

# ANNUAL REPORT ON THE DEATH PENALTY IN IRAN 2019

## OVERVIEW



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[www.ecpm.org](http://www.ecpm.org)

[www.iranhr.net](http://www.iranhr.net)

## INTRODUCTION

The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Report on the death penalty by Iran Human Rights (IHR) and ECPM (Together against the Death Penalty) provides an assessment and analysis of the death penalty trends in 2019 in the Islamic Republic of Iran, **which executed at least 280 people last year**. In addition, it compares the trend with previous years, and presents the international and national legislative framework, procedures, charges, geographic distribution and monthly breakdown of executions, as well as lists of the female and juvenile offenders executed in 2019 (see the *infographics*).

In 2019, Iranian authorities continued systematic violations of due process and the rule of law. Lack of access to a lawyer after the arrest, televised confessions, and reports of torture, are reminders that **sustainable improvements in the status of human rights, are not possible without fundamental changes within the Iranian judicial system**.

## CONTEXT: NATIONWIDE PROTESTS

The Report is being published while thousands of Iranians are mourning the loss of their loved ones who were killed by the Islamic Republic's security forces under the **November 2019 nationwide protests**. The crackdown on the civil society has been unprecedented and many human rights defenders and lawyers have been sentenced to heavy prison sentences.

In March 2019, Islamic Republic's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei appointed **Ebrahim Raeisi as the new Head of the Judiciary**. Raeisi is known for having played a key role in the mass-execution of several thousands of political prisoners during summer 1988, which have been **widely recognized as crimes against humanity**.

**The Iranian society has entered a new phase**, as the people are struggling for fundamental changes. The year 2019 started with smaller protests and ended in the largest and bloodiest protests in Iran since the 1980's. **There are no indications that the protests will stop at this point.**

Following the November protests, **the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mrs Bachelet**, called on Iran to address multiple human rights violations: At least 7,000 people have reportedly been arrested in 28 of Iran's 31 provinces since mass protests broke out on 15 November, and the High Commissioner said she is **"extremely concerned about their physical treatment, violations of their right to due process, and the possibility that a significant number of them may be charged with offences that carry the death penalty, in addition to the conditions under which they are held."**

### Recommendations & resolutions about the death penalty in 2019

United Nations Secretary General	<b>4</b>
High Commissioner for Human Rights	<b>2</b>
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran	<b>2</b>
UPR	<b>40</b>
European Parliament	<b>2</b>

## RECOMMENDATIONS

IHR and ECPM are concerned that with increasing protests and anger among the people, the authorities will use even more violence, and above all will increase the use of the death penalty as their only and most efficient weapon to face the unrest. The international community and especially Iran's European dialogue partners must play **a more proactive role in preventing use of violence by the Iranian authorities against its own citizens**.

In 2019, Iran had its fourth UPR, during which **38 states made 40 recommendations relating to the death penalty**, included at the end of the Annual Report. In 2020, there will be an opportunity for Iran to engage in a constructive dialogue on human rights.

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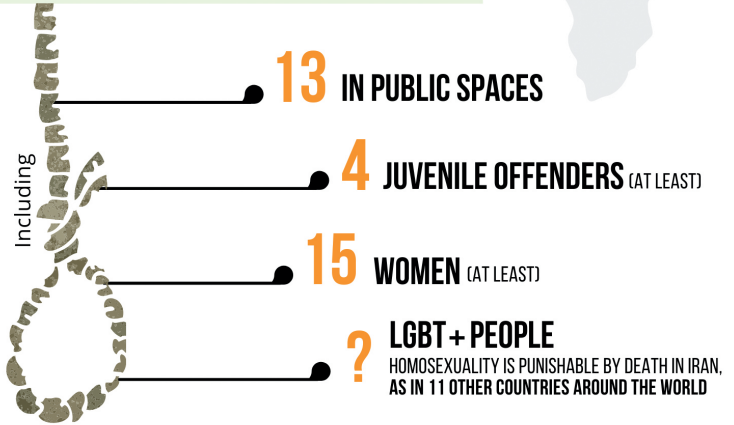


**STATUS:** RETENTIONIST - IMPLEMENTS THE DEATH PENALTY |  
**METHODS OF EXECUTION:** HANGING, (STONING) |  
**2<sup>ND</sup> HIGHEST EXECUTING STATE** IN THE WORLD |

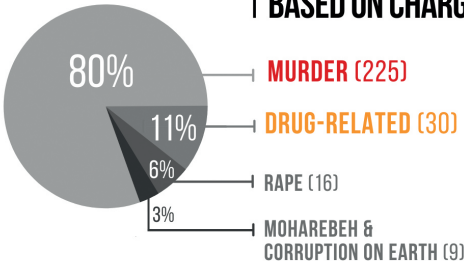
IN 2019 AT LEAST

**280**  
**PEOPLE**  
**EXECUTED**

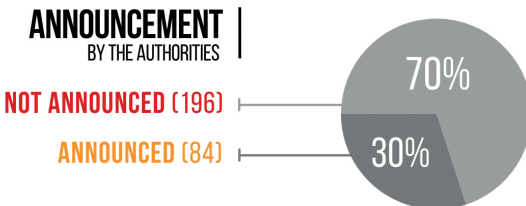
7 more than in 2018



## EXECUTIONS BASED ON CHARGES



## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE AUTHORITIES



## 2019 FACTS



**55 executions\*** based on death sentences issued by the **Revolutionary Courts**

There have been over **3,581** since 2010.



**22 forced confessions\*** have been **broadcasted on TV & radio** since Nov. 2019.

Some of them can be used by the authorities to **issue death sentences**.



**374 prisoners sentenced to death** for murder charges\* were **forgiven by the families** of the victims.

\*at least

## ABSTRACT

With the launch of this report, IHR and ECPM call upon the international community as well as Iran's European dialogue partners, to press for a moratorium on use of the death penalty, and for major reforms in the country's judicial system, which does not meet minimum international standards. Iranian leadership and all organs involved in crackdown must be held accountable by the international community.

IHR and ECPM call on Iranian authorities to seriously consider the recommendations made in this report, and the UPR recommendations made by the members of the Human Rights Council. Imposing a 5-year moratorium on the death penalty, releasing all prisoners of conscience including human rights defenders and lawyers, granting freedom of assembly and serious reforms in the judicial system in accordance with international standards are among the recommendations that Iranian authorities must adopt as first steps towards fundamental and peaceful reforms.

## EXTRACT OF THE FOREWORD BY ROBERT BADINTER

“The Republic of Iran has the highest number of capital executions of any country in the world. It is in the Islamic Republic of Iran that proportionally the greatest number of women and minors are executed. These heinous practices distort the true face of Islam, a religion that proclaims the primacy of love and life over hatred and death.

For us, secularists and abolitionists, such practices dishonour the power that practises them and humiliate the nation in whose name these legal murders are carried out. Iran and its people, heirs to a long and great history, deserve better than this record of bloodshed. The inevitable and imminent day when the death penalty disappears from Iran will be for all abolitionists - first and foremost in Iran - a day of jubilation, a victory of life over death.”



ECPM  
62 bis, avenue Parmentier  
75011 Paris

 [www.ecpm.org](http://www.ecpm.org)

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 [www.iranhr.net](http://www.iranhr.net)

 [mail@iranhr.net](mailto:mail@iranhr.net)

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