



High Council for Human Rights of
the Islamic Republic of Iran

Judicial Status of Defendants Arrested Concerning Alleged Poisoning of Students: a Report

**The High Council for Human Rights
of The Islamic Republic of Iran**

(August 2023)

In the Name of GOD

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At the same time as the riots ended in Iran, reports of the bad condition of some students in some schools were published, and gradually, it started to rise. However, since the beginning of these events, the Islamic Republic of Iran has made every effort to follow up on them, regardless of any media pressures, psychological warfare, double standards and politicized approaches. With a view to taking care of the society involved in such incidents, i.e., teenagers, the Islamic Republic of Iran has also prioritized addressing the issue in question. For this purpose, the Country's security, intelligence, and law enforcement agencies have also used all their capacities to identify the causes and factors to reveal the different dimensions and angles of incidents of such nature.

From the very first days of such incidents, in continuation of the Establishment's policy of accountability and transparency, as well as protecting and promoting the human rights of citizens, the high-ranking officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran have adopted strong positions and have been following up on them in all seriousness. Stressing that the officials as well as intelligence and law enforcement agencies must follow up on the issue, the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution noted: *"If anyone is involved in this incident, the agents and the masterminds must be severely punished. This incident is a crime against the most innocent members of society, meaning children, and a source of psychological insecurity and concern for the affected families. Everyone must know that if anyone is identified and convicted as the perpetrator of this crime, there will be no forgiveness."* The President of the Islamic Republic of Iran has also assigned the Interior and Intelligence ministers to investigate the incidents and provide a transparent report to the people. Separately, the Chief of the Judiciary has referred to the incident as an example of *ifsad-e fil-arz* (creating corruption on Earth), which will result in severe, unforgivable, and unrelenting punishment. His Excellency, the Chief of the Judiciary, has further ordered that a special branch be set up in the Justice Administration of each province to deal with the issue. The Speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly has also asked the heads of four specialized commissions to investigate this issue by forming a special working group.

Various intelligence, security, technical, law enforcement, and laboratory methods and tools were used to identify the causes and perpetrators of these incidents. In addition to investigating the scenes and samples and observing the focal points and suspects, technical and visual monitoring was conducted, specialized intelligence was gathered from the target environments, and any possibility – however small and insignificant – was observed. In this framework, the causes of students’ unwellness and clinical results were investigated to identify possible compounds or substances used in the recent alleged poisonings. Some items used in schools (primarily stink bombs and balloons) were identified, and several perpetrators related to these incidents were arrested.

Field & Laboratory Findings: Results of Investigations & Statistical Studies of Events

1. No toxic substance that can cause poisoning was observed in the findings of the scene and laboratory investigations in the most reliable laboratories in the Country;
2. There have been no deaths or long-term physical complications;
3. In the vast majority of cases, the treatment methods applied to the patients who declared to be feeling unwell and went to different clinics were only treatments to the extent of receiving oxygen, serum, and sedatives;
4. The average stay of clients in the clinics was about two hours, and very few of them were hospitalized for a short period;
5. The different statements of the students of a class of observations, olfactory odors, or physical symptoms were considerable (the statements touched upon the solid, liquid, or gaseous nature of the alleged substance, the color and smell thereof, and the variety of declared side effects);
6. The mode of contagion of claims from places close to each other (adjacency factor) is such that by claiming to feel unwell in one class, the students of another class have declared to experience queasy feelings after knowing the situation of that class. In contrast, the uninformed classes did not complain about any problems;
7. One of the most interesting points is that, in most cases, the claim of illness was specific to students. This is while teaching staff or school service agents have reported several poisoning cases and a handful of poisoning symptoms; and
8. Malingering has been one of the proven factors in a significant number. In examining the motivations of bullying, three motivations of playfulness,

avoiding lessons and exams, and in a few cases, the incentives induced by others, have been involved in causing disorder and riots;

9. The comprehensive and detailed observations of the intelligence and security forces regarding the alleged poisoning incidents indicate that toxic substances have not been spread in any of the schools; however, non-toxic agents that have caused panic have been used inadvertently or intentionally in some reported environments. Regarding human factors, several people accused of using such substances were identified, summoned, arrested, warned, or introduced to the judicial authority according to their violations or crimes; and
10. There is no network for distributing poisonous substances in the Country. Still, many networks in cyberspace controlled from inside or outside Iran which produce and spread rumors, incite school fear, attempt to close schools, push parents of students to stage protests, and deliberately accuse the Islamic Republic of Iran, have been tracked and identified.

Judicial Status of Arrested Defendants

In this regard, 48 court cases were filed in 8 provinces. According to the investigations, the latest status of the judicial files is as follows:

1. Three cases have resulted in the issuance of a verdict (pecuniary fine, imprisonment);
2. Twenty cases are under judicial review; and
3. A writ of non-suit has hitherto been issued for 25 cases.

