

20 Years of Murder:
Victims of Iranian government "hit squads," 1979-1999
as compiled from public sources by the
Foundation for Democracy in Iran

Total dead: 104

Total wounded: 56

Mohammad Mokhtary

Mokhtary's body was found near Tehran on 12/9/1998, six days after his wife declared he was missing. Opposition activists say Mr. A writer, human rights activist, and founding member of the Iran Writers Association, Mouktary is the fifth known victim of the regime in recent days. Other human rights activists have been killed in Bokan, Mashad, Isfahan, and Shiraz. Mokhtari was one of more than 100 writers who signed an open letter to the Iranian authorities in 1994 demanding freedom of expression and association.

1/1/1978

Explanatory Note:

This data base has been compiled from public sources and includes only those terrorist attacks for which there have been public accusations of Iranian government involvement, either by law enforcement officials or in the media.

In addition to the attacks we have listed, the Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan (KDPI) claims that 26 party members or sympathizers were assassinated by Iranian government attacks occurring in Iraqi Kurdistan since 1994 and scores more in Iran itself. Additional attacks inside Iraq have also been claimed by the Mujahedin-e Khalq (MEK), also known as the People's Mujahidin of Iran. The nature of these attacks could not be confirmed by independent sources, although allegations that they carried out by Iranian government agents appear credible.

12/7/79

Paris, France

Shahriar Moustapha Shafiq

Monarchist

A nephew of the former Shah. Responsibility for the killing was openly claimed by Ayatollah Khalkhali in Tehran, who says his "Islamic combattants" had also wanted to kill Princess Ashraf, the Shah's twin sister, who was living in Paris.

7/18/80

Paris, France

N/A

Monarchist

A failed assassination attempt against Shahpour Bakhtiar kills a neighbor and a French policeman, and wounds a third person. The hit team was led by a Lebanese Christian, Anis Naccache, acting on a fatwa signed by Ayatollah Khomeini. Naccache was sentenced to life in prison on 10 March 1982 but freed on July 27, 1990 when pardoned by President Mitterrand. Iran had pressured France for his release by taking hostages in Lebanon and by orchestrating a bombing campaign in Paris in September 1986.

7/22/81

Washington, DC

Ali Akbar Tabatabai

NA

The former press spokesman at the Iranian embassy in Washington, who became an outspoken opponent of the new regime, was shot at point blank range by a self-avowed Iranian government hitman, David Belfield, who posed as a postman delivering a special delivery package to his home in Bethesda, MD

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AA000984

Victims of Iranian government 'hit squads'

Date of attack	Place	Victim	Affiliation
1/1/82	Manilla, Philippines	Shahrokh Missaghi	
<i>Exact date of killing unknown.</i>			
1/1/82	Istanbul, Turkey	Colonel Ahmad Hamed	
<i>No date given. Possible confusion with Ahmad Hamed Monfared, killed in 1986.</i>			
4/4/82	Mainz, Germany	N/A	
<i>A young German woman is killed, and 18 Iranian opposition students are wounded, during an attack by Iranian agents working out of a government-sponsored cultural center against a dormitory at the University of Mainz in april 1982.</i>			
6/6/82	India	Chahram Mirani	
<i>Seriously wounded during an attack in June</i>			
8/8/82	Karachi, Pakistan	Ahmad Zolanvar	
<i>Exact date unknown.</i>			
9/9/82	India	Abdol-Amir Rahdar	
<i>Exact date unknown.</i>			
2/7/84	Paris, France	General Gholam Ali Oveissi	Monarchists
<i>The former Military Governor of Tehran was gunned down on the sidewalk in front of his home on the rue de Passy, along with his brother, Gholam Hossein Oveissi. Responsibility for the killings was claimed by Islamic Jihad and by the Revolutionary Organization of Iran for Liberation and Reform. Massoud Hendi, who was then the Paris bureau chief of Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIBI) and was later indicted in connection with the Bakhtiar murder, was briefly detained as a material witness.</i>			
8/16/85	Istanbul, Turkey	Colonel Behrouz Shahverdilou	National Movement of Resistance (NAMIR)
<i>A former army officer, close to Bakhtiar.</i>			
9/9/85	Karachi, Pakistan	M. Mirmanoute	Balouch
<i>Former member of parliament from Balutchistan.</i>			
12/23/85	Instanbul, Turkey	Colonel Hadi Azizmoradi	NA
<i>Killed at the entrance of the house where he was a guest.</i>			

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Date of attack	Place	Victim	Affiliation
1/16/86	Hamburg, West Germany	Ali Akbar Mohamadi	NA
<i>Former personal pilot of Rafsanjani, who had fled Iran.</i>			
8/19/86	London, Great Britain	Bijan Fazeli	NA
10/24/86	Istanbul, Turkey	Ahmad Hamed Monfared	
<i>Shot by two people in front of a primary school while waiting for a bus. Had been a bodyguard to the Shah. The Turkish police have identified Iranian agents as responsible.</i>			
12/12/86	Pakistan	Vali Mohamad Van	
<i>Exact date unknown.</i>			
7/7/87	Pakistan	Faramarz Akai	
7/7/87	Pakistan	Ali Reza Pourchafizadeh	
<i>Two separate attacks in Pakistan against Iranian refugees in July left three persons dead and 23 others wounded. Other known fatality was Faramaz Akai.</i>			
7/7/87	London, Great Britain	Amir Hossein Amir-Parviz	Monarchist
<i>One of the Shah's former ministers, Amir-Parviz was seriously injured but not killed when a bomb exploded in his car.</i>			
7/12/87	Vienna, Austria	Hamid Reza Chitgar	Iranian Labor Party
<i>Worked at Université Louis Pasteur, Strasbourg (France). Disappeared 19 May, 1987; body discovered in July in Vienna.</i>			
8/10/87	Geneva, Switzerland	Ahmad Moradi-Talebi	
<i>A Colonel and pilot (deserter) in the Iranian Air force, gunned down near the Hotel Edelweiss. The assassins left a blue baseball cap behind them, as a signature.</i>			
10/2/87	Wembley, Great Britain	Mohamed Ali Tavakoli-Nabavi	NA
<i>Killed with youngest son, Nouredin, outside of home. Lived in Britain since 1979 with refugee status. Responsibility claimed by a group calling itself the Islamic Revolutionary Guards.</i>			

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10/10/87	Paris, France	Behrouz Bagheri	
<i>Killed when his shop is fire-bombed.</i>			
10/10/87	Pakistan	N/A	
<i>Exact date unknown. A hotel where Iranian opposition members were staying is fire-bombed, killing one person and wounding another. The Pakistan police accused Iran's Pasdaran, or Revolutionary Guards.</i>			
10/10/87	Istanbul, Turkey	Abdol Hassan Modjtahed-Zadeh	
<i>Kidnapped in October 1987, presumed dead.</i>			
12/12/87	Turkey	Javad Haeri	
<i>Exact date and place unknown.</i>			
10/11/88	Erzeroum, Turkey	Abdol Hassan Mojtahedzadeh (aka MEK Sadiq el Hassani)	
<i>Found bound and gagged in the trunk of a car with diplomatic plates traced to the Istanbul consulate by Customs officials. The occupants, five Iranian diplomats, were attempting to cross into Iran. He was the PMOI representative to Turkey.</i>			
10/25/88	Ankara, Turkey	Abdul Ghani Bedawi	Saudi intelligence
<i>2nd secretary at embassy, believed to be intelligence agent. Gunned down by an unknown assailant. Iranian-paid hitman arrested in 3/96 confesses to the killing on orders from Iran</i>			
12/12/88	Karachi, Pakistan	N/A	Balouch
<i>An armed man opens fire on Iranian refugees waiting in line in front of the headquarters of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Karachi, killing one person and wounding five others.</i>			
12/27/88	Karachi, Pakistan	Hassan al-Amri	Saudi intelligence
<i>Suspected Saudi intelligence agent, gunned down by an unknown assailant. A Turkish hitman. Iranian-paid hitman arrested in 3/96 confesses to the killing on orders from Iran</i>			
1/4/89	Bangkok, Thailand	Saleh Abdullah al-Maliki	Saudi intelligence
<i>Third secretary at the Saudi embassy in Bangkok. Responsibility for the killing claimed by the al-Hijaz Islamic Jihad, an Iranian-backed Shiite opposition group in Saudi Arabia.</i>			

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5/4/89	Dubai, UAE	Colonel Attaollah Bay-Ahmad	Flag of Freedom Organization
<i>Killed in his room at the Hotel Astoria, within hours of arriving in Dubai, by an assassin armed with a pistol equipped with a silencer. He had been on an intelligence mission to establish contact with an opposition network inside Iran.</i>			
7/13/89	Vienna, Austria	Abdel Rahman Ghassemlou (Qassemlou)	KDPI
<i>Killed along with his deputy, Abdallah Ghaderi Azar, and Fadel Mala Mahmoud Rasoul, a Kurdish intellectual living in Vienna, during negotiations with Iranian government emissaries, by a pistol equipped with a silencer. The presumed assassin took refuge in the Iranian embassy in Vienna. After briefly being questioned by the Austrian police, he was allowed to return to Tehran.</i>			
8/23/89	Cyprus	Bahman Djavadi	NA
9/9/89	Cyprus	Gholam Kechavarz	
<i>Failed assassination attempt leaves Kecharz without the use of both legs. He later dies of his wounds.</i>			
10/16/89	Ankara, Turkey	Abdurrahman Shrewi	Saudi intelligence
<i>Saudi military attaché in Ankara. Killed by a bomb placed underneath his car, which exploded just before he arrived at his office at the embassy, severing both his legs. He subsequently died of his wounds.</i>			
11/1/89	Beirut, Lebanon	Ali al-Marzuq	Saudi
<i>Last remaining Saudi diplomat in Beirut, 53-years old. Killed outside his home in West Beirut. Responsibility claimed by Islamic Jihad, the Iranian-backed military wing of Hezbollah.</i>			
2/1/90	Bangkok, Thailand	Abdallah al-Basri	Saudi intelligence
<i>Gunned down along with two other colleagues, Fahd Abdallah al-Bahli, and Ahmad Abdallah al-Sayf. All three are suspected Saudi intelligence agents.</i>			
2/2/90	Taftan, Pakistan	Haj Baloutch-Khan	
<i>Exact date unknown.</i>			
3/14/90	Istanbul, Turkey	Hossein Mir-Abedini (aka Reza Akhavanjam)	MEK
<i>A Mujahidin representative to Turkey and two Iranians were ambushed en route to the Istanbul airport, but all survived. Tehran radio [falsely] announced the same day that the head of the PMOI Foreign relations department, Mohammed Mohadessine, had been killed in the attack.</i>			

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4/24/90	Geneva, Switzerland	Kassem Radjavi	MEK
<i>Shot as he was driving to his home in the suburbs of Geneva by a well-orchestrated hit team. The Swiss police accused 13 persons in the attack, all of whom had travelled to Geneva on direct flights from Tehran and who were bearing official Iranian government passports. Dr. Radjavi was the brother of Mujahedin-e Khalq (MEK) leader, Massoud Radjavi.</i>			
8/15/90	Istanbul, Turkey	Ahmad Kashefpour	Ex KDPI
9/6/90	Stockholm, Sweden	Effat Ghazi-Mohamad	KDPI
<i>The wife of a Kurdish opposition figure, and daughter of Ghazi-Mohamad, founder of KDPI. She died when opening a letter bomb apparently addressed to her husband.</i>			
10/10/90	Turkey	Gholamreza Nakhai	
<i>Exact date and place unknown.</i>			
10/23/90	Paris, France	Cyrus Elahi	Flag of Freedom Organization
<i>Gunned down before dawn in front of his apartment, 8 rue Bourdelle, Paris 15.</i>			
4/18/91	Paris, France	Abdel Rahman Boroumand	National Resistance Movement (NAMIR)
<i>Knifed in the hall of his building in the 7th district of Paris, by an unidentified assailant. French judge Jean-Louis Bruguiere said he believes Boroumand was killed by Iranian government agents.</i>			
5/5/91	Soleimanieh, Iraq	Safiollah Soleimanpour	
<i>Killed along with an unnamed brother. The Iranian government admits to the killing. Exact date unknown.</i>			
7/7/91	Milan, Italy	Alberto Capriolo	
<i>Italian translator of Salman Rushdie is wounded in an attack, but survives. Exact date unknown.</i>			
7/12/91	Tokyo, Japan	Hitoshi Igarashi	Translator of Salman Rushdie
<i>Rushdie's Japanese translator is killed in Tokyo. An assassination attempt against his Italian translator was committed on July 3, 1991, wounding the translator.</i>			

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Date of attack	Place	Victim	Affiliation
8/6/91	Suresnes, France	Shahpour Bakhtiar	NAMIR
<p><i>Discovered knifed to death at home by his son, a French police inspector, 36 hours after a visit by a supporter and two friends. Killed with him was Katibeh Fallouch, his personal secretary. One of the assassins is later arrested in Switzerland and extradited to France, where he turns out to be an Iranian government agent. The supporter who introduced him to Bakhtiar was a mole and fled the country before he could be apprehended.</i></p>			
8/7/91	Paris, France	Jawad Mehrani	Iranian government
<p><i>Arms dealer believed linked to Iranian government, in process of negotiating large helicopter purchase from Aerospatiale. He was killed within 24 hours of Bakhtiar. Some police sources speculate he may have been eliminated by the same hit team because he was aware of details of the Bakhtiar murder.</i></p>			
6/4/92	Istanbul, Turkey	Akbar Ghorbani (aka Mansour Amini)	MEK
<p><i>Abducted on June 4; body found on June 16 with its fingernails pulled out and genitals mutilated, in a shallow grave. Police found explosives in two cars he had been using. Turkish fundamentalists confessed they had been paid by Iranian intelligence to carry out the kidnapping.</i></p>			
8/7/92	Bonn, Germany	Feridoun Farokhzad [Farouchsad]	Opposition
<p><i>Knifed to death in his apartment in Bonn. Exiled since 1979, he worked as a singer, actor and poet, and was associated with the opposition in exile.</i></p>			
8/8/92	Frankfurt, Germany	Homayoun Moghaddam	Iran Nation's party
<p><i>Wounded by knife when three Iranians tried to break into his apartment to assassinate him.</i></p>			
9/17/92	Berlin, Germany	Sadegh Sharaf-Kindi	PDKI
<p><i>Gunned down along with 3 colleagues at the Mykonos, a Greek restaurant in Berlin. He succeeded Qassemelou as head of DPIK. The others were Fattah Abduli, a KDPI European representative, Homayoun Ardalan, the KDPI representative to Germany, and Nuri Dehkurdi, a translator. Weapons found by police included an Israeli-made Uzi, a Spanish pistol, and a "Llama" pistol with silencer. In March 1996, the German Federal Prosecutor issued an international arrest warrant for Iranian intelligence Minister Ali Fallahian for having ordered the killings.</i></p>			
1/1/93	Germany	Ayatollah Mehdi Haeri	
<p><i>Escapes assassination attempt. An Iranian government agent, Fakhrodine Zalikhani, is arrested. Exact date unknown.</i></p>			

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Date of attack	Place	Victim	Affiliation
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1/24/93	Ankara, Turkey	Ugur Mumcu	
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Prominent Turkish journalist, who denounced Iranian subversion in Turkey. A car bomb exploded in his car at 13:26 on Jan. 24, 1993, in front of his home at 63, Karli Sokak in Ankara. Prime suspects include members of Islamic Action, an Iranian-backed fundamentalist group in Turkey; and three Iranian diplomats. In May 2000, the Turkish government indicted several subjects, and accused three Iranian government intelligence agents of orchestrating the assassination and 21 others.

3/16/93	Rome, Italy	Mohammed Hussein Nagdi	MEK
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Gunned down in his car by assassins riding on a motorbike in a Rome street. He was the local representative of the National Council of Resistance, a front organization for the Massud Radjavi's Mujahidin. He served as military attaché to Rome for the Islamic Republic until 1982. In July 1996, the Italian prosecutor asked the Islamic Republic embassy in Rome to lift diplomatic immunity on an individual serving at the Rome embassy at the time of the assassination.

8/8/93	Istanbul, Turkey	Mohammad Ghaderi	KDPI
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Ghaderi was kidnapped and found dead in Turkey in August 1993, allegedly by Iranian-controlled agents

8/28/93	Ankara, Turkey	Mehran Bahram Azadfar	KDPI
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8/28/93	Ankara, Turkey	Mohamad Ghadiri	
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10/11/93	Oslo, Norway	William Nygaard	Salman Rushdie
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The Norwegian publisher of Salman Rushdie is shot three times from behind as he is leaving his home, but survives.

1/1/94	Sweden	Aoubakr Hedayati	KDPI
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Wounded by a letter bomb. Exact date unknown.

1/4/94	Corum, Turkey	Taha Kirmench (Kermench)	
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One Iranian was arrested after three gunmen killed this Iranian Kurdish activist in the central Turkish city of Corum.

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Date of attack	Place	Victim	Affiliation
1/29/94	Beirut, Lebanon	Naeb Umran Maaitah	Jordanian Foreign Ministry
<i>Maaitah, the number two diplomat at Jordan's embassy in Beirut, was gunned down in Syrian-controlled West Beirut. Five days later, Jordan expelled 21 Iranian diplomats from Amman. Iranian intelligence is suspected of having planned his killing, which was carried out by elements from the pro-Iranian Hezbollah.</i>			
1/29/94	Syraee, Turkey	Nasser Hadji Rashidi	
<i>Iranian Kurd injured in an attack along with his sister, Mahtab Hadji Rashidi.</i>			
6/24/94	Copenhagen, Denmark	Mollah Osman Amini	
<i>An Iranian Kurdish refugee, found dead in his apartment in Copenhagen.</i>			
11/12/94	Bucharest, Romania	Mohammed Ali Assadi	
<i>The 38-year old Assadi was killed when three assailants burst into his apartment on Saturday night, Nov. 12, and thrust a two-edged Ninja sword into his back. His wife reportedly said one of them was listed among the Iranian embassy staff.</i>			
5/17/95	Baghdad, Iraq	N/A	MEK
<i>Two senior PMOI officials killed, one wounded, in Baghdad attack on a Mujahidin vehicle. Mujahidin blamed "terrorist diplomats" in the Iranian embassy in Baghdad.</i>			
6/5/95	Sulaymaniyah, Iraq	N/A	Kurdish "Toilers" Party (Komelah)
<i>Two members of an Iranian Kurdish group were gunned down in Iraqi Kurdistan by Iranian government agents, according to the State Department's 4/96 yearly report on terrorism</i>			
7/10/95	Baghdad, Iraq	Hussein Adidi	MEK
<i>Gunned down with two other Mujahidin officials, Ibrahim Salimi and Yarali Karatbar, by killers identified by the Mujahidin as "agents of the Iranian regime." Iraq's Foreign Ministry summoned the Iranian charge in Baghdad to protest the killings.</i>			
9/17/95	Paris, France	Hashem Abdollahi	NAMIR
<i>Murdered when unknown assailants burst into his father's apartment in an assassination attack, not a robbery. Hashem was the son of Davoud Abdollahi, the chief witness in the Bakhtiar murder trial. The State Department's yearly report on terrorism speculated his murder "may have been an anti-dissident attack."</i>			

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2/20/96	Istanbul, Turkey	Zahra Rajabi	MEK
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A senior member of the National Council of Resistance, Ms Rajabi was killed by five bullets to the head fired at point blank range when gunmen burst into her Istanbul apartment. Killed with her was Mujahidin sympathiser Abdul-Ali Moradi. PMOI leader Rajavi blamed the Iranian embassy in Turkey, and issued a statement on 4/23/96 naming four Iranian diplomats for their involvement in the murders. The diplomats were first identified by Reza Barzgar Ma'ssoumi, a self-avowed SAVAMA agent arrested by Turkish police in March 1996.

3/4/96	Karachi, Pakistan	Molavi Abdul-Malek Mollahzadeh	Balouch
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The 45-year old son of Iran's most prominent Sunni cleric was murdered by two gunmen in a taxi as he was leaving his house in Pakistan. Molavi Abdul Malek was a well-known opponent of the regime involved in organizing the Balouchi community. He was killed along with an associate, Jamshid Zahi, 25. A Pakistani woman passing by was also wounded.

3/4/96	Karachi, Pakistan	Abdol-Nasser Jamshid-Zahi	Balouch
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Gunned down on a Karachi street along with Molavi Abdul Malek, a well-known opponent of the regime involved in organizing the Balouchi community.

3/7/96	Baghdad, Iraq	Hamed Rahmani	MEK
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The Mujahdin blamed the Iranian government for the murder in Baghdad of Hamed Rahmani, killed while driving to his office in central Baghdad in the evening. They said it was the sixth assassination of a Mujahedin member in Baghdad since 5/95.

3/13/96	Sulaymaniah, Iraq	Taher Rouhani	KDPI
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Assassinated in front of his home in Sulaymaniah.

3/18/96	Arbil, Iraq	Faramarz Keshavarzi, et al	KDPI
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Four members of the KDPI, Faramarz Keshavarzi, Othman Rahimi, Taher Azizi, and Hassan Ibrahim-zadeh, were assassinated by machinegun fire in Arbil in iraqi kurdistan.

5/27/96	Creteil, France	Dr. Reza Mazlouman, aka Cyrus Aramanesh	Flag of Freedom
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The victim was found dead of three gunshot wounds in his apartment in Creteil, in the Paris suburbs, by French police. He had been affiliated with the Flag of Freedom organization, but since 1990 has published an anti-IRI weekly magazine, Payam-e Azadi (Voice of Freedom).

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5/31/96	Beirut, Lebanon	Abdolvahab Zaghi	
<p><i>Shot while walking in downtown Beirut. After he taken to hospital, an Iranian embassy official, Hojj. Heydari, demanded the hospital remand him to IRI custody, The Lebanese government reacted by surrounding the hospital and rejected the demand.</i></p>			
7/22/96	Solena, Sweden	Shahin Nazeri	Peoples Fedai Guerillas
<p><i>A communique issued by the Fedai in Paris on July 25 alleged that Ms. Nazeri was stabbed by two assailants, one of whom they identified as an Iranian embassy official who had come frequently to Stockholm airport to threaten Fedai protesting Iran Air flights to Tehran</i></p>			
9/30/96	Sulaymania, Iraq	Ali Garmaii	NCR/Khebat
<p><i>[Date approximate]. Allegedly gunned down by regime agents.</i></p>			
11/18/96	Sulaymania, Iraq	Mohammad Nanva	NCR/Khebat
<p><i>Allegedly gunned down by regime agents.</i></p>			
12/1/96	Koysanjaq, Iraq	Five Kurds	KDPI
<p><i>Hit and run attack against a group of IranianKurdish refugees in northern Iraq and their families; one of the victims is a 4-year old child.</i></p>			
10/10/1998	Tehran, Iran	Piruz Davani	
<p><i>Davani, a young leftist, disappeared in suspicious circumstances in October 1998 and is believed to have been assassinated by the same MOIS hit team that killed the Forouhars.</i></p>			
11/22/98	Tehran	Darioush and Parvaneh Forouhar	Iran Nation's Party
<p><i>Forouhar and his wife were brutally hacked to death in their heavily-guarded Tehran apartment. The assailants cut off Forouhar's head and one of his wife's breasts.</i></p>			
11/25/1998	Tehran, Iran	Majid Sharif	
<p><i>The body of Sharif, a 58-year-old translator for Iran-e Farda , turned upon Nov. 25 at a Tehran morgue a week after he left his home for Mashad. Opposition leaders say he was murdered by MOIS. Sharif was a 58-year old translator for Iran-e Farda newspaper. (The regime claimed Sharif died of a heart attack).</i></p>			
12/12/98	Tehran, Iran	Mohammad Jafar Pouyandeh	
<p><i>Pouyandeh's body was found outside Tehran in December 1998. He was a member of a dissident writer's group and was allegedly one of the six victims in the "serial murders" by an MOIS hit team.</i></p>			

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