



Report to the Human Rights Committee on: Islamic Republic of Iran Freedom of Religion or Belief (ICCPR art. 18) and Discrimination (ICCPR art. 26)

Submitted to the Human Rights Committee ahead of the consideration of the List of Issues Prior to Reporting for Iran during the Committee's 136th session, October-November 2022.

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Submitted by:

The World Evangelical Alliance (WEA) is a network of churches in over 130 nations that have each formed an evangelical alliance and over 100 international organizations joining together to give a world-wide identity, voice, and platform to more than 600 million evangelical Christians worldwide.

Open Doors supports communities of Christians in more than 60 countries, where their fundamental rights are violated because of their faith.

Middle East Concern (MEC) was founded in 1991, in response to needs expressed by Christian leaders in the Middle East and North Africa region (MENA). MEC supports people in the MENA region who are marginalized, discriminated against or persecuted for being or becoming Christians.

Article 18 is a non-profit organization based in London, dedicated to the protection and promotion of religious freedom in Iran and advocating on behalf of its persecuted Christians.

Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW) is a Christian organization working for religious freedom through advocacy and human rights, in the pursuit of justice.

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Methodology

1. The information in this report was collected by the organisations that are jointly submitting this report. Because of the difficulty of access to comprehensive information in Iran from abroad, our reporting on cases can only be considered partial and indicative of broader phenomena. We have included several case studies to illustrate our legal and factual analysis. This submission is by way of an update to our report to the Human Rights Committee, dated 29 May 2020.¹

Freedom of Religion or Belief (ICCPR art. 18) and Discrimination (ICCPR art. 26) in Iran

2. Article 13 of the Iranian Constitution states that “Zoroastrian, Jewish, and Christian Iranians are considered the only recognised religious minorities. They may perform their religious ceremonies within the limits of the law. They are free to exercise matters of personal status and religious education and they follow their own rituals.”² The Iranian Government interprets these three recognised minorities to refer only to historical ethnic communities in Iran – such as the Assyrian and Armenian Christian communities. These communities constitute a historical heritage for the nation. All other religious minorities remain unrecognised by law and are afforded no rights under the Constitution.

3. Despite these constitutional guarantees, Iranian minority faith adherents face multiple layers of violations to their right to freedom of religion or belief.

4. **First, the recognised religious minorities are not allowed to hold services in the Farsi language or to be in possession of any religious material in Farsi.** Since 2009, the Iranian regime has worked to end the use of Farsi in recognised churches and has forced churches which held services for Farsi-speaking Christians to close.

5. The following are three cases of closure of Farsi-language services. We do not have an exhaustive list of all services closed. In December 2009, authorities ordered the Central Church of Tehran to close its Friday Farsi services and prohibited musical worship and Bible distribution. This was the largest and most visible church of the Assemblies of God denomination in Iran. Many similar Farsi-language church services have been prohibited, culminating in February 2012, with Iran’s Ministry of Intelligence ordering Emmanuel Protestant Church and St. Peter’s Evangelical Church in Tehran to discontinue holding Friday Farsi-language

¹ https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CCPR/Shared%20Documents/IRN/INT_CCPR_ICJ_IRN_42287_E.pdf

² QANUNI ASSASSI JUMHURII ISLAMAI IRAN [THE CONSTITUTION OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN] 1980, Art. 12

services.³ All three churches were able to continue to hold Sunday services, but in Assyrian and Armenian languages.

6. Second, the Iranian judiciary has used articles such as 498, 499 and 500 of the Iranian Penal Code⁴ to prosecute minority faith adherents for their peaceful religious activities on the basis that such activity threatens the very existence of the Islamic Republic and thus constitutes a national security threat. Activities such as attending a house church or being part of religious conferences are regularly considered by the Iranian authorities as criminal acts in and of themselves, acts they claim to threaten the national security of the country.

7. In February 2021 amendments to articles 499⁵ and 500⁶ were written into the Islamic Penal Code, facilitating the prosecution of members of groups, such as house churches, that are deemed to be acting against national security and engaging in “any deviant educational or proselytising activity”. The relevant sentences were increased so that those convicted could be sentenced to five years in prison plus fines. Forbes noted that “such provisions are destined to be abused against religious minorities”⁷ and many Christians in Iran have since been sentenced under these new provisions. ARTICLE 19, an organisation that works to promote freedom of expression, called the amendments a “full-on attack on religious freedom”⁸.

8. The amended articles were first used to charge Christians in May 2021. Converts to Christianity Amin Khaki, Milad Goodarzi and Alireza Nourmohammadi were each charged with having “engaged in propaganda that educates in a deviant way contrary to the holy religion of Islam” through their membership of house churches. The wording of the charge had been lifted directly from the amended

³ Churches forced to stop Farsi worship in Tehran, Iran, February 17 2012,

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2012/02/churchesC-forced-to-stop-farsi-worship-in-tehran-iran/>

⁴ Islamic Penal Code of The Islamic Republic of Iran (2013), Arts. 498 (“establishing a group that aims to disrupt national security”), 499 (“membership in a group that aims to disrupt national security”), and 500 (“spreading propaganda against the system”).

⁵ Article 499: “Anyone who insults Iranian ethnicities or divine religions or Islamic schools of thought recognised under the Constitution, in the real or virtual sphere, with the intent to cause violence or tensions in the society or with the knowledge that such [consequences] will follow” will be subjected to harsh punishments. The prescribed punishment in cases where the outlawed conduct “leads to violence or tensions” is an imprisonment sentence of between two and five years and/or a monetary fine. If no “violence and tension” is caused, an imprisonment sentence of between six months and two years and/or a monetary fine can be imposed.

⁶ Article 500: “any deviant educational or proselytizing activity that contradicts or interferes with the sacred law of Islam” whether as part of a “sect” or through the use of “mind control methods and psychological indoctrination” would face imprisonment between two and five years and/or a fine.

⁷ Are New Iranian Criminal Laws Curtailing Freedom of Religion or Belief? 5 July 2021,

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/ewelinaochab/2021/07/05/are-new-iranian-criminal-laws-curtailling-freedom-of-religion-or-belief/>

⁸

Iran: Parliament passes law to further choke freedoms and target minorities, 19 February 2021,

<https://www.article19.org/resources/iran-parliament-passes-law-to-further-choke-freedoms-and-target-minorities/>

Article 500. In June 2021 they were each given the maximum five-year sentence in addition to fines of 40 million tomans (\$1,800). An appeal court upheld the convictions, setting a precedent for how the amended articles will be applied to convict Christians - and converts in particular - for the peaceful expression of their faith. However, the appeal court waived the fines and reduced the prison sentences to three years each. The three converts were summoned to begin their sentences in November 2021 and remain imprisoned.

9. As a result of the prohibition on the use of Farsi in church, Christian converts are forced to resort to informal meetings, frequently termed “house churches.” House churches came into existence in 2002 and only grew with the increasing restrictions on the practice of the Christian faith.⁹ In his May 2016 report to the UN Human Rights Council, the then UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, Dr. Ahmed Shaheed, quoted the Iranian government as saying that the running of house churches is illegal since they have not obtained the necessary permits from the authorities. House churches are often raided, attendees are arrested and imprisoned, and their personal property such as ID cards and laptops are confiscated and frequently not returned. In 2021 and 2022 many such raids on house churches were reported, most being conducted by agents from the Iranian Ministry of Intelligence (MOIS), but increasingly the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) is involved in raids on house churches and the subsequent arrest and interrogation of house church members.

10. These raids on house churches and prosecution of house church members continue despite a November 2021 statement from the Supreme Court that promoting Christianity and “Zionist evangelism” in private homes is not an example of “gathering and collusion against internal or external security”. This statement was made in relation to a call for a review of the sentences of nine Christian converts each sentenced to five years’ imprisonment in 2019 for “acting against national security” and “promoting Zionist Christianity”. Additionally, the court decreed that this case did not meet the definition of the establishment of groups aiming to disrupt national security as defined by Articles 499 and 500 of the penal code. In February 2022 Branch 34 of the Revolutionary Court in Tehran upheld the decision and the nine converts were acquitted.¹⁰ Sadly, as can be seen by the examples below, this decision was not followed by other courts and demonstrates the inconsistencies within the judicial system on how Articles 499 and 500 are applied.

11. Article 18 of the ICCPR provides for freedom for faith adherents to gather and worship collectively and yet the Iranian authorities persist in seeing such gatherings, outside the few recognised minority groups, as being criminal action

⁹ Iran: House churches; situation of practising Christians; treatment by authorities of Christian converts’ family members, 14 June 2017, <https://www.refworld.org/pdfid/5943a44d4.pdf>

¹⁰ Iran: Nine converts acquitted by Appeal Court, 28 February 2022, <https://meconcern.org/2022/02/28/iran-nine-converts-acquitted-by-appeal-court/>

against national security if conducted in the Persian language. In 2021 the #Place2Worship campaign¹¹ began when Christian converts in Iran as well as former prisoners of conscience and Persian churches in the diaspora called on the Iranian authorities to allow Persian-speaking Christians - whatever their ethnicity - to congregate freely without the fear of harassment, arrest, or judicial action.

12. The following are further examples of cases of the arrest and prosecution of Iranian Christian converts that our organisations have documented.

13. In July 2021 Fariba Dalir (53) was among six Christian converts arrested on a raid on a house church conducted by agents of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC). After 38 days in solitary confinement, Fariba was transferred to Qarchak women's prison in Varamin, near Tehran and temporarily released on bail of 600 million tomans (then about US\$ 22,000) on 18 November 2021. On 29 November, Fariba was sentenced initially to five years in prison by judge Iman Afshari at the 26th Branch of the Revolutionary Court, but this was reduced to two years after the judge acknowledged a mistake, supposing her to have had a previous criminal conviction. Fariba started serving her sentence in Evin Prison on 16 April 2022. After completing one third of her sentence, she applied for conditional release or temporary leave from prison, but her request was turned down.

14. An Iranian of Armenian heritage, Anooshavan Avedian (60), and Christian converts Abbas Sourì (45) and Maryam Mohammadi (46) were among eighteen Christians present at a house church gathering on 21 August 2020 in Narmak, North Tehran. Intelligence agents conducted a raid on the house, confiscating Bibles and cell phones and arresting Anooshavan, Abbas, and Maryam who were then transferred to Evin Prison. Abbas and Maryam were kept in solitary confinement for 26 days. The three Christians were temporarily released on 23 September 2020 after posting bail - Anooshavan posted 1 billion tomans (approx. equiv. US\$50,000) and Abbas and Maryam 500 million tomans (approx. equiv. US\$25,000) each. In May 2022 Judge Iman Afshari of the 26th Branch of the Revolutionary Court sentenced Anooshavan to ten years' imprisonment for "propaganda contrary to and disturbing to the holy religion of Islam" and to deprivation of his social rights (e.g., employment opportunities) for an additional ten-year period. Abbas and Maryam each received similar deprivations of their social rights for ten years, a fine of 50 million tomans (approx. equiv. US\$2,000), a two-year travel ban, and compulsory exile from Tehran. At an appeal hearing in May 2022, the convictions were upheld. While there was no change in the sanctions against Anooshavan, the deprivation of social rights sanctions against Abbas and Maryam were cancelled and the fines reduced to 6 million tomans (approx. equiv. US\$190) each. Iman Soleimani, the lawyer representing Anooshavan and Abbas, petitioned the Supreme Court for a retrial but the lawyer

¹¹ Iranian churches get behind #Place2Worship campaign, 20 January 2022, <https://www.iirf.eu/news/other-news/iranian-churches-get-behind-place2worship-campaign/>

told Mohabat News¹² on 2 August 2022 that the court had rejected the request without comment and failed to review previous submissions for their defence.

15. On 5 September 2021 Christian converts Morteza Mashhoodkari (38), Ayoub Poor-Rezazade (28) and Ahmad Sarparast (25) were arrested at a private prayer meeting in Rasht by agents of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC). The agents used force, behaved insultingly, and refused to show arrest warrants. The three were detained in Lakan Prison and released later that month (Morteza and Ahmad) and early in October 2021 (Ayoub) after each submitting bail of 400 million tomans (approx. equiv. US\$15,000). On 25 January 2022 they were formally charged with “engaging in propaganda and educational activities for deviant beliefs contrary to the holy Sharia” and “connections with foreign leaders” under the amended Article 500 of the Penal Code. On 9 April a verdict was delivered by Branch 2 of Rasht Revolutionary Court with each defendant sentenced to five years in prison and fined 18 million tomans (approx. equiv. US\$640). According to Iranian rights organisation Article 18¹³, the defendants’ lawyer, Mr. Soleimani, is critical of the judicial process, saying that the conviction was based only on the claims of the IRGC agents and that there was no legal justification for the sentences as his clients’ only “crime” had been to meet together for Christian prayer and worship.

16. On 7 June 2022, an Iranian of Armenian heritage, pastor Joseph Shahbazian was sentenced to 10 years in prison, a two-year term in exile in a remote province in the southeast of Iran to follow his incarceration, and a two-year ban on travelling abroad and on membership of any social or political group. Others, Christian converts, connected with this case were also convicted and sentenced: Mina Khajavi (59) and Malihe Nazari (48) were given six-year prison sentences for house-church leadership; Salar Eshraghi Moghadam, Farhad Khazaei, Somayeh Sadegh and her mother Masoumeh Ghasemi were sentenced to between one and four-years’ imprisonment for house-church membership, but they have been permitted to pay fines instead of going to prison. These Christians were arrested in a series of raids on house churches in Tehran, Karaj and Malayer by IRGC agents in June and July 2020 in which around 35 Christians were arrested or interrogated. After nearly two months in detention, Joseph was conditionally released after relatives posted bail in the form of deeds to a property worth 2 billion tomans (approx. equiv. \$100,000) – originally 3 billion tomans had been demanded but could not be raised. In the court hearing on 29 May 2022, Judge Afshari reportedly pressured the Christian converts to blame Joseph for their conversions in return for reduced sentences, but they refused to comply¹⁴.

¹² Rejection of the Request to Resume the Trial of Two “Christian Citizens) in the Supreme Court of the Country, 2 August 2022, <https://mohabatnews.com/?p=50275>

¹³ Ahmad Sarparast, Morteza Mashhoodkari and Ayoob Poor-Rezazadeh, 11 July 2022, <https://articleeighteen.com/reports/case-studies/10380/>

¹⁴ Seven Iranian Christians sentenced to total of 32 years in prison, 7 June, 2022, <https://articleeighteen.com/news/11152/>

17. In the annex, we have included a list of Christians facing judicial sentences since the beginning of 2021. We estimate that there are dozens more detained, but unreported or unwilling to have their cases made public or awaiting trial for cases dating prior to 2021. The list is prepared mainly from public sources and is not exhaustive. Confidential cases were omitted for security reasons.

18. Third, while Iranian legislation does not explicitly criminalize the act of religious conversion or apostasy, minority faith adherents have been prosecuted for apostasy (abandonment of Islam) under Article 220 of the Iranian Penal Code¹⁵ and Article 167 of the Constitution¹⁶. These articles require judges to rely on non-codified law – namely authoritative Islamic sources and fatwas (ruling on a point of Islamic law given by a recognised authority) – to convict individuals for crimes and sentence them to punishments not codified by the existing law. If a Muslim exerts their inherent right to change their religion, they incur serious consequences because apostasy is considered a criminal offence by the Iranian Supreme Court, even though it is not codified by the law and instead relies on Sharia and a fatwa issued by the Ayatollah Khomeini.

19. In December 1990, Iranian authorities executed Hussein Soodman, an Assemblies of God pastor and a convert from Islam to Christianity. He was convicted of apostasy. He had been a Christian for 25 years. This was the last known official execution of a Christian for apostasy in Iran. The most recent high-profile case of condemnation for apostasy is that of pastor Yousef Nadarkhani in 2011, from the Church of Iran community. Following international outcry, pastor Nadarkhani was acquitted of the apostasy charge and released from jail in 2012. In May 2016, he was arrested once again, along with three other Christians. In June 2017, they were given ten-year prison sentences by the 26th Branch of the Revolutionary Court in Tehran for “acting against national security through propagating house churches and promoting Zionist Christianity.” He is currently serving the prison sentence in Evin prison in Tehran, although the sentence was reduced to six years after a review of his sentence in June 2020.¹⁷

20. Fourth, in some cases, church property of traditional and recognised churches has been confiscated by authorities or forcibly closed. The following are some examples. We do not have an exhaustive list of closed church properties. In June 2012, an Assemblies of God (AoG) affiliated church in the Janat-Abad area of west Tehran was closed on orders of the Intelligence Branch of the

¹⁵ Islamic Penal Code of The Islamic Republic of Iran (2013), Art. 220 (allowing *hadd* punishments that are not mentioned in law).

¹⁶ QANUNI ASSASSI JUMHURII ISLAMAI IRAN [THE CONSTITUTION OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN] 1980, Art. 167 (“The judge must try to base the verdict of each dispute on the codified laws. If his attempt fails, he should issue the verdict on the case by referring to reputable Islamic sources or religious rulings (fatwas). He cannot refrain from issuing a verdict under the pretext of silence, deficiency, brevity, or inconsistency in the laws.”).

¹⁷ Iran: Reduction in sentences for Pastor Yousef Nadarkhani and associates, 22 June 2020, <https://meconcern.org/2020/06/22/iran-reduction-in-sentences-for-pastor-yousef-nadarkhani-and-associates/>

Iranian Revolutionary Guard.¹⁸ In May 2019, Iranian authorities raided the historic Assyrian Presbyterian Church in Tabriz. They ordered the church warden to leave and proceeded to change the locks, tear down the cross from the church tower, and install surveillance equipment. Following international pressure, authorities later reinstated the cross. In August 2021 IranWire¹⁹ reported that Doulab Armenian monastery and cemetery in Tehran were threatened through development projects of Tehran City Council. An “informed source” claimed that the intention was to remove the Armenian name and change the public image. In May 2022 Article 18²⁰ reported that the “Garden of Sharon” retreat centre, originally confiscated from the AoG Christian community by a 2015 order enacted in 2018, was set to be reconfigured by the state after security forces broke into the property on 13 May 2022 and began renovations. The new purpose of the property, worth an estimated US\$3 million, is not known.

21. Fifth, Christians and other minority faiths face discrimination on a religious basis. A non-Muslim faces many limitations and unfair discrimination in their private and public life in Iran. According to the Civil Code of the Islamic Republic of Iran, a Muslim woman is not allowed to marry a non-Muslim man (art. 1059); and a non-Muslim cannot inherit from a Muslim (art. 881 bis). Access to higher education and employment is also restricted for minority faith adherents – especially concerning jobs in the public sector. In May 2019 the State Welfare Organisation issued a directive prohibiting minority faith adherents from working in nursery schools.

Suggestions for List of Issues for Iran

22. Considering the above, we respectfully call on the Human Rights Committee to submit the following questions to Iran:

23. Please provide information on how Article 13 of the Constitution (recognising Zoroastrians, Christians and Jews as the only religious minorities) is consistent with the provisions of the Covenant;

24. Please provide information on minority faith adherents who wish to practice their faith in the Farsi language;

25. Please respond as to the cases of minority faith adherents being tried on national security grounds for the legitimate practice of their faith, and please

¹⁸ Church in Tehran forced to close, 8 June 2012, <http://www.csw.org.uk/2012/06/08/news/1267/article.htm>

¹⁹ Tehran City Council May Erase Armenian History from Christian Monastery, 17 August 2021, <https://iranwire.com/en/features/70165>

²⁰ Confiscated Church-owned retreat centre set to be repurposed, 28 June 2022, <https://articleeighteen.com/news/11221/>

clarify how such court cases are compatible with the provisions of the Covenant, in particular with Article 18 of the Covenant;

26. Please clarify how Persian speakers in Iran, whatever their ethnicity, may freely gather to worship as envisaged by Article 18 of the Covenant;

27. Please report on how many converts to Christianity are currently detained and facing charges under the amended Articles 499 and 500 of the Islamic Penal Code;

28. Please indicate whether the State party has any plans to revise the Civil Code to: (a) allow non-Muslims to inherit from Muslims (art. 881 bis); and (b) allow Muslim women to contract marriage with non-Muslims (art. 1059).

ANNEX

Table: Iranians detained following their arrest pending prosecution or their imprisonment and other punishments following their conviction on charges related to their Christian faith (from 1 January 2021 to 12 August 2022). The names and other details are exclusively from public sources. Cases that have not been made public are not included.

Name	Location	Detention began	Released	Sentence and charge
Nasser Navard Gol-Tapeh	Evin Prison, Tehran	Jan 2018	-	10 years for “acting against national security through the formation and establishment of an illegal church organisation in his home”.
Yousef Nadarkhani	Evin Prison, Tehran	July 2018	-	10 years (reduced to 6) + 2 years’ exile for “acting against national security” including “propagating house churches” and “promoting Zionist Christianity”

Mohammad Ali (Yasser) Mossayebzadeh	Evin Prison, Tehran	July 2018	February 2021	10 years (reduced on appeal) for "acting against national security" including "propagating house churches" and "promoting Zionist Christianity" + 80 lashes for "drinking (communion) wine"
Zaman (Saheb) Fadaie	Evin Prison, Tehran	July 2018	-	10 years (reduced to 6) + 2 years' exile for "acting against national security" including "propagating house churches" and "promoting Zionist Christianity" + 80 lashes for "drinking (communion) wine"
Abdolreza Ali (Matthias) Haghnejad	Evin/Anzali Prison	July 2019 Jan 2022	Dec 2021 (on bail) -	5 years for "acting against national security". Acquitted on review Nov. 2021. 6 years for "acting against the security of the country by forming a group and propagating Christianity outside the church and in the house church and giving information to the enemies of Islam." Charges dropped in 2014 revived by judge.
Mohammad (Shahrooz) Eslamdoust	Evin Prison, Tehran	July 2019	Jan 2022	5 years for "acting against national security". Acquitted on review Nov. 2021.
Babak Hosseinzadeh	Evin Prison, Tehran	July 2019	Jan 2022	5 years for "acting against national security". Acquitted on review Nov. 2021.
Mehdi Khatibi	Evin Prison, Tehran	July 2019	Jan 2022	5 years for "acting against national security". Acquitted on review Nov. 2021.
Behnam Akhlaghi	Evin Prison, Tehran	July 2019	Jan 2022	5 years for "acting against national security". Acquitted on review Nov. 2021.
Ebrahim	Rask	Oct.	Nov.	2 years' exile as part of a 2014

Firouzi		2019	2021	sentence for “propaganda against the Islamic Republic,” “launching and directing evangelism” and “running a Christian website.”
Hossein Kadivar	Evin Prison, Tehran	June 2020	Jan. 2022	5 years for “acting against national security”. Acquitted on review Nov. 2021.
Khalil Dehghanpour	Evin Prison, Tehran	June 2020	Jan. 2022	5 years for “acting against national security”. Acquitted on review Nov. 2021.
Kamal Naamanian	Evin Prison, Tehran	June 2020	Jan. 2022	5 years for “acting against national security”. Acquitted on review Nov. 2021.
Mohammad Vafadar	Evin Prison, Tehran	June 2020	Jan. 2022	5 years for “acting against national security”. Acquitted on review Nov. 2021.
Mehdi Akbari	Evin Prison, Tehran	June 2020	-	10 years for “acting against national security by forming a house-church”.
Mehdi Roohparvar	Evin Prison, Tehran	June 2020	-	5 years for “acting against national security by forming a house-church”.
Mohammad Reza (Youhan) Omid	Borazjan	Aug. 2020	June 2022	2 years’ exile as part of a sentence including 2 years’ prison (reduced from 10) for “acting against the national security through propagating house churches and promoting Zionist Christianity.”
Reza N	Evin Prison, Tehran	Feb. 2021	May 2021	10 months for “propaganda against the state through the promotion of Christianity”.

Farhad Mohebbi	Evin Prison, Tehran	Feb. 2021	March 2021 (with tag)	10 months for “propaganda against the state through the promotion of Christianity”.
Arash R	Evin Prison, Tehran	Feb. 2021	July 2021 (conditional)	10 months for “propaganda against the state through the promotion of Christianity”.
Alireza M	Evin Prison, Tehran	Feb. 2021	June 2021 (conditional)	10 months for “propaganda against the state through the promotion of Christianity”.
Sasan Khosravi	Bushehr Central Prison	Feb. 2021 Feb. 2022	Jan. 2022 -	1 year; + 2 years’ exile for “propaganda against the regime.”
Habib Heydari	Bushehr Central Prison	Feb. 2021	Jan. 2022	1 year for “propaganda against the regime.”
Pooriya Peyma	Bushehr Central Prison	February 2021	April 2021	3 months for “propaganda against the regime.”
Reza Zaeemi	Karaj Central Prison	June 2021	August 2021 (released with tag)	18 months (reduced to 9) for “propaganda against the Islamic Republic by promoting evangelical Christianity”.
Hamed Ashoori	Karaj Central Prison	July 2021	Nov. 2021	10 months for “propaganda against the Islamic Republic”
Amin Khaki	Karaj Central	November 2021	-	5 years (reduced to 3) for “engaging in propaganda that educates in a

	Prison			deviant way contrary to the holy religion of Islam”
Milad Goodarzi	Karaj Central Prison	November 2021	-	5 years (reduced to 3) for “engaging in propaganda that educates in a deviant way contrary to the holy religion of Islam”
Alireza Nourmohammadi	Karaj Central Prison	November 2021	-	5 years (reduced to 3) for “engaging in propaganda that educates in a deviant way contrary to the holy religion of Islam”
Hadi (Moslem) Rahimi	Evin Prison, Tehran	January 2022	-	4 years for “acting against national security” by attending a house-church and “spreading ‘Zionist’ Christianity”
Fariba Dalir	Evin Prison, Tehran	April 2022	-	2 years for “acting against national security by establishing and leading an Evangelical Christian church”
Sakine (Mehri) Behjati	Lakan Prison, Rasht	April 2022	-	2 years for “acting against national security” by belonging to a house-church and “spreading Zionist Christianity”
Ahmad Sarparast	Lakan Prison, Rasht	May 2022	-	5 years for “engaging in propaganda and education of deviant beliefs contrary to the holy Sharia” and “connections with foreign leaders”. Sentenced April 2022 Arrested again on the same charges in May 2022 and detained since. It is understood these new charges relate to continued religious activities.
Morteza Mashoodkari	Lakan Prison, Rasht	May 2022	-	5 years for “engaging in propaganda and education of deviant beliefs contrary to the holy Sharia” and “connections with foreign leaders”. Sentenced April 2022

				Arrested again on the same charges in May 2022 and detained since. It is understood these new charges relate to continued religious activities.
Ayoob Poor-Rezazadeh	Lakan Prison, Rasht	May 2022	-	5 years for “engaging in propaganda and education of deviant beliefs contrary to the holy Sharia” and “connections with foreign leaders”. Sentenced April 2022 Arrested again on the same charges in May 2022 and detained since. It is understood these new charges relate to continued religious activities.
Gholamreza Keyvanmanesh (two women and a man who cannot be named are detained in Neyshabur Prison after related arrests on the same charges as Mr Keyvanmanesh)	Vakilabad Prison, Mashhad	June 2022	-	Detained since arrest. Not yet tried/sentenced “Acting against national security through propaganda against the regime”, and “Insulting the sacred” (blasphemy)
Mohammad Golbaz	Karaj, exact location unknown	July 2022	-	Detained since arrest. Not yet tried/sentenced Charges unknown. Relatives who went to inquire about him at the local prosecutor’s office were told only that he is an “apostate” and will be held “for a while”.

