

# 2018



## Annual report on Human rights in Iran

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Department of Statistics and Publications of  
Human Rights Activists in Iran





## **Preface:**

*This leaflet contains the 2018's analytical and statistical annual report on the human rights in Iran, prepared by the Department of Statistics and Publications of [Human Rights Activists in Iran](#) (HRAI). This statistic analysis report presented by HRAI, is the result of the daily efforts of this organization and its dedicated members as part of a daily statistic and census project that started in 2009 by this organization.*

*This annual report on human rights violations in Iran (2018) is the collection, analysis, and documentation of 3677 reports concerning human rights, gathered from various news sources during 2018. Human Rights Activists News Agency (HRANA) has gathered and reported 35%, official or close to the Iranian government sources 58% and other human rights news agencies 7% of all the reports analysed in this Annual Report.*

*The following 42-pages includes statistical overviews and related charts on various sections regarding women's rights, children's rights, prisoners' rights, etc. Based on this report, despite the 6% increase in human rights violations reports in provinces other than Tehran, compared to the last year's annual report, there is still a major concern on lack of proper reporting and monitoring of the human rights by the civil society in the smaller cities.*

*This report is the result of endeavours made by courageous human rights activists in Iran who pay a very high cost for the realization of their humanitarian believes. However, for obvious reasons (i.e. existing governmental limitations and ban on the free exchange of information and government preventing the existence of human right organizations in the country), this report by no means is free of errors and cannot alone be a reflection on the actual status of human right in Iran. Having said that, it should be emphasized that this report is considered as one of the most accurate, comprehensive, and authentic reports on the human rights conditions in Iran and it can serve as a very informative source of information for human rights activists and organizations working on Iran, to better understand the challenges and opportunities that they may face.*

Human Rights Activists in Iran (HRAI)

Department of Statistics and Publications

January 2019

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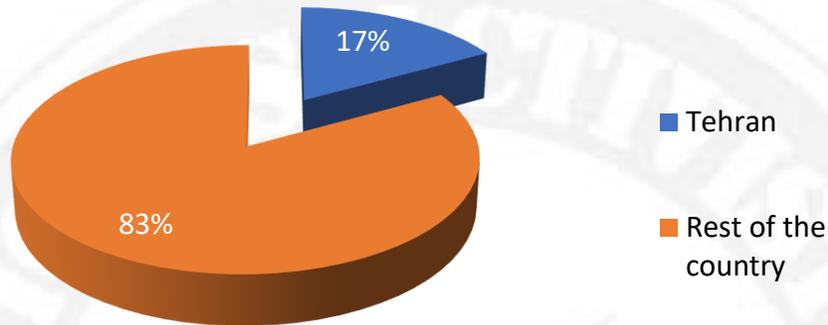
Figure 1. The following map illustrates the number of reports per province made by the human rights organizations and news agencies, this is a direct reflection of the capability of the civil society in each province of the country (2018).





As indicated in the distribution map, there exists a major difference between Tehran, the capital, and other parts of the country in terms of the number of published reports. This is while the population of Tehran has been reported on the census of 2011 as 12,425,000 people, compared to the population of other parts of the country being 62,724,669 people.

**Figure 2. A comparison between the population of Tehran and other regions in Iran.**



According to the statistics from 2018, the focus and capability of human rights reporters has been 21% in Tehran compared to 79% in the rest of the country.

**Figure 3. A comparison between the reporting capacities in Tehran compared with the rest of the country (2018).**

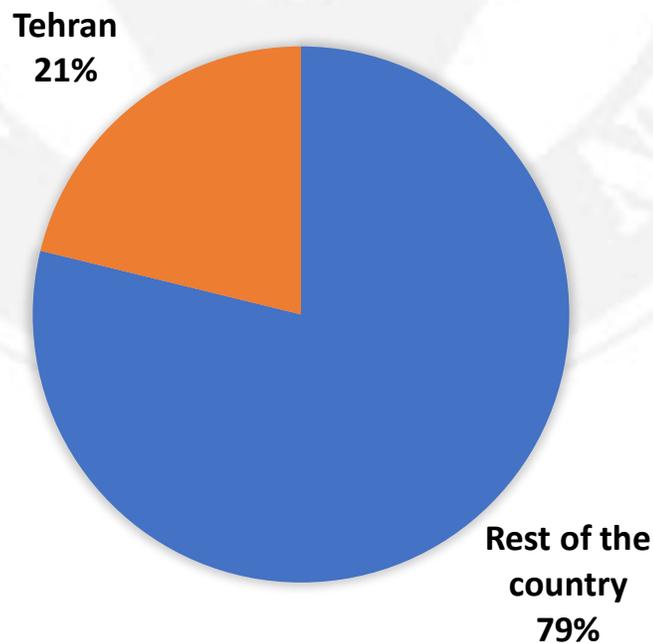




Table 1. The following table represents the provinces included in the 2018 annual report of the human rights in Iran and the respective number of reports. Absence of a province on the list does not indicate the absence of human rights violations on the corresponding pro.

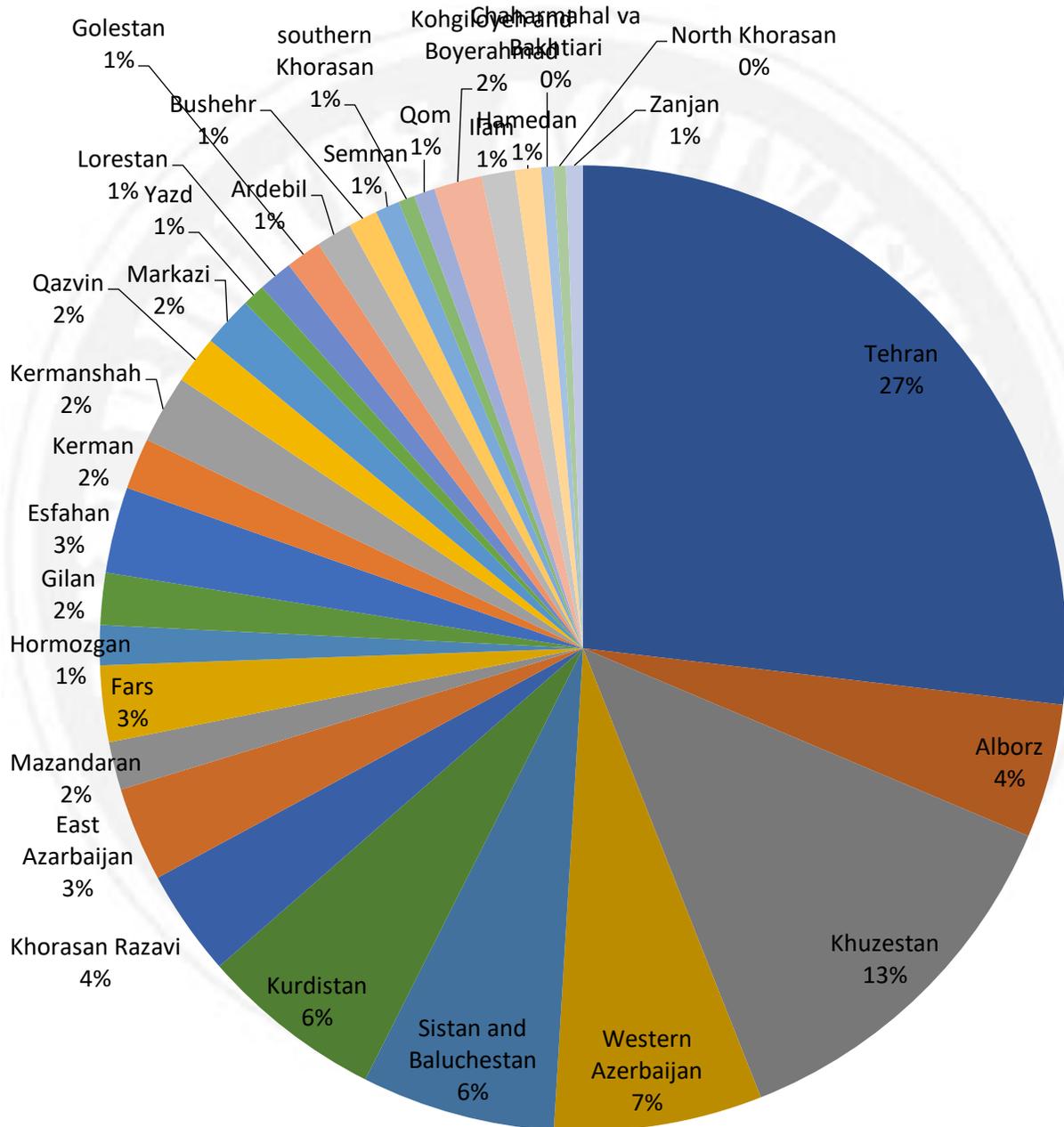
Provinces Name	Reports	changes from the previous year	Provinces Name	Reports	changes from the previous year
East Azerbaijan	116	+13	Chaharmahal va Bakhtiari	15	-4
Western Azerbaijan	254	+124	Qom	26	-5
Ardabil	44	-14	Kurdistan	225	+110
Esfahan	106	+34	Kerman	63	-4
Alborz	165	+40	Kermanshah	84	+18
Ilam	41	+8	Golestan	44	-5
Bushehr	36	+21	Gilan	64	+19
Tehran	988	+241	Lorestan	42	-3
Khorasan Razavi	131	+10	Mazandaran	59	-11
Khuzestan	465	+211	Markazi	62	+5
North Khorasan	15	-4	Hormozgan	46	-4
Qazvin	59	+4	Hamedan	32	+5
southern Khorasan	20	-6	Yazd	28	-4
Zanjan	21	-9	Sistan and Baluchestan	238	+91
Semnan	35	+11	Kohgiluyeh and Boyerahmad	59	+25
Fars	94	+36	Overall*	120	-34

\* Overall: reflects reports that do not concern a particular province but apply to the whole country.



The following pie chart illustrates the percentages of submitted reports based on the province.

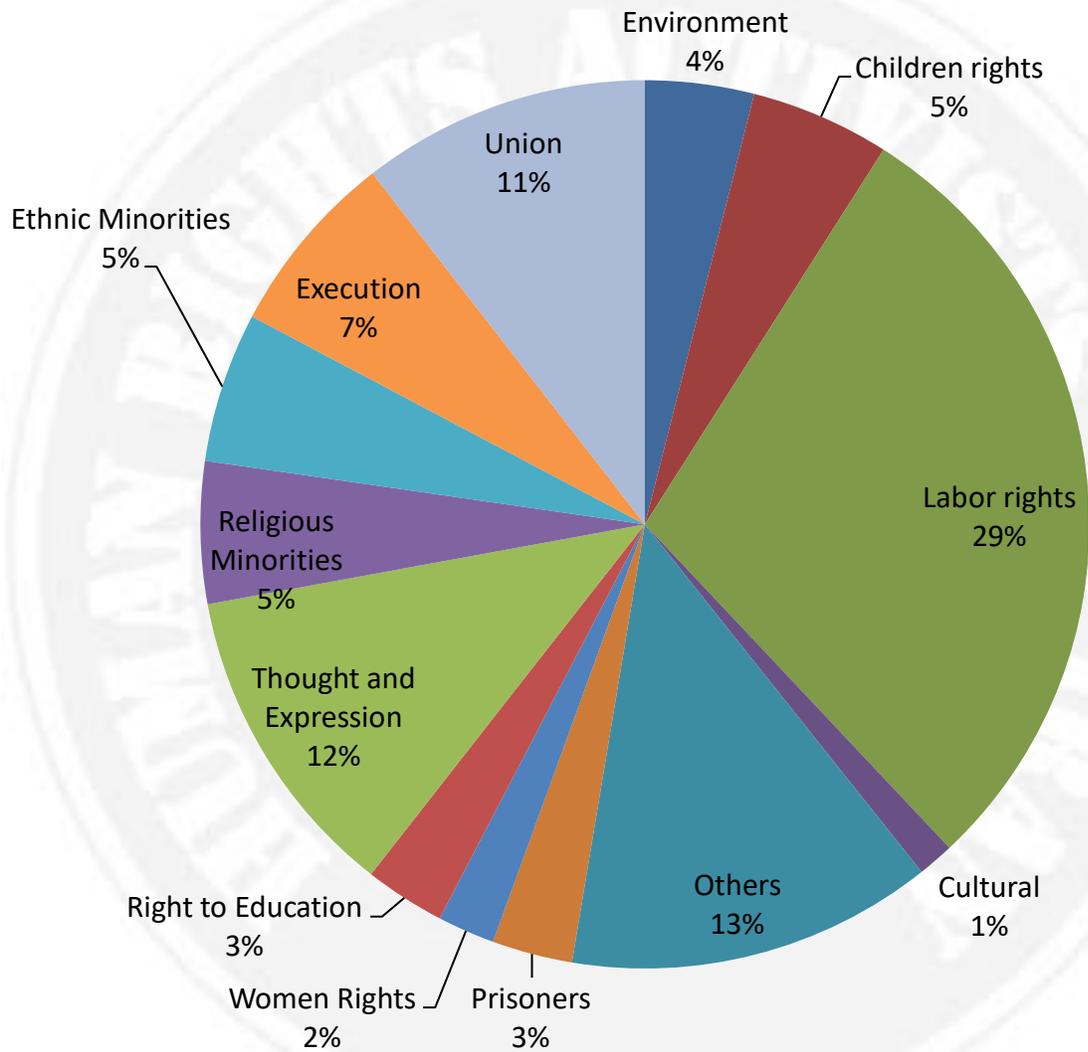
**Figure 4. Pie chart of volume of submitted reports based on province (2018)**





To begin the study of the categories of human rights violations in Iran, it is important to initially compare the categories based on the number of reports made in each category in the past year.

**Figure 5. Percentile of number of reports made in 2018, based on the Legal Category.**



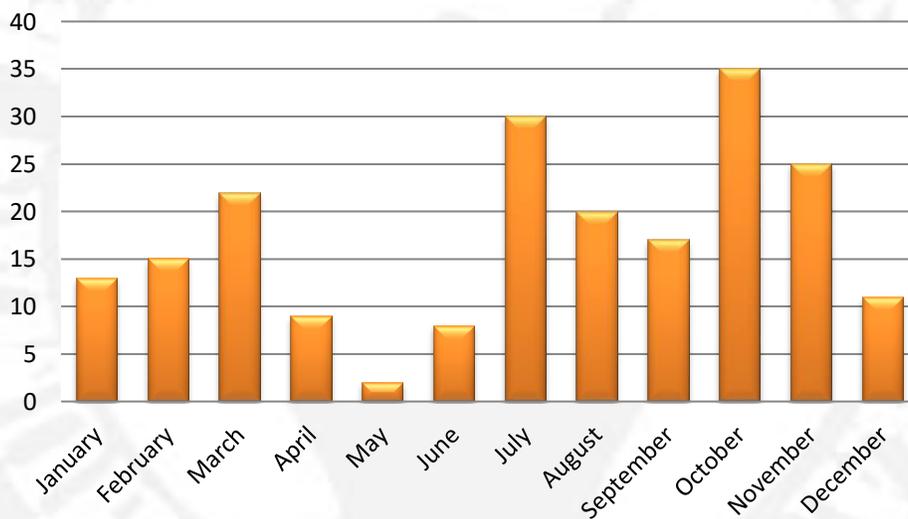


## Ethnic Minorities

In the field of national and ethnic minorities' rights, a total of 207 reports have been registered by the department of the statistics and publication of human rights activists in Iran (HRAI) in 2018. According to these reports, at least 1171 people were arrested. And for 59 people, 2370 months of imprisonments has been issued. Compared to the previous year there has been an 836% increase in the arrest of ethnic minorities, and a 7.5% increase in imprisonment sentences.

As the following bar-chart illustrates Highest number of violations occurred in the month of October, in contrast the highest decline is observed in the month of May.

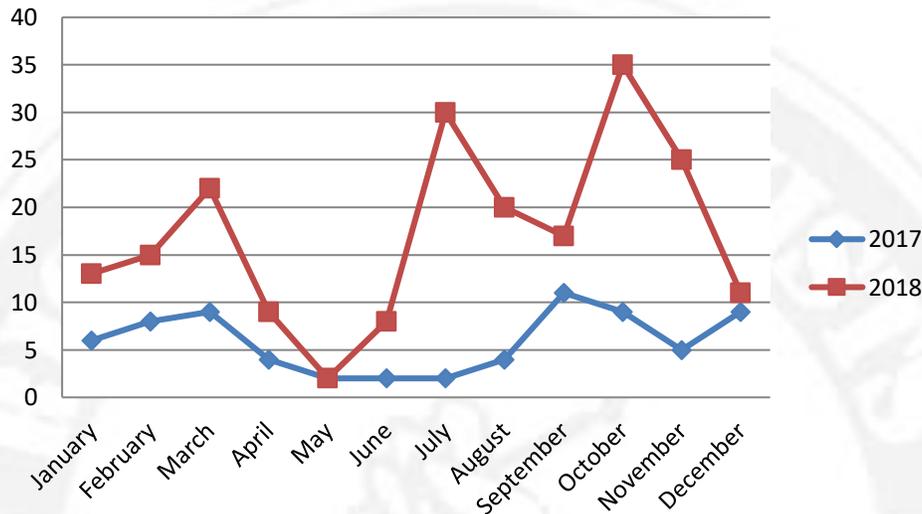
**Figure 6. Number of reports on the violation of the rights of ethnic minorities by month (2018).**





The following graph illustrates the number of violations of human rights in the category of national-ethnic minorities in 2018 comparison with 2017.

**Figure 7. Number of violations of ethnic minorities' rights by month in 2018 compared to 2017.**



The most important events followed by extensive arrests are as follow:

- celebration of the new year in Kurdish cities
- The 12th anniversary of the May 2006 protests in Naghdah
- Annual gathering at Babak castle
- Poetry night in Mount Sabalan
- Khuzestan protest the "neglect" in the media
- Iranshahr people gathered to protest the rape of women by emphasizing the discriminatory behavior of police force
- Merchants strike in Kurdistan in condemnation of political executions
- Widespread arrests of Turk activists that had began in mid-September
- Waves of arrest of Arab citizens after the armed attack in Ahvaz

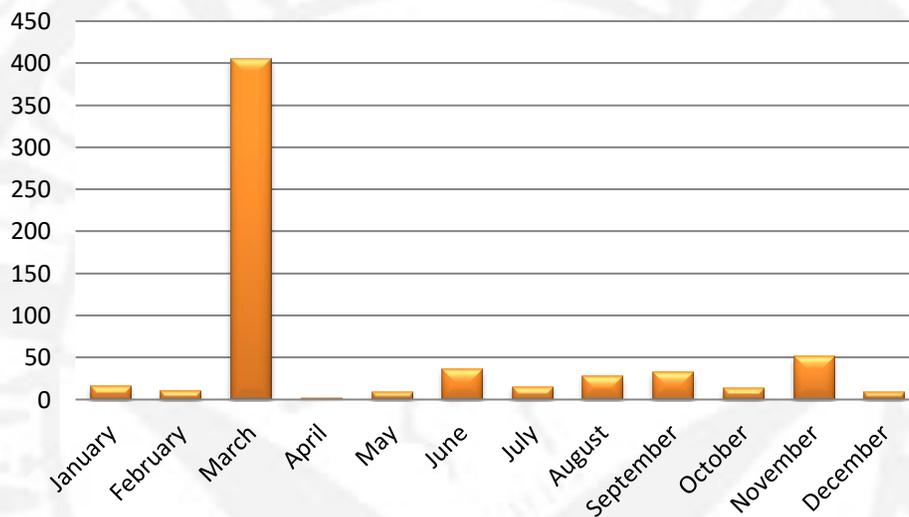


## Religious Minorities

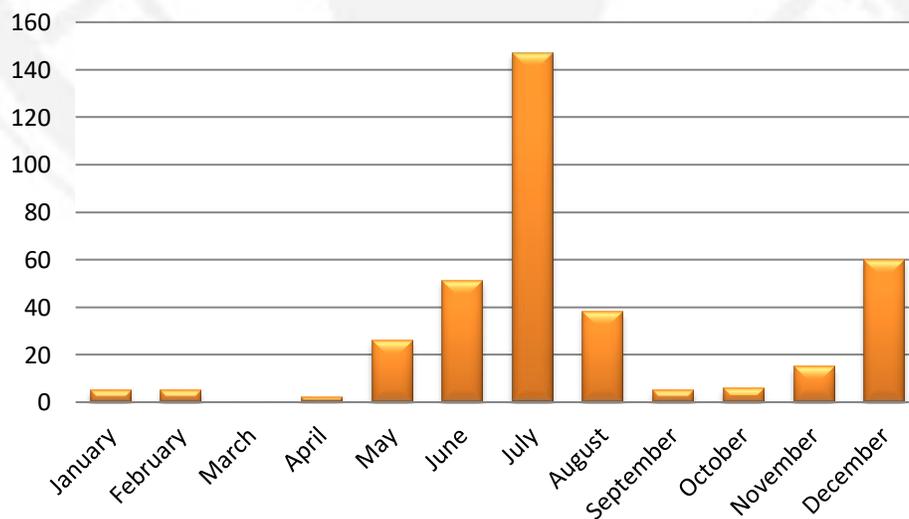
In this category, 196 reports have been registered by the Department of Statistics in 2018, According to these reports, 629 civilians were arrested, 36 cases of prevention from economical activities, 6 cases of summoning to the judicial and security institutions, and 75 cases of depriving and preventing from education.

360 individuals of the religious minorities were arrested and sentenced by the judicial institutions to a total of 16841 months of imprisonment.

**Figure 8. Violation of religious minorities' rights based on the number of arrestees reported by month (2018).**

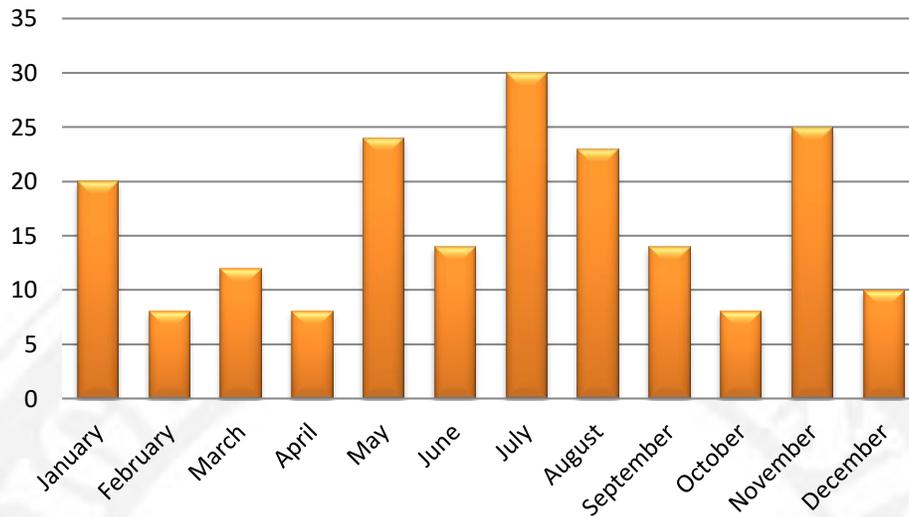


**Figure 9. Violation of religious minorities' rights base on the number of convicted individuals by month (2018).**





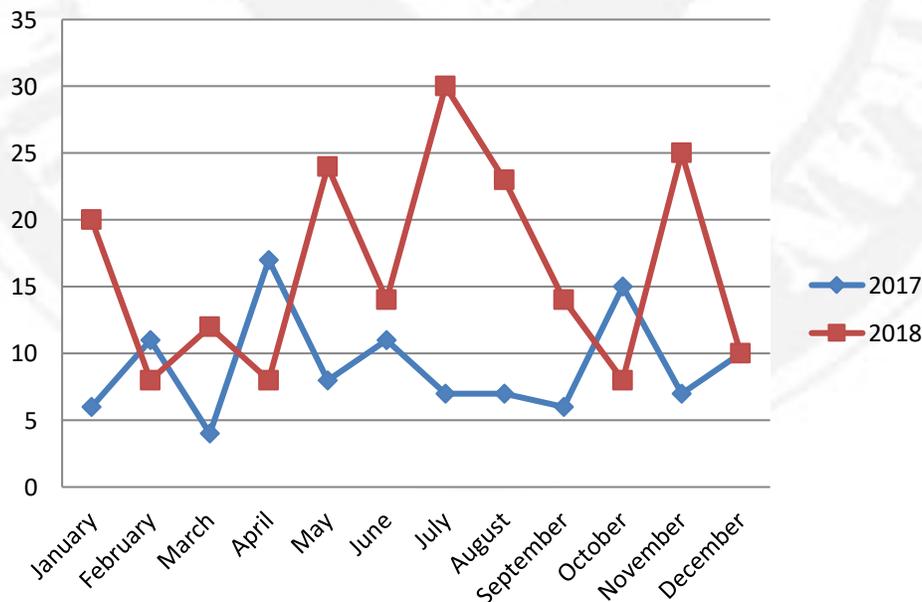
**Figure 10. Number of reports on cases of violation of religious minorities' rights by month (2018).**



As the figure 10 illustrates Highest number of violations occurred in the month of July, in contrast the highest decline is observed in the month of October.

The following graph illustrates the number of violations of human rights in the category of religious minorities in 2018 comparison with 2017.

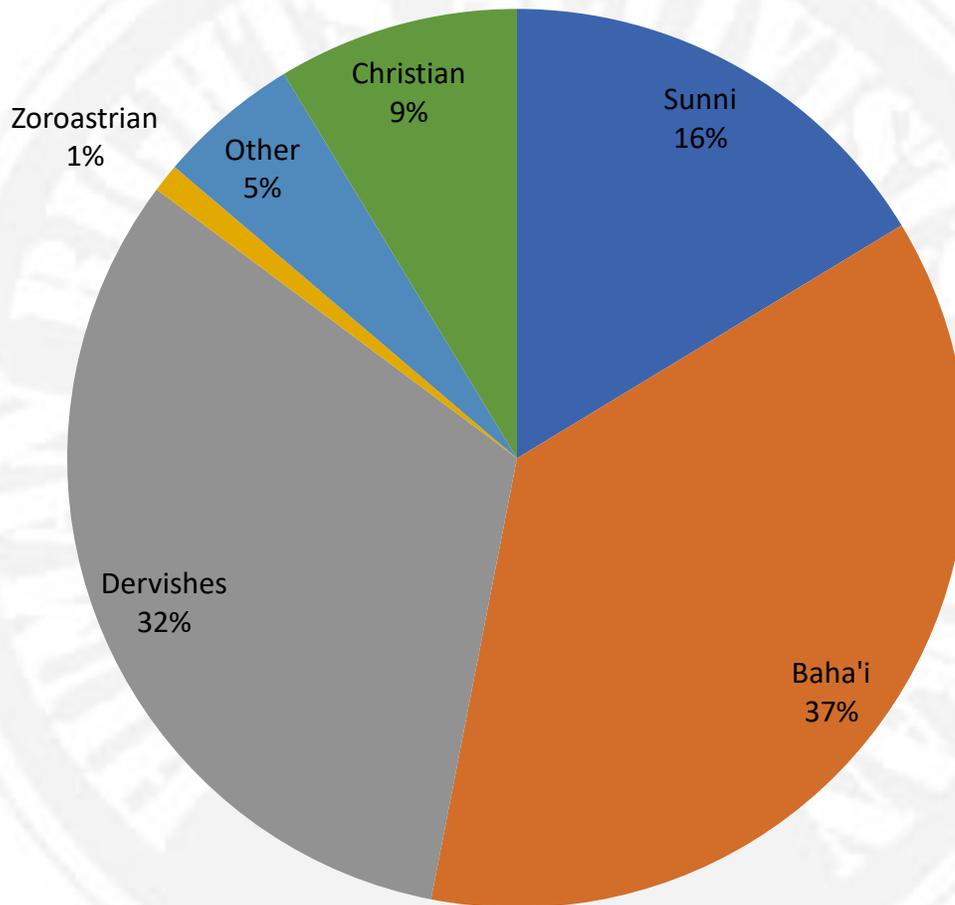
**Figure 11. Number of violations of religious minorities' rights per month in 2018 compared to 2017.**





In the field of religious minorities, the Baha'is constitute the highest of the Human Rights reports on religious minority violations with 37% and respectively Dervishes 32%, Sunnis 16%, Christians 9%, others 5%, Zoroastrians and Jews 1% of the total reports. Note that the reports labeled as “Others” are those that did not belong to specific group of religious minorities.

**Figure 12. Pie chart based on the number of reports per religious minorities (2018).**



The number of citizens arrested in the category of religious minorities has increase by 69% in 2018 compared to 2017, and the imprisonment sentences issued by the judiciary has increased by 1299%.

One of the most important events of the religious minorities in 2018 was the Dervishes of Gonabad’s “Seventh Golestan” incident and subsequent mass arrests and convictions.



## Freedom of Expression

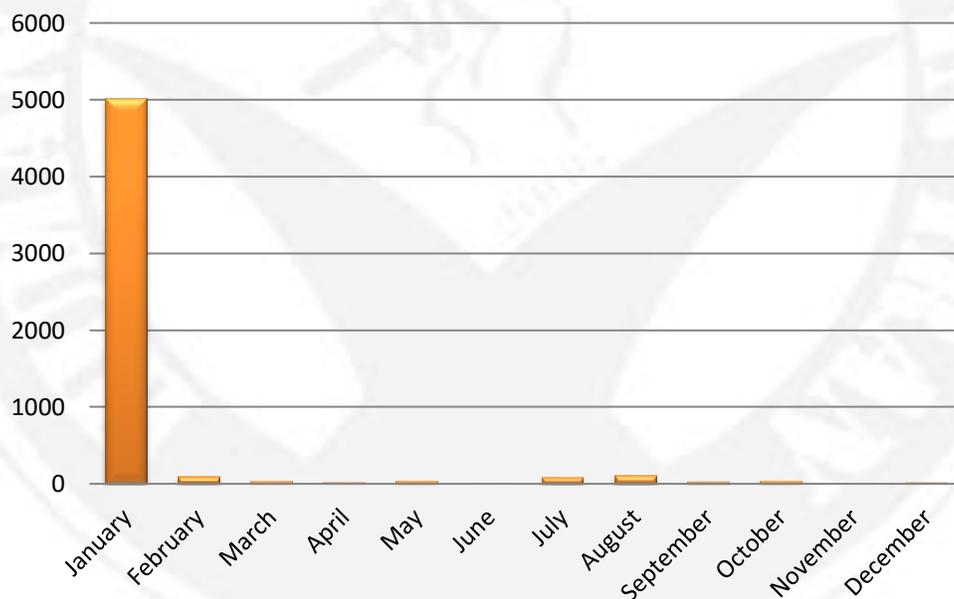
In the category of freedom of thought and expression, in 2018, 438 reports have been registered by the Department of Statistics that included 5478 arrested individuals; 132 summonses to the judiciary and security authorities; 9 cases of Internet website filtering, 3 reports of publication banning; 28 cases of conviction for publications; 5 cases of intimidation and threats.

In 2018, 331 arrestees were sentenced to a total of 7442 months of imprisonment, 30 billion and 180 million Rials in financial fines, 2694 lashes, and 7 cases of deprivation from civil rights have been reported in this category.

In the field of Freedom of Expression there has been an increase of 814% in the reports of arrests compared to the previous year. Similarly, sentences issued by the judiciary have increased by 51.3% based on the number of people being tried.

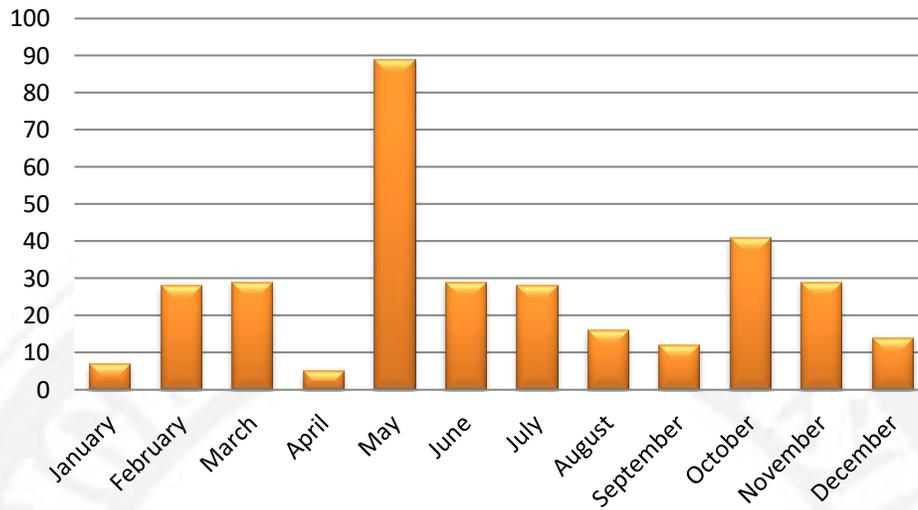
Below are the charts highlighting the violation of the right to the freedom of expression.

**Figure 13. Number of arrests in the category of violation of the right to freedom of expression by month (2018).**





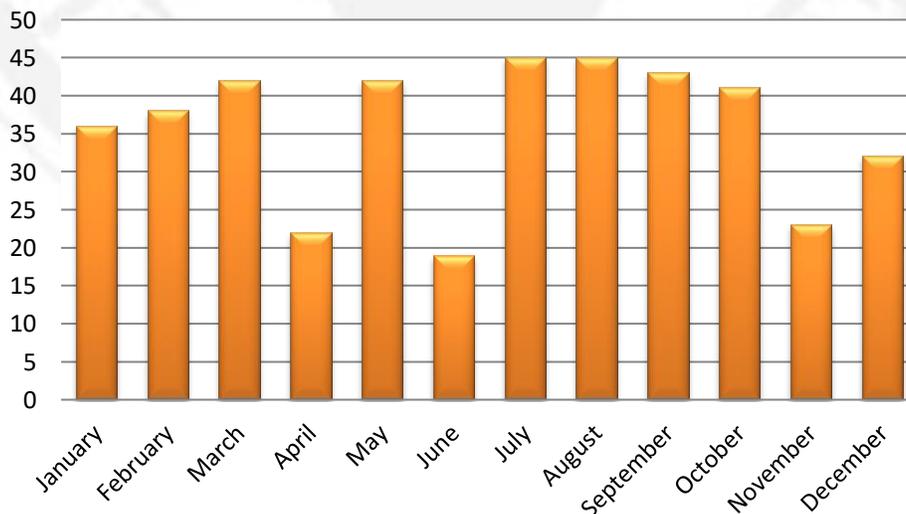
**Figure 14. Number of convictions in the category of violation of the right to freedom of expression by month (2018).**



The nation-wide protests of January and August is one of the most significant events of the 2018 in this category. During the January protests that lasted more than 7 days simultaneously in various parts of the country At least 4972 people were arrested and 25 died on the streets. During the same period 43 environmental activists and at least 1 population control activist were arrested.

As figure 15 illustrates Highest number of violations in this category occurred in the months of July and August, in contrast the highest decline is observed in the month of June.

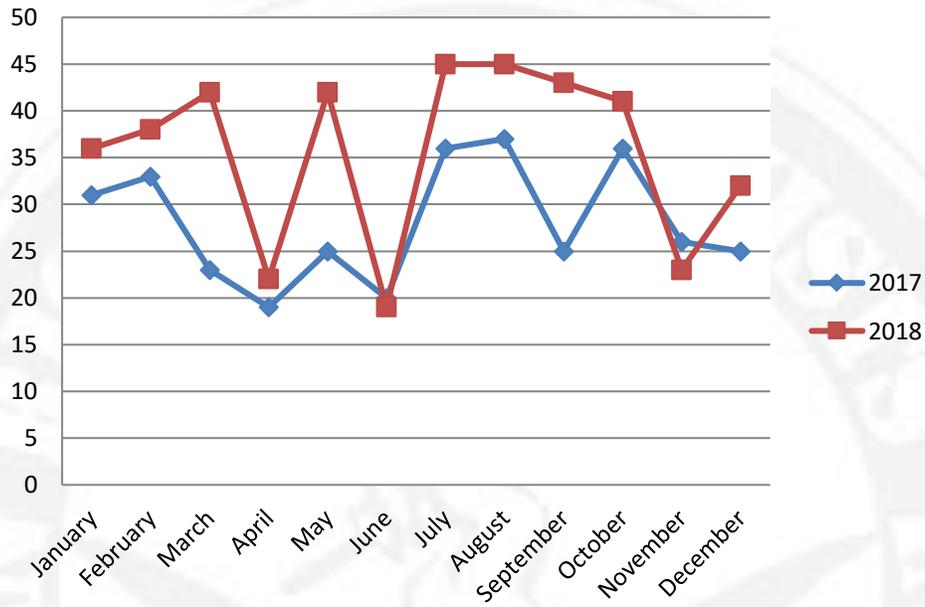
**Figure 15. Number of reports in the category of violation of the right to freedom of expression by month (2018).**





The following graph illustrates the number of violations of human rights in the category of religious minorities in 2018 comparison with 2017.

**Figure 16. Monthly comparison of violations of Freedom of Expression 2018 and 2017.**





## Trade Unions and Associations

In the category of the rights of associations and trade unions in 2018, 398 reports have been registered by the Department of Statistics and Publications. This includes 422 members of trade union reported being arrested. Also, in this category, 7 individuals have been sentenced to a total of 207 months in prison, 37 cases of summoning to the judicial and security institutions, and 47 cases of closing the facilities has been reported.

In 2018, at least 341 protests and 112 union strikes were held. Most of these protests were related to salary/wage demands from corporations, bad economic conditions, and lack of proper management of corporations.

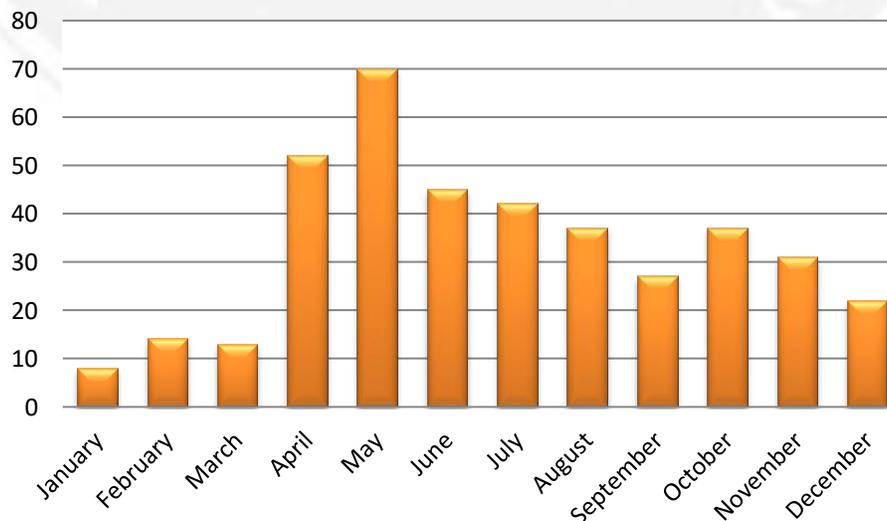
In the category of Trade Unions and Associations, there has been 1560% increase in the number of arrests and there has been 345% increase in the issue of sentences compared to the previous year.

Following are of the most significant events of 2018 in this category:

- Nation-wide strike of truck drivers
- Nation-wide sit-ins of teachers
- Protests of farms regarding water accessibility
- Strike of Merchants and business in Baneh and Kurdish border cities
- Strike of merchants and businesses in Tehran and other cities

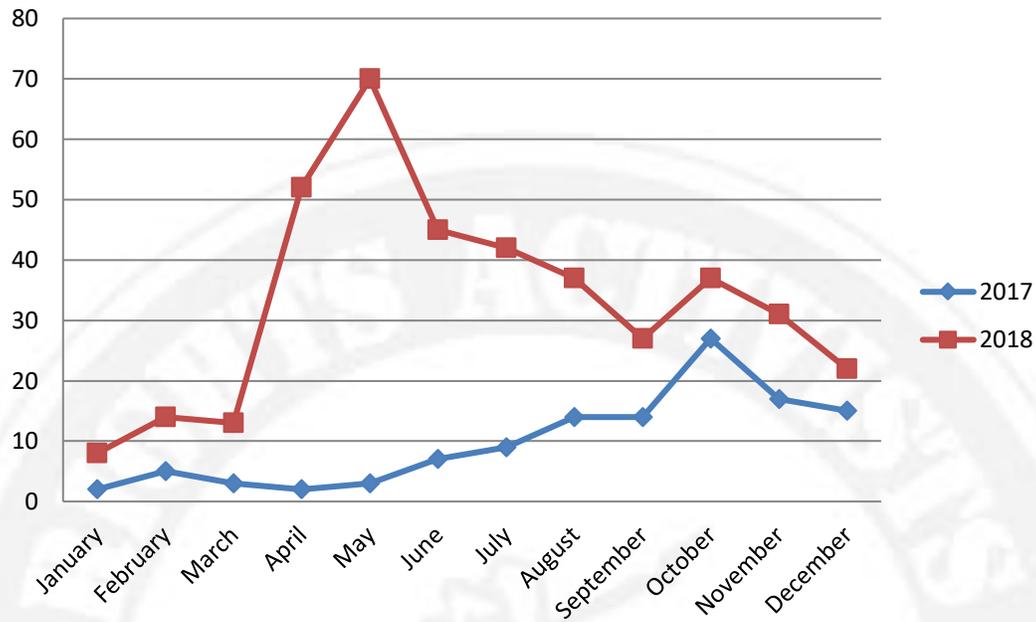
Monthly comparison of the violation of the rights of the unions based on the number of reports, as the following graph illustrates reveals highest number of violations occurred in the month of May, in contrast the highest decline is observed in the month of January.

**Figure 16. Number of reports in the category of violation of the rights of the Trade Unions and Associations by month (2018).**





**Figure 17. A comparison of the number of violations of Trade Unions and Associations rights per month compared with the previous year (2018,2017).**





## Academia/ Right to education

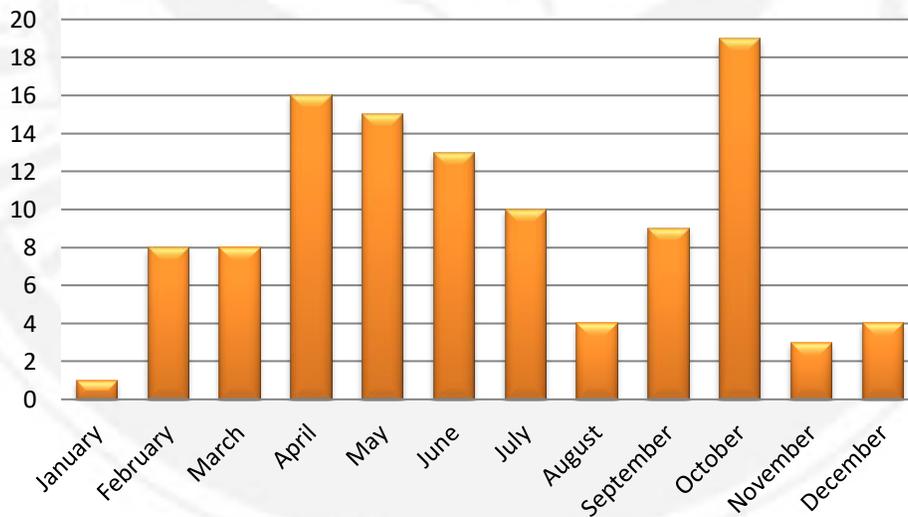
In the category of violations of academic rights in 2018, 111 reports have been registered by the Department of Statistics and Publication of Human Rights Activists in Iran. This includes 156 student arrested, 4 students have been summoned to the court, 1 students were summoned to the disciplinary committee, 12 students banned from continuing their education, 7 “starred” students (Marked for future disciplinary action), as it was also mentioned in the religious rights section of this report 77 students were prevented from continuing their education because of their religion.

In the category of academia and right to education, there has been 3120% increase in the number of arrests. And based on these reports 24 students were sentenced to 690 months in prison.

It should be noted that other than the cases mentioned, at least 16 Dervish students were sentenced to 90 years in prison—there is a mention of these cases under religion rights section.

Monthly comparison of the violation of the academic rights based on the number of reports, as the following graph illustrates reveals highest number of violations occurred in the month of October, in contrast the highest decline is observed in the month of January.

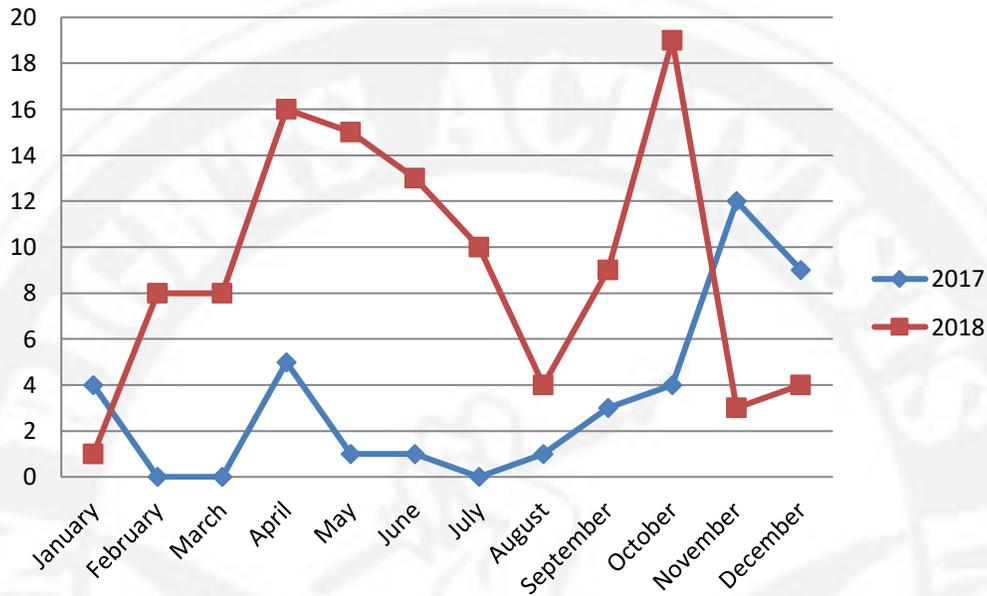
**Figure 18. A comparative analysis of the violation of academic rights based on the number of cases per Month (2018).**





The following graph illustrates the number of violations of human rights in the category of academic rights in 2018 compared to 2017.

**Figure 19. A comparison of the number of violations of academic rights per month compared with the previous year (2018, 2017).**





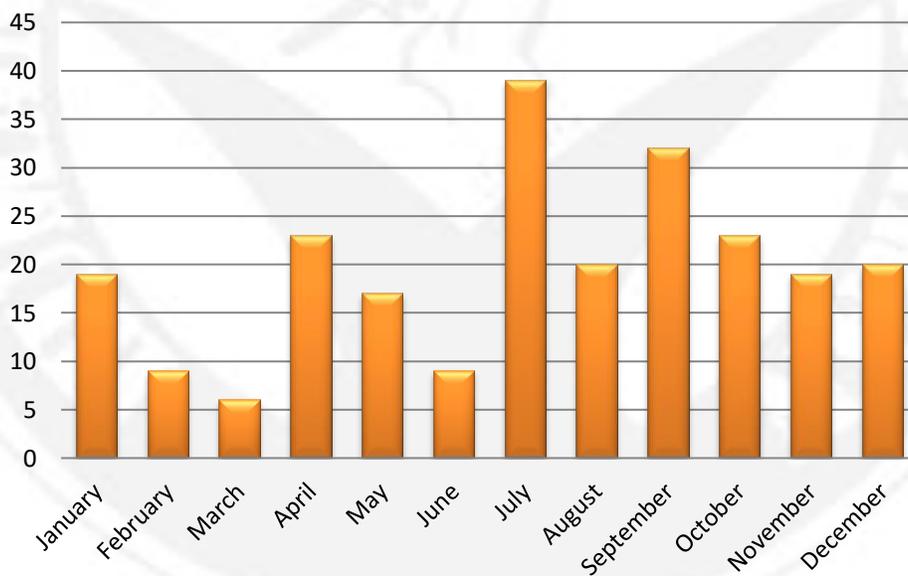
## Right to Live (Death Penalty)

In the category of right to life in 2018, 256 reports have been registered by the Department of Statistics and Publication of Human Rights Activists Association in Iran. This included 195 death sentences, execution of 236 death sentences (including 13 executions in public). Based on the announced identifications of some of the individuals executed, 232 were male and 4 were female.

Six offenders have also been executed in 2018 who were under the age of 18 at the time of committing the crime. These children have been named "minor offender" in the legal term.

According to these reports, 65% of the executions were based on murder and manslaughter charges. Also, 10% charged with rape, another 10% with drug related charges. 6% were charged with "waging war against god", also 6% charged with armed robbery. 2% charged with "promoting corruption on earth" and the charges for 1% of those executed is unclear.

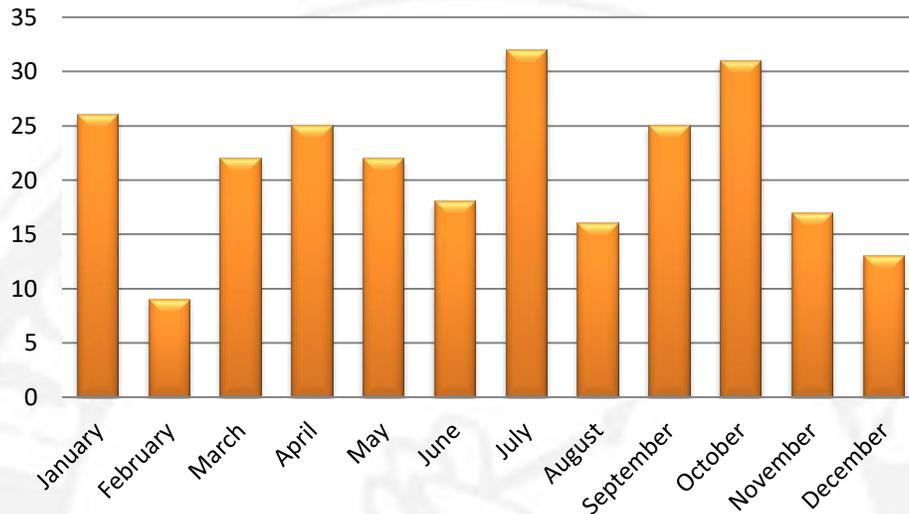
**Figure 20. A comparative analysis of the death sentences based on the number of individuals per month (2018).**





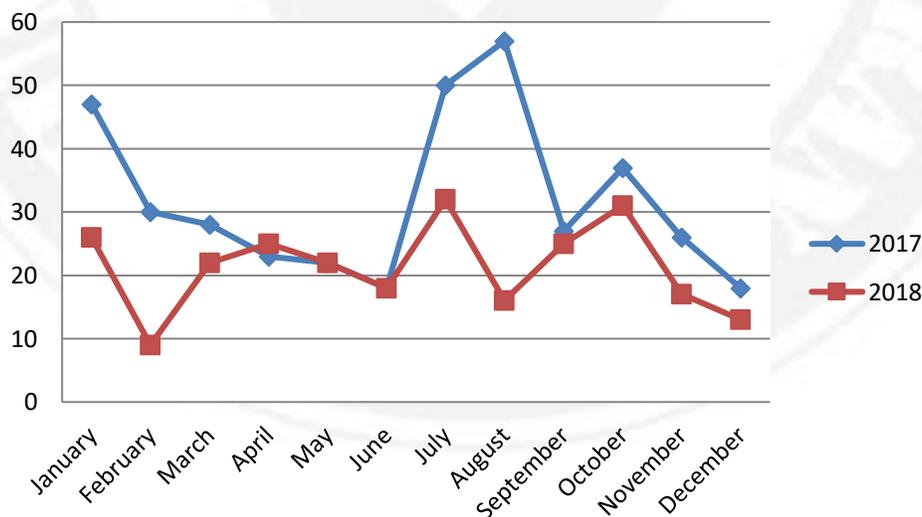
Monthly comparison of the violation of the right to life based on the number of reports, as the following graph illustrates reveals highest number of violations occurred in the month of July, in contrast the highest decline is observed in the month of February.

**Figure 21. A monthly comparison of number of violations of right to life based on the number of death sentence cases (2018).**



The following graph illustrates the violations of human rights in the category of executions in comparison with 2017.

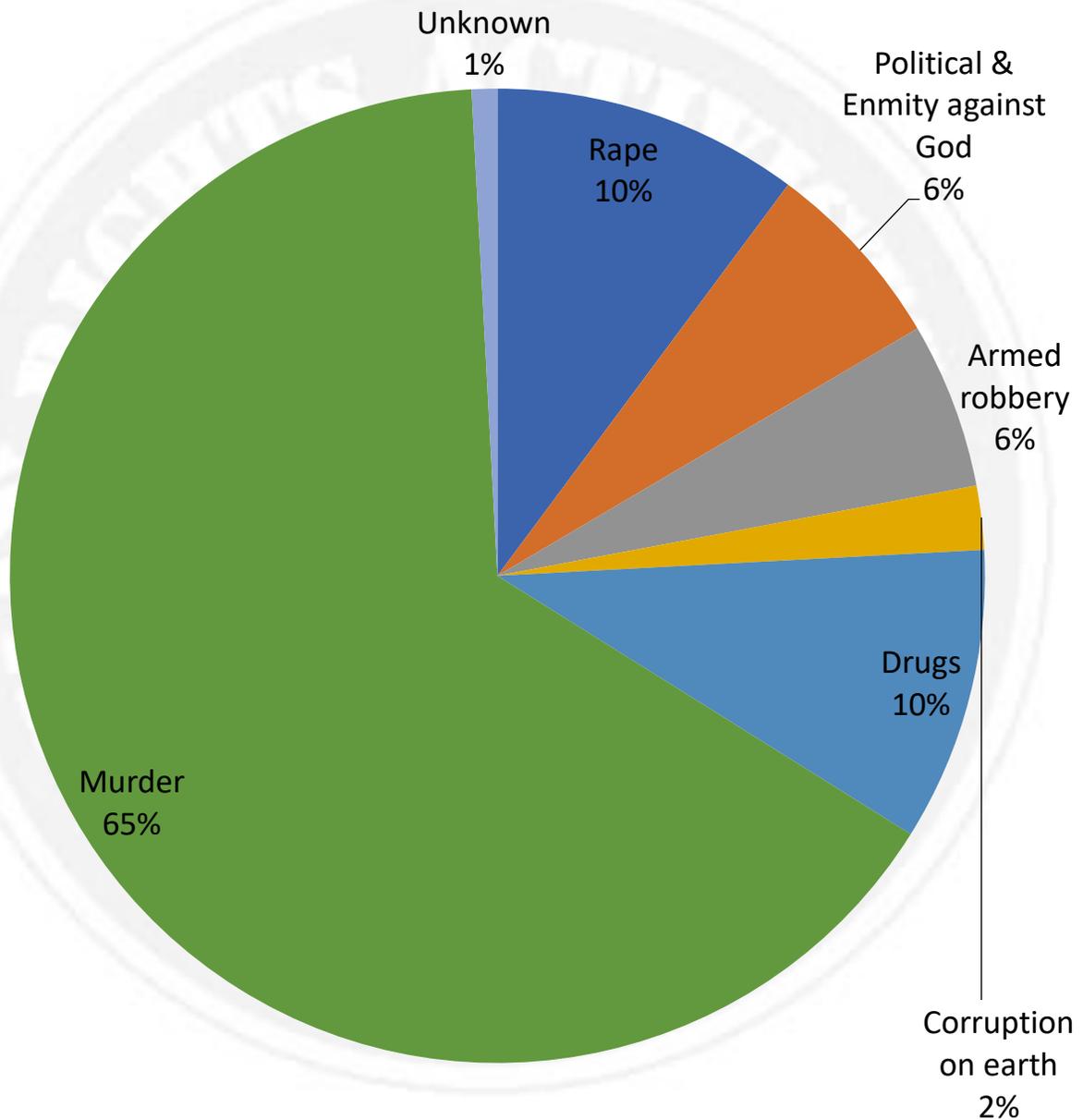
**Figure 22. Death sentences per month in 2018 compared to its corresponding months in 2017.**





The following pie chart illustrates the number of death sentences issued and carried out across the country in 2018. The highest number of convictions comprised of 50% of all death sentences are on murder and followed by rape which is 10% of the cases.

**Figure 23. Capital punishment sentences issued in 2018 based on the type of charges.**



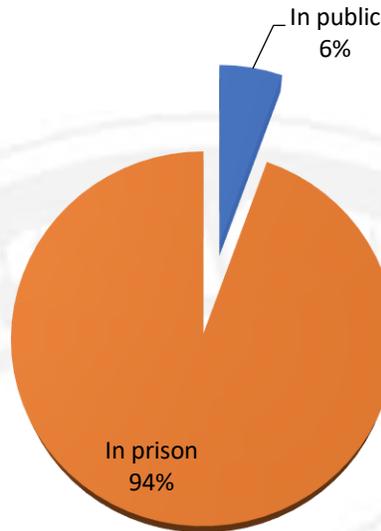






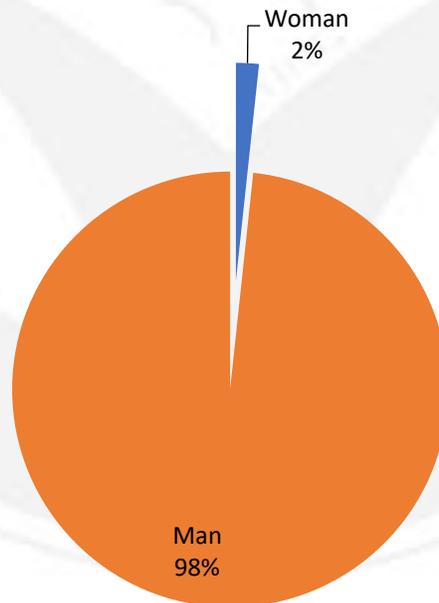
According to the statistics, about 6% of the executions were carried out in public.

**Figure 26. The place of execution (2018).**



2% of the executed individuals were female, 94% men.

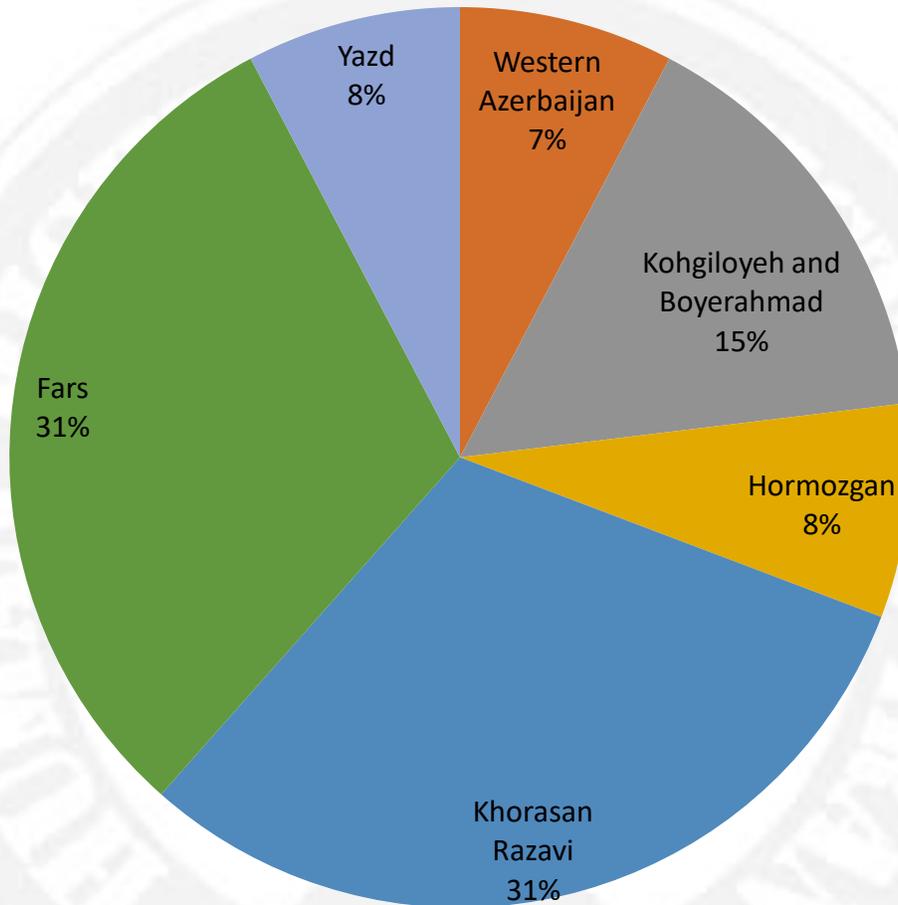
**Figure 27. Percentage of executed individuals based on gender (2018).**





The following pie chart illustrates the frequency of executions in public based on province. The province of Fars and Khorasan have the highest number of executions in public each with 31% of total executions in public.

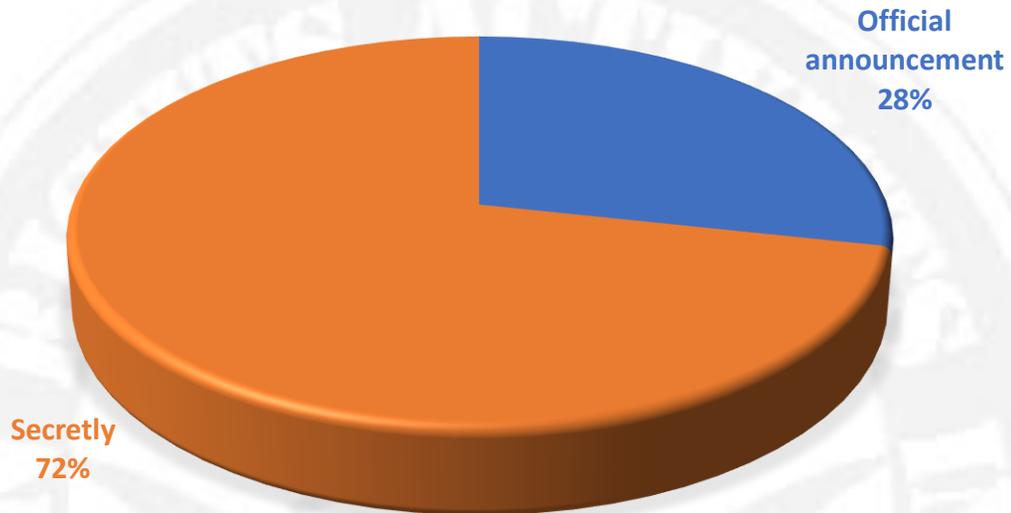
**Figure 28. Volume of executions in public based on provinces of Iran (2018).**





The following diagram is directly related to the secret executions of prisoners. These executions reported by independent sources and human rights association, indicating that 72% of executions are carried out in secret or without any public notice.

**Figure 29. Secret executions compared to announced executions (2018).**



In the category of death penalty, the execution carried out in compare to 2017 has decreased by 47%. The number of execution sentences issued also has decreased by 23% and public executions has decreased by 58%.



## Cultural Rights

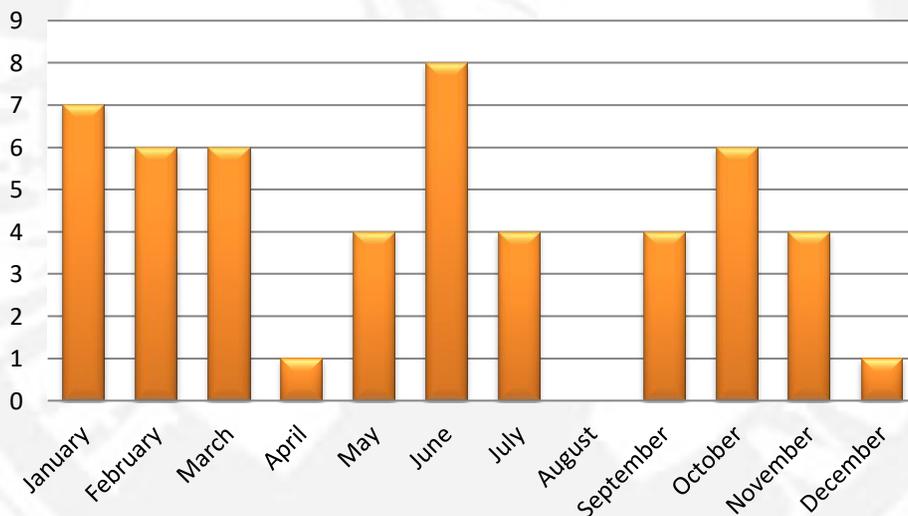
In the category of violations of cultural rights in 2018, 50 reports have been registered by the Department of Statistics and Publication of Human Rights Activists Association in Iran. This included 103 arrest and 3 cultural materials publication were declined. Moreover, 22 licenses were revoked, 9 people were banned from public speech or performing, 3 historical places were damaged, 7 historical places were neglected, Confiscated 120 copies of the book "Fifty Years of Iranian Writers Association".

Of the most significant violation of cultural rights was the recording of confession from a few dancer teenagers that was airing on the national channels.

In this category arrests have increased by 1144% compared to the previous year.

In monthly comparison in this category the highest number of violations have been reported in June, in contrast to the lowest number in August.

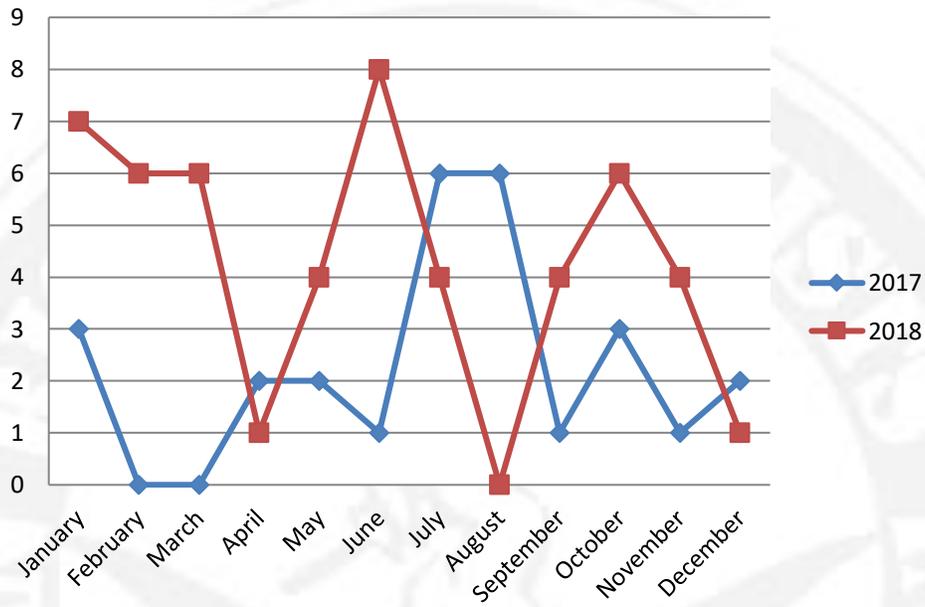
**Figure 30. Violation of cultural rights based on the number of cases per month (2018).**





The following graph illustrates the number of violations of human rights in the category of violations of cultural rights in comparison with 2017.

**Figure 31. Violations of cultural rights per month in 2018 compared with the previous year.**





## Workers' Rights

In the category of violations of workers' rights in 2018, 1098 reports have been registered by the Department of Statistics and Publication of Human Rights Activists Association in Iran. This included 221 arrests. 38 workers activist or workers were sentenced to 156 months in prison, and 300 month of suspended sentence and 2220 lashes, and 68 people were summoned to judiciary and security organizations.

During the 2018, a total of 2162 months of overdue payment of salaries to workers has been reported. 204666 workers were laid off or fired, 130807 cases of unemployment, 23126 lacked work insurance, 9747 workers waiting for work related decisions. In addition, 761 people have lost their life in work accidents, and 606 workers have been injured while at work. In a global scale amongst other counties Iran ranks 102<sup>nd</sup> in the work safety.

Also, in 2018, at least 468 worker protests and 49 workers strike took place. most of these protests were regarding wages.

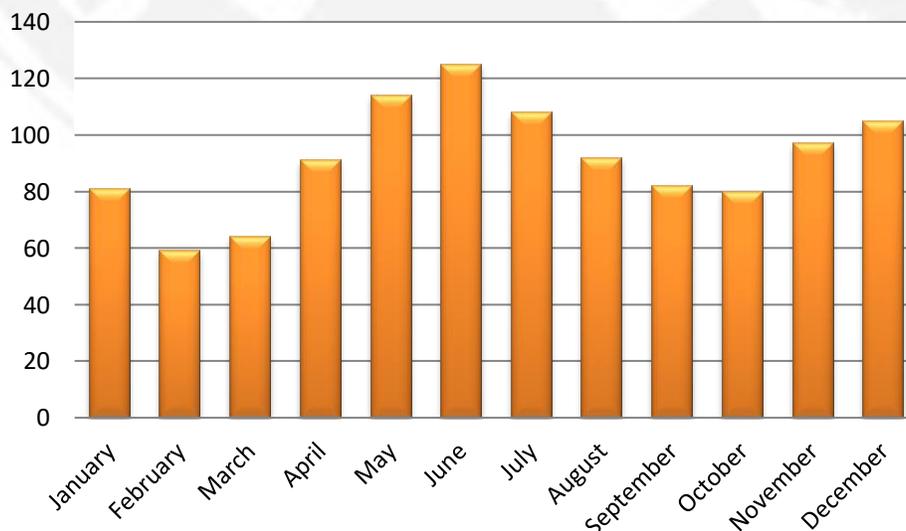
Based on these reports the arrest of workers has increased by 1163% compare to 2017.

The following are of the most important events of 2018 in regard to workers' rights:

- Iran National Steel Industrial Group
- Heavy Equipment Production Company (HEPCO) in arak
- Haft Tappeh Sugarcane Agro-Industry Co.
- Technical railways builders

In monthly comparison of workers rights violations in 2018 as the following graph illustrates, the highest number of violations per month have been in June, in contrast with the lowest being in February.

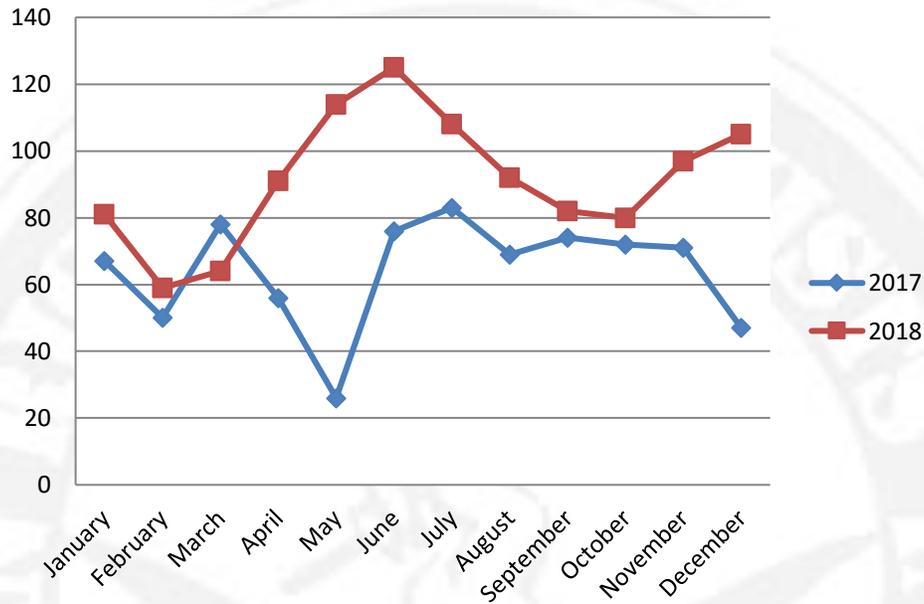
**Figure 32. A monthly comparative analysis of the violation of workers' rights based on the number of cases per month (2018).**





The following graph illustrates the number of violations of human rights in the category of workers' rights in 2018 in comparison with 2017.

**Figure 33. Violations of workers' rights on monthly bases in 2018 compared with the previous year.**





## Children's Rights

In the category of violations of children's rights in 2018, a total of 192 reports have been registered by the Department of Statistics, however it should be mentioned because of secretly in the matter of reporting these incidents there is no accurate statistic in this field. These reports included at least 1408 cases of child abuse, 48 case of rape and sexual abuse of children, 22 cases of murder of children, 10000 cases of addiction amongst children, 38 cases of child suicide, 7 cases of death, injury to 21 students in school, and more than 1million and 200 students are deprived of education.

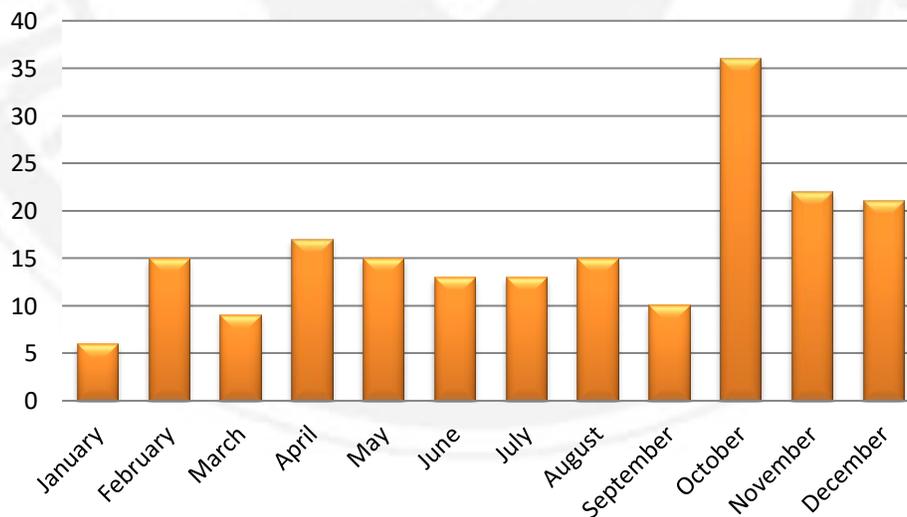
Child marriages, poverty, cultural context, population density, etc. in Sistan and Baluchistan province has led to the highest number of deprivations from education in the country.

As mentioned in the right to life section, at least 6 minor offenders have been executed in Iran during 2018.

During the nation-wide protests of January 156 students were arrested. In this category number of children activists' arrests and issued sentences have not been changed since the previous year.

In monthly comparison in this category the highest number of violations have been reported in October, in contrast to the lowest number in January.

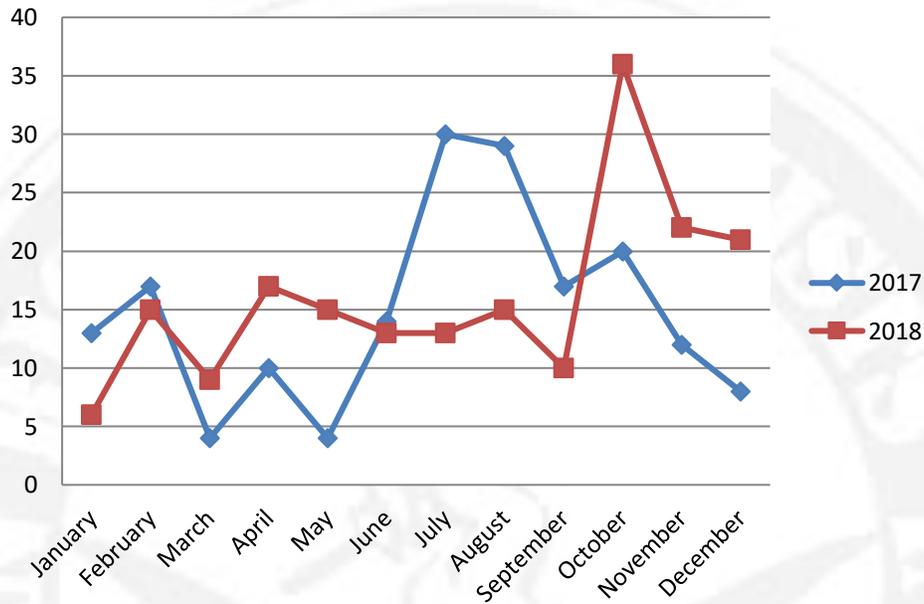
**Figure 34. A monthly comparative analysis of the violation of children's rights based on the number of cases per month.**





The following graph illustrates the number of violations of human rights in the category of children’s rights in 2018 in comparison with 2017.

**Figure 35. Violations of children’s rights per month compared with the previous year (2018, 2017).**





## Women's Rights

In the category of violations of women's rights in 2018, a total of 79 reports have been registered by the Department of Statistics. These reports reflected. At least 943 women were physically and sexually abused, 12 cases of honor-killings, and 9 case of summoned women's rights activists to judiciary and security organs.

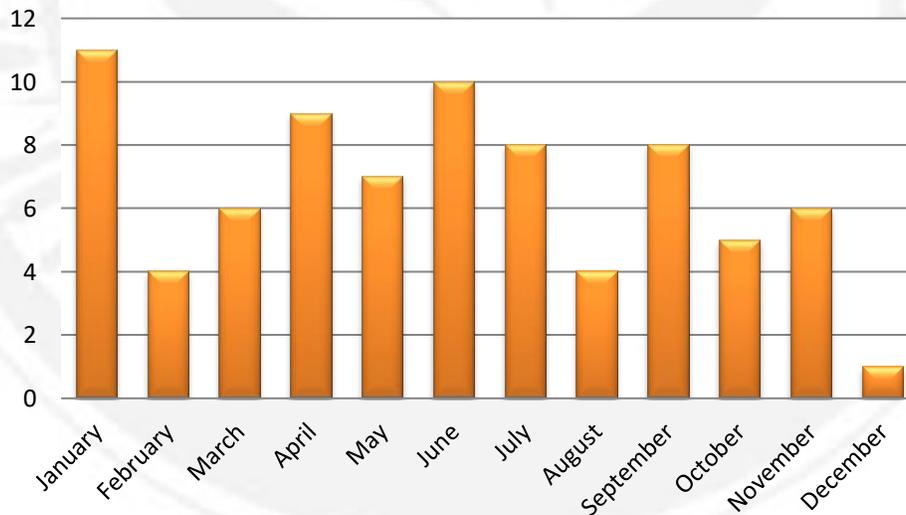
Based on this report 4 women's rights activists and 80 others, were arrested during the women's march. Additionally, 29 of opponents of compulsory h/hijab have been arrested. at least two of the arrestees have been sentenced to 36 months of imprisonment.

In this time frame, at least 5 gatherings and protests regarding women's rights, have been organized. Of the most significant of these protests, is the Iranshahr city protesting "gang rapes" of the women of this city.

It should be noted that all those arrested on women's day were released and acquitted.

As the following bar graph illustrates, based on the number of reports per month, the highest number of reports in women's rights violations has been in January and the highest decline in reports is observed in December.

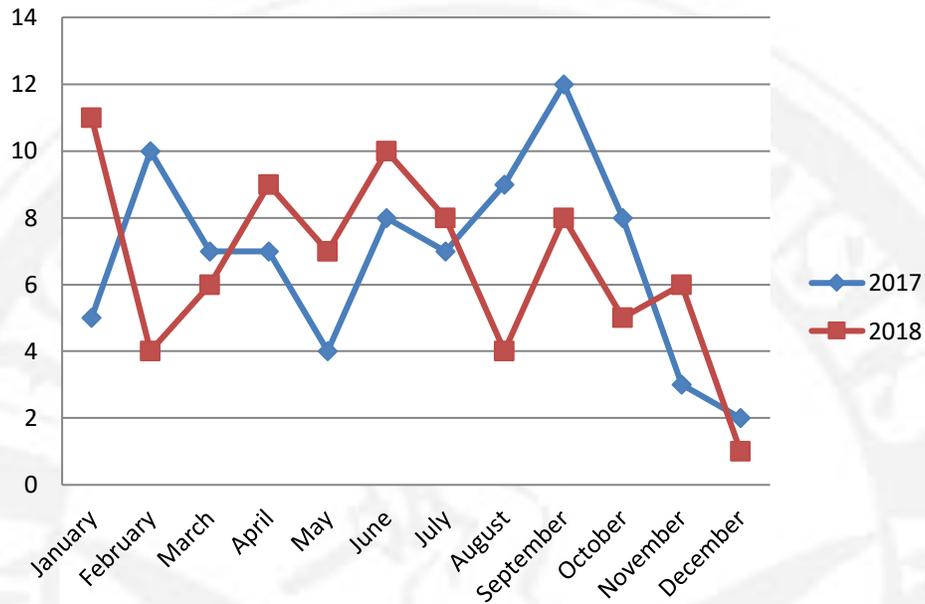
**Figure 36. A comparative analysis of the violation of women's rights based on the number of cases per month.**





The following graph illustrates the number of violations of human rights in the category of women’s rights in 2018 compared to 2017.

**Figure 37. Violations of women’s rights per month in 2018 compared to the previous year.**



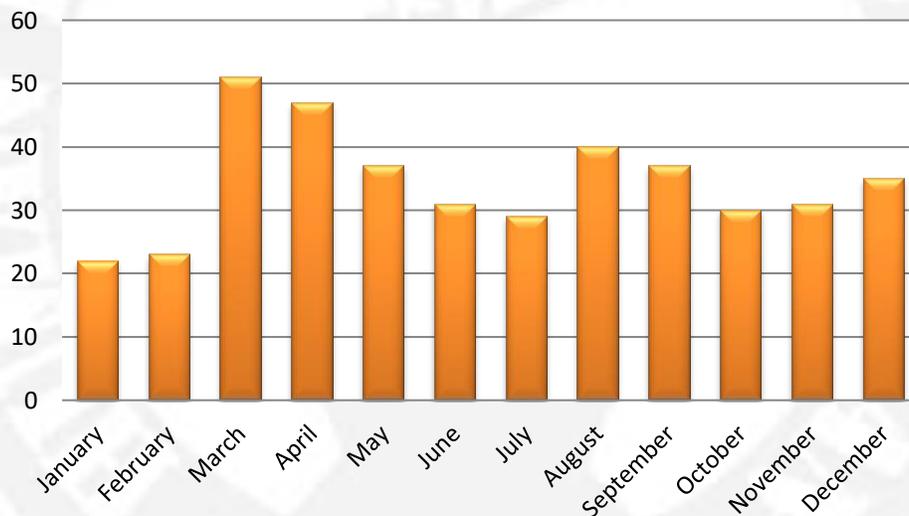


## Prisoners' Rights

In the category of violations of prisoners' rights in 2018, a total of 413 reports have been registered, 300 reports on physical assault of prisoners, 142 reports of deprivation /neglected of medical care, 65 reports of illegal transfer to solitary confinement, 467 attempted hunger strikes, 36 cases of forced transportation or exile, 48 cases of threatening prisoners, 1 case of death by hunger strike, 94 cases of lack of access to lawyers, 69 cases of torture, 18 case of deaths by diseases, 1157 reports of prisoners being held in unsuitable circumstances. Also, in this category, there has been 95 cases of keeping prisoners in unsure state about their sentence and situation.

As the following bar graph illustrates, based on the number of reports per month, the highest number of reports in prisoners' rights violations has been in March and the highest decline in reports is observed in January.

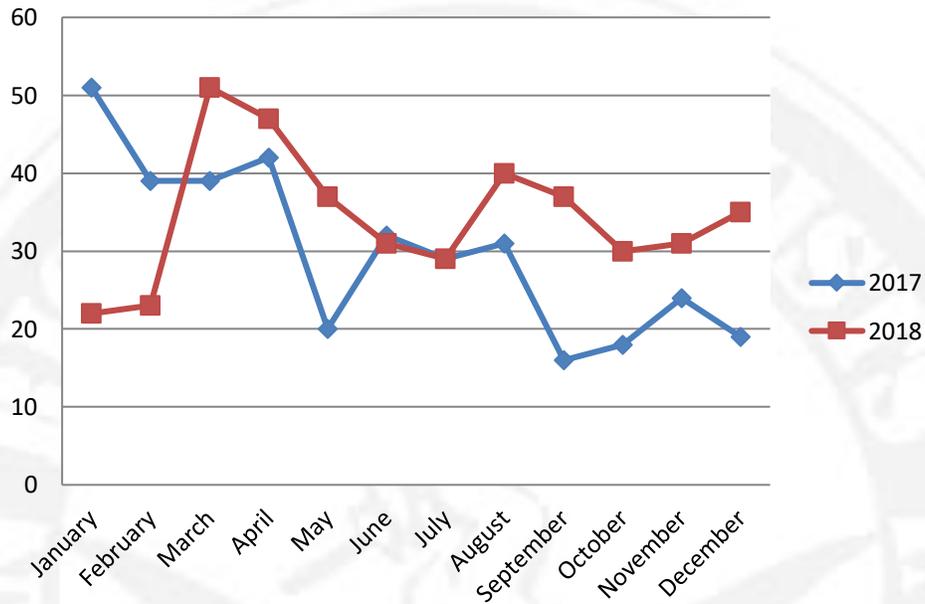
**Figure 38. A monthly comparative analysis of the violation of prisoners' rights based on the number of cases per month.**





The following graph illustrates the number of violations of prisoners' rights in 2018 in comparison with 2017.

**Figure 39- violations of prisoners' rights per month in 2018 compared with the previous year.**



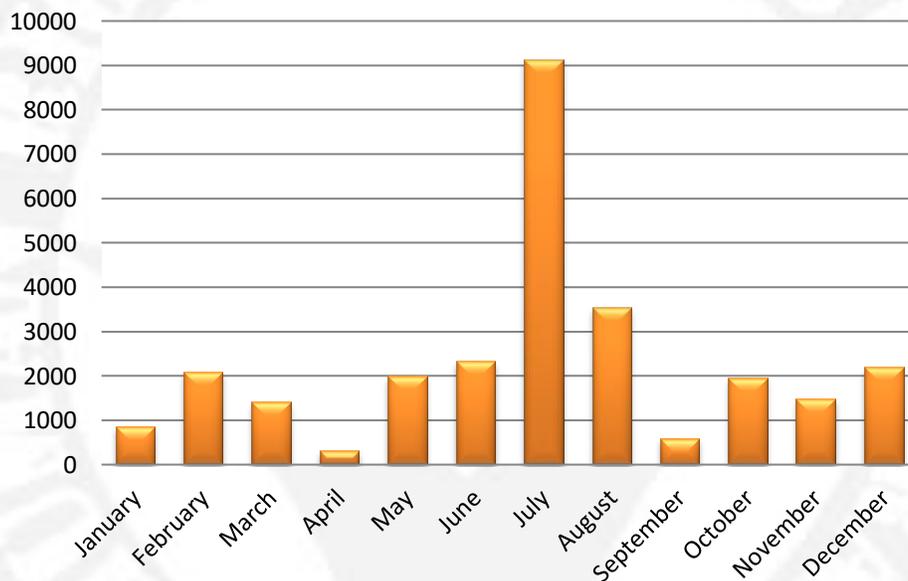


## Sentences

In 2018, the judiciary of the Iranian government, including the initial court and appeal, issued 27757 months of imprisonment. These reports included; 2379 months of imprisonment for the ethnic minorities, 16841 months of imprisonment for religious minorities; 7442 months of imprisonment in the category of freedom of expression —it should be noted, these statistics only include the court sentences that indicated detailed information or characteristics of the verdicts.

As the following bar graph illustrates, based on the number of reports per month, the highest number of reports in this category has been in July and the highest decline in reports is observed in April.

**Figure 40. A monthly comparative analysis of the number of convicted citizens by month.**

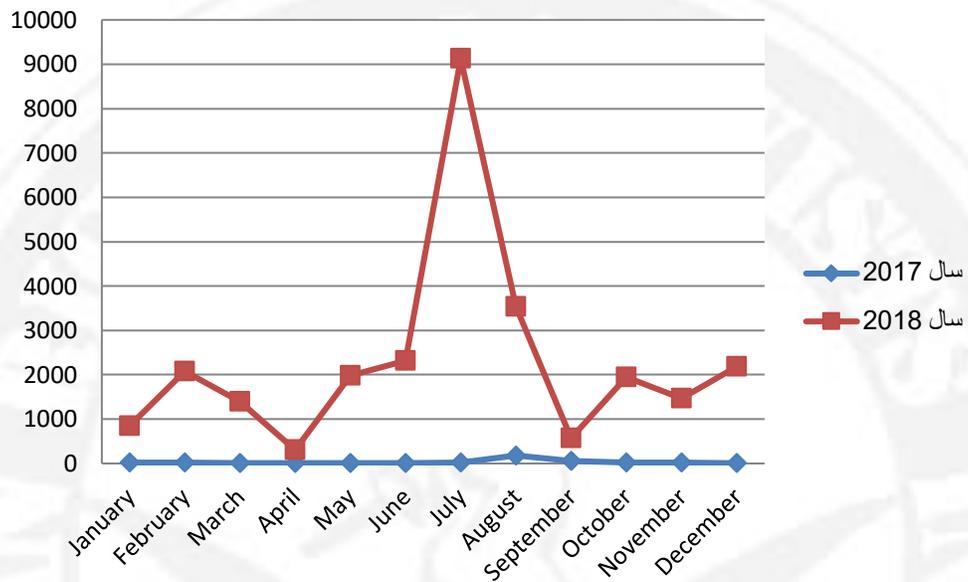


A total of 30 billion and 304 million Rial in fines and 16848 lashes has been issued in 2018. Most of the lashing sentences issued were for religious minorities and Dervishes of Gonabad.



In 2018, the number of convictions of citizens or activists has decreased by 269.7%. According to these reports, religious minorities, freedom of expression, and ethnic minorities reports show an increase of 1299%, 51.3%, and 7.5% respectively.

**Figure 41. A monthly comparative analysis of the number of convicted citizens based on the number of cases per month in 2018 and 2017.**





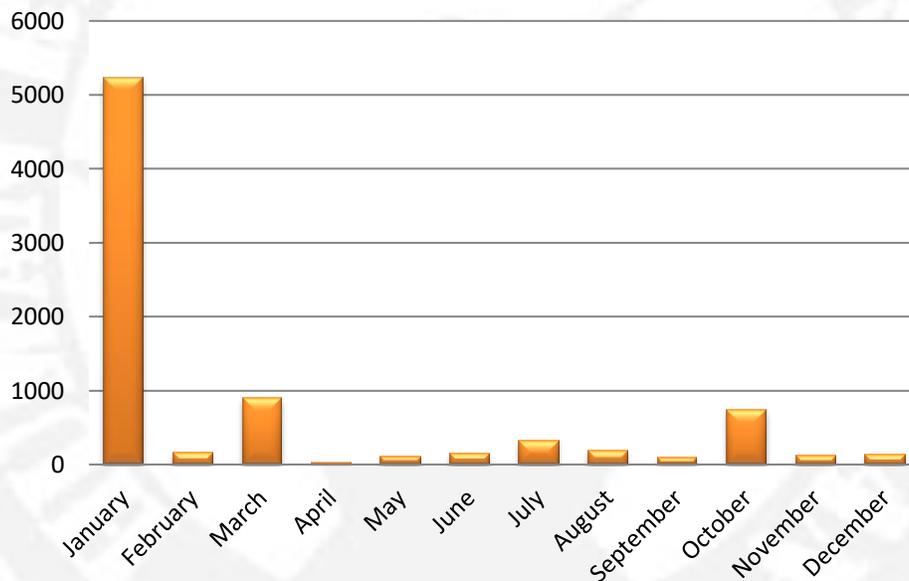
## Arrests

In 2018, the security forces arrested 8195 individuals because of political or civil rights related activities.

The statistical analysis exhibited 437 case of arrest in the trade union category, 1171 arrests in the category of ethnic minorities, 629 arrests in the category of religious minorities, 5478 arrests in the category of freedom of expression, 156 arrests of students in the category of Academia/right to education, 103 arrests in the field of culture, and 221 arrests in the category of workers' rights.

As the following bar graph illustrates, based on the number of reports per month, the highest number of reports in this category has been in January and the highest decline in reports is observed in April.

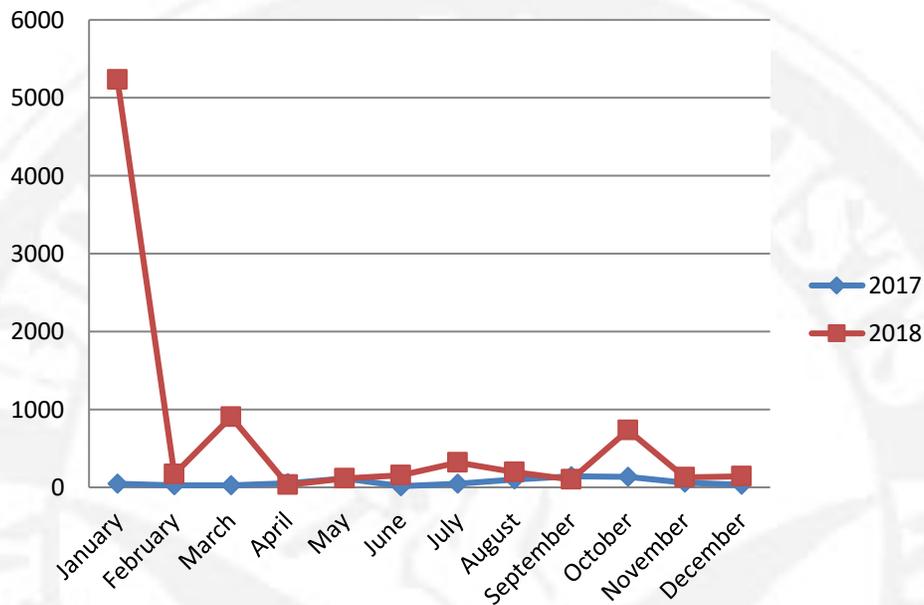
**Figure 42. A monthly comparative analysis of the number of arrests by month.**





In 2018, the number of arrests increased by 629%. According to these reports, the number of arrests in the following categories has increased by the respective percentage stated: Ethnic minorities 836%, unions 1560%, students 3120%, workers' rights 1163%, and freedom of expression 814%, religion minorities 69%, and culture 1144%.

**Figure 43. The number of arrests per month in 2018 and 2017.**



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