

## The semi-annual report for the first six months of 1403 by Kolbarnews

A few days ago marked the second anniversary of the Jina Revolution, a symbol of widespread resistance and protests in Iran, Baluchistan, and Kurdistan. The people's demands for freedom, equality, and an end to repression and discrimination remain as vital and persistent as ever. Despite these demands and the protest movements, the killing of Kolbars in Kurdistan and Sukhtbars in Baluchistan continues. This reflects the complex situation where the state's structural and security repression is used as a response to the rightful demands of these nations and marginalized classes.

Kolbari in Kurdistan and Sukhtbari in Baluchistan are among the harsh and dangerous jobs that people in these areas turn to due to poverty, unemployment, and the lack of suitable job opportunities. Both phenomena are reflections of the class and national oppression imposed on the Kurdish and Baloch peoples. These jobs not only illustrate the dire economic conditions of these regions but also highlight the discriminatory and colonial policies of the government toward other nations within Iran's borders.

In the border areas of Kurdistan, Kolbars, due to a lack of suitable job opportunities and difficult living conditions, are forced to carry heavy goods on their backs through mountainous and rugged border paths. Many Kolbars fall victim to the government's security policies, including direct shootings by military forces, losing their lives or suffering severe injuries. This dangerous work reflects the high level of poverty in Kurdistan and the government's colonial and security-focused view of the region's development. From the perspective of class oppression, Kolbari is a clear example of the lower class's struggle for livelihood. Kolbars often come from the poorest segments of society and, due to the lack of job opportunities in their areas, are forced into this work. They operate in harsh, unsafe, and coercive conditions, putting their lives at risk along these dangerous paths. On the other hand, Kurdistan, which has long faced economic deprivation, political discrimination, and security-focused approaches from the government, is treated as a marginalized region within Iran's current political-economic structure. As a result, Kolbari is a clear symbol of national oppression against the Kurdish people, who are condemned to these harsh conditions due to their national identity and the lack of balanced development in Kurdistan.

In Baluchistan, the situation of the Sukhtbars is similarly troubling. Baloch fuel carriers, facing a lack of job opportunities and widespread poverty, resort to smuggling fuel across the Pakistan-Iran border. Like Kolbari, this work also poses significant risks to the lives of Sukhtbars, from accidents and fires to deadly encounters with security forces. Like the Kolbars, Sukhtbars are constantly exposed to life-threatening risks due to the unsafe and harsh working conditions they face.

Baluchistan, one of the most deprived regions in Iran, has also been subject to the government's exploitative and discriminatory policies. The Baloch people, as an oppressed nation, have been deprived of many of their economic, social, and political rights. Structural poverty, lack of economic and industrial infrastructure, and the neglect of this region in Iran's development plans have kept the Baloch people in a state of marginalization and deprivation. Consequently,

Sukhtbari has become a symbol of national oppression against the Baloch people, just as Kolbari is a symbol of national oppression against the Kurdish people.

Although Kolbari in Kurdistan and Sukhtbari in Baluchistan refer to two seemingly different phenomena, both are clear examples of the intersection of national and class oppression in these two regions. In both areas, people, due to economic and national discrimination, are forced into dangerous jobs. However, there are differences between the two. In Kurdistan, Kolbari primarily involves carrying commercial goods, while in Baluchistan, Sukhtbari is mainly related to transporting fuel and selling it in informal markets. Additionally, the geographical and climatic conditions of the two regions create different types of dangers and challenges for Kolbars and Sukhtbars. Yet, the fundamental commonality between them is the severe repression and killings by security forces and the violent treatment they face. In both regions, instead of addressing the root causes of Kolbari and Sukhtbari, such as poverty and unemployment, the government resorts to coercive and repressive measures. These actions have not only failed to solve the problems but have deepened the national and class oppression.

Kolbari in Kurdistan and Sukhtbari in Baluchistan are reflections of the dire economic and social conditions in border areas. These phenomena represent the combination of two forms of oppression—national and class oppression—against the Kurdish and Baloch peoples. The government's failure to pursue fair and inclusive development in these regions, along with discriminatory and security-focused policies, has not only exacerbated the poverty and deprivation of the people in these areas but has also intensified national and class crises and inequalities.

Ending Kolbari and Sukhtbari, as manifestations of national and class oppression, requires an approach that goes beyond isolated protests and resistance. Organizing and uniting with the labor movement and other progressive movements can provide an effective and powerful way to confront these harsh and oppressive phenomena. In fact, only through solidarity and the formation of a broad front of diverse and radical social forces can we overcome this oppressive system and put an end to the dire conditions of Kolbars in Kurdistan and Sukhtbars in Baluchistan. In addition to the labor movement, other progressive movements, such as women's movements, student movements, and environmental movements, can play a crucial role in this struggle. These movements, focusing on freedom, human rights, and equality, can help amplify the voices of the marginalized people of Kurdistan and Baluchistan.

English

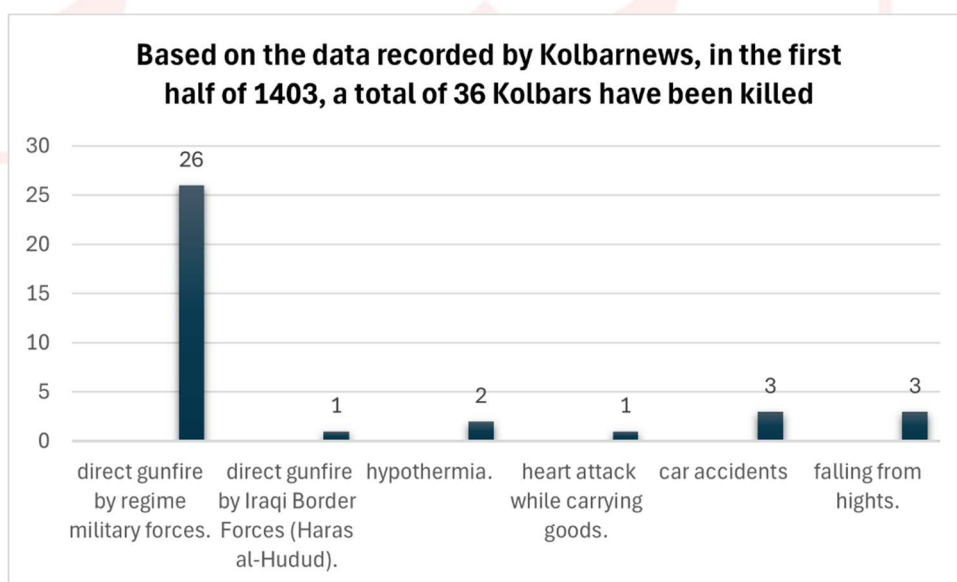
**We now draw your attention to the statistics gathered by Kolbarnews:**

Based on the data recorded by Kolbarnews, in the first half of 1403, a total of **142** Kolbars in the border areas and inter-road routes of West Azerbaijan, Kurdistan, and Kermanshah provinces have been killed or injured due to factors such as direct military fire, avalanches and hypothermia, landmines, falling from mountains, and other incidents.

- Out of this total, **36 Kolbars** (25%) were killed, and 106 Kolbars (75%) were injured.
- There was a **67% increase** in the number of Kolbars killed or injured compared to the first half of 1402.
- Out of the 142 Kolbars who were killed or injured in the first half of 1403, **124 cases (87%) were the result of direct shooting or physical assault by regime military forces.**
- Out of the 142 Kolbars killed or injured in the first half of 1403 along the Kurdistan border, **10 of them were children under the age of 18.**

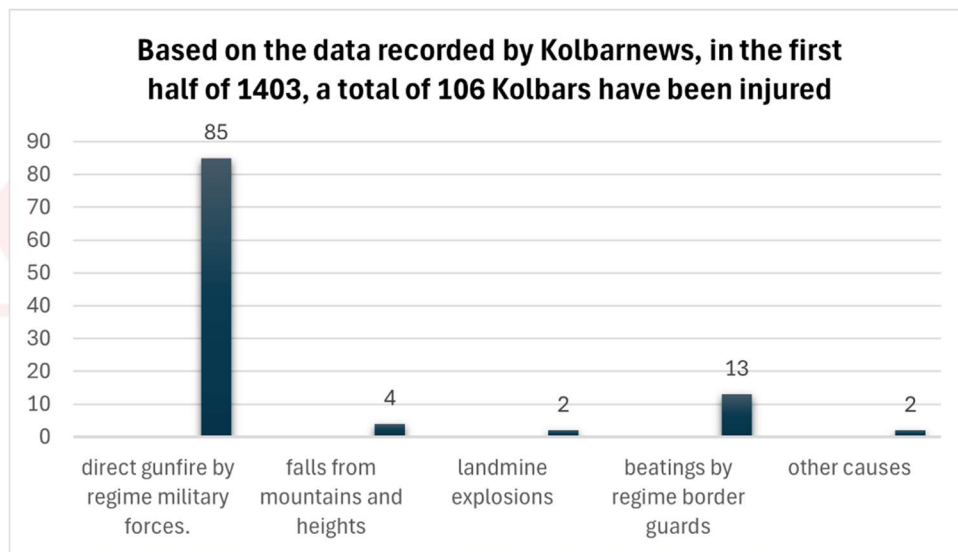
The status of the deceased is as follows, out of a total of 36 kolbars who have been killed:

- 26 Kolbars died as a result of direct gunfire by regime military forces.
- 1 Kolbars died from direct gunfire by Iraqi Border Forces (Haras al-Hudud).
- 2 Kolbars died from hypothermia.
- 1 Kolbars died from other causes, such as a heart attack while carrying goods.
- 3 Kolbars died in accidents while traveling the routes used by Kolbars.
- 3 Kolbars died from falling off mountains during the process of carrying goods.



The status of the injured is as follows, out of a total of 106 Kolbars who have been injured:

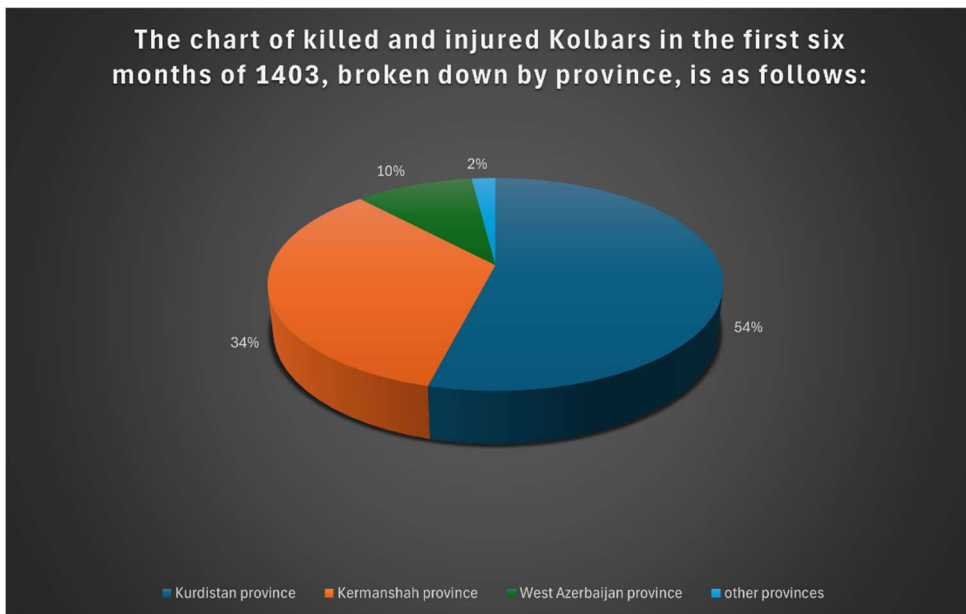
- 85 Kolbars due to direct gunfire from regime military forces.
- 4 Kolbars due to falls from mountains and heights.
- 2 Kolbars due to landmine explosions.
- 13 Kolbars due to beatings by regime border guards.
- 2 Kolbars due to other causes.



The statistics of killed and injured Kolbars in the first six months of 1403, broken down by province, are as follows:

- In the borders of Kurdistan province, a total of 76 Kolbars (54%) were killed and injured.
- In the borders of Kermanshah province, a total of 49 Kolbars (34%) were killed and injured.
- In the borders of West Azerbaijan province, a total of 14 Kolbars (10%) were killed and injured.
- On the routes connecting other provinces, a total of 3 merchants (2%) were killed and injured.

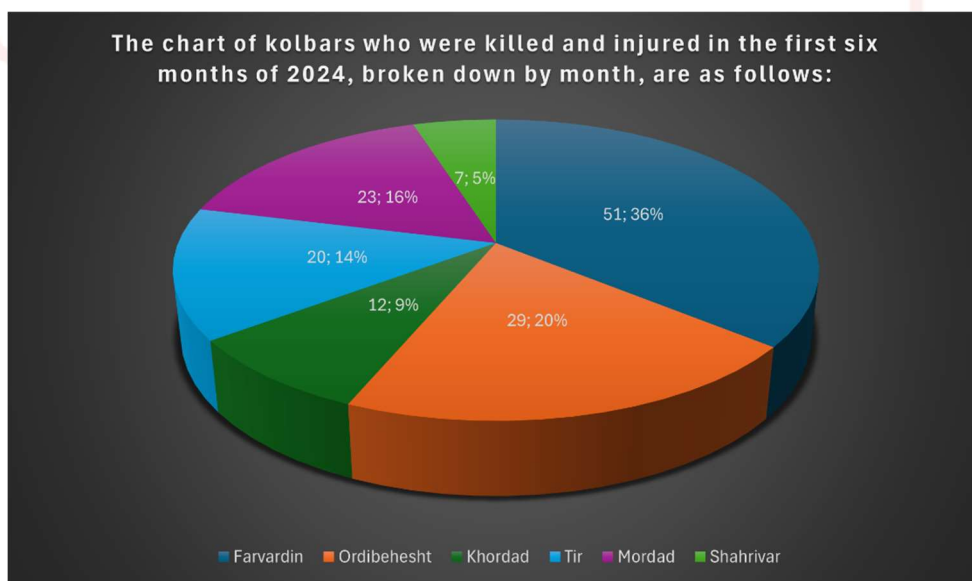
The chart of killed and injured Kolbars in the first six months of 1403, broken down by province, is as follows:



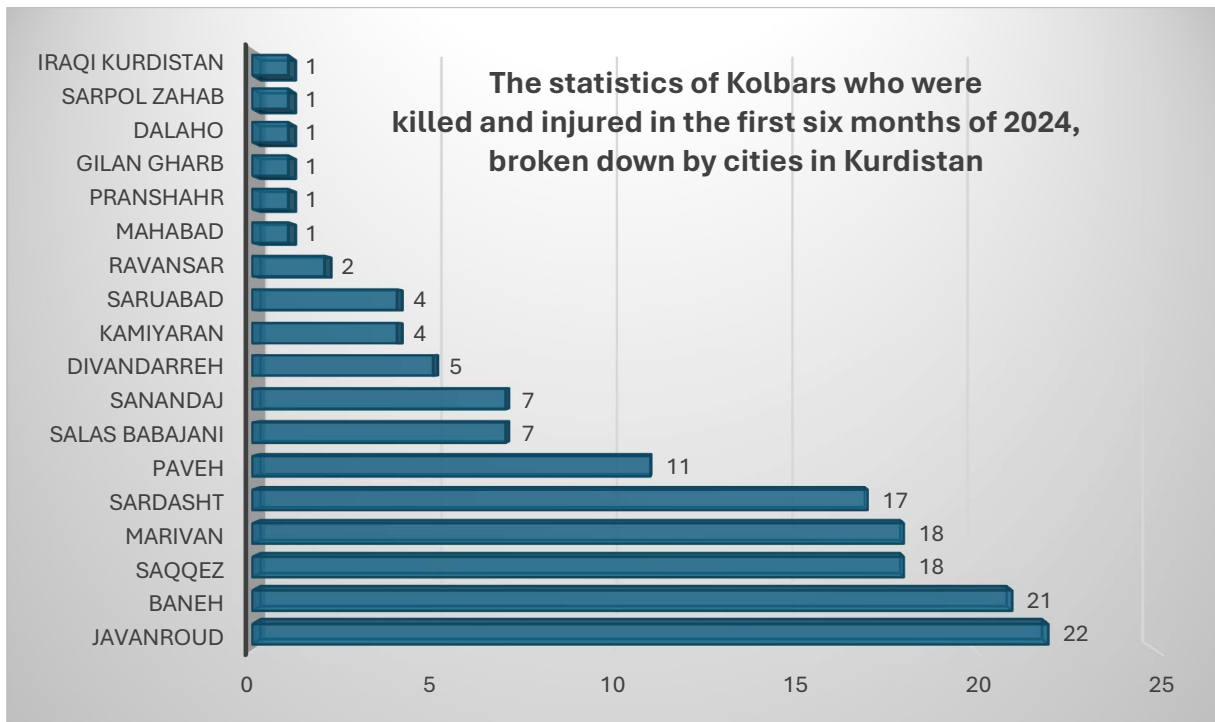
The statistics of Kolbars who were killed and injured in the first six months of 2024, broken down by month, are as follows:

Month	Number	Percentage
Farvardin	51	36%
Ordibehesht	29	21%
Khordad	12	8%
Tir	20	14%
Mordad	23	16%
Shahrivar	7	5%

The chart of kolbars who were killed and injured in the first six months of 2024, broken down by month, are as follows:



The statistics of Kolbars who were killed and injured in the first six months of 2024, broken down by cities in Kurdistan, are as follows:



To view other reports and the latest news related to Kobars, workers, women, and the revolutionary movement in Iran and Kurdistan, please visit the Kolbarnews pages at the following addresses:

<http://www.kolbarnews.com>

<https://ku.kolbarnews.com>

<https://en.kolbarnews.com>



English



Farsi