



**IRAN-FREEDOM**

ایران آزاد

# A Report on Death Penalty in Iran

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To be presented to the side panel of the  
**United Nations Human Rights Council**  
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Collected by:  
**Iran-Freedom**

Society to Support Human Rights, Freedom and Democracy – Germany

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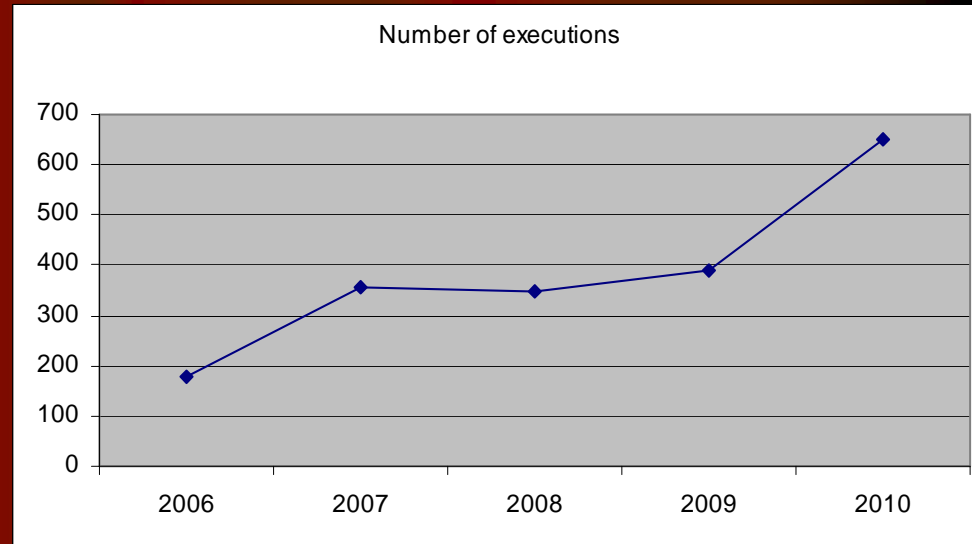
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# Death Penalty in Iran

**According to the official figures, the number of executions in Iran has been tripled in the last five years.**



**According to Amnesty international, 1350 more people have been sentenced to death, and are in danger of being executed at any moment.**

#### References:

- [1] United Kingdom Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Human Rights and Democracy: The 2010 Foreign and Commonwealth Office Report, p. 204, March 2011.
- [2] Iran Human Rights, Annual Report on the Death Penalty in Iran: 2010, <http://iranhr.net/spip.php?article1984>, Feb. 11, 2011.
- [3] Amnesty Intl., Death Sentences and Executions in 2009, p. 7, Doc. ACT 50/001/2010, Mar. 30, 2010.
- [4] Amnesty Intl., Death Sentences and Executions in 2008, p. 8, Doc. ACT 50/003/2009, Mar. 24, 2009.
- [5] Amnesty Intl., Death Sentences and Executions in 2007, p. 6, Doc. ACT 50/001/2008, Apr. 15, 2008.

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# death penalty to the “most serious crimes”?! ---

Article 6 of the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), of which Iran is a member, restricts the death penalty to the “most serious crimes”.

**In most cases the claimed crimes are not considered crimes in other countries, let alone being serious.**

Hanging or stoning people for political objections or sexual relations are obvious violations of the International Declaration of Human Rights or ICCPR, and Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

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# Iran has the highest per capita execution in the world

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- Based on figures extracted from internal media, France Press reports that a total of 143 people have been executed during the first 5 months of 2011.[\[1\]](#)
- The section of Iran in the human rights report of the UK Ministry of Foreign Affairs states that Iran has the highest per capita execution in the world.[\[2\]](#)
- An Afghan parliamentary commission declared in 2009, after a visit to Iran, that 3000 Afghan Nationals have been sentenced to death.[\[3\]](#)
- A report revealed that in August 2010, Ayatollah Sadeqh Larijani, The Head of Judiciary, wrote a letter to Ayatollah Khamenei, the Leader, asking him permission to execute 1120 persons who were sentenced to death at courts.[\[4\]](#)

[1] [http://www.radiofarda.com/content/f7\\_at\\_least\\_12\\_execution\\_done\\_in\\_iran\\_in\\_a\\_week/24206871.html](http://www.radiofarda.com/content/f7_at_least_12_execution_done_in_iran_in_a_week/24206871.html)

[2] [http://www.facebook.com/note.php?note\\_id=10150145934035488](http://www.facebook.com/note.php?note_id=10150145934035488)

[3] <http://www.fidh.org/ايران-موج-گيستر-ده-اعدام-ها-و>

[4] Ibid



# Post-election events I

## More death penalties

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In the aftermath of the vastly disputed outcome of the 12 June presidential election, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad was declared the winner, thus triggering protests by millions of people; tens of people were killed, thousands were arrested (more than 3,000 persons currently remain in detention in connection with the post-election protests and their number is on the rise), many of whom were tortured and raped in prison, and a number of them were executed. In the span of 50 days after the election, from 12 June to the Presidential Inauguration Day on 5 August, no less than 115 executions were recorded. For the first time, some people were charged with moharebeh for having taken part in protests against fraud in elections.



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# Post-election events II

## charging the post-election protestors with moharebeh

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The most dramatic turn since the onset of post-election unrests has come with the decision to charge the post-election protestors with moharebeh and to execute them. This was clearly indicated following the execution of the two political prisoners on 28 January, after which the secretary-general of the Guardian Council, **Ayatollah Jannati, praised the judiciary and called for more executions.** This blatantly confirms that there is a political will to ignore standards of fair trial and due process and use the death penalty to terrorise the peaceful protestors not to pursue their demand for free and democratic elections, freedom of political prisoners, freedom of press, speech, assembly and association.<sup>[1]</sup>

[1] <http://www.fidh.org/Iran-death-penalty-A-state-terror-policy-Special>

# Collective Executions

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Islamic Republic of Iran has at **least two great mass executions in its history**. The first one was in **1981**, when **more than 10000 political dissidents were executed** in less than a few months. The second was in **1988**. Different sources have reported between **2500 and 5000 execution in 2 months**.

FIDH reports several cases of group executions in 2009 including:

8 drug-related offenders in Taybad Prison, in the north-east, on 2 May 2009; 14 on 2 July; 20 on drug-related charges at Rajaieshahr Prison near the city of Karaj on 4 July; 24 other drugs-related offenders in the same prison on 30 July; and 13 members of an ethnic opposition group in Zahedan Prison on 14 July.<sup>[1]</sup>

[1] Ibid.

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# Religious and Ethnic Minorities

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- According to Amnesty International, from 1979 revolution until today, 202 Baha'is have been executed.<sup>[1]</sup>
- FIDH Reports the execution of some of Ahl-e Hagh members.<sup>[2]</sup>
- There are several cases of death penalty for members of Kurds and Baluchis opposition groups.<sup>[3]</sup>
- Currently there are at least 9 persons sentenced to death with the charge of Homosexuality

<sup>[1]</sup> Amnesty International (1996-10). "Dhabihullah Mahrami: Prisoner of Conscience". AI INDEX: MDE 13/34/96.

<sup>[2]</sup> Intl. Fed. for Human Rights, Iran—Death Penalty: A State Terror Policy, Apr. 28, 2009

<sup>[3]</sup> [http://www.fidh.org/IMG/pdf/FIDH\\_LDDHI.pdf](http://www.fidh.org/IMG/pdf/FIDH_LDDHI.pdf)



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# The same sex relations

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9 persons sentenced to death with the charge of Homosexuality

- Ghassem Bashkul is sentenced to death by hanging
- Hamid taghi sentenced to death in tabriz Prison
- Ebrahim Hamidi sentenced to death in tabriz Prison
- Mehdi pouran sentenced to death in tabriz Prison
- Mehdi rezai sentenced to death in tabriz Prison
- Hamzeh Chavi 19 years old,
- Loghman Hamzeh Pour 18 years old
- Mohsen Ghabrai in Shiraz
- Nemat Safavi arrested when 16 years old

# Methods of Execution

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- **Hanging is the most common method of execution**
- **Other methods have also been used**
  - **including stoning (last used in 2009)**
  - **shooting (last used in 2008)**
  - **Falling from a height (last used in 2008)**
  - **Beheading (last used in 2001)**

# Execution of Children

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- Iranian system of laws replaces 18 by 15 for boys and 9 for girls
- In order to solve this contradiction between Islamic laws and international commitments, Islamic Republic of Iran keeps the child who has received a death penalty in prison until he or she is 18. Then executes him or her
- According to Amnesty International, since 1990 Iran has executed 24 children, eleven of whom were under the age of 18 when executed
- Now there are 107 children in prisons in Iran waiting to be executed

**As Mohammad Mostafai pointed out in an interview, most of these children are sentenced based on their own confess, taken under pressure. They have no idea that these confesses can lead to their execution. Some children have said that they have been tortured to confess.**



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**Saber Raeesi was sentenced to death at the age of 15.  
He is now 17. He has been in prison for the last 2 years, waiting to be  
executed!**



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# Execution of non Iranian Children

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- **According to the Independent Afghan Human Rights Commission, smugglers illegally transfer children to Iran to be used in drug trafficking.**
- **Iran has executed two of those children until now, and there are 15 more on the list.**