Refugee Documentation Centre (Ireland)
LEGAL AID BOARD

**Iran- Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on Thursday 19 May 2016**

**Treatment of Party Democratic Kurdistan Iran (PDKI/KDPI) supporters/leaflet distributers**

A compilation of COI research issued in July 2015 by *Accord* includes a document which states that:

> "…PDKI does not have a strong presence in the Kurdish areas of Iran, and that the PDKI's activities are "limited" and its organization in Iran "weak…" (Accord (July 2015) *Iran: Political Opposition Groups, Security Forces, Selected Human Rights Issues, Rule of Law: COI Compilation*, p.42).

Another report cited by this *Accord* compilation states:

> "Asked to elaborate about the typical consequences for sympathizers caught while for instance distributing leaflets Mohemed Sahebi, Member of Central Committee (KDPI) told the delegation that it does not make any difference whether a person is a sympathizer or a member, the consequences can be imprisonment and torture…" (ibid, p.44).

In November 2015 the *Federal Ministry of the Interior Austria* notes that:

> "…the KDPI is banned in Iran…" (Federal Ministry of the Interior Austria (November 2015) *The Kurds: History –Religion – Language – Politics*, p.170).

In May 2016 *Business Insider* states that:

> "The PDKI—a left-wing Kurdish nationalist group formed in 1945—announced on February 26 that it was restarting its "armed resistance against the Islamic Republic of Iran" and claimed an attack against a Basij base in the village of Majid Khan. The group waged a deadly insurgency against Iranian authorities from 1989 to 1996, after which it maintained a peaceful policy until it purportedly engaged Iranian troops in the fall of 2015" (Business Insider (5 May 2016) *Iran is facing a 'wide-scale armed uprising' as Kurdish insurgents have started targeting the Revolutionary Guard*).

No information on this issue including that of leaflet distributers could be found among sources available to the RDC.

**References**

Accord (July 2015) *Iran: Political Opposition Groups, Security Forces, Selected Human Rights Issues, Rule of Law: COI Compilation*
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This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Refugee Documentation Centre within time constraints. This response is not and does not purport to be conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum. Please read in full all documents referred to.

**Sources Consulted**

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