

## **The situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran**

The Islamic Republic of Iran has been in the focus of the world-community for quite a while now. Its contentious nuclear policy has led to a big dispute how to sanction the Islamic Republic of Iran for not sticking to the rules. But also the intolerant behavior towards minorities and political opponents has been part of the ongoing discussion.

Since in 2005 the conservative Mahmud Ahmadi-Nezad was elected president the press-freedom, which under the former president Mohammad Chatemi had been established, was declared not compliant to the Islamic religion and is no longer guaranteed. In the process of the re-election of Ahmadi-Nezad inconsistencies had been noticed and demonstrations took place all over the country, but were beaten back by military forces leading to hundreds of arrests and dozens of deaths among the demonstrators. Journalists reporting about the election were taken into custody and sentenced to years of imprisonment for undermining national security, spying and other absurd reasons.

Another big issue in Iran is the situation of women. Their rights are very restricted according to the clergymen`s interpretation of the Koran. Women are not allowed to show in public without covering their heads and are deprived of many rights which are self-evident in the western world.

There are several laws in Iran that are compliant to the practices in the Islamic world, but do not meet the requirements of the human rights. Some of these are: constricted press freedom, juvenile execution, cutting off of limbs for the crime of theft, punishment of women for not covering their heads in the public, beatings of citizens for using the right to freedom of speech in public places, imprisonment of religious minorities, imprisonment of political opponents, homosexuality and atheism.

According to the Human Rights Watch the Islamic Republic of Iran, under Ahmadi-Nezad, is ranked on position four for limitation of press freedom. The internet in Iran has thousands of censored websites which were considered non-Islamic by the government.

The international community will now have to work out how to better the situation in the Iran till it meets the standards of the human rights. This could possibly be achieved by sending an international commission into the country or by imposing economical sanctions on the Islamic Republic of Iran.