

Report

# Massacre in Javanrud

State Atrocities Against Protesters in Iran's Kurdish Regions



Center for  
**HUMAN  
RIGHTS**  
in Iran



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## About us



Founded in 2008, the **Center for Human Rights in Iran (CHRI)** is an independent, nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that works to protect and promote human rights in Iran. Headquartered in New York City, the Center researches and documents human rights violations throughout Iran, and provides governments, the U.N., think tanks, global media, and research centers around the world with detailed information, analysis and policy recommendations. The Center's approach is strictly nonpartisan; we operate within the framework of international human rights law.



The **Kurdistan Human Rights Network (KHRN)** is an independent, nonprofit organization registered in France since 2014. It promotes education and human rights, reports and documents human rights violations in the Kurdish regions of Iran, and raises awareness and knowledge of human rights issues among the public, global media, and international human rights organizations. KHRN's work is published in three languages: Kurdish, Persian, and English, and it works closely with Kurdish, Iranian, and international human rights organizations.

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# KEY FINDINGS

- > Islamic Republic of Iran security forces, using military-grade weapons, intentionally shot peaceful protesters in the Kurdish city of Javanrud during the period from October to December 2022, killing eight unarmed civilians, including one child, and injuring at least 80 individuals, including children.
- > The wounded were beaten by security forces and prevented from receiving medical care without risking arrest, and 89 people, including 26 children, were arbitrarily arrested and detained. Many were beaten and tortured while in state custody, including children. Families of the injured, killed, detained, and abused were pressured by the state to remain silent.
- > These atrocities committed by Islamic Republic forces and agents, which were carried out with the full knowledge and direction of state officials, and which involved the deliberate, systematic, and intentional murder, maiming, and abuse of unarmed civilians on a large scale, amount to crimes against humanity.
- > The international community should directly address the massacre and state crimes that took place in Javanrud, through every diplomatic, political, economic, and legal means available, including pursuing criminal responsibility for the perpetrators of these crimes through international courts or national judicial systems under the principle of universal jurisdiction.■





# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During the months from October to December of 2022, Islamic Republic of Iran security forces committed atrocities against the people of Javanrud, a primarily Kurdish city in northwestern Iran, as the state moved to crush public protests that had erupted in the city.

Security forces shot, with military-grade machine guns, cornered, and massacred unarmed civilians. The wounded were beaten in the streets, and those who tried to help the wounded were shot by the security forces. The wounded could not seek help safely at the city's hospitals as security forces were stationed at the medical centers to identify and arrest protesters. Ambulances that tried to reach the city from surrounding towns were often prevented from entering the city by IRGC forces that took control of the city.

The Islamic Republic's crimes against the citizens of Javanrud during those months include:

- The indiscriminate use of machine gun fire against unarmed civilians, which left eight people in Javanrud dead, including one (16-year-old) child, and at least 80 people, including children, injured, many of them severely;
- The arbitrary arrests of 89 peaceful protesters—of which 26 were children;
- The use of medical centers to identify and arrest demonstrators, effectively denying access to medical care for the wounded;
- The beating and torture of detainees—including children, and the documented threat of sexual abuse against at least one juvenile;
- Threats and warnings by state agents against the families of those killed, injured, and detained to remain silent.

This investigative report by the [Center for Human Rights in Iran \(CHRI\)](#) and the [Kurdistan Human Rights Network \(KHRN\)](#) documents these intentional crimes by the state, which rise to the level of [crimes against humanity](#).<sup>1</sup>

State security forces shot, with military-grade machine guns, cornered, and massacred unarmed civilians. The wounded were beaten in the streets, and those who tried to help the wounded were shot by the security forces.

All of the eight deaths and the vast majority of the injuries occurring in Javanrud were the result of bullets fired by Islamic Republic security forces, in particular, units of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC). Officers directly targeted protesters with military-grade weapons, including DShK machine guns and Kalashnikov rifles. From November 21, 2022 until March 2, 2023, IRGC forces manned all of Javanrud's entrances and exits, essentially laying siege to the city.

The abuses committed by the state in Javanrud as it violently suppressed the protests profoundly violated [Iranian law](#) and multiple international treaties to which Iran is a signatory, including the [International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights \(ICCPR\)](#).<sup>2</sup> The state's actions also flagrantly violated the [UN's Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials](#).<sup>3</sup> Not one official has been held accountable for the deaths and injuries of the residents of Javanrud.

Those protests in Javanrud were part of the nationwide anti-government protests that followed the [killing in state custody of 22-year-old Jina Mahsa Amini](#), three days after her arrest in Tehran on September 13, 2022, for an allegedly improper hijab.<sup>4</sup> She had been in the capital visiting family. When Amini was laid to rest in Saqqez, her hometown in Iran's Kurdistan province, on September 17, 2022, no one knew her name would become synonymous with the "Woman, Life, Freedom" uprising that quickly erupted across Iran, turning the country's streets into a battleground of resistance against the Islamic Republic's violence and repression.

Those nationwide protests, which continued across Iran for months, were brutally suppressed by the Islamic Republic's security forces. By early spring 2023, state security forces, firing live ammunition at peaceful demonstrators, had [killed well over 500 protesters](#) across the country, including dozens of children, seriously injured untold numbers, and [arrested, often violently, over 20,000 people](#).<sup>5</sup> There are numerous, credible reports of [torture and sexual abuse of detainees while in state detention, including of children](#).<sup>6</sup> Dozens of protesters were charged with capital offenses, and seven have already been executed in unfair trials lacking any semblance of due process.<sup>7</sup> Taken together, these events have been [described](#) by Javaid Rehman, the UN Special Rapporteur on Iran as "the most serious human rights violations in Iran over the past four decades," possibly rising to the level of "crimes against humanity."<sup>8</sup>

While those killed by Islamic Republic forces across the country included men, women, and children from all ethnic and religious backgrounds and socioeconomic strata, members of the country's ethnic minorities, including Baluchis and Kurds, bore the brunt of the state's lethal

crackdown. Especially in the early weeks of the protests, the highest number of casualties took place in Sistan and Baluchistan province and in the Kurdish areas of the country, respectively. Islamic Republic security forces used deadly force to suppress protesters in many provincial towns, and in several cases, street protests turned into slaughterhouses.<sup>9</sup> This report looks at what happened in just one town—Javanrud.

There are seven chapters to the report: the first describes the protests in Javanrud and the Islamic Republic's use of lethal force to crush and silence them; the second focuses on the injured and the further atrocities inflicted upon them by the state security forces; the third addresses the extreme difficulties the wounded protesters faced trying to access medical treatment; the fourth examines the state's abusive treatment of the detainees; and the fifth details the torture and abuse of children who were detained. In chapter six, the report provides a closer look at the killings of the eight people in Javanrud by the security forces, and chapter seven sheds light on some of the perpetrators responsible for the state's crimes and atrocities in Javanrud.

The Iranian people continue to try to hold the authorities accountable for these crimes, despite facing a government that has demonstrated its willingness to use lethal force to silence them. While the street protests have to some degree quieted, significant [protests continue](#) regularly in the provinces, especially in [Zahedan](#) in Sistan and Baluchistan, in [university campuses across the country](#), and sporadically in other cities.<sup>10</sup> [Activists continue to speak out](#) against the crimes of the state, including from behind bars.<sup>11</sup> And [bereaved families of the slain continue to demand justice](#)—even as they are threatened by state agents and prosecuted for doing so.<sup>12</sup>

It is incumbent upon the international community to use every diplomatic, political, economic, and legal tool at its disposal to address the crimes committed by the authorities in Javanrud—including pursuing criminal responsibility for those involved in these crimes through international courts or through national judicial systems under the principle of universal jurisdiction. Mass protests could erupt again at any time given the documented [level of discontent amongst society](#) in Iran.<sup>13</sup> Only by demanding accountability and imposing costs on the authorities in Iran for their atrocities can the international community hope to prevent such massacres from being repeated in Iran in the future.■

The international community [must] use every diplomatic, political, economic, and legal tool at its disposal to address the crimes committed by the authorities in Javanrud.



# METHODOLOGY

This report is based on documented evidence, including hundreds of photos and videos, as well as detailed interviews conducted with 38 individuals (11 women and 27 men, see **Appendix #1**), all of whom were residents of Javanrud and in the city at the time of the atrocities described in this report, and which include eyewitnesses, demonstrators, wounded protesters, family members and others close to the injured, detained, and killed, and doctors and nurses who tried to treat the injured. It examines the state's lethal repression in Javanrud in detail, presenting corroborated evidence of the state's atrocities against the civilian population there during the months from October to December 2022.

The Iranian government does not allow international human rights organizations to enter the country to conduct independent investigations, and prosecutes people for talking to human rights organizations, accusing them of being agents of foreign states or entities. As a result, CHRI implemented extensive security precautions to protect the individuals who were interviewed for this report. All participants were informed of the purpose of the interview and the ways in which the information would be used, and all were assured anonymity. For the safety of the eyewitnesses and other sources, the names of the interviewees have been withheld. Eyewitnesses, family members, the injured, detainees and others are distinguished in the text using numbers; CHRI withheld other identifying information to further protect their security.

Researchers from CHRI and KHRN worked together in conducting all of the interviews for the report. Most of the interviews were conducted remotely via an encrypted messaging application, while 7 of the 38 interviews were conducted in-person and then transmitted to CHRI via an encrypted messaging application.

All of the interviews for this report were conducted between October 26, 2022 and June 2, 2023. The dates of the individual interviews have not been provided as this information could endanger the security of the interviewees if they are arrested at any point in the future and their personal technology items confiscated.

All interviews were conducted in either Kurdish or Farsi, and all of the interview transcripts were translated into English by CHRI's senior translator.■



# RECOMMENDATIONS

1. [The International Independent Fact-Finding Mission on the Islamic Republic of Iran](#), established in Resolution S35/1 by the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) on November 24, 2022, should fully investigate the events in Javanrud from October 8, 2022 - December 31, 2022, and report on the atrocities committed by the state and its perpetrators, collecting, consolidating, and analyzing evidence, and it should preserve the evidence in view of subsequent cooperation in any legal proceedings.<sup>14</sup>

2. Human rights organizations, researchers, lawyers, journalists, and others should make every effort to obtain testimonies, medical records, eyewitness accounts, and other evidence of the state's actions in Javanrud (as well as in other cities in Iran where Islamic Republic forces violently suppressed protesters), and submit such evidence to the UNHRC's Fact-Finding Mission.

3. Islamic Republic officials found responsible of committing atrocities—whether through issuing the orders or carrying out the acts—should be prosecuted through international courts or through national judicial systems under the principle of universal jurisdiction. UN bodies and experts, governments worldwide, international legal associations, and human rights organizations should publicly support the call for the prosecution of these Islamic Republic officials.

4. The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, as well as the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, the Special Rapporteur on minority issues, the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, and the heads of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention should publicly declare that the atrocities committed by Islamic Republic officials and forces against peaceful protesters and unarmed civilians in Javanrud rise to the level of crimes against humanity, call for further investigation of these events, and call for the international prosecution of responsible state officials.

5. Governments worldwide should summon Iranian ambassadors to:

- > Condemn the state's atrocities in Javanrud (and in the hundreds of other towns and cities across Iran that also faced the Islamic Republic's violent suppression);
- > Impose diplomatic, political, and economic consequences on Islamic Republic officials who are specifically tied to these abuses;
- > Warn that the diplomatic, political, and economic consequences will intensify without accountability for these abuses or if such actions by the state continue.
- > Governments around the world should work with allies and partners to form multilateral coalitions that publicly condemn the Islamic Republic's atrocities, including issuing joint statements at press conferences and in multilateral forums and gatherings such as at the UN General Assembly (UNGA), the OECD, and the G7.
- > Governments worldwide should impose rigorous human rights sanctions on all persons involved in the Islamic Republic's atrocities committed against the residents of Javanrud (as well as abuses committed by the state in other cities), and institute enhanced efforts to ensure their effective enforcement.

6. Governments should do all they can to help the people of Iran, including:

- > Highlight the plight of detained protesters and political prisoners and demand their immediate release directly to Iranian officials, in public statements, and in international forums;
- > Facilitate access by the people of Iran to technology that aids their ability to communicate with one another and with the world so that Islamic Republic officials cannot conceal their atrocities;
- > Facilitate and expedite the unfettered import into Iran of humanitarian and essential items, especially medical goods;
- > Facilitate and expedite asylum requests by Iranians who are fleeing political persecution in the Islamic Republic.■





Chapter one  
**THE PROTESTS**

## **Javanrud: Resistance is Life**

The city of Javanrud, in northwestern Iran, is located 90 kilometers (56 miles) north of Kermanshah, the provincial capital of Kermanshah province, which is part of what is known as Iranian Kurdistan. The province shares a 371-kilometer border with Iraq, and the people in this poor and largely undeveloped agricultural region are predominantly Kurdish. A significant portion of the city's economy is dependent on the Javanrud border market, which is one of the largest in western Iran. The approximately 54,000 residents of Javanrud speak mostly Sorani Kurdish and belong to the Sunni branch of Islam.

Protest is not new to Javanrud. In November 1996, the people of the city took to the streets to protest the [suspicious death of Mullah Mohammad Rabiei](#), a dissident Sunni cleric. Many believed his death was one of the so-called [chain murders of Iran](#), in which Iranian dissidents around the world were killed by Islamic Republic agents, and more than a dozen people were [killed by security forces](#) in the ensuing demonstrations in nearby Kurdish cities.<sup>15</sup> During the mass protests that raged across Iran in November 2019, which were sparked by the state's decision to increase gasoline prices but quickly turned into broader anti-government protests, the people of Javanrud again took to the streets, and at least five people were [killed by state security forces](#).<sup>16</sup>

In the fall of 2022, less than three years later, mass protests, followed by a lethal state crackdown, would again grip Javanrud and its surrounding region.

## **October 8, 2022: “Javanrud was like a powder keg”**

The anti-government protests in Iran that began immediately after 22-year-old Jina Mahsa Amini's killing in state custody on September 16, 2022, only days after she was arrested for an allegedly improper hijab, quickly spread across the country, and after four weeks, demonstrations were occurring in many cities throughout Iran despite the state's violent measures to suppress them. This was especially the case in the Kurdish regions, where Amini was born and had lived.

While there were relatively small protests in Javanrud from September 16 to early October, the first significant protests in the city took place on October 8, 2022.

Following a nationwide call to action on that day on social media by citizen groups across the country, many shopkeepers and merchants in Javanrud had gone on strike, virtually shutting down the city in the morning. By afternoon, scattered small crowds gradually formed around the city's main squares, including in Basij Square. The demonstrations grew, with schoolgirls prevalent among the protesters.

Interviewee #1, a 17-year-old male resident of Javanrud and eyewitness to the events on October 8, relayed:

*Female students had come to the demonstration, and there were police forces there too. I faced the crowd and shouted 'Woman, Life, Freedom' and the female students repeated it. Javanrud was like a powder keg; it just needed a spark, and it would go out of control.*

*People took control of Basij Square and the surrounding streets. The crowd moved on towards Palestine Square, and then towards Mowlavi Square. The police fired several warning shots, but as the crowd grew, they retreated and returned to the police station.*

*For almost two hours, until around 7:00 p.m., there was no sign of the police officers. Protesters set fire to government banners and chanted slogans.*

*After about two hours, IRGC (Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps) forces entered the city and intervened. They opened fire directly on the people and at least 11 people were hit by bullets and pellets.*

*One of my family members was injured right there. A Kalashnikov (AK-47) bullet hit his leg, severely damaging his ligament and meniscus. Members of the crowd thought that I was the one who had been injured, and contacted my parents. My parents rushed into the crowd to try to find me, and I saw my mother, who was pregnant at the time. But then I saw a member of the police force violently shove her back, hard, and she fell to the ground, bleeding. My family brought her to the hospital, and she suffered a miscarriage.*

“Female students had come to the demonstration... I faced the crowd and shouted ‘Woman, Life, Freedom’ and the female students repeated it.”

Protests in Basij Square, Javanrud, October 8, 2022.



It is estimated by multiple eyewitnesses that at least 11 people (many of whom were children), were injured by the state's use of live ammunition against unarmed protesters that day—by bullets fired by the IRGC forces and by pellets which were typically (although not exclusively) used by the police forces. (These injuries, and the predominance of injured children, will be discussed in more detail in the following chapters.)

After the police and IRGC forces opened fire directly on the protesters, people fled, the crowd dispersed, and most of the residents returned to their homes.

After October 8, IRGC forces were deployed throughout the city, and a tense, security-dominated atmosphere prevailed over Javanrud. There were no significant protests over the following weeks, only a smattering of small demonstrations, but the city did not return to normalcy. Families were focused on trying to secure treatment for those who had been injured (see chapters 2 and 3) and on getting their loved ones out of detention.

Most of those detained after the October 8 protests were held in the Intelligence Ministry's detention center in Javanrud, and in police detention centers known as "Amaken" which are under the command of the Interior Ministry in Javanrud and Kermanshah.

In addition to the heavy presence of IRGC forces, police intelligence forces were prevalent throughout the city, and many shops and schools remained closed.

## **November 20, 2022: The People of Javanrud Unite as One**

Small, scattered protests continued in Javanrud until November 20 and November 21, when the largest demonstrations took place—and the state's killings began.

On November 20, around 3:00 p.m., there was a rally in Javanrud in support of the people in [Mahabad](#), one of the Kurdish cities in West Azerbaijan province where protests had been brutally suppressed by the state in previous days and demonstrators had been killed by security forces.<sup>17</sup> Chanting slogans, the rally in Javanrud took place along Behdari (Taleghani) Street towards Basij Square, then Mowlavi Square, and then back to Behdari (Taleghani) Street. Drivers honked in support, and people chanted slogans in solidarity with the people of Mahabad.

In some parts of Javanrud, such as Omid Crossroad (Tooti Square) and near Kholafa Mosque, IRGC forces were deployed. Sources who were there recounted that several people tried to talk to the security forces at the scene, telling them that the people only wanted to chant slogans and did not want to cause any problems. A car drove through the city's alleys and streets with a loudspeaker, warning people not to leave their homes.

Interviewee #2, another male resident of Javanrud and eyewitness said:



*Protesters in the street, near Basij Square in Javanrud, November 20, 2022.*

*When I got out of the house, two intelligence agents were standing outside our door, calling for backup. They were in civilian clothes. In Javanrud, agents wear Kurdish clothes, like other people. More security agents also arrived. A car with a loudspeaker came into the alley telling ‘honorable, martyr-nurturing, people of Javanrud’ to return to their homes, assuring them that they would crush the anti-revolutionaries who, they said, belong to the Komala Party and the Kurdish Democratic Party of Iran. I recorded the audio but later deleted everything, fearing I would be arrested.*

Gradually, according to eyewitnesses, more people took to the streets, and by around 7:00 p.m., hundreds of people were chanting slogans. The IRGC was deployed in the main squares. Suddenly, the forces stationed in Omid Crossroad (Tooti Square) began firing into the air and shooting tear gas to disperse the crowd, eyewitnesses said. The protesters continued to chant slogans, and in some areas, they were setting fire to trash bins and tires.

After some time, the protests began to subside and little by little, many people began to return to their homes. But as the streets of Javanrud were gradually emptying, suddenly the news spread that Erfan Kakaee, a well-known 52-year-old sports instructor in the city, had been killed by the security forces, once again inflaming the city.

Kakaee had gone to the mosque for evening prayer. On his way back home, he tried to protect his students by approaching the armed officers and asking them not to shoot. He was struck by a bullet in the back and died before reaching the hospital.

Many residents who had returned to their homes, and many who had not attended any of the earlier protests, now took to the streets to prevent the security agents from taking the body of the educator, which had been taken to the hospital in Javanrud. (Security forces routinely try to take the bodies of those they have killed in order to prevent the families from being able to hold burial ceremonies that will publicize the state’s killings and, they fear, ignite further protests.)

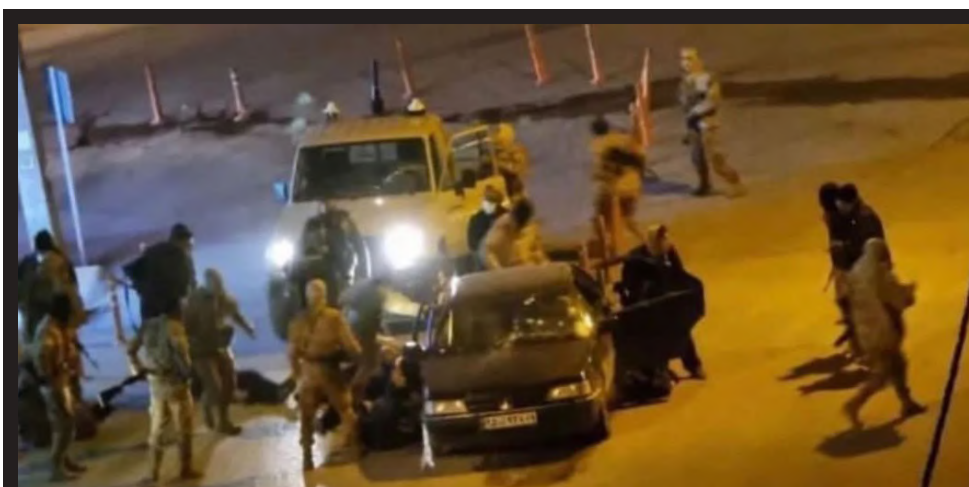
A large group of people, some walking and others in cars (well over a dozen cars, according to eyewitnesses), arrived at the hospital to claim Kakaee's body. The people who had gone to the hospital were handed Kakaee's body and they brought it to his home.

Several cars were in the procession to Kakaee's house, among them a black Peugeot 405 in which Bahaoddin Veisi, a 16-year-old student, his brother Najmoddin Veisi, and two other friends were sitting. Bahaoddin had been wanted by the security forces for his alleged participation in the October 8 protests in Javanrud. He had been hiding outside the city ever since that time, but had returned to join the protests on November 20. Around 8:00 p.m., IRGC forces fired at his Peugeot, killing Bahaoddin less than an hour after Kakaee's death.

Interviewee #3, a 45-year-old male eyewitness said:

*It was time for evening prayers. I was in a house near Basij Square in Javanrud, leading to Behdari Square. The streets were deserted; no one was outside. But I heard a lot of gunfire. Near Tooti Square, I saw a black Peugeot 405 that had been hit by bullets from all sides. One passenger was wounded in the leg and bleeding on the ground. [This was Bahaoddin's brother, Najmoddin Veisi.]*

*Two guards dragged [Najmoddin] on the ground as he tried to hold on to a traffic cone to prevent them from taking him away... We looked inside the car and saw Bahaoddin's body in the back seat, behind the driver's seat. There were four people in the car; three were wounded, and Bahaoddin had been killed.*



*The vehicle carrying Bahaoddin Veisi's body minutes after the 16-year-old was fatally shot by Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) forces on November 20, 2022.*

On his way back home, [Kakaee] tried to protect his students by approaching the armed officers and asking them not to shoot. He was struck by a bullet in the back and died before reaching the hospital.

Basij militiamen (the Basij are a paramilitary force under the authority of the IRGC) tried to take both Bahaoddin's body and Najmoddin Veisi's severely injured body, but were confronted by several people who tried to stop them. With great difficulty, the people managed to take Bahaoddin's body from the militiamen, put it in a car, and take it to the hospital (they did not realize he was already dead), but the Basij were able to take the injured Najmoddin Veisi—violently, despite the severity of his injuries—as well as the two other passengers, with them. (And as the report will detail shortly, they then used Najmoddin's arrest to put pressure on the Veisi family to hold Bahaoddin's funeral in silence.)

Security forces routinely try to take the bodies of those they have killed in order to prevent the families from being able to hold burial ceremonies that will publicize the state's killings.

## The Battle for the Bodies

The killing of Erfan Kakaee and Bahaoddin Veisi rekindled the people's anger. Some of the people stayed at Kakaee's house to protect his body from being taken by security agents, while others went to the hospital to protect Bahaoddin Veisi's body from being snatched by state agents.

Informed sources recounted that doctors and hospital officials debated whether to transfer Bahaoddin's body to the morgue or hand it over to the family. They decided to deliver the body to his family. This meant the body had to be carried from the hospital to the Veisi family house by foot—as they were being fired on by security forces.

Interviewee #3 continued:

*We walked to Enghelab (Revolution) Square, but we were shot at. Both in Enghelab Square and in Basij Square as well. We reached Behdari Street, but the shooting intensified.*

*Two older protesters approached the forces and asked them to refrain from shooting so that Bahaoddin's body could be carried safely to his family's house. The forces made a slight retreat, allowing the procession to pass. We held Bahaoddin's body outside the entrance to the house until the people could bring ice to lay the corpse in the kitchen.*

*The family was under great pressure to carry out the burial that same night. However, it was finally decided that the body would be buried the next day at 7:00 a.m. Mullah Farouq [the imam of the local mosque], did not perform funeral prayers because he said martyrs don't need it.*

Security forces had threatened Bahaoddin's mother, saying if anything happened at the burial, they would also kill her son Najmoddin, who was still held in custody.



*The body of 16-year-old Bahaoddin Veisi, killed by Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) forces, packed in ice at his home on November 20, 2022.*

By now, the people of Javanrud were even more determined to defend the bodies. Sources recounted how they built barricades around the homes of Kakae and Veisi to protect them from the security forces.

Interviewee #4, a male resident of Javanrud and eyewitness said:

*After [Erfan Kakae and Bahaoddin Veisi] were martyred, the whole city was grieving and anxious. Thousands gathered in front of their homes and no one slept until morning. We built barricades around the houses. State forces had blocked the main roads leading to Kakae's house on Phase 1 Street but people used the side streets to get there. Some of the Revolutionary Guards ordered the people to leave the area, but no one listened.*

Interviewee #2 added:

*The government wanted to take the bodies with them under the pretext that they should be taken to the Medical Examiner's Office. There were many people there; they wouldn't allow it. People had lit fires. They were nervous and angry; the military forces did not dare to approach.*

Sources witnessing these events relayed that security forces sent ambulances that night to take the bodies, but people punctured the ambulances' tires. Security agents also threatened Erfan Kakae's family, saying that if "anything" happened tomorrow, it would be their fault. However, people resisted these threats and protected the bodies of their slain men until morning. The city of Javanrud did not close its eyes that night.



*People building barricades to protect the bodies of those killed by security forces on November 20, 2022 from being taken by Islamic Republic agents.*



*People surrounding the home of Erfan Kakaee, who was killed by Islamic Republic security forces, to protect his body from being seized by state agents, on November 20, 2022.*

## **November 21, 2022: Javanrud Becomes a Battlefield**

The people's struggle to protect the bodies against the security forces continued until the morning of November 21, the day of their burial. Kakaee's body was taken to Haji Ebrahim Cemetery and Bahaoddin's body was taken to Hassan Gayer Cemetery.

Security forces had threatened Bahaoddin's mother, saying that if anything happened at the burial, they would also kill her son Najmoddin, who was still held in custody (and severely injured) by the security forces. Faced with this threat, the Veisi family buried Bahaoddin without people outside of the family present.

Kakaee's burial, however, was held in the presence of more than 15,000 people. Some of the senior Sunni clerics asked people not to chant slogans on their way back from the funeral to the city, and not to throw any rocks at the security forces. It was agreed that the people, along with the clerics, would go to the slain men's homes, recite prayers, and end the ceremony.

According to Interviewee #4:

*Mamosta [a religious teacher] Seifollah Hosseini and Mullah Ali [two of Javanrud Sunni religious scholars] gave speeches. [Mamosta Seifollah Hosseini was later arrested and imprisoned for his outspoken speech that day, see page 66.]*



*Protesting women on the streets of Javanrud, November 21, 2022.*

*There were a lot of women. I rarely go to funerals but this time it was different. The women's presence was very meaningful. They made us more determined to defend women's rights and brought more energy to the crowd.*

*Many slogans were chanted. I was in front of the crowd, so I could hear the speakers better. They said the IRGC had ordered them to return to their homes after the burial so that there would be no incidents. Some objected, saying [the IRGC] are liars, it was better to stay put, but it was decided to return to the city.*

People started going back towards the city, and on the way, they passed by the IRGC's local headquarters located on a high ground overlooking the city. When a group of people, mostly teenagers, arrived there, they started chanting slogans and throwing stones at the building. The IRGC forces did not react at that time, however, except for firing a few warning shots in the air to disperse the crowd.

*People returning on November 21, 2022 from the funeral of Erfan Kakaee, who was killed by Islamic Republic security forces the previous day while trying to protect his protesting students.*



## City Besieged by Military Forces, Endless Hail of Bullets

The brunt of the security forces' violence against the people of Javanrud on November 21 began as the residents returned to the city. Around 10:00 a.m., as a huge crowd headed back to the two slain men's homes, it became clear why the IRGC had not reacted to the protesters in front of their headquarters—they had been deployed in the city.

Interviewee #2 added:

*We realized that it was all a trick [by the IRGC] so that people wouldn't be provoked into attacking the headquarters, but about 200 to 300 Revolutionary Guards were completely ready and armed, waiting for the people on Behdari Street. I saw the forces getting ready and aiming at the people. I felt that they had orders to take revenge on the people because the solidarity among them was very high.*

The crowd continued to move, but the security forces did not allow them to go to the slain men's homes. The people became angry and started chanting slogans. Officers started firing tear gas and at first, warning shots. This further infuriated the people. The warning shots, however, ended, and the security forces began firing directly at the people.

Interviewee #4 said:

*As soon as the people got close to Palestine Square, the Revolutionary Guards began shooting tear gas and live bullets at the people. Faced with this*

“About 200 to 300 Revolutionary Guards were completely ready and armed, waiting for the people on Behdari Street. I saw the forces getting ready and aiming at the people.”

*Crowds returning from Haji Ebrahim cemetery, where Erfan Kakaee was buried, passing in front of Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) headquarters in Javanrud, on November 21, 2022.*





Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) forces shooting at protesters on the streets of Javanrud on November 21, 2022.

*situation, many fled the scene and returned to their homes, but about 2,000 people continued to confront the guards by throwing stones.*

*The protesters threw stones but they didn't expect the military forces to brutally shoot them like they did. We thought that they would only shoot in the air. The end of Behdari Street turned into a war zone. It isn't a very wide street; the guards didn't stop shooting.*

Eyewitnesses recounted that a cleric went towards the IRGC forces to ask them not to shoot at the people. A group of protesters also followed to protect the cleric. Nevertheless around 200 IRGC and Basij forces on Behdari Street continued to shoot directly at the protesters, and in a short amount of time, the clashes intensified.

People chanted slogans and blocked several streets. Security forces also began shooting on Mowlavi Square, first in the air

Mullah Ali, a cleric from Javanrud, trying to prevent Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) forces from shooting at the crowds, on November 21, 2022.



and then at the crowd, and the people there began to flee to Behdari Street which was an even smaller space. The state's forces also intensified their use of gas, firing it directly at the people.

Interviewee #5, a 45-year-old male resident of Javanrud and eyewitness relayed:

*They first fired green gas. I got dizzy. We covered our faces, except our eyes. The green color completely took over the space. At Farhangian Intersection, I saw someone get shot in the hand. Others were injured too. I only saw Kalashnikovs and shotguns.*

## **“People were falling to the ground one after another”**

Eyewitnesses recounted that people got separated into three groups; one group went towards Bahman Street, another towards Behdari Street, and another towards Education Street.<sup>18</sup> The barrage of machine gun fire by the security forces intensified on the city's streets, and Javanrud was now described by eyewitnesses as “a battlefield,” with “intense clashes” between the people and the state's forces on Behdari and Taleghani Streets.

Interviewee #4 said:

*People were falling to the ground one after another. [The security forces] were shooting at the people nonstop, the barrage of gunfire was overwhelming. You would pull a few injured people back, then come back and see that several more had fallen. I took someone who was shot from behind into a house. We retreated, and the forces advanced, destroying the barricade outside Bahaoddin Veisi's house... Perhaps all the events didn't even last two hours but the violence was very intense.*

IRGC forces continued shooting and launching toxic gasses towards the besieged protesters. The distance between the security forces in the streets and the protesters was very short, between 45 to 70 meters (147 to 230 feet), according to

“People were falling to the ground one after another...you would pull a few injured people back, then come back and see that several more had fallen.”

*A protester holding up an empty gas canister that Islamic Republic security forces had fired at the people.*



The distance between the security forces and the protesters was very short, between 45 to 70 meters... [they] fired from this distance with Kalashnikovs, G3 rifles and DShK (heavy machine guns).



*Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) forces destroying the barricades people had built around the houses to protect the bodies of those killed from being seized by the security forces, on November 21, 2022.*

eyewitnesses. The security forces fired from this distance with Kalashnikovs, G3 rifles and DShK (heavy machine guns), as well as with the gas, and deployed a vehicle equipped with a DShK on Behdari Street.

Despite the severity of the state's violence, the protesters did not retreat.

Interviewee #4 continued:

*What mattered a lot to me was seeing young women sitting on the ground amidst all the shooting and violence, not even afraid of being killed. My friends and I forced these few young women to leave the scene, because bullets were being fired from all directions. Many bullets hit around us, but these 20-something-year-old women, wearing masks, were not afraid of dying.*

Interviewee #6, a 67-year-old male from Javanrud and eyewitness, said:

*The security forces were using military-grade weapons armed with real bullets, not rubber ones or blanks. It was as if they were attacking a foreign enemy. They had taken cover and were completely waiting for the people to return from the cemetery.*

Due to the formation of the state's forces on Behdari Street, the intensity of the machine gun fire was much greater there than on other streets. Eyewitnesses said the firing was continuous and the only sound that could be heard there was the sound of gunfire. The number of IRGC forces steadily increased, while people tried to take refuge in the side alleys.

Interviewee #2 said:

*I saw people falling to the ground. We would help someone, and another person would fall to the ground. Sometimes the intensity of the shooting was so great that we couldn't continue and had to leave the wounded behind. The [IRGC] forces advanced*

*into the alleys and attacked people who had taken refuge.*

*What I saw was completely apocalyptic and indescribable. A barricade outside the door of martyr Bahaoddin's house was destroyed ... I'm sure a resident of Paveh (Kermanshah province) was killed there that day too, but I never heard his family say anything.*

Interviewee #5 said:

*Injured people were falling one by one. I saw three or four people fall next to me. One of the injured was in very bad shape. He thought he was dying, so he was reciting a prayer. I told him he wouldn't die and not to be afraid.*

The barrage of gunfire in the streets of Javanrud continued until about 1:00 p.m., according to sources there. From 2:00 p.m. onwards, the city was completely besieged by military forces. On one side, there were people whose only weapons were stones and slogans, and on the other, there were military forces with their weapons of war.

Five citizens of Javanrud—Masoud Teimouri (age 22), Jamal Azami (age 34), Esmail Golanbar (age 36), Tahsin Miri (age 46), and Jowhar Fattahi (age 61)—were killed by gunfire on that day, November 21, 2022, in Javanrud, and at least 60 unarmed civilians were injured, many severely.

After the killings and maimings by the security forces on November 21, there were no further significant protests in Javanrud over the next 40 days. There continued to be arrests, however, as agents pursued those who had participated in the protests.

“Many bullets hit around us, but these 20-something-year-old women, wearing masks, were not afraid of dying.”

Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) forces shooting at people on the streets of Javanrud on November 21, 2022, while a cleric implores the Guards to stop shooting.





*The moment Jamal Azami was fatally shot by Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) forces on Behdari Street in Javanrud on November 21, 2022. November. 21 . 2022*

“The security forces were using military-grade weapons ... It was as if they were attacking a foreign enemy.”

The city was gripped by severe tension; IRGC forces and police were “everywhere,” according to sources in the city, and the Special Police Unit, which reports to the Ministry of the Interior, was now also deployed throughout Javanrud.

The city was almost entirely closed, including the shops and the schools. Once again, families were focused on trying to get their loved ones out of detention or trying to obtain treatment for their injured.

## **Forty Days After the Bloody Crackdown, A Shot Through the Heart of a 26-Year-Old**

Forty days after the state’s massacre in Javanrud, on December 31, 2022, with the city still under heavy security by a mass deployment of IRGC forces, the people of Javanrud prepared to hold the customary 40-day (after death) memorials for the seven people who had been killed the previous month.

A call was made asking people to participate in the memorials at Haj Ebrahim Cemetery, while merchants observed a general strike.

Around 8:00 a.m., thousands of people from various neighborhoods, and even from surrounding cities, had moved towards the cemetery, according to eyewitnesses. When they drew close, they realized that all the entrances were blocked by IRGC and plain-clothed agents, who prevented anyone from entering the cemetery.



People started to protest and tried to find ways to break the blockade and get into the cemetery. Being prevented from entering the cemetery created intense anger among the people, and they started chanting anti-government slogans and clashing with plain-clothed agents and IRGC forces.

The women's presence was significant, sources relayed. Many of them held signs with slogans such as "From Javanrud to Tehran, injustice against women" and "Woman Life Freedom," and many wrote slogans on the concrete walls around the cemetery. The crowds who could not go to the cemetery, took to the streets of the city, chanting anti-government slogans.

Angry crowds also targeted state symbols throughout the city. The sign for Imam Khomeini Square was dug out of the ground and held upside down in front of one of the city's IRGC bases.

Then, in a replay of the state's violence of the previous month, IRGC forces began firing gas and shooting directly at the people. Eyewitness reported seeing the forces shoot with Kalishnikovs and Heckler & Koch G3s.

The women's presence was significant. Many of them held signs with slogans such as "From Javanrud to Tehran, injustice against women" and "Woman Life Freedom."

*Women writing slogans, including "Down with Khamenei" (the Islamic Republic's Supreme Leader), on the concrete walls of Haji Ebrahim cemetery in Javanrud on December 31, 2022.*



During this assault, security forces killed another unarmed civilian—26-year-old Borhan Eliasi near Basij Square, with bullets to the heart and leg. At least 9 other unarmed civilians were wounded by the security forces' gunfire that day.

The people of the city were enraged. Javanrud remained tense and heavily militarized, with plain-clothed agents, IRGC forces, and police special units deployed throughout the city.

People who had left their homes in the morning for Haj Ebrahim Cemetery for the 40th-day memorials for those killed now went towards Hassan Gayer Cemetery in the afternoon to bury Borhan Eliasi, the same cemetery in which Bahaoddin Veisi was buried.

Despite the climate of fear, thousands attended Eliasi's burial and chanted "Mother, do not cry for your child, we pledge to take revenge." He was the eighth unarmed civilian killed by Islamic Republic security forces in Javanrud.

## **Four-Month Siege by the IRGC to Punish the People of Javanrud**

After the shootings on December 31, 2022, there were no further major protests in Javanrud, due to the intense climate of fear that pervaded the city and the continuing heavy presence of IRGC forces.

With the start of major protests in Javanrud in early October 2022, the city had gradually turned into a security zone, and by late November, simultaneous with the suppression of protests in other predominantly Kurdish cities, including Mahabad, the security and military presence in Javanrud dominated the city.

[Published video footage](#) clearly shows a military helicopter landing at the IRGC base in Javanrud.<sup>19</sup> In several other images, it is also clear that military vehicles are coming from surrounding cities into Javanrud. By late November, all entrances to the city were under the control of security forces, and IRGC checkpoints were set up at the city's entrances until March 2, 2023. Indeed, until early March 2023, Javanrud remained under a crippling four-month siege by security forces as punishment for the protests.

Control over the movement of vehicles in and out of the city not only impeded the provision of assistance to the wounded, it also directly affected the daily lives and livelihoods of a large number of people in Javanrud. A significant portion of the city's economy relies on its market for border trade, where people from other cities and provinces go for shopping and trade, as Javanrud's bazaar is one of the region's largest border markets.

A former resident of Javanrud now living in a city in central Iran, Interviewee #7, said:

*In the few months that the checkpoints were set up at Javanrud's entrances, I traveled there several times to visit my family. The behavior of the IRGC forces towards cars with license plates from cities in central Iran was different than for cars from other cities.*

*When I traveled with my family to Javanrud for the first time in late November, at one of the city's entrances the IRGC officer didn't recognize that we were originally from Javanrud and he told us there were counter-revolutionary forces in Javanrud and we should be careful and not to make any purchases at the market where goods from the border are traded. They told us that if we buy foreign goods from the market, we will not be allowed to take them out of Javanrud.*

*Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) forces manning a checkpoint at the entrance to Javanrud on January 24, 2023.*

“During these months, this impoverished city...was hit with a complete economic and military blockade aimed at punishing the entire city and seeking revenge for the protests.”



On the way back from Javanrud, IRGC forces inspected his car and found a number of hygiene and cosmetic items purchased from the market. Even though they were for personal use, the officers prevented them from leaving the city. They were forced to return to Javanrud, and after a few hours, managed to leave the city.

Interviewee #7 said that some relatives who had traveled by car to Javanrud from other cities in Kermanshah and Kurdistan provinces relayed that during their trip, IRGC officers inspected not only the vehicles, but also checked passengers' phones and asked questions about their reasons for traveling there.

Interviewee #8, a businessman from Javanrud, spoke about the months-long siege of the city:

*Javanrud is known for its market of goods brought from the border, and that's how most residents earn their living. During these past months, there were reports that an IRGC commander in Kermanshah named Asiabani [see page 87 of this report] had threatened to shut down the market and prevent even a single matchstick from being sold there in order to punish the people of Javanrud. The IRGC forces stationed at all the city's entrances blocked all goods that were purchased from the market. During these months, this impoverished city, with its high unemployment, was hit with a complete economic and military blockade aimed at punishing the entire city and seeking revenge for the protests.*

## **Eight Unarmed Civilians Dead, At Least 80 Injured**

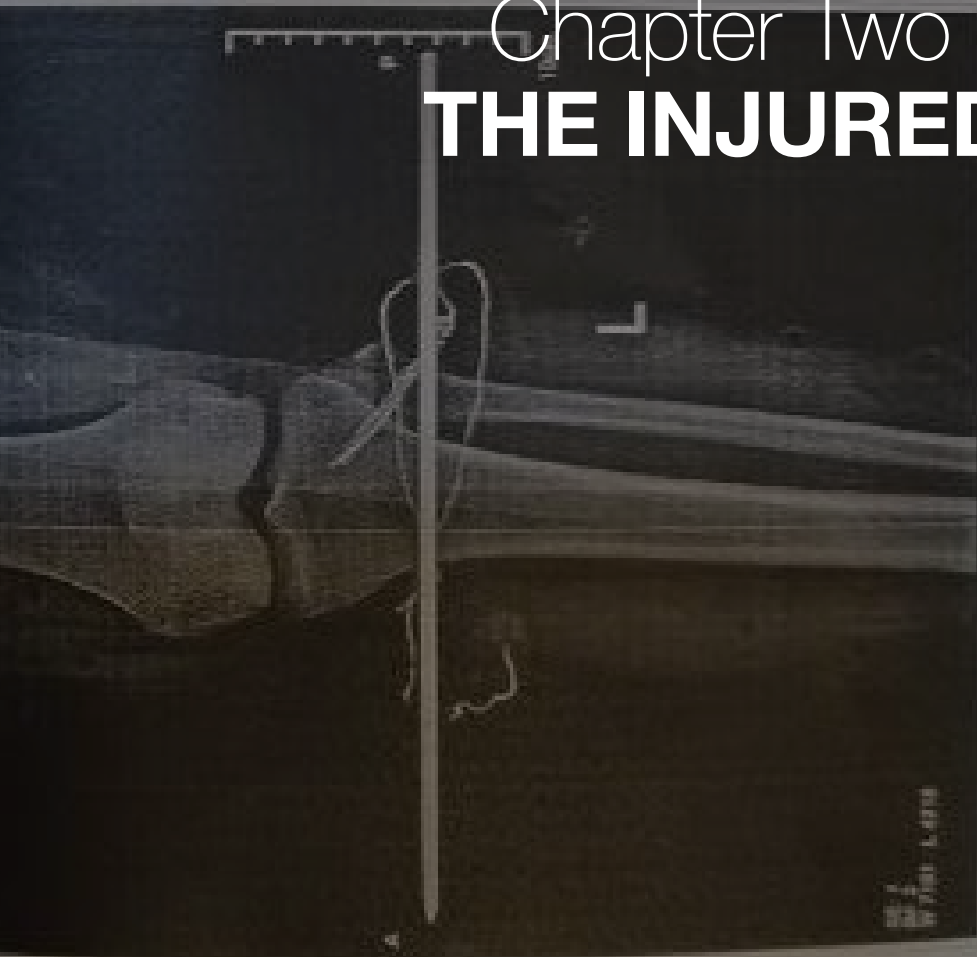
In total, after the protests occurring in Javanrud in 2022 on October 8, on November 20-21, and on December 31, eight unarmed civilians were killed by Islamic Republic security forces firing heavy, military-grade weapons.

On November 20, 2022, two were shot and killed: Erfan Kakaee, the 52-year-old teacher, and Bahoddin Veisi, the 16-year-old student.

On November 21, 2022, five more were killed: Masoud Teimouri, 22; Jamal Azami, 34; Esmail Golanbar, 36; Tahsin Miri, 46; and Jowhar Fattahi, 61.

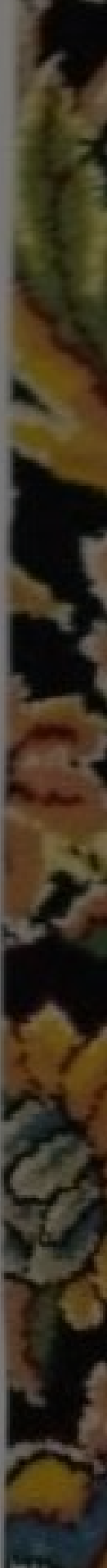
On December 31, 2022, one more was killed: 26-year-old Borhan Eliasi.

At least 80 men, women, and children, meanwhile, were injured during this period, many severely, shot by IRGC forces and police forces, which will be discussed in more detail in the following chapters.■



# Chapter Two

## **THE INJURED**



There is no exact number of casualties, but based on eyewitnesses' estimates, including those who helped treat the injured, at least 80 people were wounded, many seriously, during the state's violent suppression of protests in Javanrud and the residents' attempts to bury their dead.

Among the injured were women and men, ranging from a 15-year-old boy to a 73-year-old man. Most of the injured were under 40 years of age.

## October 8, 2022

Eyewitnesses estimate that at least 11 people were injured by security forces during the state's suppression of the protests on October 8. At least one of these individuals, who was hit in the leg with a bullet from a Kalashnikov, had to go to the hospital in Javanrud due to the severity of the injuries (see page 19 of this report).

“Sometimes the intensity of the shooting was so great that we couldn't continue and had to leave the wounded behind.”

Most of the injuries were to the hands and the feet, caused by bullets and pellets fired by the IRGC and the police.

Sources told CHRI that the hospitals and medical centers at this point were not yet manned by security agents in order to identify protesters, but the injured and their families were still by and large afraid to go to the hospitals for treatment and risk identification and arrest. As a result, most of the injured were treated at home.

## November 20-21, 2022: Rivers of Blood in the Alleys

Most of the casualties, however, took place on November 21, 2022, when the security forces' continuous machine-gun fire aimed directly at the people in the narrow streets of the city caused a constant stream of severely injured protesters. Eyewitnesses estimated that at least 60 people were seriously injured between November 20 and November 21.

The majority of the injuries were from shots fired by IRGC forces, and, with few exceptions, almost all were injured by live bullets, most from the military-grade machine guns the IRGC were using against the protesters. All parts of the bodies of the protesters sustained injuries, including the head, neck, and abdomen, indicating that many of the shootings were done with intent to kill.

All parts of the bodies of the protesters sustained injuries, including the head, neck, and abdomen, indicating that many of the shootings were done with intent to kill.



*A protester taking refuge from Islamic Republic security forces' fire in the backyard of a Javanrud resident's home on November 21, 2022*

Eyewitnesses told CHRI that many people were shot while trying to help other wounded people, and in some cases, officers attacked the injured who had fallen in the street and beat them.

Interviewee #9, a male eyewitness, recounts:

*One of the injured said he was shot in the thigh and couldn't move and one of the Revolutionary Guards [IRGC] approached wanting to shoot him again when another unit present on the scene, who spoke a dialect similar to ours, didn't allow him to do it.*

*The number of injured was so high it was impossible to help all of them. The military forces did not stop firing, threatening those who wanted to reach the injured.*

Interviewee #10, another male eyewitness, said:

*In Behdari Street, a 16-year-old was injured and I wanted to help him. As soon as I got up, I was also shot in the knee. I don't know the teenager's name. I also fell to the ground. The military forces were [firing] 30 to 40 meters (98 to 131 feet) away from us.*

As the intensity of the shooting increased, sources said that the protesters sought refuge in the side alleys to avoid the rain of fire and to try to save the lives of the injured. Many houses opened their doors so that the injured could go in for safety and treatment.

Interviewee #10 continued:

*After I was injured, I went into a house whose residents had opened their door to help us. My condition was better than the other injured people there. There were four of us. I tied my knee with a piece of cloth and didn't go to the hospital. All of our faces were hidden and covered, so that no one could recognize anyone.*

*I saw at least 60 people get injured. We were all injured by Kalashnikovs, there was no such thing as rubber bullets. They all lied. They were targeting people with real bullets. I didn't see a DShK (heavy machine gun), but I heard its sound. All the forces that I myself saw had Kalashnikovs in their hands.*

People were trying their best to help the wounded in any way they could as the numbers of injured increased. With security forces firing at protesters on Education Street and Bahman Street, serious injuries began to mount there.

Interviewee #4 said:

*I was on Education Street and I saw at least three people getting injured. I saw a 23 or 24-year-old boy who had been shot through the waist, and the bullet had exited from his arm. We asked a motorcyclist to take him to the hospital.*

“I saw a DShK-  
carrying vehicle  
shooting in  
every direction.”

*An Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) vehicle carrying a DShK machine gun, on Behdari Street, Javanrud, on November 21, 2022.*





Eyewitnesses reported that while it was somewhat possible to help the wounded on Education and Bahman Streets, the situation for the wounded was more difficult on Behdari (Taleghani) Street, where IRGC forces were firing continuously and directly on the unarmed protesters. The most intense clashes and thus the most injuries took place there, with the numbers of wounded people so high that people couldn't help the wounded. (Jowhar Fattahi, Masoud Teimouri, Jamal Azami, Tahsin Miri, and Esmail Golanbar, the five men who lost their lives on November 21 in Javanrud, were all shot on Behdari Street.)

Eyewitnesses told CHRI that military forces deployed a DShK-carrying vehicle, and nearly 200 armed forces with military weapons were firing at protesters at close range, less than 30 meters (or 98 feet), on Behdari Street. Protesters in other streets realized the intensity of the violence and shooting had escalated there.

Interviewee #4 continued:

*I went towards Behdari Street, and I saw the situation was critical. From a distance, I saw a DShK-carrying vehicle shooting in every direction. I got as close as twenty meters (57 feet) from it. But as the situation worsened, we had to leave the area through the side streets and retreat.*

## **“Shoot him, he’s a prisoner of war!”**

Security forces continuously fired at the protesters with military-grade weapons, and multiple sources said the sound of the DShK gunfire could be heard in Behdari Street and the surrounding alleys. The forces then approached the protesters with a DShK transport vehicle.

Interviewee #11, a 19-year-old male eyewitness, said:

*The DShK was near our house in Behdari Street, close to the Education Office. When they were shooting, our house shook.*

Interviewee #12, a 20-year-old male and eyewitness, who had not been able to take part in the funeral at Haj Ebrahim Cemetery, stumbled onto a crowd of thousands of people who intended to go to Erfan Kakaee's house in Palestine Square, and was shot in both legs by security forces firing DShK bullets, causing him to fall to the ground.

Interviewee #12 recounted:

*They shot a green gas into the crowd, which caused a strange dizziness; a few people fainted. They shot at the crowd again. I witnessed a boy being shot, and his ankle got punctured. We fled into an alley near Behdari Street, but the agents had blocked the other side of the alley. That's where I got shot. First, they shot a bullet into my right leg, and then immediately another bullet hit my left leg.*

“One of the agents wouldn’t let go of me . . . . I heard him shout to another agent, ‘Shoot him, he’s a prisoner of war!’”



*Interviewee #12, a 20-year-old young man who was shot in both legs by DShK machine gun fire by Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) forces, in a hospital in Kermanshah on December 4, 2022.*

Interviewee #12 said that he dragged himself on the ground with great difficulty and reached the side of a wall. During this time, a security agent threw a stone at him. He continued:

*Four soldiers came over to me and started beating me with their weapons and fists, and kicked me repeatedly. They hit my head with their weapons, causing my head to swell.*

Some of the city’s Sunni religious scholars, known as mamostas, and an elderly man, went towards the IRGC forces to try to stop the continuation of these attacks against the wounded.

Interviewee #12 continued:

*One of the agents wouldn’t let go of me and claimed I was a prisoner of war. I heard him shout to another agent, ‘Shoot him, he’s a prisoner of war!’ They tried to wave over a truck to take me, but the truck didn’t stop and continued chasing the people... I was about to pass out when I was put inside a car and taken to the hospital.*

When the security forces realized that people had taken Interviewee #12 to the hospital, they ordered his immediate transfer to a hospital in Kermanshah for interrogation. After being transferred to that hospital, despite his very poor physical condition, he was interrogated there.

Interviewee #12 added:

*They asked me about the number of protesters and their identities, and also if I was a member of various Kurdish political parties.*

Interviewee #12 has undergone surgery four times since this attack, and still needs more operations due to the severity of his injuries. He has been unable to return to work.

## **Bullet Hits 73-Year-Old Retired Teacher**

Interviewee #13, a 73-year-old retiree, who joined the thousands of people moving from Haj Ebrahim Cemetery towards Erfan Kakaee's house, was among those injured on November 21. He was wounded around 11:00 a.m. in 6th Isar Alley, off Behdari Street, where he also witnessed the killing of one of the protesters.

Interviewee #13 recounted:

*I went into one of these alleys with a group of people and saw a young man shot and martyred in front of my eyes. Unfortunately, I couldn't figure out who he was, because the situation was chaotic, and people were screaming not to stay in the alley, as they also might get hit.*

*Maybe two minutes later, as people were trying to get out of the alley, a bullet, probably from a G3 or a sniper rifle, hit my right leg.*

*At first, I didn't realize I was wounded. Suddenly, I saw that my shoes were filled with blood and I fell to the ground.*



*The injured leg and foot of a 73-year-old protester who was shot in Javanrud on 6th Isar Alley, off Behdari Street, by Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) forces on November 21, 2022.*

*The power of the bullet was so strong that it tore my shoe apart and hollowed out the ground under my foot.*

People took him to safety in a nearby house in the same alley to be treated.

Interviewee #13 continued:

*The homeowner, with the help of a few young men, bandaged my wound with some clean cloth. They said it's better to bandage the wound until I get to the hospital to reduce the bleeding. I phoned my children and by the time they arrived, I was unconscious. They took me to the hospital, where I regained consciousness. I was treated there for a few hours before returning home. A week later, I went to Kermanshah, where I underwent surgery.*

## **24-Year-Old Woman Shot Alongside Her Husband**

There are no exact statistics on the number of women injured during the Javanrud protests. Many of them were treated at home and did not go to hospitals or other medical centers for fear of being arrested by security forces who were at the hospitals to identify and arrest protesters.

Interviewee #14, a 24-year-old female protester, was targeted and shot by IRGC forces from close range in Behdari Street on November 21. A [video](#) of her being injured was published on social media, clearly showing her being shot alongside her husband, just a few meters from Esmail Golanbar, one of the victims who was killed that day.<sup>20</sup>

Interviewee #14 recounted:

*I was shot by the Revolutionary Guards at close range and injured in my left leg. My husband and a few others took me to a house while I was bleeding heavily. We took shelter. We tied the wound with a piece of cloth. Then we went to the hospital.*

The severe damage caused by the bullet made it impossible for the doctors there to treat her leg. With her family's consent, they transferred her to a hospital in Kermanshah.

Interviewee #14 continued:

*We were informed that security forces had a strong presence in Taleghani Hospital in Kermanshah, so we went to the Hakim Hospital instead. I was there for a night and a day, but they did nothing for me... [so I was subsequently transferred to Taleghani Hospital] for surgery.*

She has undergone surgery twice because the bullet tore through five centimeters of bone and severed a nerve. She cannot move easily, and her left leg remains completely numb.

Many of [the injured protesters] did not go to hospitals...for fear of being arrested by security forces who were at the hospitals in order to identify and arrest protesters.



*The moment that Interviewee #14, a 24-year-old woman, was shot at close range by Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) forces on November 21, 2022.*

Interviewee #14 added:

*After the bone graft surgery in the coming months, I'm supposed to undergo nerve graft surgery as well, but the doctors have told me that there's only a 20 percent chance that I will be able to move my leg again.*

## Injured 26-Year-Old Student Viciously Beaten

Interviewee #15 is a female friend of a 26-year-old wounded protester. She recounted that the 26-year-old was at the funerals for Erfan Kakaee and Bahaoddin Veisi on November 21, when he was struck in the thigh and severely injured by a bullet on Behdari Street. He fell to the ground—where he was then beaten by IRGC forces.

Interviewee #15 said:

*The gunfire was so intense that no one could approach him to provide help. While lying injured on the ground, security forces attacked and beat him with fists and kicks. As a result of this brutal attack, the bone in the same leg that was shot was shattered. He has undergone multiple surgeries but has not yet recovered and requires another operation.*

## The Bullet that Ripped Through the Throat: “We all thought he was dead”

“The gunfire was so intense that no one could approach him to provide help. While lying injured on the ground, security forces attacked and beat him with fists and kicks.”

In one published [video](#), which shows protesters being shot by security forces on Behdari Street on November 21, the camera pans to the right, showing a man whose face and throat are soaked in blood, and several people are trying to help him.<sup>21</sup> He is Peyman Sohrabi Rad, who was severely wounded, shot in the throat by a Kalashnikov machine gun, but somehow survived.

Interviewee #16, a person close to Peyman Sohrabi Rad who was with him on that day on Behdari Street, recounted the injury:

*The bullet passed in front of me and hit Peyman, ripping his throat. He instantly lost consciousness and many of us thought he was dead, but people transferred him to the hospital in Javanrud and he stayed there for two days after surgery. He was in a coma. No one expected him to regain consciousness. Even the doctors were surprised.*

*When he woke up, he couldn't speak, so he wrote on paper.*

Masoud Teimouri (see page 80), who had been shot three times, had died a few minutes earlier in the bed next to Peyman. Masoud's father, who had been shot twice, was brought to the hospital an hour later and placed in the same bed, but no one had told him that his son had been killed.

Sohrabi Rad was in the intensive care unit for six days and had to

use a tracheostomy tube to breathe for five months. The CT scan showed the bullet, which was lodged in his vertebra, had broken the seventh vertebra of his neck and damaged his spinal cord. His left hand also was injured.

Interviewee #16 continued:

*The doctors said Peyman must be transferred to [hospitals in] Kermanshah or Tehran because the bullet was too close to the spinal cord to be removed. Only one doctor in Kermanshah said he would operate, but there was a chance that 80 percent of the spinal cord would be severed.*

*On November 27, Peyman was sent to the private Hakim Hospital in Kermanshah for surgery and the operation took place the next day. The operation was very intense and difficult, from eight in the morning until four in the afternoon, but fortunately, it was successful.*

After the surgery, Sohrabi Rad was in the ICU for four days but due to the medical costs, at the request of the family he was transferred to the hospital in Javanrud. After three days, it was discovered that his esophagus was perforated. When they gave him fluids, it came out from under the tracheostomy tube. He was sent back to Kermanshah and a stent was put in so that he could drink fluids. After several days, he was transferred back to Javanrud, but at the surgeon's recommendation, he was then transferred to Masih Daneshvari Hospital in Tehran for another operation.

Interviewee #16 continued:

*He was hospitalized there for five days and after some tests and radiology procedures, the doctor said his wounds were severe and the bullet had destroyed the cartilage, 50 percent of the left part of his throat was paralyzed and 50 percent of the right side was injured.*

Sohrabi Rad's subsequent surgeries were delayed multiple times until April 15, 2023, when he was readmitted to Masih Daneshvari Hospital in Tehran. During a two-week period, he underwent three surgeries, ultimately removing the neck trachea. He is now able to breathe through his nose and mouth but doctors have said it is impossible to repair his vocal cords. His left hand was paralyzed for seven months and tests showed serious damage to his shoulder nerves.

Interviewee #16 added:

*When we wanted to drive Peyman to Tehran or Kermanshah for further treatment, our car would be thoroughly searched and even our documents and phones were inspected.*

Sohrabi Rad's two sons, aged 16 and 6, were exposed to the gasses fired by security forces during the protests in Javanrud and, according to doctors, suffered gastrointestinal damage and required treatment.

Sohrabi Rad used to drive a transport van to support his family. But since he was shot by security forces in November 2022 he has been unable to work. As a result, his family is facing extremely financial difficulties. Additionally, since he doesn't have insurance, he has had to pay all medical expenses at the market rate, further exacerbating the family's dire financial situation.

## Firing of Unknown Colored Gasses

Alongside the security forces' use of military-grade weapons, they fired gasses of an unknown nature directly at the protesters in Javanrud. The nature and components of these

*Colored gas is shot into the crowd by police forces in Javanrud, close to Basij Square, on November 21, 2022.*





gasses is not clear. Some eyewitnesses reported that although their effects were similar to tear gas, there were noticeable differences; some people experienced symptoms such as dizziness, a sudden drop in blood pressure, and headaches. Others fell unconscious or became lethargic. Some victims could not leave their homes for days due to the lingering effects. The duration of these effects varied, usually lasting from ten days to a month.

Interviewee #17, a 51-year-old male eyewitness recounted:

*At first, I thought it was tear gas, and others thought the same. But to our surprise, it had no effect on our eyes. Less than an hour later, when I got home, my left leg began to experience a strange pain. From the top of my thigh to my shin, I would experience pain every few moments.*

*It continued for about two hours, then gradually moved from my leg to my back and my kidneys started hurting. Then the toes of the same left foot would twitch like a nervous tic, but I had no control over it, and it went on for hours.*

*For about a month, the pain was always there, and I could hardly drive; only by taking painkillers could I cope with it. One of my friends, who is a doctor, said it was the effect of that green gas, which many people believed was some type of nerve gas. Until the day I inhaled this gas, I had never experienced such pain.*

Interviewee #18, a male eyewitness to the gas attacks said:

*During the gas attack, I was about 20 meters (66 feet) away from the location [Palestine Square]. The first thing I noticed was its color, which was slightly yellow with perhaps a mix of purple. It was thrown right into the middle of a huge crowd. The smoke from it didn't rise but stayed about two meters (seven feet) high and didn't move much.*

Interviewee #19, another male eyewitness to the gas attacks said:

*When the gas was thrown, I was in Palestine Square but wasn't directly affected; I only inhaled a small amount. I quickly left the scene and got home fast. A part of my body, my left side, arm, leg, back, and neck, began to really hurt and my toes started to twitch. My entire left side felt numb and in intense pain for several days. I began to recover only after about 10 days.*

Interviewee #20, another male eyewitness to the attacks said:

*The gas canister hit the hat and scarf I was wearing. The gas enveloped my head. I started to feel a burning sensation in my throat and started to feel faint, and then I passed out for a few moments. When I woke up, someone had lifted me. I was completely unable to stand or walk. My throat was burning, and I felt blind. I was in a daze. I felt as if my face was severely injured, as if it had been cut with a knife, but it was fine. The pain lingered in my face for a long time. My body was numb, stiff, and lethargic for several days.*


Overall, of the 80 injuries sustained by protesters in Javanrud during the months-long protests, at least 60—or three-quarters of them—took place between November 20 and November 21, when IRGC forces fired lethal shots to the head, neck and torso directly at unarmed civilians, primarily from military-grade machine guns.

In addition, the numerous and consistent reports that security forces beat already wounded protesters lying in the streets, and shot at those trying to help the wounded, contribute to CHRI's assessment that Islamic Republic forces committed crimes against humanity in the streets of Javanrud on those days.

## **December 31, 2022**

In the third major round of attacks on the protesters by the state's security forces, on December 31, 2022, when the residents and families of Javanrud gathered to mark the 40-day anniversary of the killings of their loved ones, further serious injuries occurred when state forces attacked the mourning residents.

Eyewitnesses estimated that at least nine more people were injured by the security forces on December 31, 2022, (in addition to the one death described in the previous chapter). Most of the injuries were to the legs, from Kalashnikovs and Glocks fired by IRGC forces and police special units.■



Chapter Three  
**DENIAL OF  
MEDICAL TREATMENT**

## Javanrud: A Defenseless City

Those injured during the protests in Javanrud faced a major issue—they could not go to the city's hospital without risking arrest by the state's security forces who were stationed inside and outside the medical centers to identify the injured protesters. By November 21, with a IRGC presence in the city of at least 200 troops, such fears increased dramatically.

The residents of Javanrud tried to provide emergency medical care for the injured themselves, but as described in the previous chapter, the formation of the advancing security forces and the nonstop machine-gun fire, especially on Behdari Street, was so overwhelming, and the number of injured was so high, that many of the injured could only receive minimal treatment on the streets. Amidst the state's onslaught, everyone had to try to make their way to the side streets to seek refuge and treatment in people's homes.

Moreover, those trying to provide treatment to the injured in the streets risked being targeted and intentionally shot by the security forces, as well as being arrested for helping the wounded, and the families trying to offer safety and treatment for the wounded inside their homes also risked arrest.

Interviewee #4 told CHRI:

*My friend, who's a nurse, came to treat people even though she herself had an injury to her face. As she was treating the injured, she realized that one of the injured was her nephew. Later she realized that there were three other nurses there too but they did not recognize each other because they had covered their faces [in order to prevent their identification by security forces].*

## When the City's Hospital is the Farthest Place in the World

Around 2:00 p.m. on November 21, after the protesters retreated to try to aid the injured and transport the wounded to their homes, IRGC forces effectively took over the city. By this time, sources recounted that at least 60 injured people were hiding in people's homes, unwilling to risk treatment at the city's medical centers.

Interviewee #21, a female eyewitness to these events, said:

*The agents came to the hospitals and warned the staff there not to treat the injured before informing them in advance.*

The wounded, almost all of whom were injured by bullets, needed to be transported to medical centers, and those with

At least 60 injured people were hiding in people's homes, unwilling to risk treatment at the city's medical centers.

more serious injuries urgently needed to get to the hospitals of the surrounding cities, including Kermanshah (the provincial capital, 90 kilometers away from Javanrud), which had the facilities to treat more severe cases. Yet IRGC forces now blocked and manned the exits out of the city, and trying to get through them with injured protesters risked near-certain arrest.

After several hours, medical emergency units from surrounding cities tried to come help the wounded in Javanrud, but eyewitnesses told CHRI that the security forces would often not allow them to enter the city.

Jowhar Fattahi, age 61, one of the victims on November 21, died as a result of not being able to safely get to a hospital after being severely injured on Behdari Street.

Medical emergency units from surrounding cities tried to come help the wounded in Javanrud, but...the security forces would often not allow them to enter the city.

## Transferring the Wounded: Obstacles to Reaching Kermanshah

As time passed and the condition of many of the injured worsened, it became impossible to keep them in the houses without medical supplies and treatment. A group of the families of the injured decide to try to get them to Kermanshah for treatment.

Leaving Javanrud for Kermanshah was difficult. Delays put the lives of the injured at further risk but the security forces' presence throughout the city and their blocking of the city's exits made the process of transferring the wounded to Kermanshah extremely dangerous.

The usual drive time to Kermanshah from Javanrud is approximately an hour and a half. On the afternoon of November 21, it took at least four to six hours to get to Kermanshah, because the families had to try to find circuitous routes to circumvent the IRGC-manned exits.

Interviewee #4 said:

*My 17-year-old brother was injured by a bullet on November 21. The bullet had entered from the right side of his body and reached the left side. Someone brought him to our house. I was notified and called one of my nurse friends. She said he was experiencing internal bleeding. Given the security situation, I was afraid to take my brother to the hospital in Javanrud. We transferred him with great difficulty to one of the hospitals in Kermanshah instead.*

*It took six hours from the time my brother was injured until he arrived in Kermanshah.*

*He held himself together during this time despite all the bleeding. My brother was in the operating room for two hours. When the surgeon came out of the operating room, he was crying and saying how could a 17-year-old kid survive a bullet in his body like this? The surgeon wrote in his report that my brother was injured with a knife in a fight to prevent him from being arrested.*

CHRI learned that due to the influx of the injured into the hospitals in Kermanshah, the emergency unit of a particular hospital (unnamed to protect the personnel there) was dedicated exclusively to those injured in Javanrud.

Interviewee #4 continued:

*The hospital staff in Kermanshah utilized their full capacity to assist the injured from Javanrud. I witnessed that one of the female staff members had closed the door of*

“The agents came to the hospitals and warned the staff there not to treat the injured before informing them in advance.”

*An injured protester, who was shot with bullets by Islamic Republic security forces in both legs, at a hospital in Kermanshah on November 26, 2022.*



*a room where the injured were in, and was not allowing security agents to enter. She said, 'We first treat them, then you can do whatever you want.'*

Interviewee #4 added:

*I saw a boy who had been hit by two bullets. Initially, they said his legs had to be amputated, but then they found another way to treat him. I saw another one who had been hit by a bullet in his bladder and had undergone surgery several times that day... I saw about seven or eight people being transferred to the operating room. Many of the injured were in serious conditions. Most of the injured in Javanrud were unable to leave the city for treatment; they had to stay in the city and most couldn't even go to the medical centers in Javanrud.*

Although most of the severely injured who were able to leave Javanrud went to hospitals and medical centers in Kermanshah, some of the wounded were also transferred to other cities for treatment. For example, one teacher and father of two children in Javanrud who was shot in the leg on November 21 was transferred to a hospital in Paveh where he was secretly treated. He needed a platinum plate inserted into his leg and now can only walk with the help of a cane. He has not been able to return to work.

## Treating the Wounded at Home

As most of the injured were forced to seek treatment at homes, security agents tried to track them there, as well as the individuals and families who were trying to help them.

Interviewee #5 said:

*If they suspected a house was holding and treating an injured person, they attacked that house. One of these houses was near our own. People who intended to help the wounded were in great danger.*

In addition, it was extraordinarily difficult for the residents of Javanrud who were trying to treat the wounded to get the medical supplies into the city that they urgently needed since the entire city was under siege by IRGC forces.

Interviewee #5 continued:

*We had nothing but a needle and thread, without any anesthetic medicine. Initially, there was no medicine at all. Everywhere was closed, pharmacies were closed. We didn't have access to anything.*

The severe shortages of medical supplies, and the situation of the wounded trapped in the homes and unable to get to the hospitals, continued in the following days. Volunteer groups made up of doctors, nurses, and other citizens went from house to house in secret and at great risk to try to treat the wounded, including those with serious wounds.

“If they suspected a house was holding and treating an injured person, they attacked that house.”

*One of the injured protesters, with bullet wounds to the upper thigh, being treated at a home in Javanrud, on November 21, 2022.*



One such volunteer group, which is still actively treating those who continue to suffer from their injuries as of this writing, has about 15 medical personnel and caregivers. Security forces, however, continue to try to track them down and identify these individuals, who are at grave risk of arrest and detainment for their efforts.

Interviewee #6 said:

*In the militarized climate of the city, providing assistance was very difficult. We went to the homes of the wounded. In cases where the wounds were deep, we transferred them to other places, which we had set up for the treatment of severe wounds.*

*Security personnel behaved violently towards those who were helping the wounded, including those who were trying to transfer the injured to safe places within their own homes, as well as those who were suspected of providing medical assistance.*

*Even months later, IRGC agents continued to follow and threaten and detain individuals who they learned had aided the injured, saying they had no right to help the wounded. In general, we had to be very cautious to prevent the network of helpers from being exposed [while also trying] to prevent the injured from dying.*

As news of the large number of wounded in Javanrud and the urgent need for medicine and supplies spread throughout the province, many people from other cities tried to send supplies to Javanrud. Yet the security forces controlled the city's entrances and would confiscate the supplies whenever they found them, preventing most of the supplies from reaching the wounded and the volunteer groups trying to help them.

Volunteer groups had to resort to creative means to get the medical supplies into the hands of the nurses and doctors. In one case, they divided the medicines into small packages and hid them in a village near the city, gradually transferring the packages into the city in installments.



One of the injured protesters, with bullet wounds to the torso, being treated at a home in Javanrud, on November 21, 2022.

“Even months later, IRGC agents continued to follow and threaten and detain individuals who they learned had aided the injured.”

Interviewee #6 added:

*Some people who were unaware [of the security forces' presence at the hospital], delivered their own medicine to the hospital in Javanrud, but unfortunately, they were confiscated by security forces. The volume of confiscated drugs was very high.*

*Due to the intense security climate, we had taken a lot of precautions. For example, we would hide the medical supplies in places and gradually bring them out of hiding and use them. We also took a lot of precautions for the transfer of nurses and doctors.*

## Treating a 73-Year-Old Man at Home

The number of severe injuries from bullets was so high that treating patients suffering from pellet wounds, which had been fired primarily (but not exclusively) by the police, was not a priority. Most of those wounded by pellets were treated at home with minimal supplies, and some of them have still not been able to remove the pellets from their bodies even after the passage of more than six months.

Interviewee #22, a 73-year-old man, was one of the individuals wounded by pellets on November 21, who was forced to receive home treatment. He had arrived on Behdari Street with people returning from the cemetery, and he and several other elderly men decided to approach the security forces to ask them to stop violently confronting the people. However, the security forces continued to shoot.

Interviewee #22 said:

*The crowds were very large and this aroused fear among the security forces. Men, women, the elderly, and children were all in the crowd, but it didn't matter to the security forces. They showed no mercy.... Everyone was looking for a way to save their*

“They showed no mercy.... Everyone was looking for a way to save their life.”

*life.... I was on my way back home on Behdari Street when I was injured—45 pellets struck my feet.*

He returned home with the help of several people. With his family unwilling to risk arrest at the hospital, he was treated at home, as requested by his children and brother, who was a doctor.

Interviewee #22 continued:

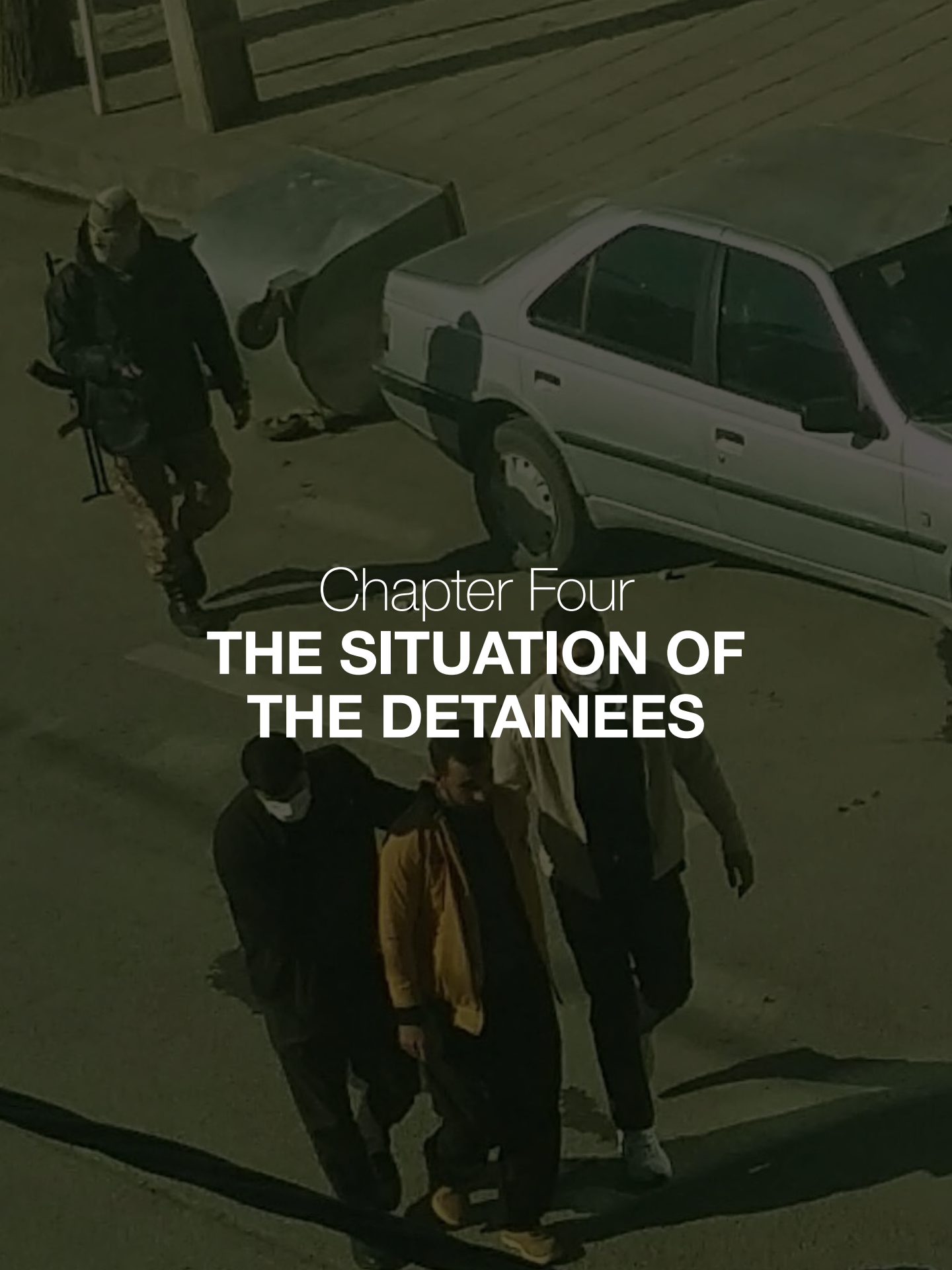
*I had a lot of pain for a week, but I gradually recovered at home. One of my daughters had taken a first aid course and we had some basic supplies, and my brother and other friends also found some more supplies, so we did the best we could.*

## Severely Wounded, Yet Trapped Inside Homes

Exact numbers are difficult to confirm given the chaos of the events and the secrecy in which people were forced to seek treatment, but reliable sources consistently confirm that of the 80 people estimated to have been injured by security forces in Javanrud from October to December 2022 (11 on October 8, 60 on November 20-21, and 9 on December 31), approximately 60-65 of them were unable to risk any treatment at medical centers or hospitals, due to the risk of being identified and arrested by IRGC forces who were stationed at the city's medical centers. Instead, they only received treatment at people's homes, despite many of them having severe injuries.

Informed sources estimate that a total of only 15-20 individuals were able to seek treatment, at great risk, at hospitals. Most of these (approximately 15-17) received treatment in Kermanshah and other cities, while only 3-5 individuals received treatment at Javanrud's hospital.

Thus most of the wounded were trapped in Javanrud, inside people's homes, unable to receive the medical treatment they urgently needed.■



Chapter Four  
**THE SITUATION OF  
THE DETAINEES**

## When Prison Bars Surround the Whole City

After the first large protest rally was held in Javanrud on October 8, 2022, which was comprised predominantly of high school students but was joined by other residents of Javanrud, the state's security and judicial establishment (IRGC intelligence agents, Intelligence Ministry agents, police, and undercover agents), began to identify and arrest people, including juveniles.

From the first October 8 protests up until the early weeks of January 2023, after the 40-day memorials were held for the protesters killed by state security forces, informed sources estimate that at least 89 citizens of Javanrud were arrested by Islamic Republic agents—approximately 10 after October 8, 69 after the protests on November 20 and 21, and 10 after the December 31 protests.

The arrests were often carried out violently, and in most cases, without conforming to any standard legal requirements under either Iranian or international law. For example, multiple sources reported that arrests were made without lawful cause, without warrants at people's homes, without providing information to the families or allowing communication with the families, and without any access to lawyers.

Interrogations involved beatings and threats...to kill the individuals, to torture and sexually abuse them, to issue charges against them that carry the death penalty, and [to] go after their families.

In many cases, interrogations involved beatings and threats, which included threats to kill the individuals, to torture and sexually abuse them, to issue charges against them that carry the death penalty, and that the agents would go after their families.

The following accounts are indicative of the violent and unlawful nature of the arrests and detainments carried out by security forces against the protesters in Javanrud.

### Masked Agents Attack Teacher and His Brother at Home

On the morning of October 9, around 4:30 a.m., a 53-year-old teacher and his wife who live with the teacher's brother in Javanrud were awakened by the sound of breaking glass in the house. When the teacher and his wife came out of the house, they were confronted by a group of more than seven men. The agents had covered their faces and could not be identified.

Interviewee #23, an informed source with first-hand knowledge of the events, said:

*It was very early in the morning, and about six or seven Peugeot cars were in the alley. Everyone could hear the*

*screams of the teacher's brother and his wife and children, and realized the brother had been arrested. The teacher [told the agents] they had entered their private space and asked which organization they belonged to.*

*Because of this question, the agents beat the teacher, hitting him with fists, clubs, rifle butts, and boots, and arrested him too, putting him in a car*

*As the officers were beating the teacher, the screams of his brother's wife and companions caused the neighbors to wake and come into the alley. The officers prevented the crowd from gathering and threatened the people with their weapons.*

The two brothers were taken to the Intelligence Ministry's detention center and interrogated.

The teacher was not at the protests in Javanrud on October 8—he was arrested simply for defending his brother. He was released after a few hours, but his brother was detained for ten days.

His brother was arrested because he had tried to protect schoolgirls from injury or death during the street protests by asking them to return to their homes. He was filmed by an undercover agent at the scene and reported to the security forces. He spent six days in solitary confinement and was then transferred to Dieselabad Prison in Kermanshah where he remained in detention for four days before he was released.

News of the arrest of the teacher and his brother spread quickly throughout Javanrud, and the security forces warned the family to stay home and banned visitors.

In the video of the protests taken by an Intelligence Ministry's undercover agent, the young daughter of the teacher's brother, who is between 10 and 13 years of age, was also identified. This became the source of further threats by intelligence agents against the family, such as "Now we're going to arrest your daughter."

## **Torturing Wounded Prisoners, Threatening Families**

The majority of the arrests took place during and after the protests on November 20 and 21, 2022.

Some of those arrested and detained were captured on the streets after being injured by the security forces. Najmoddin Veisi, the brother of slain activist Bahaoddin Veisi, was one of them. Despite the serious injuries Najmoddin suffered when security forces shot at the car that he, his brother, and two others were in when they were trying to retrieve the body of Erfan Kakaee (see page 22 of this report), Najmoddin and his companions were violently arrested at the scene by the IRGC.

Arrests and detainments were also used by state agents to put pressure on families to remain quiet regarding any injured or killed loved ones.

For example, immediately following Najmoddin Veisi's arrest, the IRGC brought intense pressure on Najmoddin's family, warning them not to hold a public funeral for Najmoddin's brother, Bahaoddin, who had been killed by security forces on November 20. Security officials (falsely) promised that if the funeral was held in complete silence, Najmoddin would be released. Yet despite the fact that the family did hold a private family funeral that was not publicized, in which only a few family members attended, not only was Najmoddin kept in prison, he was forced to make a televised "confession" in which he was made to say that his brother Bahaoddin was killed by foreign agents.

CHRI received multiple reports of protesters who were violently arrested despite being severely injured—and who were interrogated while still severely wounded. For example, Interviewee #12, the 20-year-old male, was another individual who was arrested after being shot in both legs with DShK bullets by security forces, as detailed on page 41 of this report, and interrogated while hospitalized for his wounds.

*Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) forces beating a protester who has been shot and fallen in the street, in Javanrud, on November 21, 2022.*





“He was beaten so badly his whole body turned blue. He was pressured to say he had been deceived by foreign agents. In addition to beatings with fists, sticks, and cables, they constantly and violently pressed his testicles.”

*Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) intelligence agents arresting a man in Javanrud on December 31, 2022, for attending the 40-day memorial services for the protesters killed by security forces.*

CHRI also received multiple and consistent reports of beatings of protesters while in state custody. An informed source recounted the treatment of a 19-year-old male resident of Javanrud who was arrested on November 21 by IRGC Intelligence Organization agents and detained for 15 days. During the first two days of his detention, the source said the 19-year-old was continuously and severely beaten.

Interviewee #24, a source close to the 19-year-old with first-hand knowledge of these events, said:

*He was beaten so badly that his whole body turned blue. He was pressured to say that he had been deceived by foreign agents. In addition to severe beatings with fists, sticks, and cables, they constantly and violently pressed his testicles. Another form of torture was forcing him to drink water, but not allowing him to go to the bathroom. Wetting himself became a means to humiliate him.*

During the 19-year-old's detention, his family was threatened and warned against publicizing his arrest. After 15 days, he was released on bail.

## Kidnappings in Front of a Mother’s Eyes, Threats of Execution

Arbitrary arrests—without lawful cause, warrant or other legal requirements—continued after the protests in Javanrud that took place on December 31, 2022 to mark the traditional forty-day anniversary of the killings by the security forces on November 20-21.

Security forces arbitrarily and illegally detained at least ten residents of Javanrud on January 1, 2, and 3 of 2023, after those protests. One of them was another 19-year-old, whose home was stormed by Intelligence Ministry agents at 3:30 a.m. during those days. He was severely beaten in front of his mother, and then put inside a van, where there were at least seven other detainees. They were not allowed to talk to one another.

This second 19-year-old, Interviewee #25, recounted:

*Despite my mother’s and other family members’ attempts to prevent my arrest, they weren’t successful. I only had a shirt on; they didn’t allow me to wear anything else in that cold weather.*

“The cell was extremely cold and dirty...they wouldn’t let me [a 19-year-old boy] sleep.... During the interrogations, they constantly punched and hit my face. They had told my mother to tell me to confess to what they wanted.”

*They blindfolded me and tied my hands and beat me. Inside the car, my eyes were closed and my hands were tied to the car’s roof. I was in that position for the entire 90-kilometer [56-mile] distance from Javanrud to Kermanshah. I couldn’t sit, and my hands were in great discomfort, to the extent that they swelled and after a while, I couldn’t feel them. I was really worried about my hands and I thought they might not work again.*

*I could see the others through my blindfold. We were all transferred to the Kermanshah Intelligence Ministry detention center in Naft Square. When we reached there I was severely beaten but at least they untied my hands. I couldn’t feel my hands anymore. I was so afraid. I had no feeling for half an hour.*

At the detention center, he was beaten with fists and sticks, and then transferred to a solitary cell, where he was subjected to sleep deprivation.

Interviewee #25 continued:

*The cell was extremely cold and dirty. It smelled like dead animals. There was a small water jug, but the water was not drinkable. It smelled like sewage. The*



*blanket inside was filthy, and there was a lamp that kept turning on and off.*

*I knew I would be here for a while, so I didn't protest. I was so tired that I just wanted to sleep, but the bright light above my head wouldn't let me. So, I pulled the dirty blanket over my head to block the light, but as soon as I did, they kicked the door, saying I couldn't pull the blanket over my head. They wouldn't let me sleep. I don't know how that night eventually passed.*

The interrogations began the next day. The officials who confiscated his phone repeatedly asked him about the names in his phone.

Interviewee #25 continued:

*During the interrogations, they constantly punched and hit my face. But one of the interrogators was kinder and allowed me to talk to my mother after six days. They had told my mother to tell me to confess to what they wanted, but she didn't say anything and just kept telling me to take care of myself.*

After six days without a lawyer, the 19-year-old went to court (in Kermanshah) with several other detainees. After appearing in court, they were all sent to the Dieselabad Prison in Kermanshah.

Interviewee #25 continued:

*In the car [on the way to Dieselabad Prison], [the officers] kept saying that I was going to get the death sentence. A few of the detainees who seemed young (I couldn't see their faces) were very scared and cried a lot, begging not to be executed. When I saw this, I strongly protested why the officials were playing with their minds. For this I was severely beaten inside the car and on the way from the court to the Dieselabad Prison.*

The 19-year-old was in Dieselabad Prison for several weeks before being released on bail.

Interviewee #25 added:

*They told me I was granted amnesty by the Leader [Ali Khamenei], although I knew they had nothing against me, [and that's why] they released me. After my release, I heard from my family that the intelligence agents had contacted them to force me to confess. For example, they wanted me to say I was tricked and didn't intend to participate in the protests. They had said that this sort of confession was good for my future.*

“[They] kept saying that I was going to get the death sentence. A few of the detainees who seemed young (I couldn't see their faces) were very scared and cried a lot, begging not to be executed.”

## Sentenced to 17 Years in Prison for Speaking at the Funeral of Slain Teacher

At the funeral on November 21 for Erfan Kakaee, two religious scholars, Mamosta Seifollah Hosseini, and Mullah Ali, gave speeches, as described on page 25.

Mamosta Seifollah Hosseini, the prayer leader of Khatam al-Anbiya mosque in Javanrud county, and a member of the Quran School Leadership Council in Kurdistan province, was targeted by Islamic Republic agents and arrested for his outspoken speech at Kakaee's funeral.

Interviewee #26, who is one of Mamosta Seifollah Hosseini's close associates, described his arrest:

*On the night of December 13, [2022], IRGC Intelligence Organization agents raided Mamosta Seifollah Hosseini's home. They broke down doors and window panes and arrested him. During the arrest, the cleric's wife, Khatun Ghaderi, was also assaulted by the security agents and her hand was injured.*


Following the news of the cleric's arrest, hundreds of people gathered at night in front of the governorate and the Intelligence Ministry's office in Javanrud, demanding his release.

Interviewee #26 continued:

*The agents took [the cleric] to the IRGC's Intelligence Organization's detention center in Kermanshah. After about two weeks of interrogation, they moved him to solitary confinement in Hamedan's Central Prison. He was kept for nearly 40 days in a cold cell with no heating [in December] in Hamedan Central Prison.*

Deprived of the right to have a lawyer of his own choice, the Sunni cleric was defrocked by the Special Court for the Clergy in Hamedan and **sentenced** on January 25, 2023, to 17 years in prison, 74 lashes, and exile in Ardabil for two years (six years in prison for "acting against national security," 15 months for "propaganda activities against the state," six years for "inciting the people to disrupt the country's security," two and a half years for "insulting the founder and leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran," and 15 months along with 74 lashes for "disrupting public order").<sup>22</sup>

Mamosta Seifollah Hosseini must serve a minimum of six years in prison, under Iranian laws which stipulate that in the case of multiple sentences, the maximum sentence must be served. The cleric has not appealed because he does not have a lawyer.■



Chapter Five  
**THE TREATMENT  
OF CHILDREN**

## Children Shot, Arrested Without Warrants, Beaten, Tortured, and Killed

During the protests in Javanrud, children under the age of 18 were violently attacked by Islamic Republic security forces with machine guns, pellets, and batons.

The exact number of casualties among juveniles is not available, but according to estimates by multiple eyewitnesses, there were at least 10 casualties among Javanrud's children over the course of the October-December 2022 period. Most occurred during the October 8 protests, given the predominance of high school students in those protests, and during the November 20/21 protests, given the heightened state violence during those protests.

The injuries, some of which were extremely severe, occurred in the streets, and were primarily caused by bullets used by IRGC forces (especially during the November 20/21 protests), and pellets used by the police (although eyewitnesses reported that the police also fired handguns).

One 16-year-old, Bahaoddin Veisi, as previously discussed, was shot and killed by IRGC forces in the streets of Javanrud.

It is estimated by informed sources that approximately 26 juveniles under the age of 18 were arbitrarily arrested in total during the period from October 8, 2022 to mid-January 2023. Arrests were made without lawful cause, without warrants, and often violently.

The children were subjected to severe beatings, prolonged interrogation without a lawyer present, forced to make false confessions... [and] subjected to mental and physical torture.

Of the estimated 10 juveniles arrested just after the protests on October 8 (in which school children were predominant), at least seven of them were high school students who were arrested at their respective schools. A number of them were only 15 years old. (According to one of the teachers in Javanrud, although all of those seven students have since been released from detention, none had returned to school as of June 2023.)

Once detained in state custody, the children were subjected to severe beatings, prolonged interrogation without a lawyer present, and forced to make false confessions. Informed sources relayed to CHRI that at least four to five children were subjected to mental and physical torture during detention, and two accounts received by CHRI and described below confirm it directly. At least one child was threatened with sexual abuse.

The following accounts reflect the extreme violence and unlawful treatment the children of Javanrud were subjected to by Islamic Republic forces and agents.

## Hunted Down for Participating in Protests

Interviewee #27, one of the relatives of the slain 16-year-old Bahaoddin Veisi, recounted how Bahaoddin was hunted down by security agents immediately after participating in the October 8 protests:

*The security agents were chasing Bahaoddin from the very first days of the protests. On October 10, at 3:00 a.m., agents raided Bahaoddin's home to arrest him but he slipped away and had to live secretly for almost a month and a half.*

During this time, other teenagers were arrested at their homes or at school as well (typically without warrants or by undercover agents who did not identify themselves), and sometimes these arrests took place during the night. State agents identified the children by various methods, including based on CCTV footage, as well as by photos and videos taken by undercover agents working for the Intelligence Ministry.

## Abducted in Broad Daylight and Threatened with Rape

Interviewee #28 is an informed source close to a 17-year-old male high school student, who, like many other high school students in Javanrud, participated in the protests on October 8. The source described the arrest of the 17-year-old, which took place three weeks after those protests, on October 29, at 2:00 p.m. The police arrested him while he was at school, without any warrant.

Interviewee #28 said:

*We saw one of them try to grab his hand but he pushed them back and ran away. They chased him in their car and hit him [with their car]. He was thrown to the ground and couldn't run away.*

The 17-year-old was taken to the municipality's detention center. His mobile phone was shattered when it fell to the ground so the agents were unable to access any information.

Interviewee #28 continued:

*They beat him for at least ten minutes without asking any questions. Then they tied his hands and beat him with a broom handle. His arms, shoulders and back were completely bruised.*

“They beat [a 17-year-old boy] for at least ten minutes without asking any questions. Then they tied his hands and beat him with a broom handle. His arms, shoulders and back were completely bruised.”

“They told [a 17-year-old boy] to go get a baton and stick it in his bottom and in this way, they threatened him with rape so that he would be forced to confess to what they wanted.”

*He was arrested because of someone’s confession. They took him to the detention center. He was there for one day and then he was taken to the court.*

*There were no cameras or anything inside the detention center. They could do whatever they wanted to [those kids]. They told him to go get a baton and stick it in his bottom and in this way, they threatened him with rape so that he would be forced to confess to what they wanted.*

The 17-year-old student’s appearance before the judge was held without a lawyer present for his defense and the judge ordered him transferred to the Correction and Rehabilitation Center in Kermanshah to be held until sentencing. However, his pleading family was able to convince the judge to allow him to be held in the Javanrud police station.

Interviewee #28 added:

*Two more people were also arrested. They spent a week at the Javanrud police station. They didn’t torture them there, but the guards would hit them whenever they felt like it. Some of them behaved better.*

Although he was held in a public cell, the conditions were similar to solitary confinement. He was alone in the cell for several days before another teenager was brought in.

Describing the cell, Interviewee #28 said:

*The light was on all the time and there was no sunlight. The boys didn’t know if it was night or day. The agent who beat them was also insulting [Supreme Leader Ali] Khamenei all the time. They didn’t know what he meant by that. Maybe he wanted the kids to agree so he could level more charges against them.*

In the end, the 17-year-old was sentenced—with no lawyer for his defense present—to 10 months in prison and 74 lashes by Branch 102 of the Criminal Court in Javanrud for “disturbing public peace and order.” He was eventually released on bail set at one billion tomans (\$19,230 USD).

## Threatening to Break a 17-Year-Old Girl's Legs in Front of Her Father

One 17-year-old high school girl, like many other teenagers in Javanrud, participated in the October 8 protests, where security agents took numerous photos and videos of her. She was arrested the next morning at her home.

A family relative, Interviewee #29, recounted:

*Both [the girl] and her father were transferred to the Basij base and interrogated for five hours. They made her sign a pledge that she would not participate in any protest, before releasing them.*

The unlawful treatment of the high school girl did not end there. On October 19, the Intelligence Ministry office summoned her and her father.

Interviewee #29 said:

*[The girl and her father] went there at 9:00 o'clock in the morning and they made her sign a similar pledge again. They asked her questions such as, who forced you to participate in the protests? She told them her participation was voluntary. She couldn't deny her presence because they had pictures and videos of her. They told her they would educate her by breaking her legs. She started crying and was clearly terrified.*

*The father went to court with his daughter, and a detention order was issued. He asked how their conscience allowed them to detain a child. The prosecutor replied that she would be sent to the correctional center.*

While the father was arguing about the detention order, one of the court employees intervened and said: "We, the people of Javanrud, don't agree with this girl's detention. She is our honor, and we will not allow her to be detained."

After this, the prosecutor said that the teenager and her father should leave and come back in a few days.

Interviewee #29 continued:

*They called [the father and his daughter] after a few days, but they didn't go. They called again, telling them to come, and then they went with a teacher who was going to act as a guarantor for the daughter but the authorities rejected him.*

"[A 17-year-old girl] was interrogated for five hours.... They told her they would educate her by breaking her legs."

The teenager's family tried hard to prevent her from being sentenced. Two of their relatives, who were members of the Basij, also acted as guarantors, but after a few days, the teenager was slapped with multiple charges: "propaganda against the state," "insulting the Supreme Leader," "disturbing public peace and order," "destruction of property," "resisting officers," "insulting Islamic sanctities," and "assembly and collusion against national security."

Her trial was held in January 2023, in Javanrud Court, where the teenager was pressured to sign a "letter of repentance" and her family was informed that their daughter had been pardoned by the Supreme Leader and released.

Interviewee #29 added:

*[The teenager] was later contacted by the head of the education department [the Education Ministry's local office] in Javanrud, asking her to go on state television to express regret for protesting, and to participate in the march for the [anniversary of the 1979 revolution] on February 11. She refused.*

## Teenagers Forced to "Confess" and Sign Pledge Not to Attend Any More Protests

"While blindfolded with hands tied behind his back, the [15-year-old] boy was beaten with fists and sticks until reaching the police station...[where they made him] sign a confession."

A 15-year-old boy was arrested by IRGC intelligence agents on November 17, 2022, shortly after making a bonfire in an alleyway in Javanrud with his friend (who was also 15 years old, and who was arrested and released after a few days).

Interviewee #30, an individual who is close to the 15-year-old and who had first-hand knowledge of these events, relayed:

*While blindfolded with hands tied behind his back, the boy was beaten with fists and sticks until reaching the police station... During interrogation, they used great force to make him sign a "confession" that he insulted Khamenei and other officials, burned and destroyed public property, and wrote slogans on the walls. Interrogators showed him CCTV footage and pressured him to [reveal the identities of] anyone he recognized at the protests.*

*The boy was beaten for having several protest songs on his phone. He was detained for two days until one of his relatives, who was a friend of an official, intervened and signed a pledge that he would not engage in any political activity, after which time he was released.*



## Shooting a 16-Year-Old Boxing Champion

Hiwa Azimi, a 16-year-old high school student and provincial boxing champion, was shot and severely wounded by IRGC forces firing indiscriminately and directly into the crowds of unarmed civilians on Behdari Street on November 21, during the funerals for Erfan Kakaee and Bahaoddin Veisi.

One of Azimi's relatives, Interviewee #31, recounted the incident:

*Hiwa took part in the funeral for Erfan Kakaee and Bahaoddin Veisi on November 21. He was shot by IRGC forces near Bahaoddin Veisi's house on Behdari Street, next to Amoozesh-Parevareh Alley. Hiwa, who was injured in his hand and leg, was carried to someone's house nearby.*

*The championship boxing medal of Hiwa Azimi, the 16-year-old high school student who was shot on November 21, 2022, and severely injured by Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) forces for attending the funerals of slain protesters.*



Amateur Boxing Federatoin of the Islamic Republic of Iran

فدراسیون بوکس جمهوری اسلامی ایران  
هیئت بوکس استان کرمانشاه

حکمرمانی



نظر به اینکه هیوا عظیمی در سال ۱۴۰۱ در مسابقات قهرمانی نوجوانان استان کرمانشاه  
یادواره ی زنده یاد مهدی پور در وزن ..... کیلوگرم شرکت و مقام ..... را کسب  
نموده لذا به پاس این قهرمانی به دریافت حکم مفتخر میگردد.

وزارت ورزش و جوانان  
مدیر کل ورزش و جوانان استان کرمانشاه  
معاون ورزش استان کرمانشاه

رئیس هیئت بوکس استان کرمانشاه  
دکتر حسین فشی

*His injuries were so severe that his family, who had been informed of his condition, transferred him to the hospital in Javanrud. However, because of his serious injuries, he was transferred to Taleghani Hospital in Kermanshah where he remained for about 20 days, undergoing surgery three times.*

*The bullet that hit his hand was from a Kalashnikov and they removed it but I'm not sure if his leg was hit by a bullet from a Kalashnikov as well or a pistol. After hitting his leg, the bullet severed a nerve and exited, so it was unclear what kind of weapon fired it.*

Azimi still cannot move his right leg. Doctors have said he should not move for six months to allow the platinum implant to settle. His sciatic nerve is also damaged because the bullet injured the nerve after hitting the leg, and needs to be repaired. If it is not repaired, he will have to undergo surgery, but the doctors said the success rate is only fifty percent.

The 16-year-old boxing champion has not been unable to continue his sport after being injured, and has also been unable to continue his studies.■

A photograph of a man lying on a patterned blanket. He has a mustache and is wearing a dark, vertically striped long-sleeved shirt. His eyes are closed, and his expression is somber. A hand is resting on his chest. The background is a patterned blanket with various colors and designs. The text is overlaid on the image.

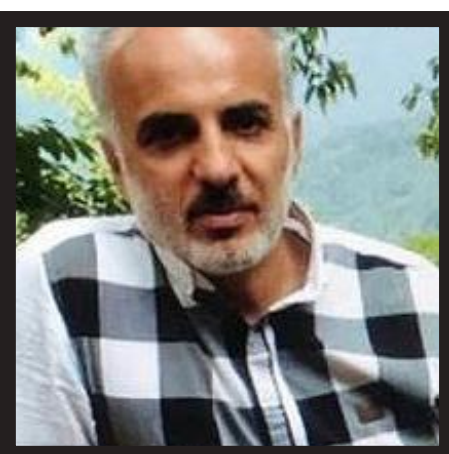
Chapter Six  
**SNAPSHOTS OF THE  
KILLINGS OF THE  
EIGHT PROTESTERS**

Eight citizens of Javanrud were killed by Islamic Republic security forces' gunfire on November 20-21, 2022, and December 31, 2022.

On November 20, 2022, Erfan Kakaee, the 52-year-old teacher, and Bahaoddin Veisi, the 16-year-old student, were killed by the security forces. While Veisi was killed by IRGC forces, CHRI was unable to ascertain with certainty which Islamic Republic force fired the shot that killed Erfan Kakaee.

On November 21, 2022, Tahsin Miri (age 46), Esmail Golanban (age 36), Masoud Teimouri (age 22), Jowhar Fattahi (age 61), and Jamal Azami (age 34) were all killed by IRGC forces.

On December 31, 2022, Borhan Eliasi (age 26), was killed by IRGC forces.



## Erfan Kakaee:

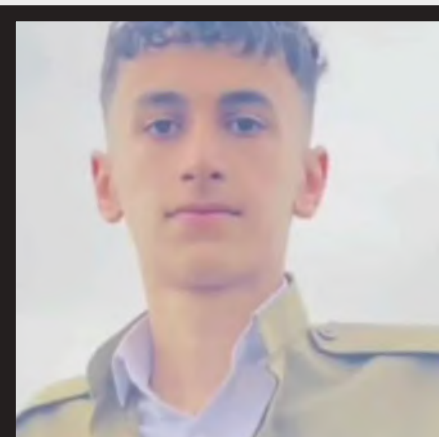
### A Teacher Who Gave His Life to Shield His Students from Bullets

Erfan Kakaee, a 52-year-old sports instructor from Javanrud with 28 years of experience teaching, was shot and killed by Islamic Republic security forces on the evening of November 20, 2022, on Javanrud's Hamza Street.

An eyewitness to the killing, Interviewee #32, described how Erfan Kakaee tried to protect the students from being shot:

*After leaving school, a group of female students were chanting slogans near Tooti Square when the security forces took aim to shoot at them. Kak Erfan (Kakaee), who was a very kind and calm person, intervened and stood between the students and the security forces and tried to prevent them from shooting the students.*

Kakaee was walking away from the security forces towards the students when a bullet struck him in the back, between his shoulder blades—a shot that indicates intent to kill—and he died shortly afterwards.



## Bahaoddin Veisi:

### A 16-Year-Old Student Gunned Down

After the protests on October 8, 2022, 16-year-old high school student Bahaoddin Veisi was pursued by the security forces. Agents (CHRI was unable to ascertain with certainty from which force) went to his

home October 10 at midnight to arrest him but he fled and lived in hiding in a remote location outside the city for a month.

After the news of Erfan Kakaee's death spread among the people of the city, Bahaoddin, like many others, went to the hospital to prevent security forces from taking the teacher's body and to take the teacher's body home.

A member of the Veisi family, Interviewee #33, said:

*When Erfan Kakaee was martyred, Najmoddin (Bahaoddin's brother) posted an Instagram story asking everyone to go to the hospital to save Kakaee's corpse [from being taken by the security agents].*

The black Peugeot carrying Bahaoddin, Najmoddin and two friends, was accompanying people who were taking Kakaee's body from the hospital to his home. When they reached Omid Crossroad (Tooti Square), they were shot at intensively by IRGC forces from all sides, according to eyewitnesses, in front of Dr. Abdollahzadeh's pharmacy.

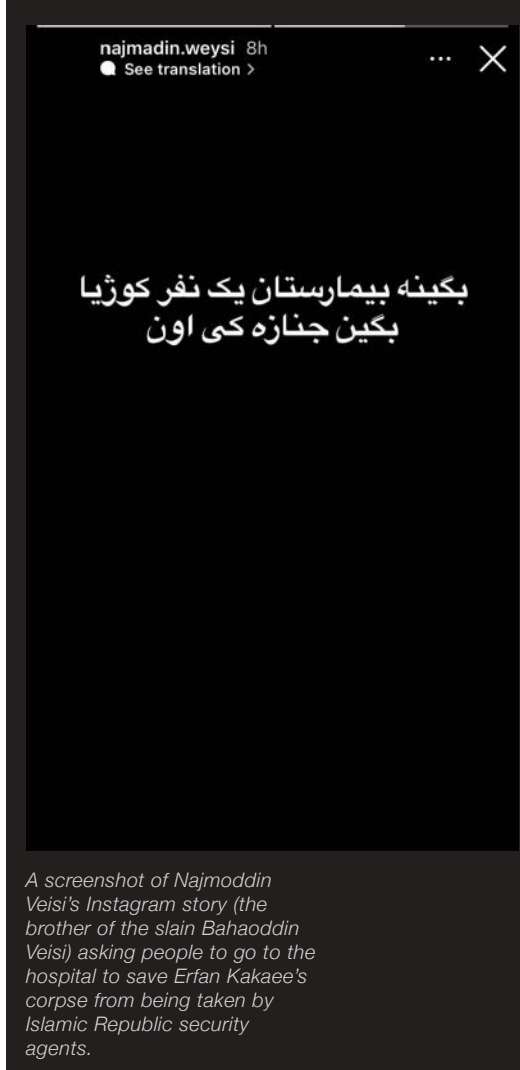
Interviewee #33 continued:

*More than ten soldiers fired shots at their car. During this incident, Bahaoddin was martyred, and his brother, Najmoddin, and their two friends, Hadi Azizi and a person named Rahimzadeh, were injured.*

With great difficulty, people managed to free Bahaoddin from the hands of the authorities and take him to the hospital, but they realized once he was in the car that he had already died.

Interviewee #33 added:

*One of the bullets had hit him in the middle of his back. Their car was riddled with bullet holes.*



A screenshot of Najmoddin Veisi's Instagram story (the brother of the slain Bahaoddin Veisi) asking people to go to the hospital to save Erfan Kakaee's corpse from being taken by Islamic Republic security agents.



## Jamal Azami: A 34-Year-Old Electrician

Jamal Azami, an electrician, was returning home from his work at a construction site on the evening of November 20, 2022. One of his friends informed him that protesters had poured into the city center and had clashed with security forces.



*The moment Jamal Azami was fatally shot by Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) forces on Behdari Street in Javanrud on November 21, 2022.*

“People were running to the sidewalk, trying to hide from the bullets behind trees or any other obstacle they could find.”

A few minutes later, Azami, who had been wounded by a bullet during the November 2018 protests in Iran, received news that Erfan Kakaee and Bahaoddin Veisi had been killed. He immediately went to the homes of the two and spent the night with their families. On November 21, Azami, accompanied by thousands of other people, went to the city’s cemetery to bury Kakaee and Veisi. After the burial, he and another group of people were shot at by Nabi-e-Akram and other IRGC units on Behdari Street.

According to an eyewitness, Interviewee #34:

*People were running to the sidewalk, trying to hide from the bullets behind trees or any other obstacle they could find. Jamal was crouching along a wall, and then he ran towards a group of people who had taken refuge in an alley.*

*Suddenly, a scream was heard from behind him, and he turned around and saw Tahsin Miri had been shot and fallen to the ground. He hesitated for a moment and then immediately returned with his friend to try to save Tahsin. As soon as they reached Tahsin and tried to lift him up, Jamal himself was hit and fell to the ground.*

*Jamal, who was a devout person, recited prayers before he died.*

*People called his family and said Jamal had been injured, and to come get him. No one said he was killed. But a little later, they confirmed he was killed. The family was not in the right state of mind to film or photograph the body. The city was under military rule and they did not allow anyone to go to the funeral.*

*After getting injured, people had taken him to the hospital. He had been shot with a single bullet, but the bullet had passed through his kidney and liver. Those who shrouded the body clearly saw that the bullet had hit his kidney but had also damaged the liver. Jamal was killed in one of the side alleys of Behdari Street.*



## **Jowhar Fattahi: A 61-Year-Old Farmer and Father of Five**

Jowhar Fattahi was a 61-year-old farmer and another one of the victims of the state's violence against protesters on November 21 in Javanrud. He traded agricultural products on Sanjabi Street. Like many people in the city, he participated in the funeral ceremonies for Erfan Kakaee and Bahaoddin Veisi. He left his house after morning prayers and went to the Haj Ebrahim Cemetery.

According to Interviewee #35, a source close to the family:

*Jowhar was one of those who participated in digging the graves for these two beloved people [Erfan Kakaee and Bahaoddin Veisi]. After the funeral, he was returning to the city with others. [Published] [videos](#) show Jowhar trying to resist the security forces there.<sup>23</sup> I was not in Javanrud that day, but according to people who were with him, when Jamal Azami and Esmail Golanbar were targeted and killed by gunfire, Jowhar went towards them so that their bodies would not fall into the hands of the security forces on Behdari Street. But unfortunately, he himself was shot.*

*After he was shot, a woman saw he was bleeding profusely and she took him to her house. However, due to the intensity of the bleeding, his condition worsened. He asked the family not to take him to the hospital and instead help him go back home. He preferred to die at home with his mother and siblings so that his body would not fall into the hands of the security forces.*

*Jowhar was taken to his house, but the bleeding worsened and he went into a coma. His family decided to transfer him*

*The moment Jowhar Fattahi was fatally shot by Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) forces on Behdari Street in Javanrud on November 21, 2022.*



to the hospital, but it was too late, the medical team's efforts to save him were in vain, and he lost his life.

Jowhar's family didn't allow his body to remain in the hospital, and took it home. A large crowd came to the house. His body was shrouded and prepared for burial. His family did not intend to hold the funeral ceremony immediately, but many security agents came to the doorstep and warned people not to gather and ordered the funeral to take place that night. They even fired warning shots several times to scare the people.

As a result, to prevent others from being killed, Jowhar's family decided to bury his body in the Hassan Gayer Cemetery that night. After the funeral, security forces contacted Jowhar's brother several times, asking to come to the house and interview the family. [They intended to] pressure them to say that Jowhar was not killed by state forces but by Kurdish rebels. However, Jowhar's brother objected and said that Jowhar's wife and children would be the judge. After that, no one contacted the family anymore.



## **Masoud Teimouri: A 22-Year-Old Kulbar (Courier) Shot Before His Father's Eyes**

Masoud Teimouri and his father, Mahmoud Teimouri, were attacked by IRGC forces on Behdari Street while returning from the funerals for the slain protesters on November 21, 2022.

An eyewitness to the attack, Interviewee #36, said:

*Mahmoud Teimouri was shot in the abdomen and his son, Masoud Teimouri was martyred there. The officers were using military weapons such as Kalashnikov AK-47s and Uzis. The security forces caught the people off guard, and there was no prior warning. They didn't even know there were forces stationed in their path. [The IRGC] had set up an ambush and intended to kill the people there. Mahmoud was shot, and other people were injured, too. His son and other people tried to rescue them, but the security forces also shot at them, and then Mahmoud's son was martyred. Eventually, five or six people lifted Mahmoud and took him inside a nearby house. Because of the heavy shooting, they couldn't take him to the hospital. He was semi-conscious.*

*After the situation calmed down, they took Mahmoud to the hospital. He was in the ICU for 27 days, and he had no information about his son's death. They told Mahmoud that his son had been injured but was in good condition and had been arrested. Mahmoud thought there was no problem and that eventually his son would be released. Later, Mahmoud found out they had taken his son to the hospital, but he had died after a few minutes. Relatives buried him while the security forces monitored with*



two drones.

Mahmoud's son, Masoud, was a kulbar (a foot courier). A year ago, he was shot in the leg by border guards while carrying goods.

Mahmoud is still receiving treatment at home after being discharged from the hospital, and he has to go to Kermanshah for another surgery. He has had two surgeries so far.

After Masoud's death, the security forces stormed his house and his relatives' homes and arrested many of his relatives, especially the young people. After a while, they released them with heavy bails. They forced them to sign papers without allowing them to read them. They also put pressure on them to make false confessions.

Mahmoud has no hope of filing a complaint about his son's killing. He feels he cannot complain to anyone, and is worried that they will arrest him once his physical condition improves.

Martyr Masoud Teimouri had a wife and a young child.



## **Esmail Golanbar: A 39-Year-Old Father Shot in the Head by an IRGC Sniper**

Esmail Golanbar was a 39-year-old father of a 2-year-old girl. He had a kebab shop. On November 21, 2022, he was among the thousands of people who returned from the cemetery and were shot at by IRGC forces on Behdari Street. He was hit in the head by a bullet from an IRGC sniper—one of the many shoot-to-kill shots fired that day by IRGC forces—and died on the spot.

One of Golanbar's relatives, Interviewee #37, said:

*I saw the corpse myself, and he was only hit by one bullet, which was precisely aimed at his head.*

Esmail was killed at 11:00 a.m., his body was taken by the IRGC and transferred to Kermanshah at 1:00 a.m., and then delivered to his family at the IRGC base on Bistoon Street at 6:00 p.m. on the same day.

Interviewee #37 added:



*The body of Esmail Golanbar, surrounded by Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) forces, on Behdari Street in Javanrud, on November 21, 2022.*

*The IRGC officers agreed to deliver the body to the family on the condition that he would be buried in our village without a large gathering of people. We then transported the body to our village... and buried him at night with the presence of a few security officers.*



## **Tahsin Miri: Shot in the Back for Attending a Funeral**

Tahsin Miri, a 46-year-old kulbar or courier, was killed by IRGC fire on November 21, 2022, on one of Behdari Street's side alleys in Javanrud. He was returning from the funeral of the victims of the previous day, like other city residents.



*The moment Tahsin Miri was fatally shot by Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) forces on Behdari Street in Javanrud on November 21, 2022.*

Jamal Azami, another victim of that day, realizing Tahsin was wounded, along with one of his friends, rushed to save him. Tahsin had been shot in the back and fallen to the ground. However, Jamal himself was also shot and he fell next to Tahsin.

In a video by a source at the scene which was shared privately with CHRI on the condition that it not be published due to the security concerns of the source, it shows the first moments after Tahsin was shot in the back, with several people lifting and carrying the bloody bodies of Tahsin and Jamal to opposite sides of the alley.

*The body of Tahsin Miri, who was shot in the back and killed by Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) forces for attending the funerals of slain protesters on November 21, 2022.*





## Borhan Eliasi: Shot in the Heart at Age 26

Borhan Eliasi, a 26-year-old from Javanrud, was killed on December 31, 2023. He was shot after returning from the ceremony to attend a memorial for Javanrud's slain residents. On the way to Behdari Street he had noticed a commotion on the street and headed towards the protesters.

According to eyewitnesses at the scene, IRGC forces were harassing a young man when Eliasi, who was watching, came to his defense. An IRGC gunman then shot him from a distance of only one to two meters away, with clear intent to kill. One bullet hit him in the chest and another hit him on his right shoulder. People took Eliasi to the hospital,

but he passed away about an hour later.

A relative of the family, Interviewee #38 told CHRI:

*Borhan was a young athlete who always defended the weak. People said that the bullets belonged to a rifle used by the Basij forces. The family went to the hospital and received the body just before the security forces arrived.*

Eliasi was buried by his family that same night, and the funeral was held the next day.

Interviewee #38 added:

*The security forces contacted the family and said not to hold a funeral ceremony. They also summoned the family to the Intelligence Ministry office, but they said they won't go there for any reason and that they would hold the funeral ceremony, and that people from Sarpol-e Zahab to Iraqi Kurdistan would come to offer their condolences. They couldn't cancel the funeral.*

*The authorities said the family should come back the next day to make a pledge. The family wouldn't give any pledge but had to assure them that nothing would happen at the ceremony.*

According to eyewitnesses, Basij and IRGC forces had shot Eliasi.■

*The funeral on January 1, 2023, for 26-year-old Borhan Eliasi, who was killed by Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) forces for attending the 40-day memorial service for protesters killed by the security forces.*



A photograph of a military vehicle, possibly a Toyota Land Cruiser, with several soldiers in camouflage uniforms. One soldier is standing in the back of the vehicle, operating a machine gun. Other soldiers are standing around the vehicle on a paved area. The scene is overlaid with a semi-transparent dark layer containing text.

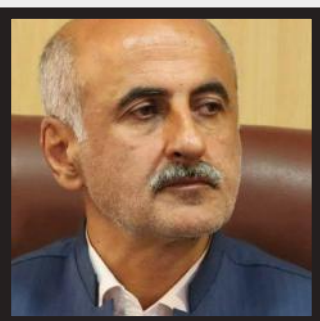
Chapter Seven  
**AGENTS OF  
OPPRESSION**

Many officials and agents of the Islamic Republic—from government officials on the national, provincial and local levels who make and carry out policy and issue orders, to members of the security forces, including the IRGC, the Basij, and the police, who shot, maimed, killed, and beat unarmed civilians, to intelligence agents working for the IRGC, the Intelligence Ministry, and the Interior Ministry who pursued, interrogated, and tortured protesters, to judicial officials who ordered the unlawful arrests and detentions of peaceful demonstrators—were participants in the state atrocities committed against the people of Javanrud in 2022.

While it is beyond the scope of this report to name them all, CHRI notes a few individuals who were known to be instrumental in these atrocities. They include:

## Political Officials

(Both of the two officials below are under the authority of the Ministry of Interior, which is currently headed by **Ahmad Vahidi**. The Ministry of the Interior is legally under the authority of the government, and its minister reports to **President Ebrahim Raisi**, but in practice the Interior Minister is chosen by Islamic Republic **Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei**.)



**Sa'di Naghshbandi** is governor of Javanrud county. Naghshbandi is the principal official on behalf of the Ministry of Interior that has the authority to order the police forces to suppress the people. He is in charge of maintaining security and is responsible for ensuring that the decisions made by Javanrud's Security Council (a collection of various intelligence and security officers that monitor the city and decide on any suppressive activities) are carried out and enforced. During the October-December 2022 protests, he would have been responsible for enlisting the police and would have had to coordinate with the IRGC in suppressing the protests.



**Mohammad Pourhashemi** is the deputy governor of Kermanshah province, and in charge of security affairs. In an [interview](#) with state media on November 22, 2022, Pourhashemi blamed the protests in Javanrud on the Kurdish opposition forces based in Iraqi Kurdistan and called for severe crackdowns by the security forces.<sup>24</sup> Pourhashemi would have had to approve the police's activities during the protests, including the police forces' shooting of the protesters. He is also responsible for any coordination between the police and the Intelligence Ministry forces, which were also used to surveil and suppress the people in Javanrud.

## Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) Officers

(The IRGC and all its officers are under the authority of Islamic Republic **Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei**, and its current head, **Major General Hossein Salami**, reports directly to Khamenei.)



**General Kourosh Asiabani** is commander of the IRGC's Martyr Kazemi Headquarters and the deputy commander of the IRGC's Najaf Ashraf Headquarters. Eyewitnesses and informed sources said Asiabani was present and giving orders to shoot the protesters on November 20 and 21, and he is the official who had the authority to order the IRGC siege of Javanrud.



**General Mohammad Nazar Azami** is commander of the Najaf Ashraf Regional Headquarters, and in charge of IRGC forces in Kermanshah, Ilam, and Hamedan provinces. During the demonstrations in Javanrud, the body of one of the slain protesters, Esmail Golanbar, was taken to the Najaf Ashraf headquarters. The body was handed back to the family only after they pledged not to hold a memorial for him. Azami was the official with the authority to give the orders to keep or release the bodies.



**General Ahmad Ali Feizollahi** was the commander of the IRGC's Ansar-e-Rasool Special Forces unit during the protests in Javanrud and was appointed as the commander of the Saber Corps in June 2023. Multiple eyewitnesses said he ordered his forces on November 20 and 21 to shoot directly at the protesters.



**Colonel Bahman Mirzaei** is commander of the IRGC's Javanrud Corps. He was responsible for bringing out the IRGC forces and commanding their actions, including giving the orders to shoot the protesters in Javanrud, and eyewitnesses and informed sources said they saw Mirzaei giving orders to the IRGC forces to shoot the protesters on November 21.



**Brigadier General Bahman Reyhani** is commander of the IRGC's Nabi Akram Army in Kermanshah. The IRGC Intelligence Organization's detention center is located inside these IRGC barracks in Kermanshah, where a number of protesters from Javanrud were held, abusively interrogated, and tortured. He would have had to order and approve of the violent interrogations and torture of detained protesters that were carried out by forces under his command.

## Intelligence Ministry Officials

(The Intelligence Ministry, currently headed by **Esmaeil Khatib**, is legally under the authority of the government and its minister reports to Iranian **President Ebrahim Raisi**, but in practice the Intelligence Minister is chosen by Islamic Republic **Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei**.)

"**Imani**," whose first name is unknown, is head of the Intelligence Ministry's office in Javanrud. This is not the real name of this official; he is known by this name among the people in Javanrud. CHRI was unable to obtain his real name. Fake names or aliases are often used by intelligence officials to conceal their identity, especially in a relatively small city like Javanrud, and facilitate their undercover work. Eyewitnesses and informed sources said the agents working for "Emani" were directly responsible for detaining protesters and subjecting them to torture.

## Law Enforcement Officers

(This refers to various police officials, all of whom are under the authority of either the Ministry of Intelligence, currently headed by **Esmaeil Khatib**, or the Ministry of Interior, currently headed by **Ahmad Vahidi**, both of whom report directly to Iranian **President Ebrahim Raisi**, but as stated above, are in practice chosen by Islamic Republic **Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei**.)

**Hossein Dashti** and **Akbari** (first name unknown) both work for the police security unit known as "Amaken," which is under the control of the Ministry of Interior. According to testimony received from several of the detainees, Dashti and Akbari both subjected detained juveniles and other detainees to severe physical and psychological torture with batons and cables, and threatened them with rape.



**Colonel Behrouz Fakhri** is the city police chief of Javanrud, in charge of the Police Special Unit. Eyewitnesses and informed sources said that units under his command were responsible for torturing and injuring protesters during detention.

**Colonel Shahram Heydari** is the head of the security police in Javanrud. Heydari played an active role in ordering arrests during the popular protests. On December 20, 2022, he was injured in pursuit of border traders and died several days later.

## Judicial Officials

(Judicial officers report to **Judiciary Chief Gholam-Hossein Mohseni Ejei**, who reports to Islamic Republic **Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei**.)

**Amir Bahador Amraei** is a deputy judiciary official (local judiciary officials have the authority to issue summons and order agents to arrest people and keep them in detention) in Branch 102 of the Criminal Court in Javanrud. He issued summons and arrest orders for the protesters in Javanrud.

**Habibollah Sepehraeen** is a city prosecutor in Javanrud. Sepehraeen prolonged the detention of protesters in Javanrud and both he and officials under his command made threats against the families of those detained. Eyewitnesses and informed sources said that families who came to the detention centers to try find or obtain any information on their loved ones—including in at least one known case, to find their under-age-18 child—were told not only by officials under his command but also by Sepehraeen himself that if they came to the detention center again, both the family members and the detainees, including in the case of the above-mentioned detained child, would receive very long prison sentences.

**Nariman Shafiei** is the chief judicial official in Javanrud. He issued and extended the detention orders for the protesters in Javanrud.

**Mansour Veisi** is the night-shift judge in Javanrud. He issued summons and arrest and detention orders for protesters in Javanrud, typically carried out late at night or during raids at the homes of the protesters in the early morning hours.■



# CONCLUSION

What happened in Javanrud during the months from October to December 2022 reflects a state—and its concomitant forces—bound by no constraints, legal, ethical, or otherwise.

Shoot-to-kill actions undertaken against unarmed protesters, against children, and against those who ran to try to help the injured fallen in the streets, amount to state atrocities that rise to the level of crimes against humanity.

Indeed, the acts of murder, torture, and abuse committed as part of the state's widespread, systematic attack against the civilian population of Javanrud, unequivocally meet the threshold of [crimes against humanity](#).<sup>25</sup> The use of heavy military equipment, and the siege of Javanrud by military units, including the IRGC, for more than three months after the start of the protests, as well as their control of the city, indicate that the suppression and massacre of the people of Javanrud was a fully organized and planned action, undertaken with the state's full knowledge.

Crimes against humanity have been prosecuted and addressed in many international courts, such as the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, and the International Criminal Court. Currently, the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) has established the [Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on the Islamic Republic of Iran](#) to investigate the crimes committed by the Islamic Republic in the context of the state's suppression of the protests that began in September 2022.<sup>26</sup> The mission's mandate includes the responsibility "to collect, consolidate and analyse evidence of such violations and preserve evidence, including in view of cooperation in any legal proceedings." Such documentation will be critical to any efforts to hold the authorities criminally responsible for their actions, including the massacre that took place in Javanrud. CHRI hopes this report and the public documentation of crimes it provides will contribute to those efforts.

The level and extent of state violence in Javanrud reflect a government that appears to perceive itself as unchecked domestically or internationally, free to commit its crimes as it wishes. The Iranian people have not given up efforts to disabuse the authorities of that notion; it is up to the international community to support them and similarly hold the authorities accountable for the atrocities they have committed.■



# APPENDIX 1: INTERVIEWS

All 38 interviewees (11 women, 27 men) were residents of Javanrud and present in Javanrud at the time of the events described in this report (October 8, 2022 - December 31, 2022).

All of the interviews for this report were conducted between October 26, 2022 and June 2, 2023. Interview dates for each individual interviewee have been withheld, as well as other potentially identifying information, to protect the security of the interviewees.

Most of the interviews were conducted remotely via the encrypted messaging application Telegram, while 7 of the 38 interviews were conducted in-person and then transmitted to CHRI via the encrypted WhatsApp messaging application.

All interviews were conducted in either Farsi or Kurdish, and all were translated into English by CHRI.

Interviewee #1: Eyewitness, 17-year-old male

Interviewee #2: Eyewitness, male

Interviewee #3: Eyewitness, 45-year-old male

Interviewee #4: Eyewitness, male

Interviewee #5: Eyewitness, male

Interviewee #6: Eyewitness, 67-year-old male

Interviewee #7: Eyewitness, former resident of Javanrud now living in a city in central Iran, male  
Interviewee #8: Eyewitness, male  
Interviewee #9: Eyewitness, male  
Interviewee #10: Eyewitness, male  
Interviewee #11: Eyewitness, 19-year-old male  
Interviewee #12: 20-year-old wounded male  
Interviewee #13: 73-year-old wounded male  
Interviewee #14: 24-year-old wounded female  
Interviewee #15: Source close to one of the wounded protesters, female  
Interviewee #16: Source close to one of the wounded protesters, male  
Interviewee #17: Eyewitness, 51-year-old wounded male  
Interviewee #18: Eyewitness, wounded male  
Interviewee #19: Eyewitness, wounded male  
Interviewee #20: Eyewitness, wounded male  
Interviewee #21: Eyewitness, female  
Interviewee #22: Eyewitness, 73-year-old wounded male  
Interviewee #23: Eyewitness, female  
Interviewee #24: Source close to one of the detained protesters, female  
Interviewee #25: Source close to one of the detained protesters, male  
Interviewee #26: Source close to one of the arrested clerics, female  
Interviewee #27: Source close to one of the protesters killed in Javanrud, female  
Interviewee #28: Source close to one of the children who was arrested, male  
Interviewee #29: Source close to one of the children who was arrested, male  
Interviewee #30: Source close to one of the children who was arrested, female  
Interviewee #31: Source close to one of the wounded protesters, male  
Interviewee #32: Source close to one of the protesters killed in Javanrud, male  
Interviewee #33: Source close to one of the protesters killed in Javanrud, female  
Interviewee #34: Source close to one of the protesters killed in Javanrud, male  
Interviewee #35: Source close to one of the protesters killed in Javanrud, female  
Interviewee #36: Source close to one of the protesters killed in Javanrud, male  
Interviewee #37: Source close to one of the protesters killed in Javanrud, female  
Interviewee #38: Source close to one of the protesters killed in Javanrud, male ■

# ENDNOTES

1 “Crimes Against Humanity,” United Nations Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect, <https://www.un.org/en/genocideprevention/crimes-against-humanity.shtml>. Article 7 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court defines “Crimes Against Humanity” as follows: 1. For the purpose of this Statute, ‘crime against humanity’ means **any of the following acts** [bolding by CHRI] when committed as part of a widespread or systematic attack directed against any civilian population, with knowledge of the attack: a. Murder; b. Extermination; c. Enslavement; d. Deportation or forcible transfer of population; e. Imprisonment or other severe deprivation of physical liberty in violation of fundamental rules of international law; f. Torture; g. Rape, sexual slavery, enforced prostitution, forced pregnancy, enforced sterilization, or any other form of sexual violence of comparable gravity; h. Persecution against any identifiable group or collectivity on political, racial, national, ethnic, cultural, religious, gender as defined in paragraph 3, or other grounds that are universally recognized as impermissible under international law, in connection with any act referred to in this paragraph or any crime within the jurisdiction of the Court; i. Enforced disappearance of persons; j. The crime of apartheid; k. Other inhumane acts of a similar character intentionally causing great suffering, or serious injury to body or to mental or physical health. 2. For the purpose of paragraph 1: ‘Attack directed against any civilian population’ means a course of conduct involving the multiple commission of acts referred to in paragraph 1 against any civilian population, pursuant to or in furtherance of a State or organizational policy to commit such attack. According to Article 7 (1) of the Rome Statute, crimes against humanity do not need to be linked to an armed conflict and can also occur in peacetime, similar to the crime of genocide.

2 See the constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which states in Article 27, “Public gatherings and marches may be freely held, provided arms are not carried and that they are not detrimental to the fundamental principles of Islam,” translation by the Foundation for Iranian Studies, <https://fis-iran.org/document/constitution-of-the-islamic-republic-of-iran/>; and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/international-covenant-civil-and-political-rights>

3 The UN “Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials,” adopted September 7, 1990, by the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, Havana, Cuba, 27 August to 7 September 1990, assert in Principle 13 that “In the dispersal of assemblies that are unlawful but non-violent, law enforcement officials shall avoid the use of force or, where that is not practicable, shall restrict such force to the minimum extent necessary” and in Principle 14 that “In the dispersal of violent assemblies, law enforcement officials may use firearms only when less dangerous means are not practicable and only to the minimum extent necessary.” <https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/basic-principles-use-force-and-firearms-law-enforcement>

4 “Mahsa Amini is Another Victim of the Islamic Republic’s War on Women,” Center for Human Rights in Iran, September 16, 2022 <https://iranhumanrights.org/2022/09/mahsa-amini-is-another-victim-of-islamic-republics-war-on-women/>

5 For total number of protesters killed see: “Report on 200 days of Protest Repression/List of At Risk Protesters,” Iran Human Rights, April 4, 2023 <https://iranhr.net/en/articles/5795/> and for total number of arrests of protesters see: “Of Those Pardoned 22,000 Are Related to the Recent Riots/Amnesty of 82,000 Prisoners,” Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), March 22, 2023 <https://www.irna.ir/news/85055898/%DB%B2%DB%B2-%D9%87%D8%B2%D8%A7%D8%B1-%D9%86%D9%81%D8%B1-%D8%A7%D8%B2-%D8%B9%D9%81%D9%88%D8%B4%D8%AF%DA%AF%D8%A7%D9%86-%D9%85%D8%B1-%D8%A8%D9%88%D8%B7-%D8%A8%D9%87-%D8%A7%D8%BA%D8%AA%D8%B4%D8%A7%D8%B4%D8%A7%D8%AA-%D8%A7%D8%AE%DB%8C%D8%B1-%D9%87%D8%B3%D8%AA%D9%86%D8%AF-%D8%B9%D9%81%D9%88-%DB%B8%DB%B2-%D9%87%D8%B2%D8%A7%D8%B1>

6 “Iran: Child detainees subjected to flogging, electric shocks and sexual violence in brutal protest crackdown,” Amnesty International, March 16, 2023 <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2023/03/iran-child-detainees-subjected-to-flogging-electric-shocks-and-sexual-violence-in-brutal-protest-crackdown/>

7 Research conducted by the Center for Human Rights in Iran, through June 5, 2023.

8 “Human Rights Council Hears about Reports of Massacres of Civilians in



Myanmar and Possible Crimes against Humanity in Iran Following Mass Protests in Both Countries,” UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, March 20, 2023 <https://www.ohchr.org/en/news/2023/03/human-rights-council-hears-about-reports-massacres-civilians-myanmar-and-possible>

9 See for example “Iran Protests: Massacre in Kurdish Areas Feared as Security Forces Launch Lethal Crackdown,” Center for Human Rights in Iran, November 21, 2022 <https://iranhumanrights.org/2022/11/iran-protests-massacre-in-kurdish-areas-feared-as-security-forces-launch-lethal-crackdown/>; “State Massacres Fail to Crush Protests in Sistan and Baluchestan Province,” Center for Human Rights in Iran, November 8, 2022 <https://iranhumanrights.org/2022/11/state-massacres-fail-to-crush-protests-in-sistan-and-baluchestan-province/>; “Iran: Swift action by UN Human Rights Council essential after latest horrifying protester killings,” Amnesty International, November 22, 2022 <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2022/11/iran-swift-action-by-un-human-rights-council-essential-after-latest-horrifying-protester-killings/>; and “Iran: At least 82 Baluchi protesters and bystanders killed in bloody crackdown,” Amnesty International, October 6, 2022 <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2022/10/iran-at-least-82-baluchi-protesters-and-bystanders-killed-in-bloody-crackdown/>

10 See this video of protests in Zahedan, posted by the Baloch Activists Campaign on June 2, 2023 <https://t.me/balochcampaign/14546>; and “Students Arrested and Banished, Professors Fired in Latest State Crackdown in Iran,” Center for Human Rights in Iran, June 1, 2023 <https://iranhumanrights.org/2023/06/students-arrested-and-banished-professors-fired-in-latest-state-crackdown-in-iran/>

11 See for example, “Iranian Activists Announce ‘Justice-Seeking’ Pact in New Statement,” Center for Human Rights in Iran, February 27, 2023 <https://iranhumanrights.org/2023/02/iranian-activists-announce-justice-seeking-pact-in-new-statement/>; and “Political Prisoner Narges Mohammadi: I Will Testify About Sexual Assault Against Protesters,” Center for Human Rights in Iran, March 3, 2023 <https://iranhumanrights.org/2023/03/i-will-testify-about-sexual-assault-against-iranian-protesters-says-political-prisoner-in-iran/>

12 See for example, this tweet regarding 30 relatives of slain protesters arbitrarily detained by state security forces while returning from mourning at the graves of their loved ones on June 9, 2023 <https://twitter.com/ICHRI/status/1667630218125647876?s=20>; “Young Man Shot Dead as Iranian Authorities Try to Silence Justice-Seeking Families,” Center for Human Rights in Iran, June 12, 2023 <https://iranhumanrights.org/2023/06/kian-pirfalak-young-man-shot-dead-as-iranian-authorities-try-to-silence-justice-seeking-families/>; “Relatives of Victims of State Violence Are Being Persecuted in Iran,” Center for Human Rights in Iran, March 31, 2022 <https://iranhumanrights.org/2023/06/kian-pirfalak-young-man-shot-dead-as-iranian-authorities-try-to-silence-justice-seeking-families/>; and “Iran: Families of Detained and Killed Protesters Beaten, Threatened to Stay Silent,” Center for Human Rights in Iran, January 25, 2023 <https://iranhumanrights.org/2023/01/iran-families-of-detained-and-killed-protesters-beaten-threatened-to-stay-silent/>

[killed-protesters-beaten-threatened-to-stay-silent/](#)

13 “Iranians’ Attitudes Toward the 2022 Nationwide Protests,” GAMAAN, The Group for Analyzing and Measuring Attitudes in Iran, February 4, 2023 [https://gamaan.org/2023/02/04/protests\\_survey/](https://gamaan.org/2023/02/04/protests_survey/)

14 Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on the Islamic Republic of Iran,” United Nations Human Rights Council, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/ffm-iran/index>

15 See “Mohammad Rabi’i,” Abdorrahman Boroumand Center, <https://www.iranrights.org/memorial/story/71619/mohammad-rabii>; “Chain Murder Archives,” Justice for Iran, <https://www.zeitoons.com/21958>; and “An Event That Was Never Recorded,” Zeitoons, December 3, 2016 <https://www.zeitoons.com/21958>

16 During the protests that erupted across Iran in November 2019, five civilians were killed by state security forces in Javanrud. They were: Kaveh Mohammadi, Hamzeh Naghdi, Mobin Abdollahi, Jabbar Tejareh, and Ali Firoozbakht. See: “Killing of At Least 55 Kurdish Citizens in November 2019 Protests,” Hengaw Organization for Human Rights, February 22, 2020 <https://hengaw.net/en/news/killing-of-at-least-55-kurdish-citizens-in-november-2019-protests-the-identity-of-41-people>

17 “Representative of Mahabad in Parliament: 11 People in Mahabad have Been Killed So Far,” Radio Farda, November 20, 2022 <https://www.radiofarda.com/a/32141152.html>

18 In Iran, Bahman Street is technically called “22<sup>nd</sup> of Bahman Street,” the anniversary of the establishment of the Islamic Republic after the 1979 revolution.

19 See this tweet and video by the Kurdistan Human Rights Network, November 21, 2022 [https://twitter.com/KurdistanHRN/status/1594837194581180417?t=\\_CvSt9VhJCZ3uV24R69zgg&s=35](https://twitter.com/KurdistanHRN/status/1594837194581180417?t=_CvSt9VhJCZ3uV24R69zgg&s=35)

20 See <https://twitter.com/KurdistanHRN/status/159460921222578689>, Kurdistan Human Rights Network, November 21, 2023

21 “Narration of Peyman Sohrabirad: The bullet took away the ability to speak by splitting his throat,” Radio Zamaneh, May 29, 2023 <https://www.radiozamaneh.com/766671/>

22 “Hamedan: Mamosta Saifollah Hosseini was sentenced to a total of 17 years of imprisonment, 74 lashes and two years of exile,” Kurdistan Human Rights Network, January 25, 2023 <https://kurdistanhumanrights.org/fa/?p=20108>

23 See <https://twitter.com/KurdistanHRN/status/1594677747191791616>, Kurdistan Human Rights Network, November 21, 2023

24 “Two Homes Set on Fire by Rioters in Javanrud,” Akharin Khabar, November 22, 2022 <https://akharinkhabar.ir/local/9370716/>

25 “Crimes Against Humanity,” United Nations Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect, <https://www.un.org/en/genocideprevention/crimes-against-humanity.shtml>

26 “Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on the Islamic Republic of Iran,” United Nations Human Rights Council, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/ffm-iran/index>

## **Massacre in Javanrud**

### **State Atrocities Against Protesters in Iran's Kurdish Regions,**

reveals the atrocities committed by Islamic Republic of Iran security forces against the people of Javanrud, a primarily Kurdish city in northwestern Iran, during the months from October to December of 2022. As the state moved to crush public protests that had erupted in the city, which were part of the nationwide protests that followed the killing in state custody of 22-year-old Jina Mahsa Amini, security forces shot, with military-grade machine guns, cornered, and massacred unarmed civilians. The wounded were beaten in the streets, and those who tried to help the wounded were shot by the security forces. The injured could not seek help safely at the city's hospitals as security forces were stationed there to identify and arrest protesters. Eight unarmed civilians in Javanrud were shot dead, including one (16-year-old) child, and at least 80 people, including children, were injured, many of them severely. At least 89 protesters were arbitrarily arrested, of which 26 were children. Detainees—including children—were beaten and tortured, and state agents made threats against the families of those killed, injured, and detained to remain silent. This investigative report by the Center for Human Rights in Iran (CHRI) and the Kurdistan Human Rights Network (KHRN) documents these crimes by the state, which rise to the level of crimes against humanity, identifies some of the perpetrators involved in them, and provides a series of recommendations for the international community to respond to these atrocities.



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