

Chronology of Events in Iran, June 2004*

June 1

Iranian Supreme Court quashes death sentence against lecturer. (Iranian Mehr News Agency)

Iranian Supreme Court has quashed the death sentence against the dissident lecturer Hashem Aghajari. Iranian Judiciary Chief Ayatollah Shahrudi has called for the case to be referred to Tehran. The Tehran Justice Department will study the case again.

Iranians face crackdown on "immoral" behaviour. (Reuters)

Iran's morals police have launched a crackdown on "social corruption" such as women flouting Islamic dress codes. "A serious fight has started to tackle the spread of social corruption in society, especially the improper dress code," Tehran's Prosecutor Saeed Mortazavi said. Tehran residents have noted an upsurge in arrests for "immoral behaviour" in recent weeks. Islamic volunteers and morals police have stepped up raids on illegal house parties where young people meet to drink alcohol and dance to Western music. And along Tehran's Jordan Avenue - a popular place for young Iranians to cruise in their cars at night - plain-clothes security men have been stopping cars and arresting occupants for a variety of offences.

Iran official expresses concern about courts summoning students. (Islamic Republic News Agency / IRNA)

Deputy Minister of Science, Research and Technology for students affairs Gholamreza Zarifian expressed concern about continued summoning of students to courts. Speaking at a ceremony to honour academic figures of Kashan University, he voiced grievances about "worrying process the Judiciary has been involved since the beginning of new Iranian year by summoning students to courts". According to approval of Supreme National Security Council (SNSC), any charge against students should first be examined by the "Campus Disciplinary Committee".

Student Activist Sentenced to Six Years in Jail. (Iranian Labour News Agency / IRNA)

Payman Piran, was sentenced to six years in jail and a ten-year ban from social activities by 26th Bench of Revolutionary Court. Meanwhile, Piran's brother denied any connections between Payman Piran and the Democratic Front. Piran has been jailed in the first cell block of Evin prison for months.

Guardian Council Approves Division of Khorasan Province. (Reuters)

Iran's Guardian Council has approved a bill to carve up the country's biggest province, a proposal that has ignited violent clashes in the past. Iran's former reformist

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Parliament voted in May 2004 to split the northeastern Khorasan province into three to allow more equitable budget allocation and prevent the regional capital Mashhad from absorbing the lion's share of state money. The Guardian Council rejected the proposal earlier in June 2004. But Parliament re-submitted it after making some changes. There have been no reports of protests during the debates on splitting the province up this year.

Armed tribal clash kill three in Fars province. (Iran News website)

Tree people were killed and another three were wounded in an intense armed tribal clash between the two tribes "Mir" and "Zarei" in Nodan village in Kazeroun. This clash ended with the police interference and detention of main elements.

June 2

Clerical society forms faction in Iranian Majlis. (Iranian newspaper *Aftab-e Yazd*)

The Society of Militant Clerics has formed an independent 60-member faction in the seventh Majlis.

June 4

Daily *Salam Hamvatan* begins publication in Tehran. (Iranian Students News Agency / ISNA)

The first issue of *Salam Hamvatan* is published tomorrow. Aqa-Mohammad is the managing editor of *Salam Hamvatan*.

Student union meeting evaluates performance of the state. (Iranian Labour News Agency / ILNA)

Participants of a nationwide gathering of students who act as intermediaries between student associations at Azad University, in the second day of their meeting, discussed the performance of the system in various fields. Three specialist committees discussed and evaluated the performance of the Judiciary, the Guardian Council, the Executive, the Expediency Council, the Legislator and the Leader's Representative Foundation at Universities, and formulated their demands from these institutions. The students also called for the reform of these institutions towards the "ideals of the Imam Khomeyni and the nation".

June 5

Iran party protests to Khatami for denial of publication license. (IRNA)

Islamic Revolution Mojahedin Organization (IRMO) protested to President Mohammad Khatami against refusal of the Press Supervisory Board to authorize the political party to publish weekly. IRMO published a weekly called *Asr-e Ma* (Our Time) from 1993 until March 2002 when the weekly was banned and since then the ban has been in force. The managing-editor of the weekly was sentenced to 18 months in prison. IRMO applied for a new license to publish its organ with the department for domestic press of Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance. However, the party has not yet received a license for the new publication.

Former Islamic Association Secretary Summoned to Court. (ISNA)

The former secretary of Zanjan University Islamic Association, Rahim Hassani-Tabar was summoned to the public prosecutor's office as a defendant. The head of the university's security organization has also been subpoenaed as an informed source and will appear before court. The charges related to this court summons have not been disclosed.

June 6

New Iran Majlis speaker elected for one year. (IRNA)

The newly-appointed Iranian MPs elected Gholamali Haddad-Adel as parliament speaker for one year, making him the first non-cleric to fill the post since the 1979 Islamic Revolution. Haddad-Adel, running as the sole contender for the post, won 226 votes from among the 259 ballots cast to preside over the 290-seat parliament or Majlis. The MPs also picked up other presiding members of the parliament, including Mohammed Reza Bahonar as the first deputy speaker and Mohammad Hassan Abu-Torabi as the second deputy speaker.

New Iranian head of prisons appointed. (IRNA)

Ali Akbar Yasaqi, former head of Khorasan Justice Department, has been appointed as the head of State Prisons Organization. Morteza Bakhtiari, former head of State Prisons Organization, replaced him as the head of the Khorasan Justice Department.

June 7

Internet Service Providers shut down. (Radio Free Europe / Radio Liberty RFE/RL *Iran Report*)

Reza Rashidi, the head of Iran's Data Connection Company, said June that the judiciary will close Internet service providers (ISPs) that operate without a permit. ISPs that do not filter websites or that allow international telephone calls (Internet telephony) will be closed, he added. The judiciary has reportedly a list of 220 ISPs that it intends to close and that it has closed 50 ISPs since May 2004.

Film journal's director appears in court. (IRNA)

The executive editor of a film and cinema journal, Ali Mo'allem, appeared in court on charges filed by Tehran's attorney-general. Mo'allem said his responsibilities as an editor of an artistic magazine included "publishing of artists' pictures for artistic purposes" on the front page of his *Donyayeh Tasvir* (World of Pictures) magazine.

Iranian journalist detained after appearing in court. (ISNA)

Abbas Kakavand was taken into detention after appearing before the magistrates' section of the court for offences committed by government employees. He was charged with the publication of falsehoods. After being informed of the charge against him today, he was taken to Evin prison because he was unable to pay the 10m-toman [approximately 11,000 dollars] bail. Kakavand had said earlier that the plaintiff against him in this case was the Imam Khomeyni Relief Committee.

Three convicts publicly hanged in Iran. (Agence France Presse / AFP)

Three Iranians reportedly convicted of “rape, kidnapping and extortion” have been hanged publicly in the western city of Khoramabad. The men, who were not named, were strung up before dusk in three different places in the city.

Supreme Court Overturns Lower Court Ruling on Kerman Serial Murders. (Iranian newspaper *Veqayeh Ettafaqiyeh*)

The 31st Circuit of the Supreme Court overturned the death sentence imposed on the defendants of Kerman serial killings, and sent the case back to the Kerman Justice Department. Judge Abdulreza Parvizi presiding over the 10th Circuit of the Kerman General Court had sentenced the six defendants of this case to death, finding them guilty in the murder of three victims, including two women. The defendants' families have paid the family of two of the victims 300 million rials as "blood money" so that the death verdicts could be rescinded

June 10**Gatvand residents protest. (Iranian newssite Baztab)**

A large number of the city of Gatvand's citizens, including youngsters, teachers, farmers and businessmen closed down shop to gather in front of the governor's office in order to protest against the "inadequate" performance of the municipality and the governor's office.

June 11**Iranian journalist Abbas Kakavand released on bail. (ISNA)**

Abbas Kakavand [formerly writing for the conservative daily *Resalat*] said that he was released from prison on a 100m-rial bail.

Iranian reformist journalist summoned to court for "anti-government" report. (Iranian newspaper *Mardom Salari*)

Masha'allah Shamsolva'ezin [the editor of four newspapers *Jame'eh*, *Tus*, *Neshat* and *Aser-e Azadehgan*] has been summoned to court for anti-government propaganda and publishing false reports.

June 12**Law Enforcement Forces in charge of Iran-Iraq borders. (Iranian Fars News Agency)**

Deputy Interior Minister for Security Affairs said that the Law-Enforcement Force was put in charge of the security of the Iranian borders, the including the borders of Iran with Iraq will also be vested with the Law-Enforcement Force. He said that the army of the Islamic Republic of Iran is still in charge of the southern borders of Iran under the command of the Arms Forces General Staff Headquarters and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC] is in charge of the security of the north-western borders. He said that the Law-Enforcement Force may only be present in the regions under the command of the army and IRGC and as an element of Arms Forces General Staff Headquarters. He added that the Law-Enforcement Force are at present

designing the structure of border regiments in the region. After the legal procedure is completed and the required budget is allocated the plan will be implemented.

Resigned Islamic Association Secretary appears before court. (Iranian newspaper *Vaqayeh Ettafaqiyeh*)

The former Islamic Association secretary, Rahim Hassan Tabar, was notified of his charges in the First Bench of Revolutionary Court. Hassan Tabar was charged with spreading lies and insulting the Supreme Leader of Islamic Revolution.

Fayyaz-Bakhsh appointed Head of Women's Faction. (Iranian newspaper *Iran*)

Tehran MP Nafiseh Fayyaz-Bakhsh was appointed head of the Majlis Women's Faction by gaining half of the votes of female deputies. Karaj MP Fatemeh Ajorlou referred to Rafat Bayat, Nayereh Akhavan, Nafiseh Fayyaz-Bakhsh and Effat Shariati as the four candidates for this post.

Police arrest many offenders in Imam Hussein Square. (Iranian opposition website *Peykeiran*)^{*}

Tehran police force arrested many offenders in Imam Hussein square; including CD and tape sellers. Few women were also nabbed by the police. Meanwhile, undercover Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps officers, acting as traffic wardens, controlled the motorists in Tehran streets and junctions.

June 13

Hundreds of Iranians march against child labour in Tehran. (IRNA)

Hundreds of people gathered in the Laleh Park downtown Tehran to demonstrate against the exploitation of minors on the World Day against Child Labour. Member of the directorial board of the Association for Supporting Working Children, Qasem Hoseyni, said that the figures and statistics on the children at work are so high that the government can no longer ignore this great challenge. The ralliers issued a resolution in condemnation of the child labour and the situation giving rise to the child labour. The resolution called for providing employment assurance for the families of the working children. It also called for speedy action by officials to prevent spread of child labour, measures to provide welfare to the families of working children and Iran's adherence to all the international treaties and documents against child labour.

New daily published by small conservative party hits news-stands in Iran. (ISNA)

The spokesman for the Moderation and Development Party [*Hezb-e E'tedal va Towse'eh*] said that the first issue of the *E'tedal va Towse'eh* daily newspaper hits the news-stands.

Attack on reactor by Iran opposition group being investigated. (ISNA)

A group describing itself as Ahvaz-based, called "The Arab Movement Party", claimed that they had destroyed a electricity reactor in the city of Ahvaz. It was reported that one person was killed and a number of others were injured in the attack. The Ahvaz Arab Movement Party is reportedly a clandestine party which was set up in 2003. The party has reportedly resorted to military operations against Iranian

^{*} Editor's note: This report has not been confirmed by major information sources.

military and economic installations. The deputy governor-general of Khuzestan for political and security affairs said that unidentified gunmen attacked the Shekareh Electricity generator in Kut Abdollah Ahvaz.

Leaflets condemning judiciary officials distributed in Shiraz. (Iranian newspaper *Siyasete Rooz*)

Several leaflets, castigating Judiciary officials, have been distributed in Shiraz. These leaflets have called on people to condemn the actions of the Judiciary by holding gatherings. They have also demanded the freedom of political prisoners.

Police clash with demonstrators in front of British Embassy. (Iranian newspaper *Ashti*)

Police and demonstrators clashed in front of the British Embassy. During the past few weeks, demonstrators have staged gatherings in front of this Embassy to protest the violation of sacred shrines in Iraq.

Cabinet Announces Punitive Measures for Violation of Privacy Act. (Iranian newspaper *Etemad*)

The cabinet published the third section of the "Privacy Act" bill, announcing the punitive measures taken against violation of this act. Physical violation of privacy will lead to jail terms from six months to three years. Disclosure of personal information will also lead to three-months to one-year jail sentences.

June 14

Activist go on trial. (ILNA)

Fatemeh Govara'i, a National-Religious activist appears before the court to defend herself against levelled allegations. She was among those arrested at the home of Mohammad Bastehnegar in March 2000, who, following several investigation sessions, is facing trial on charges of acting against national security, membership of illegal groups, propaganda against the system, dissemination of false information with the intention to disturb public opinion, and undermining the judiciary.

Amir-Entezam leave extended for two months. (Iranian newspaper *Hayat-e No*)

The attorney for Abbas Amir-Entezam, Yousef Molai, said his leave was extended for another two months so that Amir-Entezam could receive medical treatments. Abbas Amir-Entezam was the former deputy premier and interim government's spokesman for Mehdi Bazargan's cabinet after the victory of Islamic Revolution. He has been jailed since 1980, to date, charged with espionage. He suffers from several ailments.

Unrests intensify in Rafsanjan Villages. (Iranian website *Baztab*)

Unrests related to the establishment of the governor's office in Ferdowsiah village of Rafsanjan continued night and five people were wounded. Meanwhile, nearly 400 demonstrators gathered in Esmailabad village to protest the establishment of the governor's office in Ferdowsiah village, burning rubbers and blocking the main Rafsanjan road. A number of demonstrators hurled stones, breaking the windows of houses and shops.

June 15

Teachers stage sit-in outside Majlis to demand higher salaries. (IRNA)

Representatives of Teachers' Union from across Iran staged a sit-in outside the Majlis to protest against the problems facing the teachers. They demanded a raise in teachers' salaries.

Hamedan University students jailed. (Iranian newspaper *Shargh*)

Two Hamedan University students, Yahya Safi Aryan and Ali Reza Khosbakht, were sentenced to three years in jail by the First Bench of the Hamedan Revolutionary Court. Moreover, the university's Disciplinary Committee suspended them for one academic term. Also, they will not be allowed to take their final exams this semester.

Seventh Majlis lawmaker attacked by mob. (Iranian newspaper *Siyaset-e Rooz*)

Bojnourd Deputy Esmail Gerami Moqaddam, who had gone to a picnic lunch with his family was attacked by a group of assailants. However, the MP's bodyguard fired shots in the air to disperse the mob who had gotten too close to the legislator.

June 16

Head of Iranian Kurdish weekly paper arrested. (AFP)

The director of an Iranian Kurdish weekly paper published in Sanandaj has been arrested on charges of "disturbing public order", and encouraging ethnic and religious dissent. Mohammad Sadigh Kaboudvand attracted anger after publishing articles on jailed Turkish Kurd leader Abdollah Ocalan and Ghazi Mohammad, a historical pro-independence figure behind a breakaway republic in Iran. The paper's director was currently in jail pending trial. The paper, "The People's Message" [*Payam-e Mardom*], is published in both Kurdish and Farsi and was launched in early 2004.

Political activist detained in Arak. (Iranian newspaper *Tose'eh*)

Fereydoun Saeedi, a political activist in the central Iranian city of Arak has been detained. The reason behind the detention and his whereabouts are unknown.

Kurdish group intensifies armed activities in Iran. (Iranian website *Baztab* and Iranian newspaper *Afarinesh*)

A Kurdish group "Pezhak" [or Pejak] has intensified its armed activities in Iran recently. It was reported that nearly 50 members of Pezhak, armed with automatic rifles threatened residents of Nazar Beyk village. Also, some 20 Pezhak fighters reportedly fired gunshots into the air to threaten the residents of Karkoush village close to the city of Khoy. Meanwhile, other members of this group reportedly clashed with the Iranian police in the foothills above the village of Touran village. One police officer was killed with two others wounded.

Shop owners protest in front of Chalous Governor's office. (Iranian website *Peykeiran*)*

Businessmen who own stores, shops and restaurants along the Karaj-Chalous road are complaining that they have been deprived of their only source of income and the officials in charge are doing nothing to solve this problem. These shop owners

* Editor's note: This report has not been confirmed by major information sources.

gathered in front of the Chalous governor's office to register their protest over road being closed since the earthquake that hit the region a few weeks ago.

June 17

Islamic Azad University official summoned to court. (Iranian newspaper *Aftab*)

Soroush Farhadian, the secretary of "Students and Graduates Association" at the Central province Islamic Azad University was summoned to court in Arak. He is charged with "disturbing the elections" and "publication of sheer lies". Farhadian said in this regard: "I was jailed in March 2004 based on a complaint filed by the public prosecutor. At present, I am free on a 100m rial bail."

Protest in front of Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant. (Iranian newssite Baztab)

Dozens of Bushehr residents gathered in front of the nuclear power plant in that city wearing white sheets over their head symbolizing shroud and coffin. The demonstrators were critical of the three big European countries on their policy regarding Iran's peaceful nuclear activities. They said the EU big three had breached its commitments to Iran.

Armed group kills another officer near Piransahr. (Iranian newssite Baztab)

An Iranian officer was reportedly killed by "armed separatists" [presumably referring to Pezhak or Pejak], equipped with automatic rifles. The assailants later fled toward the mountains near Piranshahr. Another officer was reportedly also killed by these separatist in the vicinity of Khoy city a few days ago.

June 19

Iran police launch crackdown on lax summer dress. (Reuters)

Iran's morals police announced a summer crackdown on Western-style coffee shops and women who flout Islamic dress codes. "As summer approaches, we have decided to confront corruption at cultural and sports centres, video clubs, and coffee shops...that fail to observe the regulations," Tehran Police Chief Morteza Talaei said.

Iranian border guards clash with [former] PKK forces. (ISNA)

Western Azerbaijan Governor-General, Jamshid Ansari, confirmed clashes between Iranian border patrol and [former] PKK [Kongra-Gel] forces near the border. He said: "In the recent clashes in Balesour region, one border guard was martyred and another seriously wounded."

June 20

Head of Iran election committee quits. (AFP)

The man in charge of overseeing elections in Iran has quit his job in protest. Morteza Mobalagh, himself a reformist, said he told the Islamic Republic's Interior Minister that he would "never accept the responsibility of organising any more elections". He did, however, say he would stay in his other post as a Deputy Interior Minister until the end of the second and final term of embattled reformist President Mohammad Khatami in mid-2005.

***Payam-e-Kurdistan* weekly managing director in detention. (ILNA)**

A member of the editorial board of *Payam-e-Kurdistan* weekly claimed: "Following the detention of our managing director, we went to the Kurdistan Justice Department to post bail, but our request for bail was denied since the presiding judge was on vacation."

Arrest warrant for Alavitabar issued. (Iranian news site Gooya)

Bench 1083 of Tehran General Court has issued an arrest warrant for Alireza Alavitabar in regards to articles published by him in the *Emrooz* website as well as his refusal to appear in court despite the numerous subpoenas issued in his name.

June 21

Student leaders appear in court. (Iranian newspaper *Shargh*)

The secretary-general of Students and Graduates Association of Central Province Islamic Azad University, Soroush Farhadian, and a member of central council of this establishment, Pourya Souri, appeared in the Seventh Bench of Arak Court. They are charged with disturbing the elections and writing articles in Central Province publications.

Abdi's jail term commuted to 4.5 years by Court of Appeals. (Iranian newspaper *Siyaset-e Rooz*)

Abbas Abdi's second court hearing at the Court of Appeals will be held early next month. His first court hearing was held on May 26. This reformist was condemned to seven years in jail for selling information to three foreign public opinion institutions and a one-year jail term for propaganda against the Islamic system. However, his sentence was commuted to 4.5 years at Tehran Province Appeal Court.

Jamshidi denied bail. (ILNA)

Former editor-in-chief of banned *Asia* newspaper, Iraj Jamshidi, was denied bail. Jamshidi's wife also noted, "They say prisoners who have been convicted can take leaves. And since my husband has not been convicted yet, he can't take a leave."

Gooya site filtered with order of judicial official. (Iranian news site Rouydad)

The Deputy Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance for Press and Propagation Affairs, Sahfi, announced the only existing instruction for websites is the bylaw ratified by the High Council for Cultural Revolution. What's more, a committee studies the unethical sites and acts against illegal ISPs. He insisted that political sites, such as Gooya, have not been blocked by the said committee and that their filtering only takes place with the order of the Judicial official.

June 22

Activist banned from leaving country. (Iranian newspaper *Aftab-e Yazd*)

Law enforcement officials at Mehrabad International Airport stopped Dr Mohammad Maleki, former Tehran University head and one of the Religious-Nationalist activists who was intending to go to Canada to visit his daughter from leaving the country. Law enforcement authorities told Mr Maleki that his name had been put into the list of those forbidden from leaving the country since April 21, 2004.

Head of Kurdish cultural institute in Tehran arrested. (AFP)

The director of a Kurdish cultural institute in Tehran has been arrested while attempting to cross into the Kurdish region of northern Iraq, his institute said in a statement. The statement said Bahram Valibeyghi, who also runs the bilingual daily *Ashti* ("Reconciliation"), was detained at Khosravi border post on orders from Tehran prosecutors office. It said no explanation was given for the arrest.

Court issues final verdict on dissident student. (Iranian newspaper *Shargh*)

A court has issued its final verdict on Mohammad Reza Ahmadiania, the social sciences student who was arrested in front of Amir Kabir University last year. He was acquitted of charges of disturbing public order, but was condemned to one year in jail for propagation against the Islamic system and participation in illegal street protests in July 1999 and June 2003.

June 23**Nateq Nouri appointed head of conservative political body. (Iranian newspaper *Vaqayeh Ettafaqiyeh*)**

The head of Shahid Beheshti Cultural Institute, Mr. Mohammadi, reported on the official appointment of former Majlis speaker and member of the Expediency Council, Ali Akbar Nateq Nouri, as the head of a conservative political body known as the Revolutionary Forces Coordination Council.

Jabbari denied prison leave. (ISNA)

Alireza Jabbari's wife, Gohar Shemirani, expressed concern about her husband's condition in jail. According to her, unlike other prisoners, Jabbari, who is a political dissident, has been denied leave.

Editor of Kurdish weekly released from jail. (Iranian news site *Iran News Daily*)

The editor of a weekly published in the western Iranian province of Kurdistan has been bailed out from jail in Sanandaj. Mohammad-Sediq Kaboudvand, the managing editor of *Payam-e Mardom* [Message of the People], was freed after posting a bail of 70 million rials (US\$8,100) less than a week after he was detained, a member of the weekly's editorial board on phone. He is pending trial on a string of charges including 'inciting public opinion, raising ethnic, secessionist and religious demands aimed at creating disunity and publishing articles' about Kurdish rebel figures.' *Peyam-e Mardom* started printing six months ago in Kurdish and Farsi and its readership mainly includes Iranians of Kurdish extract.

June 24**Distributors of political leaflets arrested in Qom. (Iranian newspaper *Hambastegi*)**

The head of Qom Province Justice Department said that a number of "distributors of leaflets" railing against several top political and religious figures were nabbed in Qom."

Cooperatives Ministry's sacked workers stage sit-in. (Iranian newspaper *Hambastegi*)

160 fired workers of the Ministry of Cooperatives staged a sit-in in front of this ministry to protest against being laid off.

Nurses rally in front of Majlis. (Iranian newspaper *Hayat-e No*)

Some 300 nurses staged a rally in front of the Majlis building, calling for their long-forgotten demands to be met. Meanwhile, a number of teachers also took part in this demonstration, complaining about their low wages.

Court summons student leader. (Iranian opposition news site *Peykeiran*)

The political secretary of the Unity Consolidation Office, Saeed Razavi Faqih has been summoned to the Tehran Revolutionary Court, charged with insulting high-ranking officials of the Islamic system.

June 26

"Spies, anti-revolutionaries" arrested in Tehran. (Iranian newspaper *Jomhuri-ye Eslami*)

Deputy prosecutor for security working with Tehran's Public and Revolution Courts Rahmani reported the arrest of "a number of spies and anti-revolutionary elements" in Tehran. According to *Dadsara*, the internal publication of Tehran's Public and Revolution Court, Rahmani said that the detainees' interrogation is still continuing. *Dadsara* did not mention the names, number or the kind of accusations levelled against the detainees.

Court convicts Sazegara. (Iranian newspaper *Shargh*)

Vahid Sazegara has been given a suspended 4-month sentence. Sazegara was charged with propaganda against the Islamic system.

June 27

Majlis elects three lawyers to fill vacancies in Guardian Council. (IRNA)

Majlis deputies elected three lawyers to fill vacant positions in the Guardian Council. The lawyers, Mohammad Reza Alizadeh, Gholam Hoseyn Elham and Abbas Ka'bi, were elected by MPs in an open session of the Majlis. Judiciary Chief Ayatollah Mahmud Hashemi-Shahrudi, in a letter to the Majlis speaker, named five nominees to Majlis for the posts. The terms of two council members, Reza Zavare'i and Mohammad Reza Alizadeh, have expired and another council member, Mohammad Reza Abbasifar, had resigned.

Iran's judiciary chief gets five more years. (AFP)

The head of Iran's judiciary, Ayatollah Mahmoud Hashemi Shahroudi, has been given a second five-year term in office. Close to Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Shahroudi is a member of the Assembly of Experts -- the body that oversees his work -- as well as of the Expediency Council.

Ban lifted on hotel lodging for unaccompanied Iranian women. (Iranian newspaper *Iran Daily*)

Hotels countrywide have been obliged to admit unaccompanied women, adviser to Interior Minister, Fakhrosadat Mohtashami-Pur said. "The refusal to receive women guests who were alone had been prompted by the personal preferences of the directors of provincial offices to supervise public places," she continued. "Following contradictory decisions adopted by the offices of the general directorate to supervise public places in different provinces and the problems created for women who were not admitted by the hotels, the Interior Ministry's Office for Women Affairs followed up the case and its efforts led to withdrawal of the ban." Mohtashami-Pur explained that thanks to agreements reached with the general directorate affiliated to the Islamic Republic of Iran police, it was decided that hotel managers would receive unaccompanied women guests, "provided they report such cases verbally or in writing to the directorate's offices for regular checks". She insisted that official tools must be sought to oblige owners of hotels and accommodation facilities to abide by the law.

Inmate's hands amputated after being handcuffed. (Iranian newspaper *Jomhuriye Eslami*)

An inmate in one of Ahvaz's prisons was handcuffed and ordered to stand in an unbalanced state for 24 hours, by the order of the prison warden. This punishment caused bruises in both hands of the young man who was later hospitalized, where both his hands were amputated. This 24-year-old young man, Afshin Siyah Shahri, was a resident of Andimeshk and was on his last day of leave from jail when this incident occurred.

Revolutionary courts not to try university students. (ISNA)

The head of Tehran Province Justice Department Hojjatoleslam Alizadeh insisted: "As stated previously, university students who were detained during last year's unrests, will not be summoned to the Revolutionary Court anymore. Instead, they will be tried by their university's respective disciplinary committees.

June 29

Salamati fined 15 million rials (Iranian newspaper *Hambastegi*)

Islamic Revolution's Mujahedeen Organization (IRMO) Secretary-General, Mohammad Salamati, was fined 15m rials by Bench 1083 of the Tehran Revolutionary Court after a complaint was leveled against him by the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps and the Public Prosecutor's Office. Meanwhile, the attorney for Salamati, Saleh Nikbakht, said the fine was unjust and voiced his protest against it. This complaint was related to a public statement by the IRMO.

Haqiqatjou on trial. (ISNA)

Former Tehran MP Fatemeh Haqiqatjou appeared before the Third Interrogation Bench of the Administrative Court. She has been charged with propagation against the Islamic system, publication of sheer lies with the intent to disturb public opinion, and insulting the Guardian Council, the Judiciary and the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps. She was notified of her charges during the session and later released on a 20m-rial bail.

June 30

Three Kurds hanged reportedly for “robbery, rape, extortion”. (AFP)

Three Iraqi Kurds convicted for a spate of armed robberies, for extortion and rape have been hanged publicly in the northern Iranian city of Qazvin. It was reported that the three -- identified only by their first names of Farhad, Salar, and Nejah -- were convicted for "disrupting Iran's national security up to the level of Mohareb" (the Sharia penal term for war against God].

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