

SILENCED CLASSROOMS

The State of Teachers' Freedom of Association & Assembly in Iran

(September 2023 – September 2025)



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Over the past decade, the teachers' movement has become an integral part of the broader workers' movement in Iran through protests and various forms of activism. Building on Volunteer Activists first report¹, which analyzed the state of affairs from September 2022 to September 2023, this report examines key developments and trends from September 2023 to September 2025. The objectives of this report are threefold:

- ✎ **Identify the key** issues that motivated teachers to protest.
- ✎ **Document the types of state suppression** faced by teacher activists and present quantitative data on these practices.
- ✎ **Analyze the broader societal impact** of the protests and state repression, forming recommendations for the Iranian government, teacher activists, and the international community.

To conduct this research, we utilized our on-the-ground contacts, interviewing various teacher activists. Additionally, we collected and analyzed secondary data from sources including reports by the Ministry of Education, human rights organizations, and pertinent newspaper articles.

Our findings indicate that teacher activism in Iran continues to face severe suppression, despite the Iranian government's official commitment to International Labor Organization (ILO) guidelines on the right to freedom of association, as outlined in the Iranian constitution. Authorities have adopted more sophisticated tactics of oppression, moving beyond traditional judicial measures like arrests and prison sentences to more subtle yet effective disciplinary actions by educational authorities. These include job losses, unfavorable reassignments, and the denial of essential financial benefits within teacher classification schemes.

One striking example combining these dual approaches is the increasing use of ankle monitors on teachers, even within classroom settings.

1. Volunteer Activists. "Our Voice Will Not Be Silenced". 10 December 2023, <https://www.volunteeractivists.nl/publications/special-report-on-the-impact-of-state-violence-on-the-iranian-teacher-movement-centering-on-the-period-may-2022-to-september-2023>



Despite these challenges, teacher activism has demonstrated resilience, evolving through identifiable trends in both the protests and the state's methods of repression. Digital and symbolic forms of activism have become more prominent and retired teachers have emerged as a central force in public demonstrations, particularly through the nationwide "Protesting Tuesdays" for public-sector pensioners. While participation from active teachers in street protests has declined, they nevertheless achieved a small gain related to the reception of bonuses. Additional findings from this report can be found in Table 1

Table 1: Key Takeaways

KEY TAKEAWAY	DETAILS
Protest Events	75 protests by (former) teachers occurred between September 2023 - September 2025 in 41 cities.
Participant Breakdown	Employed teachers participated in approximately 12 actions. Additionally, contractual teachers, literacy campaign instructors, and preschool educators organized several smaller protests focused on contracts, wages, and insurance rights. There were over 50 demonstrations involving retired teachers.
Support	Teachers were sometimes supported by pupils, teacher graduates and parents in their quest for better teacher rights and better education.
Continued repression	In spite of his election promises, under president Pezeshkian the repression of teachers and teacher unions continued.
Decrease in Protest Gatherings	Widespread judicial and administrative repression led to a decline in teachers' public protests.
Ethnic and Labor Repression	Repression was particularly harsh in Kurdistan Province, with severe punishments for Kurdish teachers advocating for the right to education in their mother tongue.
Decline in Union Activism	Some teachers appear to have become alienated by the Coordinating Council of Iranian Teachers' Trade Associations (CCITTA) radical politics, preferring a return to a wage-focused approach.
Internal Divisions	CCITTA struggles with a generational gap and insufficient representation of women and Iranians from an ethnic minority background, particularly in leadership roles.

Introduction

1

INTRODUCTION

In October 2020, when Leila arrived at school, something caught her eye: her beloved English teacher, Mrs. Zand, was wearing an electronic ankle monitor—used by prison authorities to track movement. Leila felt a deep sense of sympathy for Mrs. Zand, a teacher who had always inspired her students. Later that month, while speaking with her cousin Mohammad in Kurdistan Province, she was reminded of how fortunate she was. Mohammad told her about a teacher who had been dismissed for joining a strike and never returned—eventually leaving the country.

Though fictional, this scenario reflects the harsh realities facing many teachers in Iran. Since 2010, the arrest, dismissal, or punishment of teachers for peaceful activism has become increasingly common, even as the country grapples with a nationwide teacher shortage. One of the central forces in this story is the Coordinating Council of Iranian Teachers' Trade Associations (CCITTA) an independent union that has become one of Iran's most organized labor movements. The repression intensified following the Women, Life, Freedom uprising in 2022. Teachers and students played a visible role in the protests, which led to sweeping crackdowns. Around 20,000 school principals were reportedly dismissed ahead of the 2023 school year for failing to collaborate with security forces in identifying and punishing protesting teachers and students. They were replaced with more ideologically aligned individuals.

Against this backdrop, a critical question emerges: to what extent does teacher activism persist in Iran today—and how has the government responded?

This question matters for several interconnected reasons. From a human rights perspective, the situation is deeply concerning. Not only are teachers' rights under attack, but children's rights are also at risk. In many cases, qualified teachers are replaced by clerics with little or no pedagogical training, undermining the quality of education in both primary and secondary schools.

Also, teacher activism is a key pillar in Iran's wider civil society. It has often acted as a bridge to other democratic and human rights movements. Once the most powerful union in the country, CCITTA had over 42 branches nationwide before a series of crackdowns reduced that number to around 20. Even so, it remains the most active and coordinated labor body in Iran today. In recent years, it has also strengthened its ties with other sectors working toward democratic change and social justice².

2. Front Line Defenders. "Iranian Teachers' Trade Association." Accessed 2025. <https://www.frontlinedefenders.org/en/organization/iranian-teachers-trade-association>

Finally, teachers also hold a unique position in society. As community role models, they shape not only academic outcomes but also civic values. As such, those who stand up for human rights and democratic principles are essential in cultivating a generation embodying and embracing similar principles. In short, besides their own position, adherence to teachers' rights and wishes could also improve Iranian society for the better. For these reasons, teacher activism in Iran deserves increased visibility and international support.

This report provides an overview of teacher activism from September 2023 to September 2025³, following on from a previous publication that analyzed its roots and earlier developments. The two-year focus allows for the identification of key patterns, tactics, and turning points in the ongoing struggle for educational justice in Iran.

METHODOLOGY

This report draws on a broad range of sources to present a comprehensive picture of teacher activism in Iran. Key materials include:

- ✂ Documentation of protests and government responses gathered through independent teacher networks
- ✂ Interviews with teacher activists
- ✂ Official and unofficial statements issued by CCITTA
- ✂ Policy documents and reports from provincial education departments
- ✂ Coverage from Iranian and international media outlets, including ILNA, Shargh Daily, and IranWire.

We also relied on datasets from the Workers' Rights Watch project⁴, which monitors labor issues across Iran on a bi-annual basis. Supplementary data were sourced from our Farsi-language platform, Davtalab⁵, which includes investigative articles and first-person accounts.

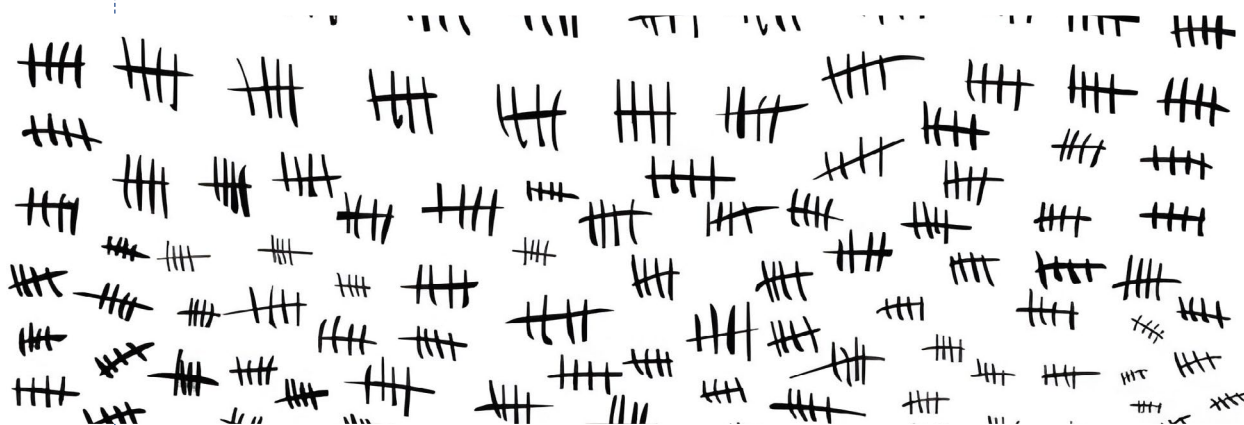
Where applicable, statistics - such as on arrests, dismissals, or school principal replacements - were triangulated using reports from human rights groups, union statements, and government sources.

Despite these efforts, it's important to acknowledge the limits of data collection under an authoritarian regime. Information is not evenly available across provinces, and some regions remain underrepresented. This report, while as thorough as possible, may not capture the full scope of events and experiences on the ground.

3. Israel's attacks on Iran have sharply reduced the number of protests. We have compiled reports on demonstrations up to the start of the war on 13 June 2025, with only a few occurring thereafter.

4. <https://workerrightswatch.org>

5. <https://davtalab.org/>



JUSTIFICATION

In this report, the term “teachers” is used broadly to refer to the wider educational workforce in Iran. This includes permanent, temporary, and freelance instructors across both primary and secondary education, as well as adult literacy trainers.

This broad categorization is intentional. It recognizes the shared challenges faced by teachers across different employment statuses and amidst different specializations. It also allows us to examine the wide-reaching impact of government repression, privatization, and neglect on those striving to uphold the right to education in Iran.

Besides analyzing the experiences of active teachers, the report also examines the circumstances of two often-overlooked groups: retired educators and recent teacher graduates. Both face distinct challenges - from inadequate pensions to ideological screening - that reveal deeper systemic problems in the educational and political landscape.

The following chapter provides essential background on the key concerns of Iranian teachers and offers insights into main teacher organizations in Iran. Chapter Three explores the range of protests and types of union activism carried out between September 2023 and September 2025. Chapter Four analyzes the government's response to these activities. The final chapter offers key conclusions and recommendations-addressed to the Iranian government, trade unions, and international actors-on how to effectively support teachers and uphold their rights.

2

Teacher Concerns & Advocacy Challenges

KEY TEACHER CONCERNS

The challenges facing Iran's teaching workforce are both complex and multifaceted. Nevertheless, several core grievances and aspirations among Iranian teachers stand out clearly. For the sake of clarity, these concerns will be divided into socio-economic and socio-political categories. Additionally, the unique challenges faced by retired teachers and recent graduates will be addressed alongside those experienced by active educators.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC ISSUES

Labor struggles traditionally revolve around insufficient income and unfavorable working conditions. These are also key issues for teachers in Iran.

1. Insufficient Wages

Many teachers earn less than the official minimum wage, a reality made worse by rising inflation that pushes their income well below the urban poverty line. As a result, they face constant financial strain, struggling to cover essential expenses like rent, healthcare, and food. To make ends meet, many teachers are forced to take on second or even third jobs. Frequent delays in salary payments further compromise their livelihoods.

2. Faulty Implementation of Salary Ranking System

After years of teacher protests demanding fair pay and a clear path for career advancement, the Iranian government finally approved a salary ranking system for teachers in 2021. While initially seen as a step in the right direction, many teachers had hoped the new system would tie compensation more closely to qualifications, experience, and performance. However, its implementation has been uneven, and it has done little to meaningfully raise teachers' incomes. In practice, factors like favoritism and ideological loyalty still outweigh merit in determining career progression. At the same time, teachers involved in union work or activism are often denied bonuses and benefits or may face salary deductions, leading to an unequal application of the pay system.



Iran's Human Rights Monitor reports that while the poverty threshold in urban areas is over 30 million tomans, teachers typically earn around 16 million tomans a month.

3. Unsafe School Buildings

Approximately 3 million Iranian schoolchildren, along with their teachers, attend classes in dangerously unsafe buildings. Incidents of collapsed roofs and fires caused by faulty heating systems are not uncommon. In Tehran alone, half of the schools are deemed insufficiently safe⁶.

4. Overcrowded Classrooms

Many classrooms are overcrowded, with some accommodating 40 to 50 students. This exacerbates the workload for teachers and diminishes job satisfaction. Insufficient government funding and shortages of school facilities contribute to this issue.



Approximately three million students attend school in classrooms that are no longer safe and should be torn down. In Tehran, the shortage of classrooms is particularly severe, with an estimated deficit of around 13,000 rooms.

6. IranWire. "Half of Tehran Schools Deemed 'Unsafe' for Students." September 13, 2024. <https://iranwire.com/en/news/133884-half-of-tehran-schools-deemed-unsafe-for-students/>.



5. Teacher Shortage

Iran is facing a significant teacher shortage, with estimates ranging from 100,000 to 176,000 teachers missing from the education system⁷. As a result, existing teachers are burdened with heavier workloads, which increases burnout and leads to higher rates of attrition.

6. Temporary Contracts

A large portion of Iran's workforce - especially in the public sector - works under temporary contracts, and teachers are no exception. Many educators are either outsourced or lack permanent employment, a situation worsened by the growing privatization and commercialization of education. Job insecurity is particularly severe among informal teachers, such as freelance instructors, preschool educators, and literacy trainers, the majority of whom are women. These teachers often work for years under difficult conditions without job stability or benefits. Many teachers believe that privatization is being used as a government tactic to cut costs while weakening collective bargaining rights.

7. Islamic Consultative Assembly Research Center. "News Release: Parliamentary Findings on Education." Accessed 2025.
<https://rc.majlis.ir/fa/news/show/1806957>

SOCIO-POLITICAL ISSUES

The already difficult conditions for teachers in Iran are further compounded by the authoritarian nature of the government and its strict ideological-religious stance. These factors not only worsen existing socio-economic challenges but also introduce a range of new obstacles - challenges that are further intensified by the growing privatization and commercialization of education.

1. Overcrowded Classrooms and Ideological Priorities

Teachers often express frustration with the Ministry of Education, which tends to prioritize ideological and religious agendas over practical solutions to overcrowded classrooms. For example, the ministry has been criticized for allocating resources to build new prayer halls in schools instead of investing in additional classrooms. Even more concerning are the ministry's human resource policies: teachers who engage in labor activism or are labeled as "too liberal" face risks of termination or forced early retirement. This practice not only deepens the teacher shortage but also creates a climate of surveillance and stress, contributing to serious psychological challenges among educators. Additionally, as will be discussed later in this chapter, new teacher graduates often encounter barriers to employment rooted in similar religious and ideological restrictions.

2. Imprisonment of Teachers

Teachers continue to be detained for peaceful activism, particularly union participation. Calls for the release of prominent teacher activists frequently echo during protests, alongside demands for freedom of association and the right to establish independent trade unions.

3. Limited Educational Access and Declining Quality

The commercialization of education directly conflicts with the constitutional guarantee of free education for all, as outlined in Article 30 of the Iranian Constitution, which mandates free education up to the end of secondary school. Hidden costs in state schools and the expansion of private institutions threaten equal access to education. The national curriculum has also faced criticism for reinforcing traditional gender roles and patriarchal values. Textbooks often portray women primarily as homemakers, neglecting their identities and contributions beyond domestic spheres. Many teachers express concerns over the declining quality of education and the increasing influence of religious ideology in curricula, which may result in the censorship of critical scientific theories.

4. Mother-Tongue Education in Ethnic Minority Regions

On top of these challenges, teachers in border regions with large ethnic minority populations emphasize the need for bilingual education. For example, Kurdish teachers advocate for instruction in their native language to preserve cultural identity and reduce dropout rates, especially for students with limited proficiency in Persian. In these areas, educators support bilingual programs that include both Persian and minority languages such as Kurdish, Arabic, or Turkish, aiming to address educational disparities and improve learning outcomes.

RETIREES AND TEACHER GRADUATES

In addition to current teachers, both retirees and new graduates face significant issues.

Retirees: Insufficient Pensions and Pension Fund Management

Much like salaries, teacher pensions have failed to keep pace with inflation, pushing many retirees into structural poverty. Concerns have also grown over the management of the Teachers' Reserve Fund, to which teachers contribute 5 percent of their salaries, while the government is supposed to contribute as well. However, the state frequently falls short of fulfilling these financial obligations.

Teacher Graduates: Religious and Ideological Screening

New teacher graduates eager to enter the profession may face barriers beyond their academic performance. Many are rejected for reasons tied to their personal lifestyles, especially if these are deemed too secular or otherwise in conflict with the strict religious standards imposed by the regime. With the government increasingly applying such strategies, dissent among teacher graduates is likewise growing.



Teachers in Iran are trained at Farhangian University, the national teachers' college with branches across the country. Yet many graduates remain unemployed, being deemed too secular or politically radical.

In a message shared on October 13, 2024, on the Coordinating Council's Telegram channel rejected teacher graduates shared their anger:

"We are new teachers who, after four years of specialized study at Farhangian University, were preparing for our first year of teaching. But for absurd reasons-such as missing prayers, wearing nail polish or makeup, or even liking Instagram posts-we have been denied our positions."



One of the main drivers of Iran's teacher shortage is the imbalance between the high number of retirements and the limited recruitment of new teachers. As part of broader repressive policies toward dissent, the Ministry of Education may force well-performing teachers into early retirement. At the same time, it has blocked the entry of new educators, fearing that younger teachers might encourage youth activism.

TEACHER ORGANIZATIONS: VARIED ROLES AND LIMITATIONS

Iranian teachers have access to a range of organizations with differing degrees of independence and advocacy. These include state-aligned groups, reform-oriented associations, and fully independent unions. However, it is important to note that not all these organizations genuinely protect or advocate for teachers' rights – some serve to co-opt the teaching workforce or even to control them. State-aligned organizations, such as the Islamic Education Association, are often the most accessible to teachers because they operate with government approval and financial backing. However, their close ties to the state limit their ability to push for meaningful change. They tend to avoid strikes and protests, adopting a softer, less confrontational approach.

More troubling are groups like the Teachers' Basij (Sazman-e Basij-e Mo'alleman)-a paramilitary wing of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) embedded within schools and education departments. The Basij monitors teachers, enforces ideological conformity, discourages participation in independent unions, and organizes counter-protests during unrest, effectively acting as an internal security apparatus within the education system.



The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) is the military arm of the Iranian government, which is also used to suppress the population.

In contrast, reform-oriented teacher associations, such as the Islamic Society of Teachers and The Iran Teachers' Organization (ITO) have historically sought to push for improvements but operate under severe government restrictions. Many were suppressed following the 2009 Green Revolution. For instance, ITO members were summoned by security forces, and activists were removed from their positions by the Ministry of Education. In 2007, amid a broader crackdown on teacher protests, the ITO was effectively silenced, with many key figures dismissed or intimidated into inactivity.

As a result, many reform-oriented teacher associations have become inactive or remain cautiously active under tight surveillance, a dynamic unchanged by political shifts such as president Pezeshkian's rise in 2020.

In stark contrast to the organizations outlined above stands the Coordinating Council of Iranian Teachers' Trade Associations (CCITTA) an independent trade union that has long been at the forefront of teacher activism through its Teachers Trade Associations scattered all over the country. CCITTA faces harsh government repression, with many of its leaders imprisoned⁸.

In the words of Shiva Ameli-Rad, CCITTA's international relations representative:

"As our activities expanded and the Council evolved into a cohesive national organization, the authorities responded with security narratives at every step. Instead of addressing teachers' demands, they started to portray our protests as foreign-backed plots, linking us to external enemies and agendas. In Iran, any form of union activity that is collective, sustained, and widespread is quickly labelled a security threat-especially when it involves teachers, who are closely connected to broad segments of society."

The crackdown continued throughout the 2010s. Over the decade, many CCITTA leaders and provincial activists were arrested, charged under vague national security laws, and handed harsh prison sentences. The case of Farzad Kamangar-a Kurdish teacher executed in 2010 after an egregiously unfair trial-highlighted the lethal seriousness with which the regime treated teacher activism from within CCITTA⁹.

8. Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty. "Iran: For State, Teacher Protests Are Security Matter." February 23, 2007. <https://www.rferl.org/a/1075361.html>

9. Education International. "Farzad Kamangar: EI Outraged at Iranian Teacher's Execution." May 2010. <https://www.ei-ie.org/en/item/17811:farzad-kamangar-ei-outraged-at-iranian-teachers-execution>.

The teacher organizations most systematically targeted have been the CCITTA itself and the network of TTAs in Tehran, Kurdistan, Khuzestan, Isfahan, and other provinces. Local associations in Kurdish regions, such as Sanandaj, faced especially harsh reprisals: their leaders were dismissed, demoted, exiled to remote provinces, or subjected to fabricated judicial cases.

Others, like *Mahmoud Beheshti Langaroudi* and *Esmail Abdi*, faced repeated imprisonment for their union work¹⁰. International organizations such as Education International regularly documented these violations.

By the early 2020s, the state's suspicion of (CCITTA) teacher activism had become so entrenched that even minor union actions - such as peaceful assemblies, open letters, or formal meetings with authorities - were treated as criminal offenses. The majority of detained trade union activists in Iran are affiliated with CCITTA, highlighting the risks its members take to push for teachers' rights.

Organization	Orientation
Islamic Society of Educators	Reformist-oriented
Islamic Education Association	State-aligned
Teachers' Basij	IRGC-related
CCITTA	Independent

Table 2: Notable Teacher Organizations in Iran

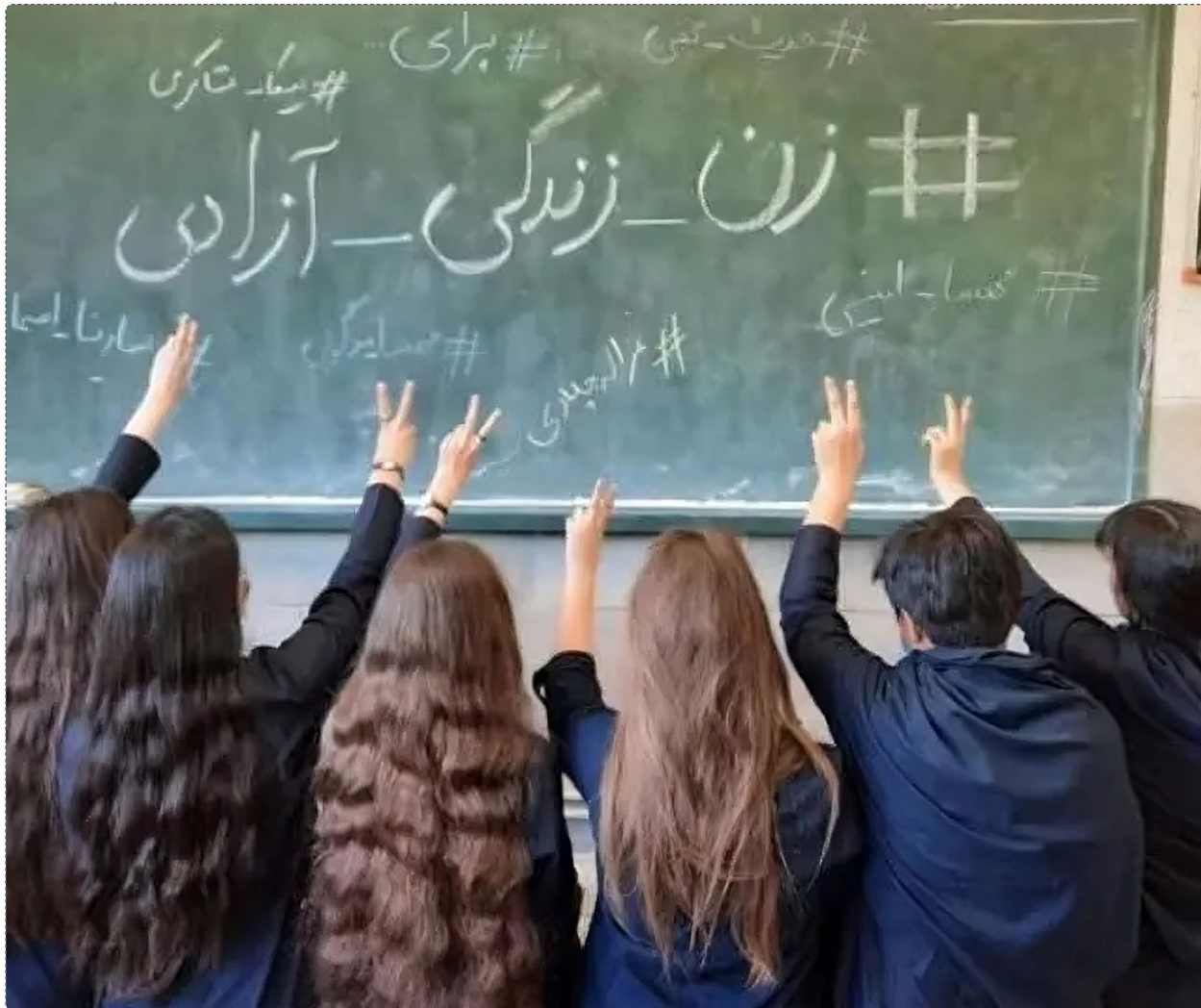
The severe crackdowns have significantly weakened CCITTA's capacity, leading to internal challenges stemming from the imprisonment of key leaders and shifts in membership. For example, debates emerged over whether to hold general assemblies virtually or postpone them until the security situation allowed for in-person gatherings. Beyond these logistical concerns, deeper issues have also surfaced. While CCITTA has historically been progressive and inclusive-welcoming women and ethnic minorities-recent decision-making has reportedly become dominated by older, Persian-origin male members, raising concerns about declining representation and internal democracy.

Despite these challenges, CCITTA remains the main force raising teachers' concerns and organizing protests - a topic that will be explored in more depth in the next chapter.

10. Center for Human Rights in Iran. "Academic Year in Iran Begins with Imprisonment of Teachers, Arbitrary Arrests." September 2023. <https://iranhumanrights.org/2023/09/academic-year-in-iran-begins-with-imprisonment-of-teachers-arbitrary-arrests/>

Teacher Protests

3



Between September 2023 and September 2025, teacher protests in Iran were more limited in scale compared to previous years, largely due to intensified repression following the Women, Life, Freedom uprising. Nonetheless, teachers continued to mobilize - first through online actions and later through renewed street demonstrations. While many formally employed teachers hesitated to join due to the risk of dismissal, other groups - including recent graduates, retirees, students, and even parents - played an increasingly prominent role in sustaining activism.

2023:

ONLINE RESISTANCE AMID CRACKDOWN

In the wake of the brutal suppression of the Women, Life, Freedom movement, street protests by teachers were effectively impossible in 2023. The teacher labor movement, which had vocally supported the uprising, was too heavily targeted by state security forces. Yet activism did not disappear entirely.

(Supporters of) the Coordinating Council of Iranian Teachers' Trade Associations turned to symbolic and online actions to maintain visibility. These included:

- ✎ *A petition signed by 100,000 people demanding the release of jailed teachers*
- ✎ *Public statements condemning the death of 17-year-old Armita Geravand, who fell into a coma following an alleged encounter with hijab enforcement agents in the Tehran metro*
- ✎ *Denunciations of arrests related to women's rights activism, particularly in Gilan Province*



Armita Geravand was a 17-year-old Iranian teenager who fell into a coma on October 2023, 1 in the Tehran metro after allegedly being severely beaten by Iran's morality police for not wearing a headscarf. She never woke up and died 28 days later.

While not comprising street demonstrations, these actions played a crucial role in keeping attention on teachers' concerns during a period of heightened surveillance and fear. This online organizing also laid the groundwork for renewed in-person protests in the years that followed.

RETURN TO THE STREETS: IN-PERSON PROTESTS RESUME

By 2024, street protests had returned – albeit in smaller, more dispersed forms. While many full-time teachers remained hesitant, retired teachers took the lead in organizing public demonstrations. They were joined at times by teacher graduates, students, and concerned parents.

The most significant mobilization took place on May 2, 2024 (Teachers' Day), with coordinated protests across the country. Demonstrations were documented in cities including:

Tehran, Harsin, Eslamabad-e Gharb, Aligoudarz, Saqqez, Marivan, Sanandaj, Khorramabad, Yasuj, Qazvin, Arak, Gilan (Rasht, Rudbar, Fuman, Lahijan, etc.), and more.

Protesters demanded:

- ✗ Salaries above the poverty line
- ✗ Full enforcement of the Civil Service Law and Teachers' Ranking Plan
- ✗ Payment of overdue bonuses and pensions
- ✗ Job security and dignified retirement
- ✗ Transparent budgeting and protection of the Teachers' Reserve Fund
- ✗ Free, high-quality, and equitable public education
- ✗ The right to protest without repression and the release of jailed teachers
- ✗ Eliminating all forms of gender discrimination
- ✗ An end to the criminalization of union activism

Despite the heavy security presence, teachers rallied outside education departments and government offices. In some cases, harassment, intimidation, and arrests occurred-but they did not stop the movement.

The demands raised were consistent across the country. Teachers called for wages above the poverty line, full enforcement of the Civil Service Law and the Teachers' Ranking Plan - including when it comes to the payment of end-of-service bonuses - job security, and dignified retirement. They demanded free and quality education for all students, transparent and adequate budget allocations to education, and protection of the Teachers' Reserve Fund from mismanagement. And they insisted on the fundamental right to peaceful protest and assembly without repression, the release of detained colleagues, and an end to the abusive use of national security charges against union activists.

More generally, between September 2023 and June 2025, education-sector protests were documented in at least 41 cities across 20 provinces of Iran. *Kermanshah, Tehran, Ahvaz, Yazd, and Sanandaj* emerged as the principal centers of mobilization, each witnessing multiple waves of demonstrations and sustained weekly gatherings. Other cities-including *Shiraz, Nurabad-Mamasani, Marivan, Arak, Qazvin, Ardabil, Rasht, Rudbar, Lahijan, Fuman, Isfahan, Sari (Mazandaran) Khorramabad, Ilam, Gorgan, Hamedan, Aligudarz, Bushehr, Kerman, Shahrekord, Zanjan, Semnan, Qom, Yasuj, Mashhad, Eslamshahr, Nasim Shahr, Harsin, Saqqez, Eslamabad-e Gharb, Rask, Bent, and Ashar*-each recorded at least one protest event, reflecting a continued broad geographic reach and persistence of teachers' collective action across the country.



Teachers rallied outside education departments and government offices despite heavy security presence and, in some locations, harassment and arrests. Their demands reflected deep frustration over economic hardship and government neglect- freedom for jailed teachers and an end to punitive measures such as dismissals and forced early retirement- payment of overdue salaries and bonuses from 2020-2022- implementation of a fair ranking system for all teachers- proper funding for free and equitable public education, including safe school buildings for the three million students in hazardous classrooms- resistance to the creeping privatization of education- elimination of gender discrimination and patriarchal content in textbooks- and full pension equalization for retirees in line with national law.

Table 3 offers an overview of the geographical distribution of the protests as well as participating groups.

Table 3: Geography of teacher protests and participating groups

City / Locality	Province	Retired	Active	Service-Credit / Contract	Total
Tehran	Tehran	17	4	5	27
Nasim Shahr	Tehran Prov.	0	2	0	2
Eslamshahr	Tehran Prov.	0	1	0	1
Kermanshah	Kermanshah	31	2	0	33
Eslamabad-e Gharb	Kermanshah Prov.	2	1	0	3
Harsin	Kermanshah Prov.	0	1	0	1
Sanandaj	Kurdistan	12	0	0	12
Saqqez	Kurdistan	0	1	0	1
Marivan	Kurdistan	0	2	0	2
Ahvaz	Khuzestan	14	0	0	17
Shiraz	Fars	4	2	0	6
Nurabad (Mamasani)	Fars	4	2	0	6
Khorramabad	Lorestan	2	1	0	3
Aligudarz	Lorestan	0	1	0	1
Arak	Markazi	3	1	0	4
Isfahan	Isfahan	1	1	1	3

Khomeini-shahr	Isfahan Prov.	0	1	0	1
Sari	Mazandaran	3	0	0	3
Rasht	Gilan	4	1	0	5
Rudbar	Gilan	0	1	0	1
Anzali	Gilan	0	1	0	1
Lahijan	Gilan	0	1	0	1
Fuman	Gilan	0	1	0	1
Hamedan	Hamedan	2	0	0	2
Qazvin	Qazvin	2	1	0	3
Ardabil	Ardabil	3	0	0	3
Qom	Qom	1	0	0	1
Ilam	Ilam	1	0	0	1
Semnan	Semnan	1	0	0	1
Gorgan	Golestan	1	1	0	2
Shahrekord	Chaharmahal & Bakhtiari	1	1	0	2
Zanjan	Zanjan	1	1	0	2
Bushehr	Bushehr	0	1	0	1
Kerman	Kerman	1	1	0	2
Yazd	Yazd	11	0	2	13
Yasuj	Kohgiluyeh & Boyer-Ahmad	0	1	0	1
Mashhad (Tebadokan / Shandiz)	Razavi Khorasan	0	1	0	1
Rask	Sistan & Baluchestan	0	0	1	1
Bent	Sistan & Baluchestan	0	0	1	1
Ashar	Sistan & Baluchestan	0	0	1	1

EDITORIAL NOTE ON THE TABLE

For this report, a “protest event” refers to a single day of protest, no matter how many cities or educator groups were involved.

If protests occurred in multiple locations on the same day—such as nationwide rallies on Teachers’ Day—they were counted as one national event, even though individual cities are listed separately in the table.

However, if different types of educators (e.g. retirees, active teachers, or literacy instructors) protested on different days in the same city, each protest was counted separately.

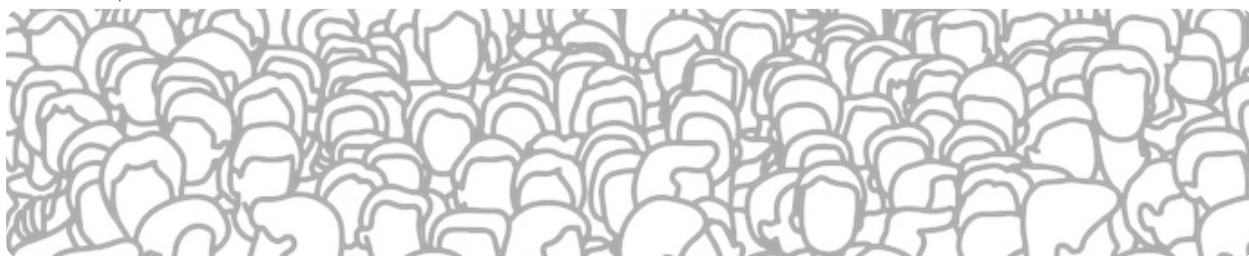
Protests led solely by students or parents were excluded, to keep the focus on education-sector labor actions.

Using this method, we identified around 75 unique protest days between September 2023 and September 2025, with over 200 city-level protest instances across 41 locations in 20 provinces.

While the recurring protests demonstrate the resilience of the teacher protest movement, a closer look reveals that the number of actively participating in-service teachers has remained relatively limited. Between September 2023 and September 2025, retired educators clearly led Iran’s education-sector protests. Of approximately 75 distinct protest events during this two-year period, retired teachers organized or played a leading role in more than 50 of them—sustaining weekly “Tuesday Protests” across multiple provinces, including Ahvaz, Kermanshah, Sanandaj, Yazd, Tehran, Shiraz, Arak, Ardabil, Qazvin, and others. Retirees also occasionally joined demonstrations led by active teachers.

Active, employed teachers took part in about 12 events, the most significant being the nationwide Teachers’ Day demonstrations on 2 May 2024 that spanned dozens of cities. Service-credit and contract teachers, literacy instructors, and preschool educators were responsible for around 7 unique protests, such as the strikes and rallies in Yazd and Rask demanding permanent contracts, back pay, and improved conditions.

Altogether, retirees – less at risk of dismissal or demotion – were the most visible and consistent participants in teacher protests. In contrast, active classroom teachers, facing greater job insecurity and economic hardship, were less frequently involved in large-scale mobilizations. Contract and service-credit teachers held smaller protests highlighting job insecurity and unpaid wages, but their actions lacked the regularity seen among retirees. Support staff, although facing similar pressures, mobilized only occasionally, likely due to the absence of organized networks.



The range of participants reflected the diversity within Iran's education sector, including when it came to economic demands. Retired teachers, aligned with broader pensioner movements, sustained regular protests focused on unpaid end-of-service benefits, pension rights, and proper indexing of retirement pay and concerns over the Teacher Reserve Fund. Contract teachers, literacy instructors, and preschool educators raised concerns about informal employment, missing wages, and lack of social insurance. Employed teachers joined actions to demand salary increases, full implementation of the ranking plan. In terms of political demands, an end to the criminalization of union activity and the release of trade union activists were the most prominent demands.

Recent graduates of Farhangian University and soldier-teachers¹¹ also protested, particularly in Tehran and provincial centers, against unfair recruitment practices and poor employment conditions. In Kurdistan, teachers repeatedly gathered outside courthouses in solidarity with colleagues facing sentencing or appeal.

Finally, alongside street protests, CCITTA also organized a physical general assembly in Shahreza, Isfahan Province On September 16, 2025.

11. A soldier-teacher is a conscript who, instead of serving in the military, fulfills their mandatory service by teaching in schools under the Ministry of Education, usually in underprivileged or remote areas.

SUPPORT FROM PARENTS AND PUPILS

In several instances, students and parents joined teachers' protests, showing that grievances over overcrowded classrooms, hidden costs, and politicized curricula extended far beyond the teaching profession.

There were also individual protests by pupils offering support to teachers in the period under study. On 21 November 2023, girls at the Khāk-Rah school in Shiraz gathered with the chant "Free imprisoned teachers" to support their teacher Mojgan Baghari, who had just been imprisoned, turning a local disciplinary case into a wider stand against repression .

On 12 June 2024, students in Qom staged protests over what they described as unfair and poorly designed final exams, along with widespread rumours that exam questions had been leaked and sold by educational profiteers. These accusations pointed to deeper concerns about systemic corruption and the growing commodification of education.

In the days that followed, smaller symbolic actions and walkouts took place, with students denouncing overcrowded classrooms, the reliance on underqualified substitute teachers, and a heavily politicized curriculum many saw as disconnected from their real-life needs and futures.

Across these actions, students called for transparent and fair testing processes, equal access to quality education, safer and better-equipped learning environments, and an end to the criminalization of teachers whose activism supports their right to learn.

These protests highlight how closely student grievances are intertwined with those of their teachers - reflecting a shared demand for an education system rooted in equity, integrity, and freedom.

2024-2025: ONLINE ACTIVISM

Throughout 2024 and 2025, CCITTA and its member associations also sustained their online presence, using websites and Telegram channels to publicize demands, report on arrests, and mobilize support.

Beyond petitions, CCITTA organized webinars and virtual events on key issues such as:

- ✎ *Mother-tongue education*
- ✎ *Privatization and commercialization of schools*
- ✎ *Mental health and resilience in activism*

Many of these were strategically held on symbolic dates like Teachers' Day and Education Day to maximize impact.

JOINT ACTION AGAINST WAR

In 2025 CCITTA engaged in numerous online activities as well, including by collaborating with other independent trade unions to formulate an anti-war and pro-democracy statement following the outbreak of armed conflict between Iran and Israel on 13 June 2025. This declaration:

- ✎ *Advocated for democracy, human rights, and self-determination*
- ✎ *Opposed regime change imposed through foreign military intervention*
- ✎ *Condemned the use of war by imperialist powers to consolidate control*
- ✎ *Called for grassroots solidarity, ceasefire, and an end to bombings*

Despite facing intimidation, trumped-up charges, and heavy penalties from Iranian authorities on a regular basis, CCITTA alongside other unions reaffirmed that the path to change lies in peaceful organizing—not in war.



Altogether, the breadth and persistence of teacher protests, both online and offline, during the period under scrutiny show the enduring strength of Iran's teaching force as a site of collective action, as well as its commitment to non-violent action. Just how the Iranian government responded to this, will be explored in the next chapter.

PERSISTENT DEMANDS IN A REPRESSIVE CLIMATE

Across both online and offline spaces, teachers' core demands remained consistent:

- ✗ Freedom for detained teachers
- ✗ An end to dismissals and forced early retirements
- ✗ Implementation of fair salary and ranking systems
- ✗ Proper funding for public schools and safe classrooms
- ✗ Resistance to the privatization of education
- ✗ Removal of gender bias and patriarchal content in school materials
- ✗ Equal pensions in accordance with national law

4

Government Responses to Teacher Activism

Since the 2000s, teacher activism has become more and more repressed by the Iranian government. This tendency has continued into the period September 2023-September 2025, also amidst a change of government. At the same time in spite of relatively low levels of (active) teacher activism, authorities could not fully ignore teacher backlash and embarked upon some compromise.

REPRESSION

Teacher activism in Iran continues to face intense repression. Iranian authorities carried out numerous new arrests. Meanwhile, prominent imprisoned teacher activists remained behind bars. Alongside formal judicial measures, authorities have increasingly used covert tactics, such as work-related disciplinary actions, to target teachers. Despite early indications of a more progressive stance, the new administration has failed to ease the pressure¹².

DETENTIONS AND JUDICIARY MEASURES

At the outset of the school year in September 2023, the Center for Human Rights in Iran¹³ reported at least 97 teachers arrested or detained in the preceding 12 months, at least 24 convictions on national security charges

Through 2024 state repression continued. In October, teacher activists documented a pattern of new court sentences. For instance, the high-profile unionist Mohammad Habibi, spokesperson of the CCITTA, was handed another custodial sentence and began serving a six-month term in November 2024.

In May 2025, dozens of teachers had gathered in cities including Kermanshah, Harsin and Shiraz to mark Teachers' Day, assembling outside local Education Ministry offices to call for dignified wages, pensions above the poverty line, equitable allocation of educational budgets, implementation of existing laws, and the release of detained colleagues.

12. Shargh Daily. "Teachers' Open Cases." Accessed 2025.
<https://shorturl.at/BTaZS>

13.Center for Human Rights in Iran. "Academic Year in Iran Begins with Imprisonment of Teachers, Arbitrary Arrests." September 2023.
<https://iranhumanrights.org/2023/09/academic-year-in-iran-begins-with-imprisonment-of-teachers-arbitrary-arrests/>

While in these cities these gatherings were allowed, at least initially, in Tehran and several other cities attempts to hold similar gatherings were thwarted. Security forces responded with arrests. At least four teachers were detained in Tehran alone, prompting the Tehran Teachers' Association to issue a sharp statement demanding their release and denouncing official denials that arrests had taken place. The repression continued throughout the summer of 2025. By August, union sources reported at least six dismissals, two suspensions, several forced retirements, and one case of exile within Iran within just a few weeks. In Kurdistan, rights organizations documented that since 2022, 700 salary-deduction orders and 47 rank-denial orders had been issued against teachers, alongside hundreds of expulsions and forced retirements¹⁴.

In August 2025 alone, seven teachers in Diwandareh and Saqqez had expulsion or suspension orders upheld on appeal. These were not abstract numbers-they represented targeted retaliation against teachers known for their association activity.

In mid-September 2025, security forces stormed the general assembly of CCITTA in Shahreza, Isfahan. All attendees were arrested, their phones and personal items confiscated, and the meeting was forcibly ended. Although most detainees were released later that day, Masoud Farhikhteh - already facing a five-year prison sentence from a previous case - remained in custody. The CCITTA condemned the raid as an overt violation of teachers' basic right to assemble, underscoring the state's zero tolerance for even internal union gatherings. The incident revealed not only the breadth of security interference but also its deliberate targeting and intimidating of high-profile activists, with at least 18 educators - including well-known figures such as Mohammad Habibi, Rasul Badaqi, and Abdullah Rezai - initially detained.

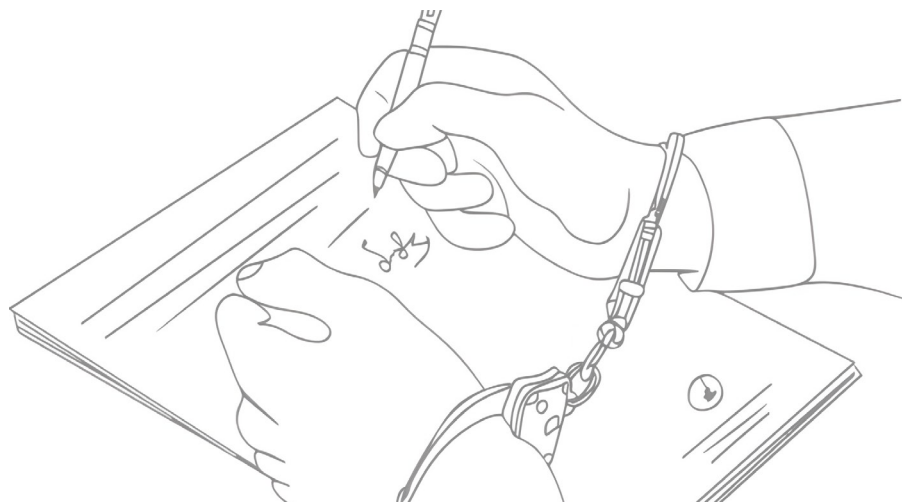
Prominent cases illustrate the scope of the crackdown. The Supreme Court upheld the dismissal of Mohammad Saeedi Abu Eshaghi from Lordegan in Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari Province, citing his participation in protests and public solidarity with the families of victims of state violence. In Marivan, teacher Somayeh Akhtarshomar lost her job after years of activism in the local teachers' association¹⁵. In Tehran, dozens of CCITTA members were repeatedly summoned by security agencies, interrogated, and pressured into signing commitments not to participate in further activities. Meanwhile, if they did have to appear in court, teacher activists were confronted with bogus charges brought against them, such as having endangered national security.

14. Kurdpa. "Teachers' Rights Violations." February 2025.

<https://kurdpa.net/fa/news/2025/02/1>

15. Kolbarnews. "Court Upholds Teacher Expulsion", August 2025.

<https://kolbarnews.com/02052025653-2/>



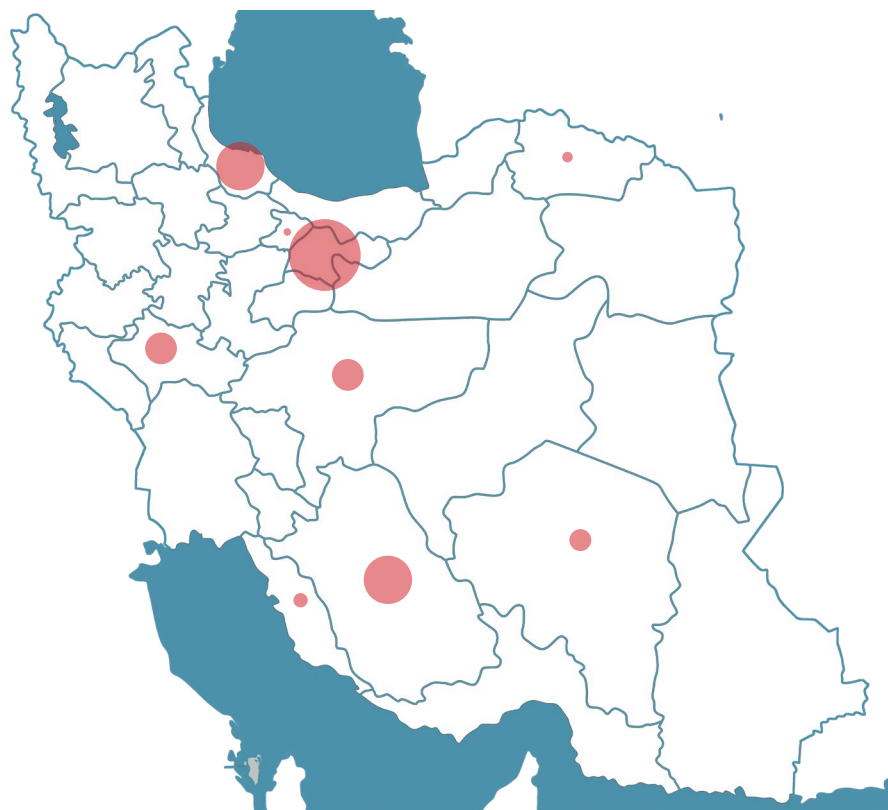
INVOLVEMENT OF SECURITY AGENCIES

Shiva Ameli-Rad, CCITTA's international relations representative summarizes:

"The charges are always the same repetitive ones: assembly and collusion against national security, propaganda against the system, spreading public anxiety, disturbing public order, and the like. Yet teachers' gatherings have always been peaceful and, by definition, fall within the scope of civil and trade union activity: non-violent, without radical slogans, and mainly centered on demands such as fair wages, livelihood conditions, school infrastructure, students' wellbeing, and, in some regions, the right to education in the mother tongue."

Nevertheless, charges listed in the Islamic Penal Code and the Law on Political Crimes are applied arbitrarily, without credible evidence or legally valid justification, even by the standards of the Islamic Republic's own courts. For an explanation, Ameli-Rad points to the (overt) interference of security agencies in the judicial process to the extent that they can and control both charges and sentencing:

"Throughout these years, almost all the charges brought against teachers have been both designed and directed by the security agencies, and the entire process is managed by them. It is these security bodies that summon activists, arrest them, fabricate cases against them, and then stage a show trial whose only function is to endorse the pre-determined decisions of the security apparatus, without any genuine judicial inquiry or fair hearing. From the moment a case is opened until the verdict is issued, every stage is under the control of the security forces, and judges merely implement what they are told. Some interrogators have even told teachers outright: 'The decision is not ours.'"



The rise to power of reformist-aligned president Mahmoud Pezeshkian did not change this pattern, in spite of his campaign promises to allow demonstrations and protests and freedom of assembly. As Ameli-Rad explains:

"During Raisi's presidency, as we all know, the intensity of control and suppression increased considerably. And now, under Pezeshkian, no change is visible - teachers' protests continue to be met with arrests, fabricated cases, and imprisonment."

Table 4 shows the number of judicial-security measures taken against teacher activists per province. As the data indicate, whereas repression of teacher activism was widespread throughout Iran, there were substantial differences between provinces. For instance, Fars Province recorded 34 judicial- security actions against teachers between September 2023 and September 2025 – ranking second-highest nationwide. Notable sentenced activists from this province include Mojgan Bagheri and Iraj Rahnema. Appendix I brings the crackdown into sharper focus by putting faces to the statistics. It offers a chronological record of individual cases, including names, dates, pictures and police and legal actions.

Table 4
Judicial–Security Actions Against Teachers by Province
(Sep 2023 – Sep 2025)

Province	Incidents	Notes (types observed)
Tehran	36	arrests at protests/funerals, summons, beatings, prison sentences (Evin/Shahriar), travel bans, electronic monitoring, raids/confiscations, disciplinary actions
Fars	34	arrests, heavy sentences & later reductions, summons, bans on online activity, travel bans, fines, electronic ankle monitors/house arrest, raids/confiscations
Gilan	24	multiple Rasht summons, prison sentences (Lakan), arrests, pre-Teachers' Day preventive arrest
Isfahan	24	includes 18 Shahreza assembly arrests; Najafabad arrests/sentences; exile orders; raids/confiscations
Kurdistan	21	Saqqez/Sanandaj/Marivan/Dehgolan arrests & summons; 15-person Sanandaj summons; floggings/fines; disciplinary actions
Kerman	19	mass Apr 15 summons set; multiple Aug 2025 sentences; separate summons for alleged Israel links
Bushehr	15	multiple Oct 19 summons; Nov 3 flogging/fines; Aug 2 protest arrests; prison terms
North Khorasan	13	repeated summons/sentences (Vahedi, Safdari, Ramezanzpour); prison entry
Alborz (Karaj)	11	Karaj Revolutionary Court sentences; Alborz Appeals Court rulings; house-arrest extensions; travel bans
Khuzestan	7	Izeh/Behbahan/Ahvaz/Masjed-Soleyman arrests & summons
Razavi Khorasan	6	Mashhad arrests/sentences (Erfanian, Rajabi, Abedini), searches/raids
Kohgiluyeh & Boyer-Ahmad	5	Yasuj/Gachsaran summons; court proceedings
West Azerbaijan	4	Urmia sentencing (Bostanchi), Sardasht arrest, raids/confiscations
Ilam	2	Abdanan sentencing with forced residence order
Markazi	2	Arak sentencing/transfer
Qazvin	2	Taherkhani summons + three-year sentence and travel ban
Chaharmahal & Bakhtiari	1	Lordegan sentencing converted to fine
Hamadan	1	Reza Moslemi arrest at school
Kermanshah	1	Abdollah Rezaei summons
Lorestan	1	Amir Esmaeili court → prison transfer
Mazandaran	1	—
Sistan & Baluchestan	1	forced residence/exile (Fanouj)
Zanjan	1	exile destination in Tadrisi case



JAILED, BUT NOT SILENCED

Prominent teacher activists in Iran—particularly those in senior roles within CCITTA—are frequently arrested and sentenced to prison, often more than once. These repeated detentions are not only tied to the conditions of their release but also serve as part of a broader strategy by the Iranian government to weaken the CCITTA and use harsh sentencing as a deterrent to further activism.

A common condition imposed on released activists is the requirement to sign a declaration renouncing their involvement in union activities—a tool designed to break their resolve and isolate them from their networks.

Yet, many CCITTA members, including those in key administrative positions, remain unwavering in their commitment. Despite facing imprisonment, constant surveillance, and psychological pressure, they continue to resist with remarkable resilience. Their determination is sustained by a collective pursuit of justice and a shared vision for a better, fairer education system.

The words of Mojgan Bagheri, the earlier-mentioned teacher activist from Fars Province, capture this defiance. Reflecting on her refusal to sign a commitment letter as a condition for reinstatement, she wrote:

"I did not endure two years of arrest, imprisonment, an ankle tag, and all the emotional, psychological, and financial suffering inflicted on my family just to throw it all away with a single signature."

WORK-RELATED DISCIPLINARY MEASURES

State repression of teachers between September 2023 - September 2025 was not limited to police stations, court rooms and prisons. The Education Ministry's disciplinary boards functioned as a central tool to suppress activism among teachers. These bodies issued suspensions, forced retirements, demotions, transfers to remote areas, and salary cuts to teachers, sometimes in parallel with judicial cases. In many instances, teachers were forced to appear before these boards under threat of criminal prosecution, creating a dual system of punishment that left no space for appeal. In some disturbing cases, dissenting teachers were referred to psychiatric facilities under duress, a tactic designed to humiliate and intimidate. Ameli-Rad observed:

"Sadly, in most instances, the Ministry of Education has not only failed to support teachers but has also allied itself with security institutions. In the past, it attempted to deny such collaboration; now, it no longer makes that effort. While not all school principals are complicit, many, along with security offices and education departments in various provinces and cities, are often the first to target teachers through interrogation, pressure, or referrals to security agencies. There have been numerous instances where the Ministry itself has suspended teachers, forced them into retirement, or made compulsory transfers-all before any judicial ruling was issued. Consequently, the Ministry of Education has not only abandoned its protective role but has become part of the repressive apparatus."

As with the arrests and judiciary measures, this pattern continued and in some cases intensified under Pezeshkian. As such his promises as a presidential candidate to teachers¹⁶ to stop the surveillance of both pupils and teachers at (secondary) schools did not materialize.

In August 2025 alone, seven teachers in Diwandareh and Saqqez had expulsion or suspension orders upheld on appeal. These were not just statistics - they reflected deliberate retaliation against teachers known for their union and activist involvement. According to union sources, that same month saw at least six dismissals, two suspensions, several forced retirements, and one internal exile, all within a few weeks. Several prominent cases illustrate the scope of the crackdown:

- ✎ On February 4, 2024, the Supreme Court upheld the dismissal of Mohammad Saeedi Abu Eshaghi from Lordegan (Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari Province), citing his involvement in the Women, Life, Freedom protests and his public solidarity with families of those killed during the uprising.

16. IranWire. "Pezeshkian's Broken Promises: Police in Iran's Schools." April 25, 2025.

<https://iranwire.com/en/features/140647-pezechkians-broken-promises-police-in-irans-schools/>

- ✎ On October 5, 2024, Somayeh Akhtarshomar, a long-time activist in the Marivan teachers' association, was dismissed after years of advocacy and organizing work.
- ✎ In Tehran, dozens of members of the Coordinating Council of Iranian Teachers' Trade Associations (CCITTA) were repeatedly summoned by security agencies, interrogated, and pressured to sign pledges not to participate in further union activity.

Table 5 offers an insight into the administrative-disciplinary actions against teachers per province.

Table 5

Administrative-Disciplinary Actions Against Teachers by Province
(Sep 2023 – Sep 2025)

Province	Incidents	Notes (types observed)
Kurdistan	28	dismissals, suspensions, forced retirements/demotions, exiles/forced transfers, summons/threats, appeal decisions, Administrative Justice Court rulings (initial measures only)
Gilan	10	dismissals, forced retirements/demotions, demotions, suspensions, appeal decisions, Administrative Justice Court rulings
Alborz (Karaj)	10	dismissals, suspensions, forced retirements/demotions, demotions, appeal decisions
Tehran	6	dismissals, forced retirements/demotions, selection rejections/barred from employment, Administrative Justice Court rulings
Razavi Khorasan	4	dismissals, suspensions, selection rejections/barred from employment
Isfahan	3	dismissals, suspensions, forced retirements/demotions
East Azerbaijan	2	suspensions
Khuzestan	2	suspensions (including later appeals-board confirmation)
Fars	1	dismissal
Hamadan	1	selection rejection/barred from employment
West Azerbaijan	1	forced retirement/demotion
Chaharmahal & Bakhtiari	1	dismissal
Bushehr	1	dismissal
Kohgiluyeh & Boyer-Ahmad	1	dismissal
Lorestan	1	suspension/salary cut
South Khorasan	1	dismissal
Mazandaran	1	suspension
North Khorasan	1	demotion

As the table indicates, suppression through administrative and disciplinary measures was especially severe in Kurdistan, amounting to the de facto dismantling of local teachers' associations through a state-directed effort to break the organizational backbone of the movement.

Appendix II offers a chronological record of all individual teachers affected by administrative-disciplinary actions in the period under study, including names, dates, pictures and legal actions.

Altogether, between September 2023 and September 2025, 306 teachers faced arrest, prosecution, dismissal, internal exile, or electronic tagging for activism while some were also physically harmed. This figure includes disciplinary relocations to remote provinces and instances of forced psychiatric evaluation, methods designed not only to punish but to stigmatize dissent. Some teachers also suffered physical harm. Meanwhile, the prevalence of electronic ankle tags on teachers accused of "propaganda against the state" signals an increasingly sophisticated surveillance apparatus. Table 6 provides a comprehensive overview of the actions taken against teacher activists in Iran, detailing both the number and type of measures by province.

Table 6:

Provincial Breakdown of Judicial-Security and Education Ministry
Disciplinary Actions Against Iranian Teachers and Union Activists
(Sept 2023 - Sept 2025)¹⁷

Province	Security-Judiciary	Education Disciplinary	Total	Notes (types observed)
Kurdistan	21	28	49	arrests, summons, floggings, fines, prison terms, exile/forced transfers; disciplinary summons/threats, dismissals, suspensions, demotions, forced retirements, AJC rulings, permanent dismissals
Tehran	36	6	42	arrests at protests/funerals, beatings, summons, prison terms (Evin/Shahriar), travel bans, electronic monitoring, raids/confiscations; dismissals, forced retirements/demotions, selection rejections
Fars	34	1	35	arrests, heavy sentences & reductions, summons, bans on online activity, travel bans, fines, electronic ankle tags/house arrest, raids/confiscations; one dismissal
Gilan	24	10	34	multiple Rasht summons, prison terms (Lakan), arrests; dismissals, forced retirements/demotions, suspensions, appeal decisions

¹⁷ This table is based on the available and collected information, and the actual number of cases may be higher. See Appendices I and II for detailed information.

Isfahan	24	3	27	includes 18 Shahreza arrests, Najafabad arrests/sentences, exile orders, raids/confiscations; dismissals, suspensions, demotions
Alborz (Karaj)	11	10	21	Karaj Revolutionary Court sentences, Alborz appeals rulings, house-arrest extensions, travel bans; dismissals, suspensions, forced retirements/demotions
Kerman	19	0	19	mass 15 April 2025 summons, multiple Aug 2025 sentences, "Israel links" summons, prison terms
Bushehr	15	1	16	multiple 19 Oct 2023 summons, Nov 3 flogging/fines, Aug 2 protest arrests, prison terms; one dismissal
North Khorasan	13	1	14	repeated summons/sentences (e.g., Vahedi, Safdari), prison entry; one demotion
Razavi Khorasan	6	4	10	Mashhad arrests/sentences, searches/raids; dismissals, suspensions, selection rejections
Khuzestan	7	2	9	arrests/summons (Izeh, Behbahan, Ahvaz, Masjed-Soleyman), prison terms; suspensions
Kohgiluyeh & Boyer-Ahmad	5	1	6	summons/court proceedings; one dismissal
West Azerbaijan	4	1	5	Urmia sentencing, Sardasht arrest, raids/confiscations; forced retirement/demotion
Chaharmahal & Bakhtiari	1	1	2	sentencing converted to fine; one dismissal
East Azerbaijan	0	2	2	suspensions (e.g., Ali Haji) ;—
Hamadan	1	1	2	arrest; selection rejection/barred from employment
Ilam	2	0	2	prison sentences (Abdanan)
Lorestan	1	1	2	summons/transfer; suspension/salary cut
Markazi	2	0	2	Arak sentencing/transfer
Qazvin	2	0	2	summons, prison terms, travel bans
Kermanshah	1	0	1	summons/arrest
Mazandaran	0	1	1	suspension (e.g., Bitā Ghanbari) ;—
Sistan & Baluchestan ¹⁸	1	0	1	forced residence/exile (Fanouj)
South Khorasan	0	1	1	dismissal (Birjand)
Zanjan	1	0	1	exile destination (Tadrissi case)

18. It appears that precise information from Baluchistan is not available, as Sistan and Baluchistan experienced some of the most severe human rights violations in the aftermath of the Jina Uprising. It is therefore likely that a number of teachers there were also dismissed or subjected to other forms of deprivation.

These measures reveal that the repression of teacher activists is not only ongoing and systematic, but also deliberately punitive and degrading. Beyond the targeting of individuals, they also reflect a broader governmental disregard for the needs of the classroom and the educational system itself. This is exemplified by the case of Afshin Razmjooei, a retired teacher from Shiraz who is serving a two-year prison sentence under electronic monitoring for his participation in peaceful teacher protests. He told Shargh newspaper ¹⁹:

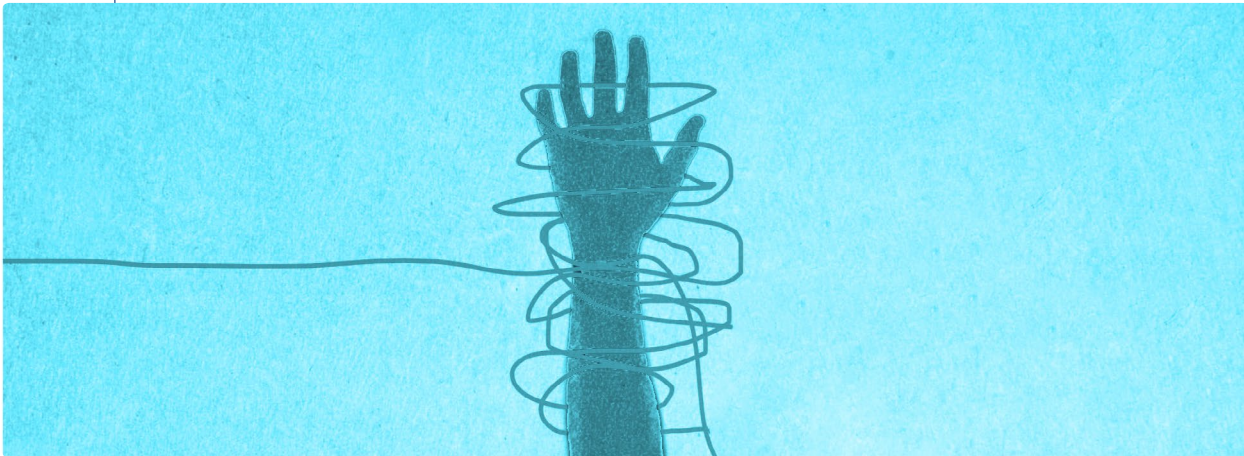
"The distance I'm allowed to travel with the ankle monitor cannot exceed one kilometer from my residence. This year, I was able to take a teaching job at a private school. At 5 a.m. I would put my ankle monitor on charge, and by 6:30 a.m. I was at school. The device's battery would run out by noon, and the prison would repeatedly call me, which created a terrible situation in class. On the other hand, I couldn't plug in the monitor to charge in front of the students or explain the situation to them."

In summary, in the period from September 2023 to September 2025 teachers' rights were severely suppressed in Iran. What set this time apart was not only the extensive scale of punitive measures but also the systematic mix of judicial prosecutions with administrative sanctions, creating a stifling atmosphere for educators across the country. A precise inventory of both judiciary actions against teachers as well as work-related disciplinary measures can be found in Appendix I and II respectively. The consequences of the excessive government repression of teachers are devastating. Teachers are forced into silence or exile, as in the case of Esmail Abdi, compelled to leave the country after years of imprisonment²⁰. Others face lifelong damage to their careers, reputations or mental health. For students, the result is an education system stripped of experienced and dedicated teachers, paralysed by fear, and unable to nurture critical thought.

Meanwhile, the earlier replacement of thousands of principals and teachers with politically vetted loyalists demonstrates how the government's attack on unions is inseparable from its attempt to reshape education into an ideological instrument. These pressures have driven some experienced teachers to leave the profession or seek migration opportunities, further depleting the educational system of its expertise. Others feel forced to sign statements upon their arrest or release from prison promising to refrain from further activist action.

19. Center for Human Rights in Iran. "Iran Intensifies Crackdown on Teachers: Dozens Arrested, Fired, or Sentenced for Peaceful Union Activity." September 17, 2025. <https://iranhumanrights.org/2025/09/iran-intensifies-crackdown-on-teachers-dozens-arrested-fired-or-sentenced-for-peaceful-union-activity/>

20. Kar Online. "Esmail Abdi Forced to Leave Iran." January 28, 2025. <https://kar-online.com/%D8%A7%D8%B3%D9%85%D8%A7%D8%B9%DB%8C%D9%84-%D8%B9%D8%A8%D8%AF%DB%8C-%D9%85%D8%AC%D8%A8%D9%88%D8%B1-%D8%A8%D9%87-%D8%AA%D8%B1%DA%A9-%D8%A7%DB%8C%D8%B1%D8%A7%D9%86-%D8%B4%D8%AF/>



COMPROMISE

Still, despite its efforts to weaken the CCITTA and suppress activism more broadly, the government has not been able to fully ignore teachers' demands. On 15 September 2025, the Administrative Court of Justice ruled in favor of teachers²¹, declaring that delays in end-of-service bonus payments were unlawful. Following this decision, the Ministry of Education announced it would begin paying the overdue bonuses in September and October 2025.

This limited concession likely stemmed from the authorities' fear of a potential teachers' strike-actions that have historically caused widespread disruption. While such isolated gestures do not address the systemic issues plaguing Iran's education system, the fact that the government feels compelled to offer even minor compromises to an activist teacher base it openly resents suggests that Iran's protesting teachers continue to retain a degree of leverage, however limited.

21. ILNA (Iranian Labor News Agency). "A Court Ruling in Favor of Teachers: Delay in Paying End-of-Service Bonuses Is Prohibited." ILNA, 14 September 2023. <https://www.ilna.ir/fa/news/1686142>.

Conclusion & Way Forward

5



The period from September 2023 to September 2025 marked another bleak chapter in the repression of teachers in Iran. Despite earlier promises made by President Pezeshkian during his campaign, the harassment of teacher activists not only continued but intensified. Building on tactics already used under his predecessor, Ebrahim Raisi, Pezeshkian's administration relied on a dual strategy: overt crackdowns, including arrests and imprisonments based on fabricated charges, and more subtle forms of control, such as increased surveillance, forced early retirement, denial of bonuses, and transfers to remote locations. In extreme cases, teachers were even forced to wear electronic ankle tags that tracked their movements.

Within this climate, the Coordinating Council of Iranian Teachers' Trade Associations (CCITTA) faced major obstacles in mobilizing support. Many of its leaders remained in prison, and countless teachers feared arrest, job loss, or worsening financial insecurity—concerns deeply rooted in economic hardship.

KEY TRENDS IN TEACHER PROTESTS IN IRAN

SEPTEMBER 2023– SEPTEMBER 2025

1. Retirees as the Core of Street Mobilization

Retired teachers sustained the majority of visible protests, especially weekly Tuesday gatherings, because they are less vulnerable to dismissal or salary cuts. Their persistence has kept the movement alive even as risks for active teachers have grown.

2. Shrinking Participation by Active Teachers and Contract Educators

Currently employed teachers—particularly those on insecure or service-credit contracts—have become less visible on the streets due to intensified arrests, demotions, salary suspensions, and transfers. This has narrowed the demographic base of the protests and made coordination harder.

3. Intensified securitization of teachers' demands

Authorities increasingly frame routine union demands—such as salary adjustments, implementation of the ranking plan, or class-size reductions—as “national security” threats. Peaceful gatherings are met with riot police, and even minor acts like reading a union statement can trigger charges of “propaganda against the state” or “collusion.” This securitization discourages participation, blurs the line between professional advocacy and political dissent, and justifies harsh crackdowns.

5. Digital and Symbolic Activism Between Protests

With street mobilizations under pressure, teachers have used online petitions, coordinated hashtags, and small-scale symbolic acts — such as photoshoots that typically show meetings between teacher activists and their recently released colleagues, or visits to the families of imprisoned teachers — to maintain visibility. These tactics keep attention on their demands but lack the disruptive leverage of mass rallies.

6. Broader Civic Alliances

Parents' groups, Farhangian University trainees, and students have increasingly joined teachers' calls, linking wage disputes to broader issues such as overcrowded classrooms, hidden school fees, curriculum censorship, and gender discrimination. Though fragile under state pressure, these alliances hint at a wider movement for equitable public education. Meanwhile, CCITTA also collaborates with trade unions linked to other sectors when there is an overlap in interests, e.g. through the anti-war joint statement.

Still, signs of resilience persist:

1. *After a pause in 2023, protests resumed in 2024 and 2025.*
2. *CCITTA maintained a consistent online presence, keeping issues visible despite tight restrictions.*
3. *While employed teachers—especially those on insecure contracts—became less visible due to arrests, demotions, and intimidation, the protests continued, albeit in shifting forms.*
4. *Retired teachers, less vulnerable to retaliation, took the lead in public demonstrations, particularly through their regular “Protesting Tuesdays.”*
5. *New alliances began to form—most notably with students and parents raising concerns over low wages, overcrowded classrooms, hidden fees, curriculum censorship, and gender discrimination. Though fragile under state pressure, these emerging coalitions hint at the potential for a broader movement advocating for equitable education and systemic change.*
6. *In response to ongoing pressure, the government conceded to at least one major demand by approving the payment of long-overdue teacher bonuses. However, this gesture did little to address the deeper structural problems, and many teachers remained disillusioned. Some are increasingly reluctant to respond to CCITTA’s calls to action, perceiving the organization—and some of its member unions—as less focused, less effective, or too politically polarized.*

KEY FINDINGS REGARDING PROTESTS

Approx 75 unique protesting events

Main protest hubs: Kermanshah (33) Tehran (27) Ahvaz (17) Yazd (13) Sanandaj (12)

Dominant participant category: Retired teachers (~70 % of all actions)



Importantly, the challenge of sustaining mass mobilization cannot be explained by repression alone. As veteran activist Mahmoud Beheshti Langaroudi observed regarding the low turnout on April 30, 2025: “The teachers’ movement is caught between external pressure, internal fatigue, and scattered hopes. Intimidation plays a role—but so do deeper issues: exhaustion after years of fruitless effort, internal divisions, lack of strategy, and generational disconnects.”

Internal fragmentation has indeed weakened the movement. Excessive politicization within some associations and the breakdown of coalitions between different teacher groups have narrowed the movement’s reach. Independent unions like CCITTA originally grew by rallying teachers around shared professional and economic concerns—decent wages, job security, and a dignified retirement. This inclusive approach once enabled mass mobilizations, such as the historic 2007 wage protests.

More recently, however, critics within the movement have pointed to a shift away from these unifying priorities in favor of more radical political agendas. This shift has alienated many teachers—particularly in the provinces—who feel their day-to-day struggles are being overshadowed. For them, the risks of activism outweigh the perceived benefits when leadership appears disconnected from their immediate needs.

Nonetheless, these challenges present opportunities. By realigning the movement with the core economic and professional concerns of the broader teaching community, its support base could become broader once more. As such, reinvigorating teacher activism in Iran depends on the actions of Iran’s government as well as internal-organizational ones.

Meanwhile, international support is also indispensable. Keeping this in mind, the following actions are recommendable to the Iranian government, teacher activists (with a focus on CCITTA) and the international community to help Iranian teachers with their plight:

RECOMMENDATIONS

The documentation and analysis in this report show a persistent pattern of violations against Iranian teachers' rights to assembly and association, with direct consequences for the right to education. Addressing this crisis requires urgent, concrete measures.

TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

- ✎ **End criminalization of union activity:** Cease using vague national-security charges (e.g., "propaganda against the state," "collusion against the regime") against peaceful teacher activism.
- ✎ **Release imprisoned educators:** Vacate sentences and ensure immediate, unconditional release of all teachers detained for union or solidarity actions.
- ✎ **Reinstate dismissed teachers:** Reverse forced retirements, salary cuts, demotions, and punitive transfers. Provide restitution - including back pay, restored benefits, and clear public exoneration.
- ✎ **Guarantee freedom of association:** Allow CCITTA, ITTAs, and reformist-aligned associations like ITO to register, hold assemblies, and operate without surveillance or interference.
- ✎ **Dismantle parallel structures:** Remove the Teachers' Basij and other security-aligned bodies from schools and education offices; end the use of paramilitary oversight within education.
- ✎ **Investigate abuses and ensure accountability:** Establish independent inquiries into chemical attacks on girls' schools, politically motivated dismissals, and judicial abuses. Hold responsible security and administrative officials to account.
- ✎ **Protect the right to education:** Increase education's budget share back to at least 15% within five years (from 9.8% in 1403) end hidden fees, and ensure equal access regardless of province, gender, or socio-economic status.

- ✎ **Address structural gaps;** Close the 140,000-teacher shortage with transparent recruitment and permanent contracts. modernize infrastructure to eliminate container and canopy schools, especially in deprived provinces. Expand preschool access, update vocational education with modern equipment and apprenticeship pathways, and revise textbooks to remove gender stereotypes and include minority cultures.
- ✎ **Uphold cultural and minority rights;** Implement pilot program for mother-tongue education in Kurdish, Arab, Turkic, Turkmen, Baloch, and other regions, in accordance with Article 15 of the Constitution.
- ✎ **Apply the salary ranking scheme:** Ensure the salary ranking system for teachers is consistently applied and that the various scales represent viable wages.
- ✎ **An end to the criminalization of union activity:** the reinstatement of dismissed teachers; the dismantling of parallel security structures within schools.

TO INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

AND THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY

- ✎ **ILO and UN engagement:** The International Labor organization should intensify its supervisory mechanisms on Iran's non-compliance with Conventions 87 and 98. The UN Special Rapporteurs on freedom of association, education, and Iran should jointly investigate and report on violations against teachers.
- ✎ **Education International and global unions:** Continue documenting repression in close coordination with Iranian teachers' associations, amplify cases of imprisoned or dismissed educators, and mobilize international solidarity actions.
- ✎ **Human rights and advocacy bodies:** Place the suppression of teachers at the center of broader reporting on civil society in Iran, highlighting the direct link between labor rights and the right to education.

- ✗ **Governments and international actors:** Condition educational cooperation and cultural exchanges with Iran on respect for teachers' rights. Offer protection, visas, and fellowships to teachers forced into exile, ensuring they can continue their professional and advocacy work abroad.
- ✗ **Global civil society:** Strengthen platforms for Iranian teachers' voices, support campaigns for the release of imprisoned educators, and build alliances that connect teachers' struggles in Iran to broader global movements for educational justice.

TO TEACHERS' ASSOCIATIONS IN IRAN

- ✗ **Rebuild grassroots participation:** Refocus on wages, pensions, job security, and classroom conditions to reconnect with rank-and-file teachers and reverse declining protest participation.
- ✗ **Strengthen internal democracy:** Ensure transparent elections, inclusive assemblies, and leadership opportunities for younger teachers, women, contract educators, and ethnic minorities.
- ✗ **Document and communicate effectively:** Systematically archive cases of dismissals, transfers, salary deductions, and harassment. Share verified data nationally and internationally to bolster advocacy.
- ✗ **Forge broad alliances:** Collaborate with parents' associations, student groups, and civic organizations to widen support and reduce isolation - particularly in deprived provinces and Kurdish regions and to stand stronger.
- ✗ **Collaborate:** Seek out other teacher associations whenever there is an overlap in interests to stand stronger.
- ✗ **Balance advocacy and protection:** Maintain rights-based demands while adopting risk-aware strategies: provide legal aid, mental-health support, and secure communication to protect members under repression.
- ✗ **Promote equity within the movement:** Address generational and strategic divides, integrate contract teachers and literacy movement educators, and ensure that cultural and gender equity are central to union platforms.

6

Appendix I

Chronology of Judicial–Security Actions Against Iranian Teachers and Union Activists

(September 2023 – September 2025)

This appendix presents a detailed chronology of arrests, sentences, summons, and extra-legal actions against Iranian teachers and union activists between September 2023 and September 2025. Drawing on verified reports from teacher networks, independent media, and court documents, it records how Revolutionary and Criminal Courts, security forces, and intelligence agencies have targeted educators for peaceful activism. The entries reveal a broad range of punitive measures: prison terms, flogging, house arrest with electronic monitoring, death sentences, forced exile, demotions, travel bans, confiscation of personal property, and intimidation.

September 2023

Mojgan (Fatemeh) Tadrissi, a teacher arrested in Karaj and imprisoned in Fardis Prison, Karaj in September 2023, was sentenced in Dec 2023 to six years in prison and two years exile to Zanjan for charges including “incitement to violence, propaganda against the regime, and insulting the leader”. Returned to prison after leave on May 20, 2025.



Abolfazl Khoran, a teachers' union activist in Arak received a six-year prison term and 74 lashes in September 2023 for “insulting sacred beliefs” and “disturbing public peace” after attending a memorial for protest victim Mehrshad Shahidi, and began serving that sentence in January 2025. Again, he was sentenced by Branch 105 of the Arak Criminal Court to one year in prison and 74 lashes for “disturbing public order” after prison slogans protesting death penalties.



October, 2023

October 1, 2023-**Mohammad Aref Jahangiri**, a retired teacher from Saqqez residing in Sanandaj, was arrested by security forces at his home.



October 5, 2023-**Iraj Rahnama**, while visiting the governor's office to follow up on a venue for the General Assembly of the Fars Teachers' Association, was arrested by security forces.



October, 2023

October 5, 2023 – **Gholamreza Gholami Kondazi**, while visiting the governor's office to follow up on a venue for the General Assembly of the Fars Teachers' Association, was arrested by security forces.



October 7, 2023 – **Mansoureh Erfanian**, a teachers' union activist in Khorasan, was arrested after security forces raided her home, seizing her phone, computer, and laptop, and transferred her to Vakilabad Prison in Mashhad.



October 10, 2023 – **Nowruz Ali Rashid Nia**, a teachers' union activist in Yasuj, was summoned to the Revolutionary Court.



October 17, 2023 – **Masoud Zebardasti**, a teacher at Rajaei Shahr High School in Fanouj, was arrested by security forces and taken to an unknown location.



October 19, 2023 – **Mahmoud Malaki**, a teachers' union activist in Bushehr, received a summons to appear before Branch 104 of the Bushehr Criminal Court on charges of disturbing public order and disobeying an officer.



October 19, 2023 – **Abdolreza Amani Far**, a teachers' union activist in Bushehr, received a summons to appear before Branch 104 of the Bushehr Criminal Court on charges of disturbing public order and disobeying an officer.



October 19, 2023 – **Asghar Hajeb**, a teachers' union activist in Bushehr, received a summons to appear before Branch 104 of the Bushehr Criminal Court on charges of disturbing public order and disobeying an officer.



October 19, 2023 – **Mohsen Omrani**, a teachers' union activist in Bushehr, received a summons to appear before Branch 104 of the Bushehr Criminal Court on charges of disturbing public order and disobeying an officer.



October, 2023

October 22, 2023 – **Kokab Badaqi Pegah**, a teachers' union activist from Izeh, had her home and workplace raided by plainclothes agents, who confiscated her personal and electronic devices.



October 24, 2023 – **Afshin Razmjooei**, a teachers' union activist in Fars, was sentenced by Branch 37 of the Fars Appeals Court to five years in prison, a ban on online activity, and a two-year travel ban with passport cancellation.



October 24, 2023 – **Iraj Rahnama**, a teachers' union activist in Fars, was sentenced by Branch 37 of the Fars Appeals Court to five years in prison, a ban on online activity, and a two-year travel ban with passport cancellation.



October 24, 2023 – **Asghar Amir Azadgani**, a teachers' union activist in Fars, was sentenced by Branch 37 of the Fars Appeals Court to five years in prison, a ban on online activity, and a two-year travel ban with passport cancellation.



October 24, 2023 – **Mohammad Ali Zahmatkesh**, a teachers' union activist in Fars, was sentenced by Branch 37 of the Fars Appeals Court to five years in prison, a ban on online activity, and a two-year travel ban with passport cancellation.



October 24, 2023 – **Mojgan Bagheri**, a teachers' union activist in Fars, was sentenced by Branch 37 of the Fars Appeals Court to two years in prison, a ban on online activity, and a two-year travel ban with passport cancellation.



October 24, 2023 – **Zahra Esfandiari**, a teachers' union activist in Fars, was sentenced by Branch 37 of the Fars Appeals Court to two years' imprisonment under electronic monitoring (ankle bracelet) within 1,000 meters of her residence, a two-year travel ban with passport cancellation, and a two-year ban on online activity.



October, 2023

October 24, 2023 – **Abdolrazagh Amiri**, a teachers' union activist in Fars, received the same sentence: two years' imprisonment under electronic monitoring within 1,000 meters of his residence, a two-year travel ban with passport cancellation, and a two-year ban on online activity.



October 24, 2023 – **Gholamreza Gholami Kondazi**, a teachers' union activist in Fars, was convicted by Branch 37 of three charges:



- a. Assembly and collusion to act against national security through participation in opposition calls – five years in prison, a two-year travel ban with passport cancellation, and a two-year ban on online activity.
- b. Membership in anti-regime groups – five years in prison, two years of forced residence in Birjand, a two-year travel ban with passport cancellation, and a two-year ban on online activity.
- c. Propaganda against the regime – one year in prison.

October 26, 2023 – **Iraj Tobeihiha-ye Najafabadi**, a teachers' union activist in Najafabad, was taken to Najafabad Prison after security forces raided his workplace and seized his phone.



October 29, 2023 – **Siamak Chehrizi**, a teachers' union activist in Ahvaz, was summoned to the Ahvaz Revolutionary Court without being informed of specific charges.



October 29, 2023 – **Masoud Zeinalzadeh**, a teachers' union activist in Tehran, was arrested at Armita Garavand's funeral and transferred to Evin Prison.



October 30, 2023 – **Mohsen Omrani**, a teachers' union activist in Bushehr, was summoned to court on charges of propaganda against the regime.



October, 2023

October 30, 2023 – **Atekeh Rajabi**, a teachers' union activist in Khorasan, was sentenced by Branch 35 of the Khorasan Appeals Court to six months in prison (two months to be served, four months suspended for five years). She had previously been dismissed by the Education Ministry's Disciplinary Board.



November, 2023

November 3, 2023 – **Mahmoud Malaki**, a teachers' union activist in Bushehr, was sentenced to three months in prison and 35 lashes. The judge commuted this to a fine of 7 million tomans instead of imprisonment and 5 million tomans instead of flogging. Malaki and his fellow activists rejected the ruling, saying they could not afford the fines and preferred to endure the sentence rather than pay "corrupt officials."



November 3, 2023 – **Asghar Hajeb**, a teachers' union activist in Bushehr, received the same three-month prison and 35-lash sentence, with fines offered as alternatives, which he likewise refused.



November 3, 2023 – **Abdolreza Amani Far**, a teachers' union activist in Bushehr, received the same sentence and also refused the commutation to fines.



November 3, 2023 – **Mohsen Amani**, a teachers' union activist in Bushehr, received the same sentence and also refused the commutation to fines.



November 5, 2023 – **Ahmad Alizadeh**, a teacher from Abdanan, was sentenced by Branch 1 of the Ilam Revolutionary Court to six years and one day in prison for "forming a group of more than two people to disrupt national security" and to seven months and sixteen days for "propaganda against the regime," plus mandatory retirement, forced residence in Fanouj (Sistan and Baluchestan), and a ban on online activity. He was previously arrested during the 2022 nationwide protests.



November, 2023

November 7, 2023 – **Hossein Vahedi (Dariush Ashkani)**, a teachers' union activist in North Khorasan, was summoned to Branch 103 of the Bojnurd Criminal Court on charges of spreading false information.



November 8, 2023 – **Mahmoud Safdari**, secretary of the organization of Iranian Teachers (North Khorasan branch) and member of the Teachers' Association there, was summoned by both criminal and revolutionary courts on charges of disturbing public opinion by spreading false information. He had previously been arrested by the IRGC Intelligence at his home and released on bail.



November 12, 2023 – **Asghar Amirzadegan**, a teachers' union activist in Fars, was delivered to Firouzabad Prison to serve a five-year sentence while already serving a one-year sentence for propaganda against the regime.



November 20, 2023 – **Mohammad Ali Zahmatkesh**, a teachers' union activist in Shiraz, was arrested at his home to begin serving a five-year prison sentence.



November 20, 2023 – **Afshin Razmjooei**, a teachers' union activist in Shiraz, was arrested at his home to begin serving a five-year prison sentence.



November 20, 2023 – **Mojgan Bagheri**, a teachers' union activist in Shiraz, was arrested at her home to begin serving a two-year prison sentence.



November 20, 2023 – **Loghman Afzali**, a member of the Kurdistan Teachers' Association in Sanandaj, was sentenced by the Administrative Justice Court to two years' exile in Ardabil. He is currently serving his exile there, having previously been exiled to Ardabil for two years by the Education Ministry's Disciplinary Board.



November, 2023

November 25, 2023 – **Atekeh Rajabi**, a teacher from Mashhad, was sent to prison to serve a two-month sentence.



November 26, 2023 – **Hossein Vahedi**, inspector of the North Khorasan Teachers' Association, was sentenced by the North Khorasan Criminal Court to one year in prison for "spreading false information to disturb public opinion," suspended for three years.



November 29, 2023 – **Hossein Vahedi**, inspector of the North Khorasan Teachers' Association, was summoned by Branch 1 of the Bojnurd Revolutionary Court on charges of propaganda against the regime.



December, 2023

December 6, 2023 – **Ali Ahmadi**, a teachers' union activist from Mamasani, was arrested at his home by Security Police after an organized protest and taken to Shiraspari Prison in Nurabad.



December 9, 2023 – **Jan Ahmad Ahmadi**, a teachers' union activist from Mamasani, Fars Province, was arrested by Security Police for attending a retirees' protest.



December 12, 2023 – **Rouhollah Gerehgosha**, a teachers' union activist from Mamasani, Fars Province, was arrested at home by Security Police for attending a retirees' protest and taken to Shiraspari Prison in Nurabad Mamasani.



December 15, 2023 – **Hossein Vahedi (Dariush Ashkani)**, a teachers' union activist in North Khorasan, was sentenced by the Bojnurd Revolutionary Court to one year in prison.



December 18, 2023 – **Abdolrazagh Amiri**, a teacher from Shiraz, was sentenced by the Shiraz Revolutionary Court to house arrest with an electronic ankle monitor.



December, 2023

December 24, 2023 – **Mojgan Bagheri**, a teachers' union activist from Fars, who had been serving a two-year prison sentence in Adelabad Prison, was transferred to house arrest with an electronic ankle monitor.



January, 2024

January 2, 2024 – **Mehdi Fathi**, a teachers' union activist from Shiraz who had previously been sentenced to eight years in prison, was released after serving two years; his sentence was converted to house arrest with an electronic ankle monitor.



January 18, 2024 – **Taher Asgharpoor**, a teacher from Alborz Province, was sentenced by the Alborz Appeals Court to four months in prison.



January 21, 2024 – **Mahmoud Beheshti Langaroudi**, a teachers' union activist from Tehran, appeared before Branch 4 of the Langerud Prosecutor's Office on charges of propaganda against the regime and spreading false information. After being charged, he was temporarily released on bail.



January 28, 2024 – **Amir Nasihi Far**, a retired teacher from Tehran, was summoned to Intelligence after security forces searched his home and his father's home.



January 30, 2024 – **Mohammad Saeedi Abu Eshaghi**, a teacher from Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari, was sentenced by Branch 1 of the Lordegan Public Court to three months in prison, which was converted to a fine.



February, 2024

February 9, 2024 – **Anoush Adeli**, a teachers' union activist in Gilan, was summoned by Branch 3 of the Rasht Revolutionary Court on charges of disturbing public order through participation in and organization of union gatherings and disobedience. He is currently serving a one-year prison term in Lakan Prison.



February 9, 2024 – **Aziz Ghasemzadeh**, a teachers' union activist in Gilan, was summoned by Branch 3 of the Rasht Revolutionary Court on similar charges while already serving a one-year prison term in Lakan Prison.



February 9, 2024 – **Mahmoud Sedighipour**, a teachers' union activist in Gilan, was summoned by Branch 3 of the Rasht Revolutionary Court on similar charges while already serving a one-year prison term in Lakan Prison.



February 9, 2024 – **Teymour Bagheri Koodakani**, a teachers' union activist in Gilan, was summoned by Branch 3 of the Rasht Revolutionary Court on similar charges.



February 9, 2024 – **Tahmasb Sohrabi**, a teachers' union activist in Gilan, was summoned by Branch 3 of the Rasht Revolutionary Court on similar charges.



February 9, 2024 – **Gholamreza Akbarzadeh Baghban**, a teachers' union activist in Gilan, was summoned by Branch 3 of the Rasht Revolutionary Court on similar charges.



February 9, 2024 – **Ali Nahali**, a teachers' union activist in Gilan, was summoned by Branch 3 of the Rasht Revolutionary Court on similar charges.



February 9, 2024 – **Mohammad Javad Saeedi Abu Eshaghi**, a teachers' union activist in Gilan, was summoned by Branch 3 of the Rasht Revolutionary Court on charges of disturbing public order through participation in and organization of union gatherings and disobedience.



February, 2024

February 9, 2024 – **Jahanbakhsh Lajvardi**, a teachers' union activist in Gilan, was summoned by Branch 3 of the Rasht Revolutionary Court on the same charges.



March, 2024

March 3, 2024 – **Soleyman Abdi**, a teachers' union activist from Saqqez, Kurdistan, was arrested to serve his sentence and transferred to Saqqez Central Prison. Branch 105 of the Saqqez Criminal Court had sentenced him to eight months in prison and 70 lashes for disturbing public order by participating in an illegal gathering at the Aichi cemetery.



March 6, 2024 – **Anoush Adeli**, a teachers' union activist in Gilan, was sentenced by Branch 3 of the Rasht Revolutionary Court to two years and one day in prison for disturbing public order through union gatherings and disobedience, plus a two-year post-release ban on membership in political or social groups.



March 6, 2024 – **Mahmoud Sedighipour**, a teachers' union activist in Gilan, received the same sentence and post-release restrictions from Branch 3 of the Rasht Revolutionary Court.



March 6, 2024 – **Aziz Ghasemzadeh**, a teachers' union activist in Gilan, received the same sentence and restrictions.



March 6, 2024 – **Ali Nahali**, a teachers' union activist in Gilan, received the same sentence and restrictions.



March 6, 2024 – **Teymour Bagheri Koodakani**, a teachers' union activist in Gilan, received the same sentence and restrictions.



March 6, 2024 – **Javad Saeedi**, a teachers' union activist in Gilan, received the same sentence and restrictions.



March, 2024

March 6, 2024 – **Tahmasb Sohrabi**, a teachers' union activist in Gilan, received the same sentence and restrictions.



March 6, 2024 – **Jahanbakhsh Lajvardi**, a teachers' union activist in Gilan, received the same sentence and restrictions.



March 6, 2024 – **Gholamreza Akbarzadeh**, a teachers' union activist in Gilan, received the same sentence and restrictions.



March 6, 2024 – **Yadollah Baharestani**, a teachers' union activist in Gilan, received the same sentence and restrictions.



March 9, 2024 – **Asghar Amirzadegan**, a teachers' union activist in Fars, was fined three million tomans by the Firouzabad Revolutionary Court instead of imprisonment for propaganda against the regime. In another in absentia ruling, he was sentenced to one year in prison.



March 10, 2024 – **Nowruz Rashidi**, a teacher from Yasuj, was summoned to the Revolutionary Court on charges of insulting the Supreme Leader and collaborating with hostile states. He had previously suffered spinal fractures and cord damage during arrest by Intelligence officers.



March 18, 2024 – **Mahmoud Safdari**, a teachers' union activist in North Khorasan, was fined 20 million tomans by Branch 6 of the Appeals Court for disturbing public opinion by spreading false information and propaganda against the regime.



March 19, 2024 – **Hossein Abadian**, a teacher from Shahriar, was summoned by the Malayer Revolutionary Court on charges including propaganda against the regime, insulting the Supreme Leader, insulting Islam, and others. He had previously been forced into early retirement by the Education Ministry's Disciplinary Board.



March, 2024

March 28, 2024 – **Karim Bostanchi**, a teachers' union activist from West Azerbaijan, was sentenced by the Urmia Revolutionary Court to three months in prison for propaganda against the regime in favor of opposition groups. Separately, Branch 110 of the Urmia Criminal Court fined him 15 million tomans, confiscated his phone, and convicted him of spreading falsehoods to disturb public opinion online.



June, 2024

June 9, 2024 – **Mostafa Robati**, a teachers' union activist from North Khorasan, was beaten and arrested by Special Unit security forces at the end of a retirees' protest.



July, 2024

July 7, 2024 – **Iraj Tobeihiha-ye Najafabad**, a teachers' union activist from Najafabad, Isfahan, was sentenced by Branch 37 of the Isfahan Appeals Court to seven years in prison (two years to be served and two years' exile) for propaganda against the regime, insulting the Supreme Leader, and insulting religious sanctities.



July 7, 2024 – **Hossein Ashrafi**, a teachers' union activist from Najafabad, Isfahan, was sentenced by Branch 37 of the Isfahan Appeals Court to four years' suspended imprisonment on similar charges.



July 8, 2024 – **Mohsen Omrani**, a teachers' union activist from Bushehr, was sentenced by the Bushehr Revolutionary Court to one year in prison for propaganda against the regime.



July 12, 2024 – **Tahsin Mostafa**, a teachers' union activist from Marivan, Kurdistan, was sentenced by the Marivan Revolutionary Court to four months' suspended imprisonment (for two years) for propaganda against the regime.



July 12, 2024 – **Siwan Soleimani**, a teachers' union activist from Marivan, Kurdistan, received the same four-month suspended sentence for propaganda against the regime.



July, 2024

July 12, 2024 – **Aram Ghaderi**, a teachers' union activist from Marivan, Kurdistan, received the same four-month suspended sentence for propaganda against the regime.



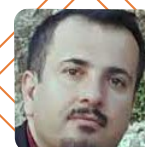
July 12, 2024 – **Aram Mohammadi**, a teachers' union activist from Marivan, Kurdistan, received the same four-month suspended sentence for propaganda against the regime.



July 15, 2024 – **Amjad Bakhtiari**, a teacher from Dehgolan, Kurdistan, was sentenced by Iran's judiciary to one year in prison and 74 lashes. He had previously been arrested during the "Jin, Jiyan, Azadi" (Woman, Life, Freedom) movement.



July 19, 2024 – **Majid Karimi**, a teachers' union activist from Sanandaj, Kurdistan, was sentenced by the Sanandaj Revolutionary Court to three months in prison for participating in protests, giving speeches, and supporting imprisoned teachers. The sentence was converted to an 8-million toman fine due to his clean record.



July 19, 2024 – **Masoud Farhikhteh**, a teachers' union activist from Eslamshahr, received the same three-month prison sentence from the Sanandaj Revolutionary Court, likewise converted to an 8-million toman fine.



July 20, 2024 – **Mohammad Sadeghi**, a teachers' union activist from Arak, was transferred to Arak Prison to serve a one-year sentence for assembly and collusion against the regime, issued by Branch 8 of the Markazi Province Appeals Court.



July 22, 2024 – **Mohammad Habibi**, a teachers' union activist from Tehran, was sentenced by Branch 2 of the Shahriar Revolutionary Court to six months and one day in prison for propaganda against the regime.



July, 2024

July 22, 2024 – **Asghar Amirzadegan**, a teachers' union activist from Fars previously sentenced to two years in prison by the Appeals Court, began serving his sentence in Firouzabad Prison.



July 23, 2024 – **Taher Asgharpoor**, a teacher from Alborz Province sentenced by the Alborz Appeals Court to four months in prison for propaganda against the regime (reduced from six months and two years' bans), entered Karaj Prison to serve his sentence.



July 23, 2024 – **Gholamreza Gholami Kondazi**, a teachers' union activist from Fars sentenced to two years in prison by the Appeals Court, was released from Adelabad Prison in Shiraz and placed under house arrest with an electronic ankle monitor.



July 25, 2024 – **Maryam Derisi**, a teacher and online activist from Kazerun, was summoned to Kazerun Prison to serve a one-year sentence for "insulting the Supreme Leader," "propaganda against the regime," "disturbing public order," and "removing hijab." She had previously received multiple convictions, including one year in prison and 74 lashes for disturbing public order and unveiling, and a later three-year prison sentence on additional charges.



July 29, 2024 – **Khaled Ahmadi**, a teachers' union and environmental activist from Kurdistan, was arrested at his home by security forces without a warrant. He had been managing the virtual election of the Kurdistan Teachers' Association board that day.



July 30, 2024 – **Amir Esmaeili**, a teacher from Lorestan, was summoned to court after a complaint by Farhangian University accusing him of criticising university officials and the Ministry of Education. He was transferred to Khorramabad Prison.



August, 2024

August 1, 2024 – **Mohammad Abedini**, a teachers' union activist from Razavi Khorasan, was sentenced by the Razavi Khorasan Appeals Court to six months' suspended imprisonment (for five years) for spreading falsehoods online to disturb public opinion.



August 2, 2024 – **Reza Amani Far**, a teachers' union activist from Bushehr, was arrested by security forces at a Bushehr teachers' protest and taken to an unknown location.



August 2, 2024 – **Mehdi Farahi Shandiz**, a teachers' union activist from Tehran, was beaten and arrested by security forces during a Tehran teachers' protest.



August 2, 2024 – **Davoud Bayesteh**, a teachers' union activist from Tehran, was beaten and arrested by security forces during a Tehran teachers' protest.



August 2, 2024 – **Vahid Mousa Dehsari**, a teachers' union activist from Tehran, was beaten and arrested by security forces during a Tehran teachers' protest.



August 2, 2024 – **Mehdi Qaderi**, a teachers' union activist from Tehran, was beaten and arrested by security forces during a Tehran teachers' protest.



August 20, 2024 – **Mokhtar Asadi**, a teachers' union activist from Sanandaj, Kurdistan, was arrested by FATA police and taken to an unknown location. The Sanandaj Revolutionary Court detained him on behalf of Evin's Branch 33 Prosecutor's Office.



September, 2024

September 4, 2024 – **Mohsen Omrani**, a teachers' union activist from Bushehr, was sentenced by Branch 5 of the Bushehr Appeals Court to six months in prison.



September, 2024

September 5, 2024 – **Lotfollah Parviz**, a cultural and environmental activist from Gilan-e Gharb, was arrested by IRGC Intelligence after a raid on his home; all of his and his wife's electronic devices were confiscated.



October, 2024

October 12, 2024 – **Mohammad Habibi**, a teachers' union activist from Tehran, was sentenced by the Appeals Court to six months and one day in prison.



November, 2024

November 6, 2024 – **Hamidollah Selgi**, a teachers' union activist from Nahavand, Hamedan Province, was summoned to begin serving a two-year, seven-month prison sentence for "insulting the Supreme Leader" and "propaganda against the regime."



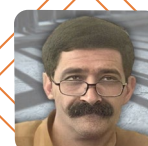
November 10, 2024 – **Mohsen Omrani**, a teachers' union activist from Bushehr, was sent to Bushehr Prison to serve a six-month sentence.



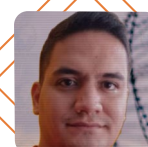
November 11, 2024 – **Mohammad Habibi**, a teachers' union activist from Tehran, was sent to Evin Prison to serve a six-month-and-one-day sentence.



November 13, 2024 – **Mohammad Hassanpoure**, a teachers' union activist from Tehran, was arrested at his home by security forces and transferred to Evin Prison.



November 28, 2024 – **Mostafa Mohammad Hassan**, a teacher and former student activist, began serving a 37-month prison sentence for insulting Islamic sanctities and propaganda against the regime.



December, 2024

December 4, 2024 – **Esmail Abdi**, a teachers' union activist from Tehran, was placed under a travel ban following a complaint by the IRGC.



December 6, 2024 – **Hamid Azizi**, a teacher from Kamyaran, Kurdistan, was arrested and taken to an unknown location.



December 14, 2024 – **Mohammad Hassanpoure**, a teachers' union activist from Tehran, was sentenced by Branch 26 of the Revolutionary Court to three years and seven months in prison for assembly and collusion (one-third to serve, remainder suspended) and an additional eight months for propaganda against the regime.



December 21, 2024 – **Roya Bolouri**, a chemistry teacher from Tehran, had her electronic ankle monitor sentence extended for a third month, continuing her house arrest in Karaj for "propaganda against the regime."



December 26, 2024 – **Ahmad Derakhshan**, a teacher from Karaj, was sentenced by Branch 2 of the Karaj Revolutionary Court to one year in prison for propaganda against the regime and additional penalties, including a two-year teaching ban, prohibition from membership in groups or associations, a travel ban, and dismissal from government service.

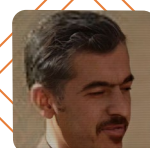


January, 2025

January 12, 2025 – **Masoud Farhikhteh**, a teachers' union activist from Karaj, was sentenced by Branch 2 of the Karaj Revolutionary Court to six years in prison (one year for propaganda against the regime and five years for assembly and collusion against internal security), plus a two-year travel ban, prohibition from group activities, and movement restrictions in Alborz, Tehran, Qazvin, Lorestan, and Kurdistan.



January 20, 2025 – **Ghayath Nemati**, a teachers' union activist from Sanandaj, Kurdistan, was summoned by Security Police, threatened against organizing protests, and warned to avoid cooperation with opposition groups.



February, 2025

February 2, 2025 – **Hadi Jalali**, a teacher from Kerman, was summoned by Branch 5 of the Kerman Public and Revolutionary Prosecutor's Office on charges of forming a group to disrupt national security through information exchange with individuals linked to Israel and media activities.



February 5, 2025 – **Hossein Vahedi**, a teachers' union activist from North Khorasan, was sentenced by the North Khorasan Appeals Court to one year in prison.



February 15, 2025 – **Asghar Amirzadegan**, a teachers' union activist in Fars, was sentenced by Firouzabad Criminal Court Branch 101 (Second Criminal Court) to a total of four years in prison in two cases on charges of propaganda against the regime, insulting the founder of the Islamic Republic, and insulting the Supreme Leader.



February 19, 2025 – **Mokhtar Asadi**, a teachers' union activist in Sanandaj, Kurdistan, was summoned to the Sanandaj Public and Revolutionary Prosecutor's Office, Branch 2 (investigations), on charges of disturbing public order and peace.



February 19, 2025 – **Kamal Fekourian**, a teachers' union activist in Sanandaj, Kurdistan, was summoned to the same branch on charges of disturbing public order and peace.



February 19, 2025 – **Fatemeh Zandkarimi**, a teachers' union activist in Sanandaj, Kurdistan, was summoned to the same branch on charges of disturbing public order and peace.



February 24, 2025 – **Kobra Taherkhani**, a teacher from Qazvin, was summoned to the Qazvin Revolutionary Court on charges of insulting the Supreme Leader and propaganda against the regime. She had earlier been summoned to Qazvin Criminal Court Branch 108 for trial on charges of spreading falsehoods, and IRGC Intelligence in Qazvin had searched her home and confiscated her laptop and phone.



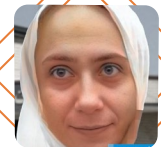
February, 2025

February 24, 2025 – **Ma'soumeh Asgari**, a Tehran teacher, was sentenced by Tehran Revolutionary Court Branch 26 to three years in prison for cooperation with anti-regime groups and membership in opposition groups.

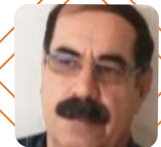


March, 2025

March 5, 2025 – **Arezoo Jalilzadeh**, a teacher from Sardasht, was arrested by security forces without a judicial warrant and transferred to a detention facility in Urmia.



March 7, 2025 – **Abdollah Rezaei**, a teachers' union activist from Harsin, Kermanshah, was summoned to the prosecutor's office on charges of propaganda against the regime and organizing illegal assemblies.



March 11, 2025 – **Nasrin Karimi**, a teachers' union activist in Sanandaj, Kurdistan, was summoned to the Appeals Disciplinary Board on the same charges. Previously, the Primary Board had imposed mandatory retirement with a two-grade demotion.



March 15, 2025 – **Touran Soleimani**, a teachers' union activist in Khuzestan, was summoned to the Shush Public and Revolutionary Prosecutor's Office under pressure from IRGC Intelligence-Khuzestan; after being charged, she was temporarily released on bail.



March 23, 2025 – **Kobra Taherkhani**, a teachers' union activist in Qazvin, was sentenced by the Qazvin Revolutionary Court Branch 2 to a total of three years' imprisonment – two years for insulting the Supreme Leader and one year for propaganda against the regime – as well as a travel ban.



April, 2025

April 12, 2025 – **Asghar Amir-Azadegan**, a teachers' union activist in Fars, was arrested by security forces outside his home; the detaining agency and grounds were not disclosed.



April, 2025

April 15, 2025 – **Majid Naderi**, a teacher from Kerman, was summoned by Branch 5 of the Kerman Public and Revolutionary Prosecutor's Office on charges including undermining national security through membership, leadership, and formation of opposition groups; insulting officials; and propaganda against the regime.



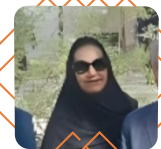
April 15, 2025 – **Mohammad Reza Behzadpour**, a teacher from Kerman, was summoned by the same branch on the same set of charges.



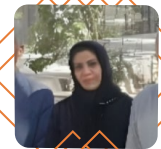
April 15, 2025 – **Shahnaz Rezaei**, a teacher from Kerman, was summoned by the same branch on the same set of charges.



April 15, 2025 – **Zahra Azizi**, a teacher from Kerman, was summoned by the same branch on the same set of charges.



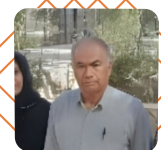
April 15, 2025 – **Mitra Nikpour**, a teacher from Kerman, was summoned by the same branch on the same set of charges.



April 15, 2025 – **Hossein Rashidi**, a teacher from Kerman, was summoned by the same branch on the same set of charges.



April 15, 2025 – **Mohammad Mosta'alizadeh**, a teacher from Kerman, was summoned by the same branch on the same set of charges.



April 15, 2025 – **Fatemeh Yazdani**, a teacher from Kerman, was summoned by the same branch on the same set of charges.



April 15, 2025 – **Leila Afshar**, a teacher from Kerman, was summoned by Branch 5 of the Kerman Public and Revolutionary Prosecutor's Office on charges including undermining national security through membership, leadership, and formation of opposition groups; insulting officials; and propaganda against the regime.



April, 2025

April 21, 2025 – **Mansoureh Erfanian**, a teachers' union activist in Mashhad, was sentenced by Mashhad Revolutionary Court Branch 4 to three months' imprisonment for propaganda against the regime.



April 21, 2025 – **Hossein Ramezanpour**, a teachers' union activist in Bojnurd, North Khorasan, was sentenced by Bojnurd Public and Revolutionary Court Branch 105 to two years in prison for spreading false information.



April 26, 2025 – **Sara Siahpour**, a teachers' union activist, was summoned by the Masjed Soleyman Prosecutor's Office on charges of propaganda against the regime.



April 30, 2025 – **Mahmoud Sedighipour**, a teachers' union activist in Gilan, was summoned and arrested by Security Police. The arrest was intended to prevent his participation in Teachers' Day protests; he refused to comply with the demand not to attend.



May, 2025

May 1, 2025 – **Reza Moslemi**, a teachers' union activist in Hamadan, was arrested by security forces in front of his school before a planned teachers' protest.



May 1, 2025 – **Vali Mirza-Sa'eedi**, a teachers' union activist in Tehran, was arrested by security forces during a teachers' protest and transferred to Evin Prison.



May 1, 2025 – **Ahmad Heydari Nosrat**, a teachers' union activist in Tehran, was arrested by security forces during a teachers' protest and transferred to Evin Prison.



May 1, 2025 – **Hossein Abadian**, a teachers' union activist in Tehran, was arrested by security forces during a teachers' protest and transferred to Evin Prison.



May, 2025

May 1, 2025 – **Mehdi Farahi Shandiz**, a teachers' union activist in Tehran, was beaten, arrested during a teachers' protest, and transferred to Evin Prison.



June, 2025

June 1, 2025 - 15 Kurdish teacher union activists were summoned on Sunday, June 1, 2025, to Branch 109 of the Sanandaj Criminal Court (Second Class) on charges of "disrupting public order and peace." The summoned individuals include: **Mohammadreza Moradi, Salahoddin Hajimirzaei, Behzad Ghavami, Seyed Ghiyas Nemati, Reza Tahmasbi, Shahriar Naderi, Aram Ebrahimi, Sadegh Kenani, Majid Karimi, Mokhtar Asadi, Fatemeh Zandkarimi, Nasrin Karimi, Faisal Noori, Rezgar Heydari, and Kourosh Ezzati Amini.** All are teacher union activists from Sanandaj and face charges of disturbing public order.



June 12, 2025 – **Zina Faridoonian**, a teacher from Qorveh, Kurdistan, was sentenced by the Qorveh Revolutionary Court to a total of thirteen months' imprisonment plus three years' suspended imprisonment for propaganda against the regime.



June 13, 2025 – **Ma'soumeh Shahnavaaz**, a teacher from Sabzevar, was arrested after security forces raided her home and beat her; she was taken to an unknown location. The home was thoroughly searched and property damaged.



June, 2025

June 29, 2025 – **Hossein Vahedi**, a teachers' union activist from North Khorasan, entered Bojnurd Central Prison to serve a one-year sentence for propaganda against the regime.



June 30, 2025 – **Bakhtiar Rezvani**, a teachers' union activist from Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad, was summoned to the Gachsaran Revolutionary Court on charges of propaganda against the regime.



July, 2025

July 11, 2025 – **Alireza Merdasi**, a teacher from Ahvaz arrested in August 2023, was sentenced by the Ahvaz Revolutionary Court to two death penalties and one year in prison for corruption on earth, membership in opposition groups, and propaganda against the regime. He has been teaching in elementary schools for more than 25 years.



July 29, 2025 – **Forough Khosravi**, a teacher from Behbahan, was arrested after IRGC Intelligence raided her home and taken to an unknown location.



August, 2025

August 3, 2025 – **Soheila Khaledian**, a teacher from Sanandaj, was arrested at home by security forces.



August 3, 2025 – **Abdollah Momeni**, a teacher and veteran political prisoner in Tehran, was summoned to the Revolutionary Court on charges of propaganda against the system and spreading lies; released on bail after interrogation.



August 4, 2025 – **Majid Naderi**, a teachers' union activist from Kerman, was sentenced by Kerman Revolutionary Court Branch 1 to one year in prison for acting against national security, propaganda against the regime, and membership in opposition groups.



August, 2025

August 4, 2025 – **Hossein Rashidi Zarandi**, a teachers' union activist from Kerman, received the same sentence (one year) from Kerman Revolutionary Court Branch 1 on the same charges.



August 4, 2025 – **Mohammad Reza Behzadpour**, a teachers' union activist from Kerman, received the same one-year sentence from the same court on the same charges.



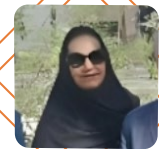
August 4, 2025 – **Fatemeh Yazdani**, a teachers' union activist from Kerman, was sentenced by Kerman Revolutionary Court Branch 1 to six months in prison on the same charges.



August 4, 2025 – **Mitra Nikpour**, a teachers' union activist from Kerman, was sentenced by the same court to six months in prison on the same charges.



August 4, 2025 – **Zahra Azizi**, a teachers' union activist from Kerman, was sentenced by the same court to six months in prison on the same charges.



August 4, 2025 – **Leila Afshar**, a teachers' union activist from Kerman, was sentenced by the same court to six months in prison on the same charges.



August 4, 2025 – **Shahnaz Rezaei Sharifabadi**, a teachers' union activist from Kerman, was sentenced by the same court to six months in prison on the same charges.



August 12, 2025 – **Masoud Farhikhteh**, a teachers' union activist, was sentenced by Alborz Appeals Court Branch 12 to imprisonment for assembly and collusion (three years, six months, and one day) and propaganda against the regime (seven months and sixteen days)



September, 2025

September 16, 2025 – Security forces raided the first day of the Extraordinary Assembly of the Coordinating Council of Iranian Teachers' Trade Associations in Shahreza at 9:00 a.m., arresting all 18 teachers present. The detainees were held until 5:00 p.m.; all except **Masoud Farhikhteh** were released. Electronic devices were confiscated, with some later returned and others still retained by authorities. Arrested teachers: **Abdollah Rezaei, Mohammad Habibi, Aram Mohammadi, Hamid Rahmati, Manouchehr Aghabeigi, Rasoul Bodaghi, Mahmoud Sedighipour, Ali Safari, Khan-Aziz Esmaeili, Asghar Hajeb, Mohammad Hassan Mosadeghian, Esmail Farhangmanesh, Shekrollah Ahmadi, Iraj Rahnama, Abdolreza Amani-Far, Faramarz Khodashenas, Masoud Farhikhteh, and Ali Fallah.** Farhikhteh – already sentenced in August 2025 by Alborz Appeals Court to five years in prison – remains in custody, likely for enforcement of his sentence.



September 16, 2025 – Branch Seven of the Kerman Provincial Court of Appeal, presided over by *Mohammadreza Akbarizadeh*, issued final and enforceable sentences against teachers from Kerman. According to the ruling, **Majid Naderi, Hossein Rashidi Zarandi, and Mohammadreza Behzadpour** were each sentenced to six months' imprisonment on the charge of "forming and joining groups with the aim of disrupting national security."



CASES OF REDUCED PUNISHMENTS DURING THIS PERIOD

January, 2024

January 28, 2024 – **Afshin Razmjooei**, a teachers' union activist in Fars, had his prison sentence reduced by the Fars Appeals Court from five years to two years.



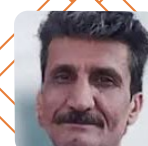
January 28, 2024 – **Iraj Rahnama**, a teachers' union activist in Fars, had his prison sentence reduced by the Fars Appeals Court from five years to two years.



January 28, 2024 – **Gholamreza Gholami Kondazi**, a teachers' union activist in Fars, had his prison sentence reduced by the Fars Appeals Court from five years to two years.



January 28, 2024 – **Mohammad Ali Zahmatkesh**, a teachers' union activist in Fars, had his prison sentence reduced by the Fars Appeals Court from five years to two years.



January 28, 2024 – **Asghar Amirzadegan**, a teachers' union activist in Fars, had his prison sentence reduced by the Fars Appeals Court from five years to two years.



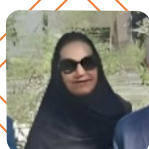
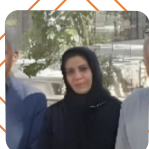
March, 2024

March 10, 2024 – **Gholamreza Gholami Kondazi**, a teachers' union activist in Fars who had previously been sentenced to five years in prison, had his sentence reduced to two years by the Appeals Court.



September, 2025

September 16, 2025 – **Mitra Nikpour, Zahra Azizi, Leila Afshar, Shahnaz Rezaei Sharifabadi**, and **Fatemeh Yazdani** had their prison sentences commuted to fines, with each ordered to pay 700 million rials.



Appendix I I

Chronology of Education Ministry Disciplinary Actions Against Iranian Teachers and Union Activists

7

This appendix documents disciplinary measures imposed by Iran's Ministry of Education and related administrative bodies against teachers and union activists from October 2023 to July 2025. Based on verified cases, it records dismissals, forced retirements, demotions, suspensions, selection rejections, and exiles administered through the Ministry's Primary and Appeals Disciplinary Boards, Selection Committees, and the Administrative Justice Court.

October, 2023

October 1 2023 – **Mohammad Darkesh** (Tehran): Dismissed by the Administrative Violations Board (based on Security Office report) for participation in union gatherings; reinstated to his school after 18 months following follow-up and an Administrative Justice Court ruling.



October 4, 2023 – **Hasan Nazarian**, a teachers' union activist in Gilan, was dismissed by the Gilan Education Department's Disciplinary Board.



October 15, 2023 – **Abolfazl Rahimi Shad**, a teacher in Tehran, was convicted by the Education Ministry's Disciplinary Appeals Board of inciting students during recent unrest, receiving mandatory retirement and demotion.



November, 2023

November 19, 2023 – **Shahnaz Ramaram**, a teacher in Razavi Khorasan, was dismissed by the Education Ministry's Appeals Board for removing her headscarf in a girls' classroom and filming students writing protest slogans during the "Woman, Life, Freedom" movement.



November 20, 2023 – **Hamid Jafari Nasr Abadi**, a teacher from Kashan, was dismissed and forced into early retirement by the Education Ministry's Appeals Board for propaganda against the regime and insulting the Supreme Leader. He had previously been arrested on October 19, 2022, during the "Woman, Life, Freedom" protests and given a suspended 15-month sentence, two-year employment ban, and travel ban.



December, 2023

December 7, 2023 – **Iman Shahvandi**, a teacher from Pasargad, Fars Province, was sentenced to one year of dismissal from service for “inappropriate behavior on social media” in support of imprisoned colleagues and students involved in the Woman, Life, Freedom protests.



December 22, 2023 – **Nima Sohrabi Nejad**, a teacher from Razan, Hamadan Province, was rejected by the Administrative Justice Court for employment in the Ministry of Education. He is a graduate of Farhangian University (Hamadan) in Social Sciences. He had previously been sentenced by the Hamadan Revolutionary Court to three months in prison, served, and released.



December 23, 2023 – **Hekmat Salehi**, a teacher from Marivan, Kurdistan Province, was exiled to Bijar, Kurdistan Province, by the Education Ministry’s Disciplinary Board for supporting Woman, Life, Freedom protesters.



January, 2024

January 5, 2024 – **Lida Esmaeili**, a teachers’ union activist from Alborz, was sentenced by the Education Ministry’s Appeals Board to mandatory retirement and demotion.



January 8, 2024 – **Tahsin Mostafa**, a teachers’ union activist from Marivan, was sentenced by the Administrative Justice Court to loss of salary and benefits on charges of leading the Woman, Life, Freedom movement.



January 9, 2024 – **Ali Haji**, a teachers’ union activist from East Azerbaijan, was sentenced by the Education Ministry’s Disciplinary Board to six months’ suspension for posting on X (formerly Twitter) “Arrest everyone in Iran.”



January 10, 2024 – **Fatemeh Sougandi**, a teacher from Nishapur, was dismissed from her teaching position by the Ministry of Education’s Selection Committee. She had previously been investigated by the Revolutionary Court.



January, 2024

January 21, 2024 – **Lotfollah Jamshidi**, a teachers' union activist in Alborz, was sentenced by the Education Ministry's Appeals Board to three months' suspension from service.



January 21, 2024 – **Gholamali Shahriari**, a teachers' union activist in Alborz, was sentenced by the Education Ministry's Appeals Board to three months' suspension from service.



January 21, 2024 – **Rahman Abedini**, a teachers' union activist in Alborz, was sentenced by the Education Ministry's Appeals Board to three months' suspension from service.



January 23, 2024 – **Aziz Ghasemzadeh**, a teachers' union activist in Gilan, was dismissed by the Education Ministry's Appeals Board for allegedly giving provocative speeches, singing songs with "deviant" content, skipping classes, and participating in unauthorized protests and sit-ins.



January 31, 2024 – **Karim Bostanchi Khezrabad**, a teachers' union activist in West Azerbaijan, was sentenced by the Education Ministry's Disciplinary Board to mandatory retirement and demotion for alleged use of inappropriate language and mocking images of officials, questioning the hijab, and supporting illegal teacher associations.



February, 2024

February 4, 2024 – **Mohammad Saeedi Abu Eshaghi**, a teacher from Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari, was dismissed from the Ministry of Education by the Administrative Justice Court for supporting the Jina uprising, accompanying bereaved families, and participating in teachers' protests.



February 20, 2024 – **Sara Siahpour** was dismissed by the Education Ministry's Appeals Board. Previously, the Tehran Revolutionary Court had sentenced her to five years in prison. The charges included union activism and lawful advocacy, participation in legal teachers' protests, posting unveiled photos, and supporting the Woman, Life, Freedom campaign.



March, 2024

March 7, 2024 – **Mahmoud Malaki**, a teachers' union activist in Bushehr, was dismissed by the Administrative Justice Court. His flogging and prison sentences, previously converted to fines, were referred to enforcement.



March 8, 2024 – **Hasan Nazarian**, a teachers' union activist in Gilan who had been dismissed and stripped of ranking by the Education Ministry's Appeals Board, had the decision upheld by the Administrative Justice Court.



March 12, 2024 – **Mohammad Moradi Nasari**, a teacher and cultural activist from Sanandaj, Kurdistan, was disqualified in the selection process by security bodies over his Kurdish poetry publications, organizing a literary award, participating in the Galawizh Festival, and media interviews on Kurdish literature.



March 23, 2024 – **Javad Taghavi**, a student-teacher from Yasuj, was dismissed by the Education Ministry's Selection Committee.



April, 2024

April 4, 2024 – **Sakineh Maleki**, a teachers' union activist from Bandar Anzali, Gilan, was dismissed by the Education Ministry's Appeals Board on charges of links with counter-revolutionaries, membership in opposition groups aiming to overthrow the state, and related accusations.



April 6, 2024 – **Salman Mousavi**, a teachers' union activist from Khorramabad, was sentenced by the Education Ministry's Disciplinary Board to one year's suspension and loss of salary and benefits for propaganda against the regime, disturbing public opinion, and spreading rumors.



April 28, 2024 – **Farzad Safi-Khanpour**, a teachers' union activist from Sanandaj, Kurdistan, was summoned and threatened by Education Ministry disciplinary and security units regarding the association's general assembly.



April, 2024

April 28, 2024 – **Reza Tahmasbi**, a teachers' union activist from Sanandaj, Kurdistan, was summoned and threatened by Education Ministry disciplinary and security units regarding the association's general assembly.



April 28, 2024 – **Abed Abbasi**, a teachers' union activist from Sanandaj, Kurdistan, was summoned and threatened by Education Ministry disciplinary and security units regarding the association's general assembly.



May, 2024

May 14, 2024 – **Tahsin Mostafa**, a teachers' union activist from Marivan, Kurdistan, was dismissed by the Education Ministry's Primary Disciplinary Board.



May 25, 2024 – **Saman Koushesh**, a teachers' union activist from Marivan, Kurdistan, was dismissed by the Education Ministry's Primary Disciplinary Board on charges of participating in protests and sit-ins during the Jina uprising, removal from ranking, and under pressure from security agencies.



May 26, 2024 – **Somayeh Akhtar Shomar**, a teachers' union activist from Marivan, Kurdistan, was dismissed by the Education Ministry's Primary Disciplinary Board on charges of participating in protests and supporting imprisoned teachers.



May 27, 2024 – **Rouhollah Mardani**, a teachers' union activist from Karaj, was dismissed and forced into retirement by the Alborz Provincial Disciplinary Board for attending protests and posting political content on his personal pages.



May 27, 2024 – **Shahrbanu Asadi**, a teacher from Rasht, Gilan, was dismissed by the Gilan Education Selection Board (and noted by the Disciplinary Board) for online activity; her dismissal was later overturned by the Administrative Justice Court on October 5, 2024, ordering her reinstatement.



May, 2024

May 28, 2024 – **Ali Haji**, a teachers' union activist from East Azerbaijan, was sentenced by the Education Ministry's Appeals Board to six months' suspension.



May 30, 2024 – **Hamid Jafari Nasr Abadi**, a teacher from Kashan, was dismissed by the Administrative Justice Court.



July, 2024

July 2, 2024 – **Ali Ameri**, a teacher from Bardaskan, Razavi Khorasan, was sentenced by the Education Ministry's Disciplinary Board to two months' suspension for spreading false information, disturbing public opinion, and related charges.



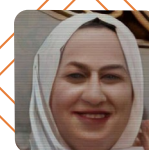
July 9, 2024 – **Aziz Ghasemzadeh**, a teachers' union activist from Gilan, was dismissed by the Administrative Justice Court.



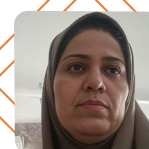
July 9, 2024 – **Diako Alavi**, a teacher from Saqqez, Kurdistan, was dismissed by the Education Ministry's Primary Disciplinary Board. Previously, the Saqqez Revolutionary Court had sentenced him to 15 months and 10 months in prison in two separate cases.



July 27, 2024 – **Zahra Siyyad Delshadpour**, a teacher from Gilan, was forced into early retirement and demotion by the Gilan Appeals Board for participating in union protests and supporting students during the Jina movement.



July 28, 2024 – **Fermesk Fattahi**, a teacher from Marivan, Kurdistan, was dismissed by the Administrative Justice Court.



August, 2024

August 1, 2024 – **Biouk Lazemi**, a teachers' union activist from Alborz, was sentenced by the Education Ministry's Appeals Board to six months' suspension for participating in teachers' protest gatherings.



August, 2024

August 17, 2024 – **Kokab Badaqi Pegah**, a teachers' union activist from Izeh, Khuzestan, was sentenced by the Education Ministry's Disciplinary Board to four months' suspension for membership in a WhatsApp union group and communication with the banned Coordinating Council of Iranian Teacher Associations channel. On 13 September 2025, Kokab Bedaghi-Pegah was finally sentenced by the Khuzestan Provincial Education Ministry's Administrative Violations Appeals Board to three months' suspension from service



September, 2024

September 25, 2024 – **Mohammad Hossein Sepehri**, a teacher from Razavi Khorasan, was dismissed by the Administrative Justice Court.



October, 2024

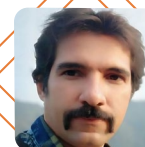
October 5, 2024 – **Esmail Abdi**, a teachers' union activist from Tehran, was dismissed by the Tehran Education Ministry's Disciplinary Board.



October 5, 2024 – **Somayeh Akhtar Shomar**, a teachers' union activist from Marivan, Kurdistan, was dismissed by the Education Ministry's Appeals Board on charges of membership in a teachers' association, posting on social media, and referencing union activists in exam questions.



October 7, 2024 – **Mehdi Maref**, a teacher from Alborz Province, was dismissed and forced to retire by the Education Ministry's Primary Disciplinary Board for allegedly sharing misleading and provocative content that disturbed public opinion.



October 15, 2024 – **Ahmad Heydari Nosrat**, a teacher from Tehran, was forced into early retirement by the Education Ministry's Disciplinary Board for participating in a sit-in protest in front of the Parliament.



October, 2024

October 31, 2024 – **Alireza Asghari**, a teacher and Sunni cleric from Birjand, South Khorasan, was dismissed by the South Khorasan Education Ministry's Primary Disciplinary Board.



November, 2024

November 24, 2024 – **Shahrzad Alambaz**, a teachers' union activist from Gilan, was sentenced by the Gilan Education Ministry's Disciplinary Board to early retirement and demotion for disturbing public opinion and issuing a statement supporting Sharifeh Mohammadi, who had been sentenced to death for rebellion (baghi).



November 30, 2024 – **Bita Ghanbari**, a teacher from Mazandaran, was sentenced by the Education Ministry's Disciplinary Board to two months' suspension.



December, 2024

December 9, 2024 – **Omid Shah Mohammadi**, a teachers' union activist from Divandarreh, Kurdistan, was dismissed by the Education Ministry's Primary Disciplinary Board. He had previously been sentenced by the Sanandaj Revolutionary Court for acting against national security through membership in the Kurdistan Free Life Party, following a violent arrest and 76 days of detention in 2022 without legal access or family visits.



December 9, 2024 – **Kaveh Mohammadzadeh**, a teachers' union activist from Divandarreh, Kurdistan, was dismissed under the same circumstances and prior convictions as Omid Shah Mohammadi.



December 9, 2024 – **Hiwa Qureshi**, a teachers' union activist from Divandarreh, Kurdistan, was dismissed under the same circumstances and prior convictions as Omid Shah Mohammadi.



December, 2024

December 9, 2024 – **Parviz Ahsani**, a teachers' union activist from Divandarreh, Kurdistan, was sentenced by the Education Ministry's Primary Disciplinary Board to five years' exile in Qorveh. He had previously received similar national security-related convictions under the same 2022 circumstances.



December 10, 2024 – **Leila Salimi**, a teachers' union activist from Sanandaj, Kurdistan, was sentenced by the Education Ministry's Appeals Board to two months' suspension for union activities and membership in the Kurdistan Teachers' Association.



December 16, 2024 – **Fariba Anami**, a teachers' union activist from Bandar Anzali, Gilan, was dismissed again by the Education Ministry's Disciplinary Board, despite an earlier Administrative Justice Court ruling that had quashed her initial dismissal.



January, 2025

January 26, 2025 – **Ahmad Pirooznia**, a teacher from Tehran, was barred from employment by the Education Ministry's Central Selection Board for "not meeting general selection criteria."



February, 2025

February 11, 2025 – **Mahmoud Safdari**, a teacher from Bojnurd, had his demotion and rank reduction for one year upheld by Branch 31 of the Administrative Justice Court Appeals Division



March, 2025

March 10, 2025 – **Ahmad Derakhshan**, a teacher from Karaj, was subjected – without formal notice – to a penalty of two months' suspension from service.



March, 2025

March 11, 2025 – **Leila Zarei**, a teachers' union activist in Sanandaj, Kurdistan, was summoned to the Education Ministry's Appeals Disciplinary Board on charges of incitement to illegal gatherings and sit-ins and membership or cooperation with "mohareb" (armed) groups. Previously, the Primary Disciplinary Board had removed her from her deputy principal post and imposed mandatory retirement with a one-grade demotion.



March 11, 2025 – **Fais Nouri**, a teachers' union activist in Sanandaj, Kurdistan, was summoned to the Appeals Disciplinary Board on the same charges. Previously, the Primary Board had sentenced him to five years of exile to Kermanshah Province.



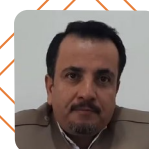
March 11, 2025 – **Salahoddin Haji-Mirzaei**, a teachers' union activist in Sanandaj, Kurdistan, was summoned to the Appeals Disciplinary Board on the same charges. Previously, the Primary Board had imposed a one-year suspension from service.



March 11, 2025 – **Mohyeddin Reyhani**, a teachers' union activist in Sanandaj, Kurdistan, was summoned to the Appeals Disciplinary Board on the same charges. Previously, the Primary Board had barred him from appointment to sensitive government posts for five years.



March 11, 2025 – **Majid Karimi**, a teachers' union activist in Sanandaj, Kurdistan, was summoned to the Appeals Disciplinary Board on the same charges. Previously, the Primary Board had ordered his dismissal and permanent separation from government service.



March 11, 2025 – **Ghayath Nemati**, a teachers' union activist in Sanandaj, Kurdistan, was summoned to the Appeals Disciplinary Board on the same charges. Previously, the Primary Board had ordered his permanent dismissal from the Ministry of Education.



March 17, 2025 – **Mohsen Jari**, a teacher from Khomeinishahr, was sentenced by the Education Ministry's Appeals Disciplinary Board to four months' suspension for reposting several political posts.



March, 2025

March 23, 2025 – **Ravin (Heshmat) Mota'i**, a teacher from Dehgolan, Kurdistan, was permanently dismissed by the Education Ministry's Appeals Disciplinary Board on charges including insulting Islam and propaganda against the regime. Mota'i had previously been sentenced in 2013 to one year in prison.



May, 2025

May 1, 2025 – **Somayeh Akhtar Shomar**, a teachers' union activist from Marivan, Kurdistan, whose dismissal had been ordered by the Education Ministry's Appeals Board, had the dismissal upheld by the Administrative Justice Court.



May 12, 2025 – **Mehdi Maref**, a teacher in Alborz Province, was sentenced by the Education Ministry's Appeals Disciplinary Board to six months' suspension for posting "false, provocative" images, videos, and content intended to disturb public opinion.



June, 2025

June 9, 2025 – **Sakineh Maleki Hedak**, a teachers' union activist from Bandar Anzali, had her penalty of mandatory retirement with a two-grade demotion upheld by the Administrative Justice Court.



July, 2025

July 17, 2025 – **Soleyman Abdi**, a teachers' union activist from Saqqez, Kurdistan, was sentenced by the Education Ministry's Primary Disciplinary Board to retirement with a two-grade demotion.



August, 2025

August 20, 2025 – **Shahram Karimi**, a teachers' union activist from Saqqez, Kurdistan, was sentenced to six months' suspension from service amid pressure on the Kurdistan Teachers' Association (Saqqez branch).





August, 2025

August 20, 2025 – **Loqmanollah Moradi**, a teachers' union activist from Saqqez, Kurdistan, was sentenced to one year's suspension from service in the same case as Shahram Karimi.



CASES OF REDUCED PUNISHMENTS DURING THIS PERIOD

March, 2025

March 16, 2025 – **Lida Esmaeili**, a teacher in Alborz, had her case reviewed by the Education Ministry's Appeals Disciplinary Board: overturning the earlier primary ruling of early retirement with a one-grade demotion, the Appeals Board imposed four months' suspension from service.



ABOUT US

Volunteer Activists (VA) is a nonprofit, non- governmental organization based in the Netherlands. From 2001 to 2007, VA operated inside Iran as the largest capacity building organization in the country. From 2012, the VA team continued its activism from Amsterdam following security threats. Assisting Iranian CSOs through research-informed capacity building is one of the primary activities of VA. Other specializations include:

facilitation of information exchange among civil society activists, advocacy and expansion of democracy and human rights and peace building - both within Iranian society and communities in the MENA region.

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