



## SITUATION OF THE DEATH PENALTY IN IRAN

### 49<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL – ID WITH THE SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON THE SITUATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

17 MARCH 2022 – GENEVA

---

Thank you Madam President,

Mister Special Rapporteur,

ECPM, Kurdistan Human Rights-Association-Geneva, Iran Human Rights, Abdorrahman Boroumand Center for Human Rights in Iran and Impact Iran welcome this report and would like to echo the Special Rapporteur's deep concern.

In 2021, our organisations have documented over 300 executions including at least 3 alleged juvenile offenders and 14 women. At least 3,000 death row prisoners, including 85 alleged juvenile offenders, are currently held in prisons.

A significant rise in executions has targeted minorities especially (Kurdish, Baluchi and Ahwazi Arabs) and drug offenders. Executions of political opponents were also conducted. People who had only taken part in demonstrations have been sentenced to death. These executions are linked to many other human rights violations including unfair trials, lack of access to counsel during interrogations and at trial, torture, secret executions and executions occasionally carried out despite repeated UN calls to halt them. We echo your analysis that (I quote) "*[Iran's] judiciary acts as a repressive organ instead of an independent body towards which individuals can seek recourse*"<sup>1</sup>.

The number of crimes punishable by death in Iranian law is one of the highest in the world. A majority of them cannot be considered as most serious crimes under international law.

We call on the Iranian authorities to put in place an immediate moratorium on the application of the death penalty.

We echo your appeal for the international community to call for accountability with regard to tragic events met with persistent impunity.

We also call on States to put human rights at the heart of diplomatic relations with Iran.

We thank you for your attention.

---

<sup>1</sup> Report of the UN Special Rapporteur on human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, A/HRC/49/75, 13 January 2022, para. 50, accessible at: <https://undocs.org/A/HRC/49/75>