

2018 Impact Report



About Us

Established in July 2010, Justice for Iran (JFI) is a London-based human rights NGO which seeks freedom from impunity.

JFI aims to hold the perpetrators of serious human rights violations, including but not limited to crimes against humanity, torture, enforced disappearances, war crime and genocide which have been committed in Iran or by the Iranian officials, accountable.

JFI focuses on the right to truth for individual victims and the whole society, and pursues right to justice for those who belong to the most marginalised groups such as women, ethnic and religious minorities, LGBTIs and political dissidents.

JFI conducts fact-findings, initiates judicial and semi-judicial actions and carries out campaign and advocacy at national, regional and international levels.

JFI is a member of the International Federation of Human Rights (FIDH) and the Regional Network for Historical Dialogue and Dealing with the Past (RNHDP).

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Cover photo: The launch event and exhibition, the Asylum Chapel in Peckham, south London

Highlights of the Year

- **Committing crimes of enforced disappearances and creating mass graves by the Islamic Republic of Iran established**
- **Landmine victims received life-long remedies**
- **International community drew attention to the crimes and impunity of Iranian perpetrators**

A glance at the most significant activities

In 2018, Justice for Iran continued conducting research, collecting evidence of human rights violations, initiating media campaigns and other advocacies at national, regional and international levels, and taking legal and semi-judicial actions. Justice for Iran also provided legal support to members of marginalised groups.

1. Mapping mass graves in Iran

According to the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (WGEID), “a detention, followed by an extrajudicial execution, is an enforced disappearance proper, as long as such detention or deprivation of liberty was carried out by governmental agents of whatever branch or level, or by organized groups or private individuals acting on behalf of, or with the support, direct or indirect, consent or acquiescence of the government, and, subsequent to the detention, or even after the execution was carried out, state officials refuse to disclose the fate or whereabouts of the persons concerned or refuse to acknowledge the act having been perpetrated at all.”

Using this definition as the most applicable legal framework, since 2015, Justice for Iran has documented the cases of enforced disappearances and mass graves. The result of this research, which had the honour to benefit from the collaboration of more than 200 survivors and relatives of the victims, was presented in 2018 through a joint report with

Amnesty International and an interactive map and audio-visual platform. Justice for Iran's findings were also massively used by Amnesty International in its ground-breaking report on the 1988 massacre of political prisoners, [Blood-soaked secrets: Why Iran's 1988 Prison Massacres are ongoing crimes against humanity](#).

Justice for Iran's research demonstrates that there are over 120 sites across Iran which are believed to be mass graves by the families of those executed, survivors, witnesses and local activists. Despite the security situation, to date, Justice for Iran has interviewed 124 people, including survivors of the 1980s mass atrocities, victims' families, political and human rights activists, and informed locals.

During the interviews, new mass grave locations were discovered and added to the project's list of sites. As Justice for Iran kept publishing appeals for videos and photos of the grave sites, a high number of locals and family members of victims contacted us; and despite the risk of harassment and detention, sent us photos and videos of the mass graves. They also urged their friends and relatives to help them record evidence of human rights violations committed by the Islamic Republic regime. A number of human rights activists voluntarily took the risk of travelling to some of these localities to verify our information through their reports, photos, and videos. They helped us locate the exact or approximate locations of mass graves on satellite and regular maps.

We found that the Islamic Republic regime has been engaging in the process of systematic destruction of mass graves across Iran, particularly in the last two decades. Satellite imagery obtained from Google Earth revealed the state of the mass graves before and after their destruction and provided evidence of the government's destruction of these graves. The research indicates that authorities, except in a few cases, never officially or implicitly acknowledged the mass graves. The families of victims were prohibited from holding commemorative gatherings or decorating gravesites with flowers or messages. They have been subjected to persecution and detention for seeking truth and justice.

Mass grave sites have been constantly subject to deliberate and extensive destruction including bulldozing, road and building construction, waste dumping, and the creation of new burial plots. These actions destroy the evidence that could one day be used to provide truth, justice, and reparations to the victims and their families. Mass grave sites have been always under close surveillance by security agents therefore, it is likely that judiciary officials or intelligence and security bodies are involved in decision-making processes related to their desecration and destruction.

Criminal cover-up

In 30 April 2018, Justice for Iran and Amnesty International launched their joint report on the mass graves of victims of the 1988 massacres. For nearly three decades, the Iranian authorities have systematically concealed the whereabouts of thousands of political prisoners, including prisoners of conscience, who were forcibly disappeared and extrajudicially executed in 1988. The report [Criminal cover-up: Iran destroying mass graves of victims of 1988 killings](#) documented how the authorities have destroyed or damaged mass grave sites across Iran that are believed to contain the remains of the victims.

Following exclusive access to new satellite, video and photographic evidence, the report revealed that the Iranian authorities are bulldozing, constructing buildings and roads, dumping rubbish or building new burial plots over mass grave sites across the country.

The report also highlighted the fact that families have been forbidden from holding commemorative gatherings or decorating the mass grave sites with flowers and memorial messages, an important part of burial rites and customs in Iran. They have also faced prosecution and imprisonment for seeking truth and justice.



Click the picture to see a short visual summary of the report

‘Map of pain, map of resistance’

The three-year research project on mass graves was successfully launched as [PainScapes; the Underground Map of Mass Graves and Enforced Disappearances in Iran](#) in an event and video exhibition in London on August 30th, the International Day of Enforced Disappearances. The event was live-broadcast by one of the Persian mainstream satellite channels and covered by all other Iranian mainstream media outlets. Survivors and families of the victims of the 1980s mass atrocities, as panellists in the event and interviewees to different radio and tv programs, spoke to the millions of Iranians who were tuned-in by sharing their suffering and their hopes that truth and justice will be finally be afforded to them in the future. There were also speakers from Korea (Sara Son), France (Chowra Makaremi) and the UK (Sir Geoffrey Nice), who presented the challenge of mapping mass atrocities in other contexts. To Iran, the project and its map extend the educational and historical value set forth by the Spanish government, when it published a map in 2011 of the mass graves of people killed during the Franco-era (1930s).

PainScapes is the first bilingual interactive multimedia platform which includes maps and information pertaining to mass grave sites across Iran, [short films](#) presenting testimonies and personal accounts and information about the victims and perpetrators of enforced disappearances. The Islamic Republic has consistently denied that the 1988 massacre took place and the existence of the mass graves. But through maps and testimonies from the family members of those killed, the *PainScapes* project aims to record these crimes.

PainScapes is not just a narrative of pain and suffering for those who lost their lives and their families. Instead, it is a geography of collective resistance—the resistance of those who endeavor to prevent the atrocities of the 1980s from being forgotten. This resistance has been documented using the most advanced technology available today.

PainScapes offers an interactive map marked with the locations of more than 70 confirmed and suspected mass graves. Furthermore, research is underway on another 50 potential mass grave sites. At least 16 confirmed and suspected mass grave sites have either been destroyed or are at risk of destruction by Iranian authorities and government officials.

On the website, there is a page dedicated to each confirmed or suspected mass grave site. It contains a brief history of the grave site, its exact location on the map and an account of its current status. The visitor can access the information page by clicking a grave site's location pin on the map or by selecting a grave site from the list of all the sites on the 'Mass graves' page.

In the "[Timelines](#)" section, the visitor can find more details about the history of each mass grave site, and in the "[Audio & Visual](#)" part, the associated photos, video footage, and testimonies are presented. In some cases, we have identified the officials responsible for the murder and following burial of the victims in the "[Perpetrators](#)" section. For some places, under "[Enforced disappeared persons](#)", there is information about some victims who might have been buried at a site, as well as the supporting [documents](#) about them.

On each page, we urge the visitor to break their silence and take action after reading, watching, and listening to the materials provided on the website. For example, the visitor shall endeavour to record and publish truths that have been hidden for decades, or to stop the destruction of mass grave sites by going to the locations and publishing or distributing videos and photos. A list of actions which we recommend the visitor to take can be found on the "[Take action](#)" page.

In each section, there is a form enabling the visitor to securely send us information about any confirmed or suspected mass grave sites. Through this feature, the visitor can contribute to *PainScapes* and help us expand the platform. A separate page, titled: "[Submit information](#)", also exists so that the visitor can send relevant information and documents to us.

2. Iran Fact Finding; an Archive for Action (Haghighat-Yab)

In 2018, Justice for Iran started a new project which aimed to accelerate the process of truth-finding by increasing public access to documents and evidence on human rights violations. In turn, this is mobilizing ordinary citizens and activists to challenge the authorities' narratives of past and present violations and claiming accountability and justice.

The project involves organising existing evidence in Justice for Iran's possession, gathering documents from other human rights organizations, searching online and offline sources for documents, independently verifying documents, systematically archiving documents and making them accessible to the public. The project also includes examining documents

such as court orders and verdicts, witness testimonies, perpetrators' statements, government decrees, official letters, photos, maps, videos, voice recordings which constitute – partly or entirely, solely or together with other documents – facts and evidence which are on a public domain or which the source has fully consented to sharing.

THE FACTS ARE



The focus of Iran Fact Finding; an Archive for Action is not solely to seek and verify the truth, but to also make the facts widely available to the public. In turn, this will mobilize the public to take actions as responsible citizens to hold the authorities accountable. It is an archive where all verified evidence on human rights violations will be accessible to the public in a searchable and user-friendly manner.

For each piece of evidence or each grouping (based on the type of evidence) the platform will engage visitors in activities ranging from sharing the 'fact' on their social media accounts and writing a short post on it, to starting an online debate.

An interactive Google Earth map of evidence will be created to show exactly where each violation occurred and encourage activities at the local level, such as naming and shaming the perpetrators through locally identified methods. Additionally, the project will inspire action among activists including serious and effective debates, advocacy, and campaigns. The project, which will continue in 2019 foresees that these actions will attract reactions from Islamic Republic officials, which will lead to the revelation of more facts and transparency, ultimately improving the situation of human rights.

Furthermore, NGOs, journalists and scholars who work on Iran will use the materials mentioned above, which could not be easily accessed before, for their research. Tags and brief descriptions in English accompanying each document will also enable non-Iranian scholars, policy makers, NGOs and journalists to use the platform. Iran Fact Finding; an Archive for Action can ultimately serve as a baseline for truth commissions and other transitional justice programs if a democratic transition takes place in Iran.

3. Uncovering Faces of Crime

Justice for Iran's core and ongoing research on human rights violators continued in 2018 and 2019 with daily monitoring of reports of human rights violations and identifying the individuals and entities responsible for and took actions whenever and wherever possible.

In January 2018, a coalition of Iranian human rights NGOs including Justice for Iran provided the Government of Germany with compelling evidence that Ayatollah Mahmoud Hashemi Shahroudi, the Islamic Republic's former Head of the Judiciary, (who was at the time in the city of Hannover for medical treatment,) was responsible for crimes against humanity and must therefore be arrested based on Germany's obligations under international law to exercise universal jurisdiction over international crimes in order to eradicate impunity.

Shahroudi was responsible for the Islamic Revolutionary Courts that sent numerous human rights activists, defence lawyers, journalists, bloggers, political dissidents, and religious minorities to Iran's notorious prisons where they were subject to torture, rape, and murder.

The evidence provided to the German authorities includes several witness statements, including from those imprisoned and tortured at the infamous Kahrizak detention centre during the 2009 post-election protests in Iran. It also includes evidence of the 2003 torture and murder of Canadian-Iranian journalist Zahra Kazemi, in which the subordinate of Shahroudi, Saeed Mortazavi, was implicated by a Commission of Inquiry of the Iranian Parliament, but for which he was never held accountable.

Two days after the submission of evidence involving Hashemi Shahroudi, the former head of Iran's Judiciary, by a coalition of NGOs including Justice for Iran, he suspended his treatment in a hospital in Hannover unfinished and escaped Germany in a rushed and unplanned trip to Tehran. Some German media and politicians suggested that it was because of his fear of being arrested in Germany for crimes against humanity and torture.

Furthermore, tackling the issue of impunity and in-response to the severe crackdown on the December 2017- January 2018 nation-wide protests, Justice for Iran called for Iranian officials to be sanctioned for the brutal suppression of protesters. On March 14, Justice for Iran made a formal submission to the Council of the EU and the U.S. and Canadian governments to impose sanctions on senior Iranian officials for the suppression of recent anti-government protests in Iran.

The 15 individuals identified by Justice for Iran for being responsible for serious human rights violations in the suppression of the protests hold senior leadership positions in the Iranian police, the paramilitary Basij forces, the state's prisons, and local government. They include a prosecutor-general, Iran's broadcasting chief, and three ministers – Information and Communication Technology, Intelligence, and Interior.

The protests started on 28 December 2017 in the northeastern city of Mashhad and quickly spread across the country, continuing until 7 January 2018. According to official sources, some 4,000 people were detained and at least 25 killed by the police and Basij paramilitary forces. Three detainees died in custody, with two allegedly committing suicide under suspicious circumstances.

4. Supports for actual or potential victims of landmines and human rights defenders

Despite the fact that it has been a long time since the Iran-Iraq War, there are still mines buried and found in the Western region of Iran, mainly populated by Kurdish or Arab ethnic minorities. The cities of Ahwaz, Ilam, Marivan, Sheqqez, Sanandaj and Bukan experienced explosions in 2017-18.

Although the buried landmines are a threat and danger to ordinary people, authorities do not treat them as such. One reason being is that explosions occur mostly in remote areas where people do not have the ability to challenge local authorities for their rights and make the government more alert about this ongoing danger. Moreover, legal support offered by the government is limited and weak, so the cases do not carry weight.

Working closely with landmine activists and ethnic minority lawyers, Justice for Iran gave enough resources to the landmine activists to intensify their grassroots awareness-raising campaign, aimed at preventing explosions. Justice for Iran also provided legal support for dozens of victims of landmines.

The Kurdish activists organised educational workshops in areas affected by landmines. Two-hundred sixty members of ethnic minority groups participated in seven legal awareness-raising workshops.

Justice for Iran, in close collaboration with local organisers and the landmine activists who are involved in this initiative, provided legal awareness-raising materials on potential legal avenues to claim their rights. This targeted both direct victims of landmines and the members of the community who suffer indirectly from the environmental and health impacts of landmines. The educational material was drafted by Justice for Iran in close collaboration with local ethnic minority defenders, making sure that the content is practical and simple. The pro-bono legal team consists of one local lawyer and one trainee lawyer, who both speak at least one of the ethnic languages in the areas affected by landmines. A local pro bono lawyer accompanied the team, not only to explain the available legal actions, but to help them claim their rights either as victims of landmine explosions or family members of victims. In addition to that, legal consultation and support was provided after the workshop sessions.

This small team, with the support of local facilitators, set up informal interviews with participants during awareness raising workshops – which was reported in our previous quarterly reports – to encourage and support landmine victims and their families to claim

their legal rights. After collecting initial data from the victims and their families' legal cases based on their locations, one of the pro-bono lawyers were assigned to them.

The project also managed to integrate simple and practical guidelines into their preventive educational package for people in rural and agricultural areas. Educational booklets were designed by local implementing groups, and 500 copies were distributed along with 200 copies of educational CDs in five affected provinces (West Azerbaijan, Ilam, Kurdistan, Kermanshah and Khuzestan).

The activists gave interviews to the mainstream Persian-language satellite channels including BBC Persian and Iran International television with millions of viewers inside the country.

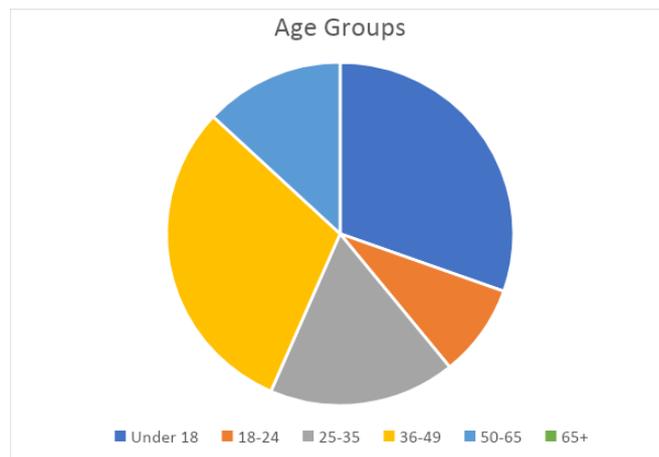
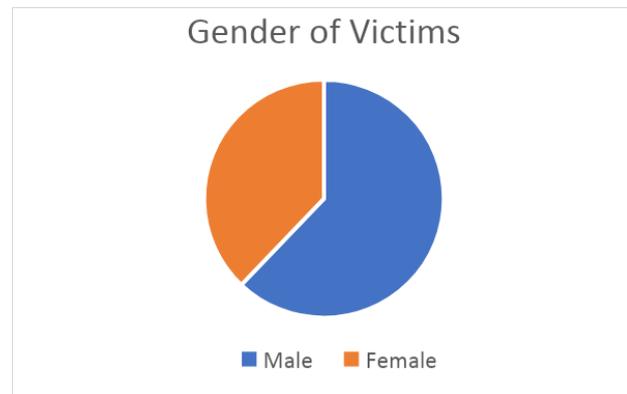
They also erected warning signs in areas throughout Kurdistan where non-neutralised landmines suspected to be

Giving accounts of life changing circumstances after the incident, Justice for Iran has extended legal assistance to the victims of landmines. In 2018, the project on the human rights of ethnic minorities has supported a total number of 23 cases who lived in six different cities (Marivan, Sardasht, Qasre Shirin, Dehloran, Shalamcheh, Khoy and Shoushmeh). The victims are of different ages, gender, religions and ethnic backgrounds. The requests for

remedy by some of them had been rejected by authorities due to their religious beliefs or ethnicities or simply lack of legal knowledge. However, the legal teams commissioned by the project were able to take appropriate actions and claim the victims' rights on reasonable grounds and were able to turn their cases into success stories.

Apart from the landmine project, Justice for Iran provided legal assistance to 158 individuals who were

mostly human rights defenders that had approached *Dastgiri*, Justice for Iran's online hotline for civil and political activists.



5. Complaint against Italtel

In May 2018, after an extraordinary nine-month process which involved several submissions and communications, the Italian NCP (which was responsible to monitor the implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights,) rejected the joint complaint by Justice for Iran, FIDH and Redress against Italtel, in a politically motivated decision.

Together with Redress and FIDH, Justice for Iran filed a complaint with the Italian National Contact Point (NCP) against Italtel Group S.p.A. (Italtel) for breaching OECD guidelines by entering into a Memorandum of Agreement with the Telecommunications Company of Iran (TCI). This was the first ever OECD complaint involving Iran, sending a shockwave through the business sector to numerous companies who had rushed to Iran's then newly-opened market, following the conclusion of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) known as the Nuclear Deal. The complainant argued that the MoU would empower and equip the Iranian authorities, including the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), with advanced technologies and tools for Internet censorship and suppression of a wide range of human rights and crushing of political dissent in Iran.

6. Complaints to UN on four Kurdish victims of enforced disappearance

Justice for Iran filed complaints, on behalf of the relatives of four prominent Kurdish activists, to the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances. The authorities announced their death by execution in 2010 but failed to deliver the bodies or disclose the burial places to date. The four complaints address the enforced disappearances of Shirin Alam Holi, Farzad Kamangar, Ali Heidarian and Farhad Vakili, all of whom were arrested between 2006-08. The complaints underline the crimes and impunity of the Islamic Republic's authorities in never returning the victims' bodies to their respective families and in continuing to conceal the truth regarding their executions and burials. At the time that this report is being written, the Working Group is still reviewing the cases.



The families made symbolic gravestones for Shirin Alam Holi, Farzad Kamangar, and Ali Heidarian.

Most Remarkable Impacts

1. Digital sites of memory established reflecting a map of collective resistance

The launch of a report on 30 April 2018 by Justice for Iran and Amnesty International, on the deliberate desecration and destruction of mass graves in Iran, captured the attention of international mainstream Persian-language media outlets.

Both the launch of the joint report and the *PainScapes* platform generated considerable interest from media. Twenty-six popular platforms—including BBC Persian, Manoto, and Iran International—broadcast news of its findings to millions of viewers both inside and outside Iran. Extensive coverage by mainstream channels, combined with an active social media campaign, encouraged many victims’ families and survivors to speak out about their experiences of this dark chapter of modern Iranian history and to share information with Justice for Iran about new and previously identified mass graves. It was the combined effect of these developments that generated some intellectual debates for the first time in Iranian community including on the rights of the dead, bones as testifiers (witnesses) to atrocities, the government’s history of desecrating gravesites and disturbing human remains, etc.

The joint report also attracted much attention across the globe. Thirty-five international media outlets covered news of its release, including the Associated Press, Washington Post, New York Times, Daily Mail, as well as the German, Swiss, Australian and Portuguese press. Underscoring the report’s wider, international relevance, Spanish media drew interesting parallels between the mass graves in Iran and those of General Franco’s victims in Spain.

Moreover, the release of the report has provoked angry reactions from some of the top officials in the Islamic Republic. The former presidential candidate, Ebrahim Raisi, who was a member of a ‘Death Committee’ responsible for the 1988 massacre, defended the executions and hailed former Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic, Khomeini, a “national hero” for ordering the killings.

Following its launch, the *PainScapes* platform on mass graves and enforced disappearance has travelled beyond the Iranian community and the launch event. It was added to the “Mapping Historical Dialogue” world map, from Columbia University’s Alliance for Historical Dialogue and Accountability (AHDA), it was featured by the LSE research project, HUMAN RIGHTS, HUMAN REMAINS, it was cited several times by Amnesty International in its ground-breaking report on the 1988 massacre, and featured in the book titled Any Hopes for Truth?: A Comparative Analysis of Enforced Disappearances and the Missing in Middle East, North Africa and Caucasus published by Hafiza Merkezi.

The impact of the research becomes more apparent through the fact that, as some of the mass graves from the 1988 massacre no longer physically exist, their ‘digital site of memory’ can still act as a monument. Such digital material may even be used as evidence for the crime of destruction of historical sites in future investigations. None of this would have been achieved without the ‘passionate mission of preserving the vanishing traces of a terrible past’ and the transformation of documenting grave human rights violations through widely available and relatively cheap digital technologies.

2. Telecommunication company set back from selling surveillance-related supplies and technologies to Iran

Despite the rejection of the joint complaint of Justice for Iran, FIDH and Redress by the Italian NCP, the case had a number of tangible impacts, the most direct and immediate of which was that Italtel withdrew some of the technologies previously offered to TCI. While the MoU signed by Italtel and TCI expressly referred to the technologies and services to be provided to the TCI including “IP-NOC and IP-BB”, in a clear reversal of plans following the complaint’s submission, Italtel changed its mind and declared that “it would not deliver any system related to the IP backbone network”.

Our further submission to the NCP regarding the explicit link between the TCI’s new board of directors and the IRGC also spurred Italtel to state that they were carrying out a reassessment of the risks in light of the new appointment. There are a number of other indirect impacts as a result of this case, including the fact that it sent a strong signal to other companies reminding them that the JCPOA has not given them a free ticket to do business without due diligence, and that they will be held accountable for their negative human rights impact.

It is only by filing complaints such as these that European companies are encouraged to act more responsibly in their business dealings with the Iranian government; a point acknowledged by Gerald Pachoud, former Special Adviser to the UN Secretary General’s Special Representative on business and human rights.

3. Proactive efforts to mitigate the negative human rights impacts of non-Iranian business ventures in the country

The UN Forum on Business and Human Rights heard about the Italtel case and the plight of human rights defenders who worked on the area of accountability inside the country from Mohammad Nayyeri, Justice for Iran’s legal advisor.

Mr. Nayyeri spoke about the role international businesses play in the suppression of human rights defenders in the Islamic Republic of Iran, during a [United Nations session](#) on November 27. He explained a number of ways in which Iranian human rights defenders like his own colleagues are targeted, silenced, disproportionately sentenced, and even executed by the Islamic Republic’s authorities.

He stated that the lives and security of human rights defenders are under attack by regime forces, noting that among the regime's violent tactics are seizures of defenders' assets, torture, and psychological pressuring, often in the form of threats made against family members. He also noted the spreading of malware, website and account hacking, and using social media



platforms to smear opposition and disseminate disinformation are some of the regime's cyber tactics to sabotage and suppress the work of human rights defenders. These tactics are followed by ramped-up charges and harsh sentences from the judiciary.

He also highlighted the importance of international businesses attaining a higher level of care in their practices, to protect and respect the communities in Iran facing acts of violence by the regime. Mr. Nayyeri advised international business leaders to develop and practice a higher standard of due diligence, to be applied when doing business in countries like Iran, likening it to existing sectoral practices. He clarified that international corporations and businesses can choose abstinence from empowering perpetrators of violence. To proactively address the Islamic Republic regime's violence against human rights defenders, Mr. Nayyeri stated that companies must not become complicit in human rights violations by doing business with known violators.

4. Prevention and compensation for potential and actual landmine victims massively improved

Justice for Iran's project on landmines made a tangible difference in the lives of actual and potential victims. Over a period of two years and through its network of lawyers, Justice for Iran assisted 23 victims of landmines in Iran in pursuing their cases for compensation in courts and other bodies such as the Foundation of Martyrs and Veterans Affairs and the Article Two Commission which have jurisdiction over such cases. Fifteen litigations out of 23 cases were successfully concluded in 2018 while the other nine cases were open and ongoing.

Legal advice and lawyer interference proved to be helpful and effective for victims, especially to reverse the legal course, where discrimination is highly involved. Timeworn cases had been reopened and received justice. Minor victims were secured with lifetime compensation. As a result of this project, people are now more aware of the legal course and the evidence they need to gather and keep if they ever experience an explosion.

For instance, a woman had been denied treatment due to her religious beliefs, as she belongs to the Yarsan community. Currently, her case has been reopened and evidence has been gathered and sent to court for reconsideration. The Court has not rejected her case this time and has instead sent it for consideration to the Article Two Commission, which is very promising and is likely to be successful.

Another success story to follow from this project is that of the six girls who were injured at a school where a landmine blast had hit them. After the initial legal procedure was over, the legal team appealed and objected to the court decision, as the decision had failed to give a comprehensive payment. The lawyers mentioned that the girls have become disabled for their lifetimes and requested salary lifetime pensions for them. The lawyers won the cases and the victims were granted lifetime pay by the government. They are expected to receive their payments shortly.

In another success story, a government-employed minefield clearer who was denied treatment due to his brother's activities outside Iran. He was injured in an explosion while working on the detonation of a landmine. After he claimed treatment, his initial claim was unsuccessful, and he was denied that to which he was entitled. The lawyers were able to challenge that decision and reopened his case. They won the case when they appealed to the supervisory body in Tehran. The final decision has now been made in their favour, and he is expecting his regular pay to continue.

Eighteen potential landmine incidents were averted, due to education on the dangers of landmines through workshops, posters and booklets. According to close observations, in all these locations that were prone to accidents before and where many had fallen victim to landmine explosions, nobody from the groups which received education on landmines were harmed. In only one instance, in the area of Asan Ava in Marivan, an ordinary citizen came across a landmine and lost a leg. This person was from a different area and was made a victim while transporting goods.

The number of victims has been reduced by 60% since last year and 90% from 1988 to 2018. This is one achievement that has been attained by spreading information about these dangers through five provinces. In the months of March and April, the number of victims was at its highest due to melting snow and flood waters moving the landmines towards residential and foraging areas. Fortunately, though, for the first time in 31 years after the war, a record low number, no more than six people, were made victims. Two of whom were militiamen, in areas where this scheme had not been implemented.

5. UN urged Iran to respect right to truth and right to justice

The UN urged Iran to investigate its past crimes instead of destroying mass graves and harassing victims' families, following Justice for Iran's individual and joint calls on the destruction of mass graves and intimidation and harassment of families of enforced disappeared persons. The UN also urged the Islamic Republic to respect its commitments with regards to the realisation of right to truth and right to justice.

The late UN Special Rapporteur for Human Rights in Iran Asma Jahangir expressed concern over the reported desecration sites believed to be mass graves of political prisoners who were summarily executed in 1988 in Ahwaz and Mashhad.

In her last report, Ms Jahangir urged the government to ‘ensure that locations believed to be the site of mass graves are persevered and protected,’ and called on the government of Iran to “undertake thorough and independent investigation into the 1988 massacres.”

Jahangir devoted a chapter of the report, which was written shortly before her death, to the 1988 mass killing of political prisoners.

In her report, she emphasized the right of families to know the truth about the fate of their relatives, the right to justice and the right to compensation. The report noted that the families of the victims of the 1988 mass killings in Iran continue to face harassment in their quest to find out the truth, and that human rights defenders working on their behalf face harassment, intimidation and prosecution.

The Secretary General’s March report also highlighted the case of Raheleh Rahemipour, who was arrested on security-related charges for sending a complaint to the United Nations Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, about her brother’s disappearance in the 1980s.

Justice for Iran had previously submitted a complaint to the UN Working Group on Enforced and Involuntary Disappearances about Ms. Rahemipour’s case.

7. Two perpetrators identified by Justice for Iran were sanctioned by the United States

Human rights sanctions in the form of the implementation of Magnitsky Acts or countries or regional organisations (such as the EU) implementing regulations which target specific individuals or entities have increasingly become a popular tool to hold the perpetrators accountable when other measures, such as trials (either domestic or international) or official inquiries, are not attainable. The measures include travel bans and the freezing of assets for individuals and companies connected to human rights violations.

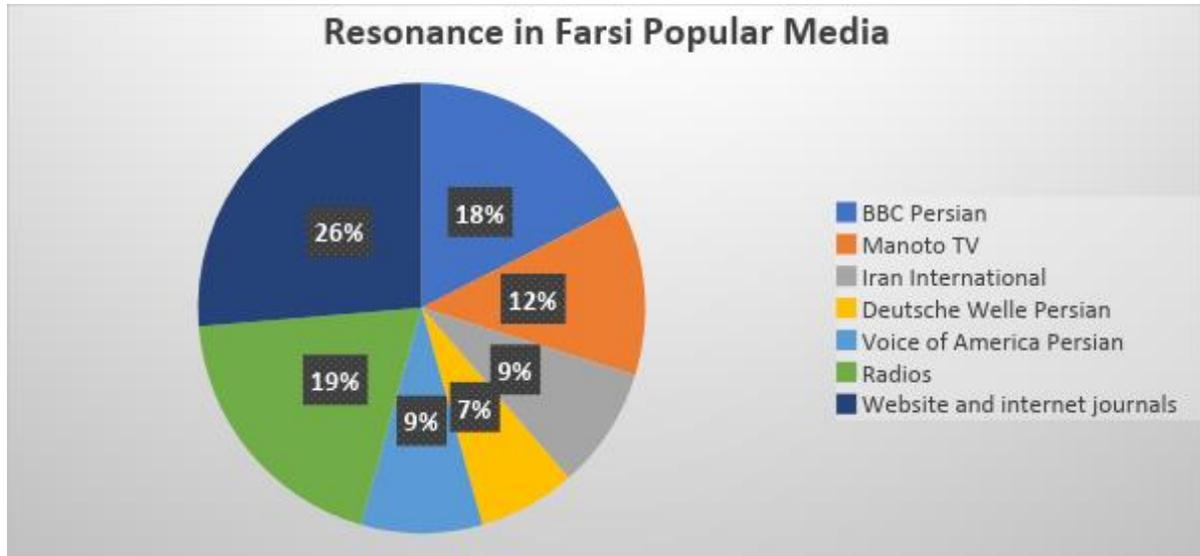
Identified by JFI, two perpetrators were sanctioned by the United States. They are Abdolali Asghari and Abdolsamad Khorramabadi.

Abdolali Ali Asgari, Director General of Iran’s state broadcasting agency, has been involved in airing forced confessions from political detainees.

Abdolsamad Khorramabadi, as the head of the “Commission to Determine the Instances of Criminal Content”, is responsible in prohibiting, limiting, or penalising the exercise of freedom of expression or peaceful assembly by citizens of Iran and limiting access to print or broadcast media.

8. More than five million unique visitors to Justice for Iran’s website and social media

In 2018, Justice for Iran increased the use of audio-visual material in its publications, which enhanced the resonance of its report in both traditional and social media.



The reports and audio-visual material reached millions of Iranians through mainstream satellite TV channels and news websites.

They were also covered by international media outlets, including 29 English-language outlets and seven in other languages such as German and Spanish.



The website and social media accounts reached more than two million unique visitors and viewers, distributed between Twitter, Facebook, Telegram, Instagram and Balatarin.