

Terms of Reference

A report on security-related human rights violations in Iran

The Ceasefire Centre for Civilian Rights and Minority Rights Group International are implementing an EU-supported programme (EIDHR/2016/376-911) to strengthen human rights defenders organisations working with vulnerable civilians in Iran and Iraq.

We are seeking to retain an independent expert to research and write a report on human rights violations in Iran related to measures taken for the purpose of national security and/or the prevention of terrorism, including the impact of these violations on Iran's ethnic and religious minorities.

Security-related human rights violations have taken place in various contexts in Iran and constitute some of the most serious human rights violations occurring in the country today. They include but are not necessarily limited to operations to suppress low-level insurgencies in Kurdistan and Baluchistan, action targeted against associations or leaders of Iran's minority ethnic communities, drug and human trafficking and the *kolbars*, workers employed to carry non-contraband goods across borders illegally.

The report should investigate these and any other relevant violations, their political, social and national security context, and all aspects of the Iranian security and legal apparatus that have a bearing on them including but not limited to the lack of due process of law, unfair trials, forced confessions, the use of torture, the politicization of the Iranian judicial system and the use of the death penalty. The expert is encouraged to use their initiative in investigating these violations and in developing an analysis of the intersection of human rights and national security concerns in Iran, and in situating these violations in their wider political, social and economic context.

The final report should be approximately 12,000 words long and in English, to be completed by no later than 19 August 2019. Remuneration for this report will be USD \$4000.

Person specification

Candidates for this position should meet the following requirements:

- Location of researcher:
 - Any country from which research can be conducted effectively and safely.
- Languages:
 - Fluency in Persian and excellent English;
 - Working knowledge of or fluency in other relevant languages spoken in Iran is desirable but not required.
- Knowledge:
 - Extensive knowledge of current human rights concerns inside Iran and of the Iranian political/legal system;
 - Relevant university degree or equivalent experience.
- Experience:
 - An established track record in research in this or a related field;
 - The ability to write in English to a high level of accuracy and academic rigor in an accessible style.
- Other:

- Existing networks of contacts in academia, the INGO sector or the media related to human rights, politics and security in Iran are desirable.

Application process

Applicants are required to submit a CV, a brief cover letter summarizing their suitability for the role, two writing samples from published work (400-2000 words each), and a suggested short chapter outline/synopsis of the report before the deadline of 10am on 27 May to contact@ceasefire.org

Please contact us if you have any questions or wish to discuss this project.

Background information

<https://minorityrights.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Rights-Denied-Violations-against-ethnic-and-religious-minorities-in-Iran.pdf>