing them to confess to very serious crimes which would result in heavy sentences.



Interrogation Questions During Torture:

- How many people have you raped?
- How many children have you kidnapped?
- How many times have you committed armed robbery?
- How many people have you murdered?
- We have heard you have raped children in your neighborhood and many similar questions



Innocent people were forced to admit they had committed such serious crimes under torture. Many individuals were also forced to sign blank papers and did not know what they were being charged with or what they were signing.

The Way the Police Tried to Manipulate Public Opinion

After beating these individuals mercilessly for hours, they would take them to their neighborhoods and by firing shots in the air and turning on the car sirens would bring people into the streets. Then the officers would tell the people who had gathered around:

“This is a person that lives in your neighborhood, he has raped many young women or he is a thief, or has kidnapped new brides and raped them, or has raped a three year old girl and killed her.”

This was done to mislead the public and excuse the brutal behaviour of the police. Then they would proceed to beat and break the arms and legs of these individuals or even flog them in public, without any charges or conviction or sentence.



The individuals would even be taken to neighborhoods where they did not live in and had never been to and the same treatment would continue.

The Transfer of Prisoners from Police Stations to Kehrzik Camp



The prisoners were taken to the Kehrzik Camp which is located in the middle of a desert near the city of Sange Shahre Ray. The camp has one main lobby, 8 rooms and two larger rooms. There is no water, very little electricity, no room for visitation, no phones no carpets, beds or blankets available.

Water

There are no water pipes in the camp and the individuals were not allowed to use water for the purpose of going to the bathroom or cleansing. Any request for the use of water would be answered by severe beatings and torture.

In the first month the prisoners were given water from gallons which had previously contained petroleum or gas and this caused many of the individuals to become extremely ill.

After the first month the individuals were given two liters of water every two weeks to use for washing their face and hands.

In the first two months those who wanted to use the washroom at the pre-arranged times which was 10am and 10pm would have to pay a price, which was a severe beating by cables and sticks before they could use the washrooms.

Many of the prisoners suffered serious skin diseases and lice as a result of this lack of water.

Food:

For the first few days the prisoners were not given any food at all. When Commander Sardar visited the camp he stated “you will stay here for so long,

be tortured and not be given food or water for so long that you will become as small as a mouse, until you can pass through these bars and only then if you are still alive you will be taken to court or to other prisons.”

After the speech the prisoners would be given food twice a day at 4:30pm and 9:30 pm. They would be given one quarter of a pita bread and a very small potato. This food would not be given to them, but would be thrown inside the cells. Also for fun, interrogators would make weaker prisoners get on their hands and knees and bark like dogs, before being given their food. As a result many of these prisoners lost 1/3 to Yi of their body weight.

Medical Treatment for the Prisoners:



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Photo : Ebrahim Noroozi

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Some treatment was available for those suffering from life threatening injuries such as losing consciousness for long periods of time, burst appendix or broken arms. In some cases where the injuries were extremely serious these individuals would be taken to Sajad Niruye Entezami Hospital. However broken arms or legs where there was no blood, broken nose or marks on the body from beatings were not enough to receive medical attention. There were many individuals with broken limbs, who as a result of lack of medical treatment suffered from permanent injuries.

Different Methods of Torture:

Once the arrested individuals were transferred to the camp grounds they were forced into taking off all of their clothes, with the exception of their underwear and the beatings would start by the security officials present at the camp. It should be mentioned that these beatings would take place in the heat of noon where the ground and sand was particularly hot.

The security guards would attack the prisoners with cables buttons, chains and other hard objects. They would also wet these objects in a large water container to make the pain even stronger.

There were also officers who would hold the prisoners still by using belts or wood so that other security guards could beat them easily, to the point where many of them would lose consciousness and would not be able to react any longer.

At the end of this initial torture sessions some individuals would get their clothes back, however many of them were not given clothes and spent the first 50 days with their underwear only, being forced to sleep, be interrogated and tortured with no clothes on. This continued for 50 days until the first group of individuals was released and they were able to give their clothes to prisoners who did not have clothes.

The Situation inside the Camp

There were 8 rooms within the camp. The room capacity was 20; however they would place 70-100 people per room.

There were no beds, sheets, pillows, blankets or even carpets in the rooms. The prisoners were forced to sleep on the cement for three months.

For the first 20 days the prisoners were not allowed out of these rooms, even to use the washrooms, and were forced to relieve themselves in the room. This situation continued for 20 days until the prisoners were allowed to wash the cells. Also because of lack of space the prisoners had to take turns sleeping because there was not enough space for everyone to be able to lie down.

Each individual had a little less than a half a meter room for himself and even breathing was extremely difficult let alone sitting or sleeping. It is reported that about 730 people were taken to this camp where the maximum capacity was for 250 people.

Beatings and Torture Within the Camp:

The torturers themselves were dressed in civilian clothes and only the guards wore uniforms and masks. Some of the torturers were Officer Alireza Sadeghi, Saeed Ali Akbar Manafi and Kamel Budand. These individuals were in charge of breaking prisoner's arms and legs.

During the torture sessions the tortures were visited twice by their supervisors Commander Radan and Commandar Mamouli who would encourage the tortures with speeches such as "We have every right to do as we like with you, even to kill and bury you in this desert and no matter what we do to you, your voices will not be heard and if you don't end up dying here then you have to become as small as a mouse to pass through these bars." Once this was done they ordered the torturers to beat the prisoners until they started making "dog noises" and if anyone dies under torture the Commanders would take the responsibility.

20 Interrogators would enter each room and beat the prisoners with cables, buttons and give them electric shocks until they lost consciousness. Then they would drag some of the prisoners, particularly those who didn't have clothes on out of the rooms, would chain them together and chain them to the bars on the doors and windows. Once chained the beatings would start again especially with electrical cables as well as beating soles of their feet with cables or sticks until they lost consciousness.

After beating them on the soles of their feet they would force these individuals to walk, they would also force them to take off all their clothes, in front of other prisoners; they would give them a microphone and force them to say terrible things about themselves, their mothers and wives in order to stop the torture.

These beatings resulted in broken legs, feet, arms and hands. Also many of them developed psychological problems as a result of the beatings. Many lost control of their bladder and a number of them died under torture. (Estimated to

be 13 people).

The officials stated the reason for death of these individuals was heart attack, weak heart or other problems.

Another form of torture was handcuffing individuals to military beds and forcing other prisoners to relieve themselves on top of prisoners that were chained to the beds.

It should also be mentioned that the security officials also used live animals namely lizards that were at least 80 cm in length by throwing them on the face or body of the prisoners whose hands were cuffed.

The individuals would be tortured 4 times a day and the specific time for torture were 10am, 4pm, 10pm and 12am.

The Age Range of Individuals Arrested:

The average age for those arrested was 30 years old. The oldest of those arrested were two gentlemen aged 62 and 80 who were arrested because they protested against the illegal entry of plain clothed officials into their homes. These men were arrested along with their sons.

The youngest of those who were arrested were a few 15-16 year olds who were arrested in public parks. They were charged with soliciting. Also around 80 individuals that were arrested were under the age of 18. These individuals were arrested and tortured non-stop for 40 days without being charged, having any rights or even being interrogated. After the torture they remained in custody for three months, after which some were transferred to prisons without any charges being laid against them while others were released.

The First Group Who Were Released:

The first group of these individuals was released in July 2007. These were around 30 innocent individuals who were not charged with any crimes even after being through torture and interrogation.

Misleading and Misinforming the Public



From the 730 people who were arrested only 30 of them were formally charged with a criminal offence at the end of four months. This is only after these 30 individuals had confessed to serious crimes under 4 months of brutal torture.

Also this was the time when many public executions took place in Iran, and the police advertised and misled the public in such a way to make the public believe they were executing the most dangerous criminals.

Many individuals were also forced to pose behind cameras with guns and other weapons and this was done by force of torture.

The Current Situation of Kehrzik Camp

Currently there are 30 people imprisoned in Kehrzik Camp, and many others have been transferred to Evin Prison and Ghazl Hesar Prison. Currently the police are in the process of creating solitary confinement cells within the camp to use it for future interrogation purposes.

Conclusion:

This report has been created through direct contact with many of the victim of this operation as well as through contact with their families and loved ones. All individuals we contacted suffer both from physical and psychological disorders as a result of this terrible experience.

This tragic “operation” has been one of the worst human rights violations in Iran in the past few years. It should be mentioned that many of the individuals arrested were innocent and also there were many individuals under the age of 18, who had to undergo this brutal and unthinkable torture.

All victims of this operation that we have met, without exception are suffering from malnutrition as well as depression and extreme fear.

The following are some of the victims of this operation and their place of detention.

1. Mohammad Foroughi- released on bail
2. Mojtabi Tabah- Evin Prison, Section 6, Room 7
3. Hossein Najar Hosseyni- Evin Prison, Section 5, Room 7
4. Ali Talajuyan- Evin Prison Section1, Room7
5. Amir Chahargane- Evin Prison, Section1, Room7
6. Meysam Lotfi-Evin Prison, Section 240 Cell 38
7. Hamid Moradi-Evin Prison, Section 240, cell 42
8. Morteza Gholamali, Evin Prison, Section 3, Room 7
9. Hani Khandari, Evin Prison, Section 209, room 122
10. Siyamat Afshar, GhazalHesar Prison, Section 2
11. Abbas Nazari, Evin Prison, Section 7, room3
12. Hadi Molayi, Evin Prison, Section7, room3
13. Akbar Alizadeh, Evin PrisonSection7, room4
14. Misam Molayi, Evin Prison, Section 7, Room 1
15. Saeed Jamali, Evin Prison, Section7, room3
16. Abbas Mashadi Reza, Evin Prison, Section7, room 3
17. Taher Babazadeh, Evin Prison, Section 240
18. Mohsen Shekari, Evin Prison, Section7, room1
19. Hosseyn Pouya Mehrm Kehrzik Camp
20. Ruholah Ebrahimi, Kehrzik Camp
21. Mehdi Shahrabi-Evin Prison, Section 8, room 7
22. Majid Kushkestani, Evin Prison, section8, room 7

23. Hamid Ebrahimi, Evin Prison, Section 8, Room 9
24. Hosseyn Alizr, Evin Prison, Section 8, room 10
25. Amir Mokhtari, Evin Prison, Section 8, room 10
26. Vahid Hosseyni, Kehrzik Camp
27. Mostafa Taheri, Evin Prison, Section8, Room 10
28. Hamed Akbari, Evin Prison, Section 240
29. Mojtaba Rezayi, Kehrzik Camp
30. Mohammad Reza Razvi, Evin Prison, Section 8, room 8
31. Mohammad Salimi, Gohardasht Prison
32. Asghar Salimi, Gohardasht Prison, Section5
33. Mehdi Salimi, Gohardasht Prison, executed in Evin Prison

Human Rights Activists in Iran is asking for the creation of an independent investigation group to investigate the events described above and can prove everything mentioned above by way of eyewitness testimony and other evidence and can prove it in any court in any part of the world.