



High Council for Human
Rights of the
Islamic Republic of Iran

Supplementary Report on September 30 Incidents in Zahedan

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

(29 October 2022)

In the Name of GOD

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Introduction & Summary

On Friday, the 30th of September 2022, at the end of the Friday prayer in Zahedan, a group of people attacked Police Station No. 16, which is adjacent to the Great Mosalla prayer complex, and planned to occupy the said headquarters. Unfortunately, some fellow citizens and worshipers lost their lives or sustained injuries during the attack and following clashes between the attackers and the defense forces of the police station. After the incident, several armed individuals took advantage of the highly charged atmosphere and – in addition to attacking citizens and various places – set fire to and looted public and private properties and clashed with the law enforcement forces, during which some rioters and innocent people were killed and several law enforcement forces martyred.

Following the incidents, under the direct order of the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Minister of Interior went to Zahedan. Subsequently, with the follow-up of the Country's top security, defense and law enforcement officials, the expert teams were dispatched to Zahedan in order to investigate the causes, contexts, manners and dimensions of the incident, and comprehensive measures were also put on the agenda to obtain an accurate and valid account of the events. In addition to interviewing police commanders and security officials, reviewing CCTV footage, collecting field evidence, talking to eyewitnesses and injured people as well as meeting with heads of clans and religious scholars, the investigation teams and delegations reconstructed the scene of the riot and the *modus operandi* of the police.

The Security Council of Sistan & Baluchestan province announced the results of the investigations, accepted the negligence of some officers, dismissed both the chief of Police Station No. 16 and the Commander of Police Forces of Zahedan, ordered for the compensation of the innocent victims and their families, and sent to the judicial authority the case of the incidents, including the instigators, rioters and attackers who assaulted the police station, and on the other hand, the relevant police officials, so that violations and crimes can be dealt with accurately and according to legal regulations. In a statement, the Head of the Judiciary Organization of the Armed Forces said: "The case will be handled impartially and the result of the investigation will be announced to the public, especially to the dear people of Sistan & Baluchestan [province]. Obviously, if a crime has been committed, the criminals will be dealt with according to the law."

Statement Released by Security Council of Sistan & Baluchestan Province

Based on this, the Security Council of Sistan & Baluchestan province announced the summary results of the investigations as follows:

1. The Friday, 30 September, events took place in two different time frames and environments, both of which are dissimilar from the perspective of elements present in the scene, motivation and action.
2. After the Friday prayers, a crowd of more than 150 people, among whom the presence of armed men has been proven, started the riots by attacking Police Station No. 16 while throwing stones, opening fire at, directing and hitting a public transportation bus against the wall of the aforesaid police headquarters in order to destroy the door and wall and finally break into the station. By setting fire to the police car and injuring several police forces, they tried to seize and take control of the police station in question. However, actions made by the rioters to seize the police station failed to bear fruit after forces present in the station reacted with tear gas and fired hunting shotgun shells.
3. Regretfully, a number of worshiping citizens and innocent passers-by who had no role in the riots sustained injuries and lost their lives due to the proximity of the aforesaid police station to the venue of Friday prayers, failure to evacuate the Great Mosalla prayer complex fully, armed clashes as well as police shootings.
4. After the end of the first phase of clashes around the police station, certain individuals, some of whom were armed, took advantage of the inflammation around the Grand Makki Mosque, the nearby rooftops and other parts of the city, and started the riots and armed conflict by destroying and setting ablaze the public, government and private properties.
5. In order to establish security, prevent the spread of insecurity and protect the lives and property of citizens, the Security Council of Sistan & Baluchestan province announced a security situation in Zahedan and subsequently, the confrontation phase of the security and law enforcement forces with armed groups began and continued until the end of the night. During the said period, several armed individuals were killed, six security guards were martyred, and a group of others sustained injuries.
6. According to the existing documents, the total number of those who lost their lives in Zahedan during the 30 September incidents and the following days stands at 35; it includes some worshipers in the Great Mosalla prayer complex, those who died in the first phase of clashes taking place around the police station, those killed by armed individuals due to city-wide clashes, and also the innocent citizens killed by criminals in different areas of the city.

7. The Security Council of Sistan & Baluchestan province offers its condolences to the noble, loyal and revolutionary people of Zahedan, especially the families of the martyrs and those who lost their lives. In line with the fulfillment of the order of the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the implementation of justice, and while accepting the negligence of some officers and dismissing the chief of the Police Station No. 16 and Commander of Police Forces of Zahedan, as well as compensating the innocent victims and their families, it is hereby announced that the case of the tragic Zahedan incidents, including the instigators, rioters and attackers who assaulted the police station, and on the other hand, the relevant police officials, has been opened and sent to the judicial authority along with conclusive pieces of evidence for a thorough investigation so that violations and crimes can be dealt with accurately and according to legal regulations. It should be noted that during the additional investigations, if other cases of negligence or possible fault of police forces and commanders are identified, they will be sent to the relevant authorities for consideration and action.

The Judiciary Organization of the Armed Forces: Dealing with the Case

On the strength of the Constitution, the Judiciary Organization of the Armed Forces is responsible for dealing with crimes related to the specific duties of the military or law enforcement forces. However, their public crimes or crimes they commit in the capacity of the bailiffs of justice administration are dealt with in general tribunals. "The Judiciary Organization of the Armed Forces took action after a number of the victims' next-of-kin referred to the Zahedan military prosecutor's office. In this regard, the examining magistrate is conducting his investigations. As an independent body that performs its' duties under the supervision of the Judiciary, the Judiciary Organization of the Armed Forces promises the people that it will look into and consider the various and all aspects of the incident. We have collected the documents and complaints of people, so it is our legal responsibility to fulfill our duty with total independence and authority, in the absence of any compromise and according to the law. When examining cases, the Judiciary Organization of the Armed Forces recognizes **NO** difference whether people are of any ethnicity, religion, etc., just as my colleagues in all parts of the Country deal with the possible crimes of the armed forces. In this case, too, the case will be dealt with impartially and we will announce the result of the investigation to the Country's noble people, especially the dear people of Sistan & Baluchestan. It is obvious that if a crime has been committed in this field, the criminals will be dealt with according to the law and *Sharia* rules.", stressed the Head of the Judiciary Organization of the Armed Forces.