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## LANDSLIDE IN ZAGROS RANGE

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Zagros folded belt is one of the major structural geological units of Iran. From geological point of view, the Iranian mountain ranges have long been known as part of Alpine- Himalayan belt in western Asia. The Alpine belt is one of the major belts of seismic activity. A review of history of Zagros range with the trend of northwest southeast confirms the high seismicity of this area. Some evidence such as river terraces at high elevation, anomaly of underground water table and very thick river sediment confirms high tectonic activities of the area. Most of lakes within the mountainous area in western provinces of Iran could be due to the occurrence of landslides.

The sequences of impermeable fine-grained sedimentary rocks layers within well fractured limestone, active tectonics and local steep slopes caused high susceptibility of sliding that resulted to many falls, slides and turbulent geological structures. So every year tens of landslides are reported in different parts of the Zagros mountain. Many of these landslides are reactivated and have been triggered by human activities, although always related to periods of continued rainfall or other accelerated phenomena. For example, a number of recently constructed roads such as newly road from Sharekord to Masjied Solyman in this area are at risk to landsliding.

One of the most significant landslide in the Zagros range during the recent years is Abikar landslide. On 1 April 1998 after a heavy rainfall, a dreadful landslide occurred in Abikar village close to Farsan city. Abikar village is located on the foothill of Keno mountain in the Zagros range with an elevation of 3700 m from sea level.

Abikar landslide could be a rockslide avalanche because of its rapid movement. Due to occurrence of this slide about 2.5 million cubic meters of limestone moved down. This landslide buried Abikar village with all its 55 residents. The slide also killed 1300 domestic animals and damaged farmlands of the village.