



## 2021 Human Rights News

### **December 16, 2021:**

#### **Iran Human Rights Report for 2021**

The suppression of human rights defenders (HRDs) has continued with greater intensity by the Islamic Republic authorities in 2021. This report provides a brief account of over 100 human rights defenders in Iran. While this list may seem extensive, they only represent a fraction of human rights defenders who have faced rights breaches. Defenders who have struggled by peaceful means to attain the most fundamental human rights for themselves and the people of Iran. In response, they have been sentenced to a total of **479** years imprisonment and **907** lashes. [Click](#) here for more information

### **Dec. 10, 2021**

#### **Amnesty International Press Release:**

Iran: Amnesty launches Persian-language website amid escalating crisis of impunity

To mark Human Rights Day, Amnesty International today launches its first-ever [Persian-language website](#) to increase access to information on rights violations in Iran amid an escalating crisis of impunity – and what amounts to an all-out assault on human rights across the country.

The new website offers an overview of Amnesty International's calls for justice, equality and freedom around the world, and features the organization's statements and research on Iran, particularly over recent years.

It includes reports and legal analysis of shocking human rights violations committed by the Iranian authorities, and recommendations to the international community to tackle this crisis of impunity through the establishment of an independent mechanism to collect, preserve and analyze evidence of the most serious crimes under international law committed in Iran to facilitate future criminal proceedings.

"The website arrives as Iran suffers from a deepening [human rights crisis](#), with hundreds of individuals on [death row following unfair trials](#) – including those arrested as children – and thousands persecuted or arbitrarily detained for peacefully exercising their human rights. Meanwhile, the [families of thousands of people killed or forcibly disappeared](#) by the authorities are left waiting for truth and justice," Deputy Regional Director for the Middle East and North Africa at Amnesty International, Diana Eltahawy, said.

"[Human rights defenders](#) and dissidents who do speak out against repression and injustice endure grave human rights violations while the Iranian authorities have rained down bullets on protesters who take to the streets, inflicting [deaths and serious injuries](#). Our new Persian-language website will serve as a torchlight that illuminates and exposes these crimes."

The website features Amnesty International's documentation of the Iranian authorities' [lethal crackdowns on protests](#) in November 2019, and [more recently in 2021](#). It also contains reports on [past and ongoing crimes against humanity related to the 1988 prison massacres](#). Meanwhile, hundreds of [Urgent Actions](#) and [statements](#) on behalf of people whose lives or physical security are at imminent risk are evidence of the [torture epidemic](#) in Iran's prisons, the implementation of corporal punishments such as flogging and amputations and the use of the [death penalty](#), including as a tool of political repression.

Amnesty International has documented human rights violations in Iran since the mid-1960s. The new website contains Persian translations of around 300 research reports, press releases, public statements and Urgent Actions related to Iran, and will be regularly updated with new publications.

"Amnesty International's Persian-language website represents a major effort to increase access to information on human rights and further engage Persian-speaking

audiences in Iran and around the world with the organization's research, legal analysis and campaigning work," said Diana Eltahawy.

"It also signifies Amnesty International's ongoing commitment to support the people of Iran in their courageous struggle against repression and discrimination, while bolstering calls for truth, justice and reparations for the countless victims of arbitrary detention, discrimination, enforced disappearance, torture and other ill-treatment, extrajudicial executions or other unlawful killings."

The new website also provides an overview of the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#) and Amnesty International's research and activism around the world on [18 key concerns](#) including [armed conflict](#), [child rights](#), [climate change](#), [corporate accountability](#), [the death penalty](#), [detention](#), [discrimination](#), [enforced disappearances](#), [freedom of expression](#), [Indigenous people](#), [international justice](#), [refugees and migrants](#), [sexual and reproductive rights](#), and [torture](#).

While Amnesty International's outputs on Iran generally appear in Persian or English, some reports on human rights violations and entrenched discrimination suffered by Iran's ethnic minorities, including Ahwazi Arabs, Azerbaijani Turks and Kurds, have also been translated into Arabic, Turkish or Kurdish, and we will continue making these translations.

Amnesty's founding and growth

[Founded](#) in 1961 on the idea that, together, people can change the world, Amnesty International has since grown into a worldwide movement of over 10 million people who have campaigned for the release of tens of thousands of people unjustly imprisoned for their beliefs or peaceful activities. The movement has also contributed to the abolition of the death penalty in more than two-thirds of the world and achieved changes in laws and standards to combat torture and unfair trials.

Amnesty International campaigns for a world where human rights are enjoyed by all and those responsible for human rights violations are held to account. Only when the last unjustly detained man, woman or child has been freed, when the last torture chamber has been closed, when the death penalty has been abolished everywhere and the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights is a reality for the world's people, will our work be done.

Amnesty International maintains full independence from any and all governments, political ideologies, economic interests or religions. The organization neither seeks

nor accepts any funds for human rights research from governments or political parties and we accept support only from businesses that have been carefully vetted.

The vast majority of the [organization's income](#) comes from small donations from private individuals around the world who are committed to the cause of promoting and protecting human rights everywhere.

Amnesty International's power to achieve impact is reinforced by its Urgent Action network, consisting of over half a million [members globally](#) who take action at short notice to defend people whose lives or physical security are at risk.

**Dec. 10, 2021:**

**Today Amnesty International - USA launched Amnesty International's Human Rights in Persian (Farsi).**

[Click](#) here to get to the Website.

**Happy Human Rights Day everyone!**

**November 30, 2021**

**Abdorrahman Boroumand Center for Human Rights in Iran:**

On November 26, in the city of Esfahan, the Islamic Republic of Iran cracked down violently on peacefully protesting farmers and those who joined them in solidarity, who demanded that already-scarce water resources used for agriculture not be diverted to Yazd for industrial use. A few months earlier, in July 2021, citizens in the Arab-majority area of Khuzestan protested severe water shortages; the state met them with deadly and disproportionate violence.

For more than four decades, the Islamic Republic has met protests with beatings ([Mohsen Mohammadpur](#), [Ezzatollah Ebrahimnejad](#)), bullets ([Kianush Asa](#), [Mohammad Shariati](#)), bombs ([Mojgan Rezvanian](#), [Azar Mehralian](#)), raids and ransacking (July 1999 protests at [Tabriz University](#)), arrests ([Vahid Heidari](#)), and executions ([Gholam Hossein Purshirzad](#), [Navid Afkari](#)). By repressing all expressions of dissent with deadly force and death warrants, the state has prevented citizens from challenging its policies and monopoly of power. With your help, Abdorrahman Boroumand Center for Human Rights in Iran (ABC) will ensure that the victims of these crackdowns - whether in 1980, 1992, 2009, 2019, or 2021 - are remembered, and the grounds for their dissent known.

[Click](#) here for more information.

[Click](#) here to watch video.

**November 24, 2021**

**Iran Human Rights (IHRNGO):** Juvenile offender Arman Abdolali who was sentenced to *qisas* (retribution-in-kind) for murder, was executed in Rajai Shahr Prison in the early hours of

this morning. Iran Human Rights strongly condemns Arman Abdolali's execution and calls for condemnation by the international community. Mahmood Amiry-Moghaddam, IHRNGO's Director said: "Execution of Arman Abdolali is an international crime. Besides being executed for an alleged offense committed at under 18 years of age which is a violation of international law, Arman was sentenced to death based on confessions extracted under torture, without a fair trial and due process, and his repeated transfers for execution and then returning him without any explanation by the authorities is psychological torture. Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei and Head of the judiciary Ebrahim Raisi must be held accountable for these crimes." [Click](#) here for more information.

**November 23, 2021**

**Abdollah Boroujerdi Center for Human Rights in Iran (ABC).**

Iran's High Council for Human Rights: A War Room of Human Rights Abusers, Mandated to Contest the Truth.

"So long as the Islamic Republic's top human rights institution is dominated by security and judicial officials who are responsible for human rights abuses, Iranians seeking truth, justice, and accountability have no choice but to call on the international community. Domestic remedies have failed these people; the world must not as well," said Roya Boroujerdi, executive director of Abdollah Boroujerdi Center for Human Rights in Iran (ABC).

"Mr. Daemi, (father of Atena Daemi)'s frustration is distressingly common among Iranians seeking accountability. Domestic media, bound by red lines, avoid such matters, and the only national human rights institution engages in propaganda battles against universal rights and those critical of Iran's human rights record, rather than monitoring abuses inside the country. Given such realities, victims are left with no option but to take their grievances to an international audience, even at the risk of retaliation" [Click](#) here for more information.

**November 9, 2021**

**Iran Human Rights:** The Iran Atrocities Tribunal, initiated to investigate the killing and wounding of thousands of innocent protesters in Iran in 2019, will begin a series of hearings commencing on 10th November in London to assess whether crimes committed by individuals in the Islamic Republic of Iran, including the Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei, and President Ebrahim Raisi, constitute crimes against humanity. *The Iran Atrocities Tribunal hearings are taking place from 10th-14th November 2021 at Church House, Westminster, London, SW1P 3NZ from 9.30am – 5.30pm. To watch virtually: the YouTube link*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lhpXpVjyppM>

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCZpNyIKYMEIayB2WUblbwMg>

[Click](#) here for more information.

October 18, 2021:

Recent analysis of an escalated level of repression by the IRI is linked to the arrest, solitary confinement, upcoming "trial" without any due process of a group of lawyers and activists. For more information [Click](#) here.

October 17, 2021:

Iran Human Rights (IHRNGO); October 17, 2021: Juvenile offender Arman Abdoali has been transferred to solitary confinement in preparation for his execution for the second time in the last week. His execution is due to be carried out in the coming days. [Click](#) here for more information.

October 8, 2021:

Iran Human Rights: The 2021 World Day Against the Death Penalty is dedicated to women; those who risk being sentenced to death, who have received a death sentence, who have been executed, and to those who have had their death sentences commuted, exonerated, or pardoned. In observation of the day and the theme this year, Iran Human Rights is providing a report on the women executed in Iran over the last 12 years (2010-2021). The executions in this period are by no means representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran's complete history of executing women; the number of female political prisoners executed in the 1980s must be acknowledged due to their sheer volume and abhorrent nature. But even today, there is ample evidence of their cruel and inhuman treatment of female prisoners, which will be highlighted in this report. [Click](#) here for more information.

October 5, 2021:

Women Executions: An Invisible Reality

By: Iran Human Rights (IHRNGO) and Justice Project Pakistan (JPP) discuss women and the death penalty in Iran and Pakistan on the occasion of World Day Against the Death penalty.

Speakers: Mahmood Amiry-Moghaddam, Iran Human Rights (IHRNGO) Director

Sarah Belal, Justice Project Pakistan (JPP) Executive Director

For more information, [Click](#) here.

September 22, 2021:

Iran Human Rights (IHR): 24 hours after Shahin Naseri's suspicious death in custody, authorities have contacted his family to collect his body from the Kahrizak Forensic Pathologist without giving a cause of death. IHR calls on international and human rights authorities to investigate Shahin Naseri's suspicious death. IHR Director, Mahmood Amiry-Moghaddam said: "As punishment for his courageous testimonies about Navid Afkari's torture, Shahin Naseri was repeatedly sent to solitary confinement and subjected to ill treatment over the past year, but he never succumbed to the pressure and continued to speak out. No matter what official cause of death is given, the Prisons Organisation, the Judiciary and the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic are directly responsible for Shahin Naseri's death and must be held accountable." [Click](#) here for more information.

Sept. 12, 2021

Iran Human Rights (IHR); September 12, 2021: A year has passed since protester and wrestler, Navid Afkari was executed after being denied due process, tortured to make false confessions, and subjected to a grossly unfair trial. Iran Human Rights considered his execution to be unlawful and a criminal act, and called for action beyond just condemnations by the international community. For more information, [Click](#) here.

August 29, 2021

Iran Human Rights (IHR): Relatives of Kurdish political prisoner Heydar Ghorbani tell IHR he is due to be executed in the coming days. He was sentenced to death on charges of *baghy* (armed rebellion) without any evidence or a confession. Iran Human Rights calls for his execution to be immediately halted and asks the international community for urgent action to save his life. For more information, [Click](#) here.

Aug. 15, 2021

Iran Human Rights (IHR): Seven lawyers and civil activists were arrested by security forces yesterday when they went to file a complaint against the National Task Force Against Coronavirus and the Supreme Leader at the Tehran Citizen's Rights Protection Association. Two of the arrestees were released hours later but five remain in custody. For more information, [Click](#) here.

Aug. 6, 2021

Amnesty International - Iran Research

Secret execution of young man arrested at 15 is a cruel assault on child rights. For more information, [Click](#) here.

Aug. 4, 2021

Iran Human Rights (IHR): Ebrahim Raeisi's inauguration as the new President of the Islamic Republic of Iran will take place tomorrow, August 5. Some countries have sent representatives to attend the ceremony. Recalling that Ebrahim Raeisi stands accused of crimes against humanity in the 1988 prison massacre and in gross violation of human rights in the subsequent years, Iran Human Rights reminds the international community's officials of their moral duty to take such grave crimes and distance themselves from those alleged to have committed them. [Click](#) here for more information.

July 2021

Good News from Amnesty International - Australia 

In July, human rights defender **Germain Rukuki was released from prison** after his sentence was reduced from 32 years to one. Because of caring people like you, Germain has been reunited

with his family – including his son, born just after Germain was arrested. Hundreds of thousands of people around the world took action for him, including 15,000 Australians.

Iranian women's rights defender **Yasaman Aryani was reunited with her family** after nearly ONE MILLION people put pressure on the authorities to release her. In 2019, she was sentenced to 16 years in prison for speaking out against Iran's forced veiling laws. [Watch as she's reunited with her sister here.](#)

Saudi Arabian activist **Nassima al-Sada was released** in June after 40,000 Australians took action calling for her release – and hundreds of thousands more worldwide. She campaigned for women's right to drive and ending Saudi Arabia's repressive male guardianship system. Azam, you helped set her free!

That same month, Belarussian journalist **Raman Pratasevich and his girlfriend Sofia were moved out of prison to house arrest** because people all over the world called for their release. They were imprisoned after authorities used a fake bomb threat to force their plane to land in Minsk. We're still campaigning for their release.

The Australian government also **announced three new federal quarantine facilities**, which we'd been calling for since last year. This will mean 2,500 extra quarantine places for #StrandedAussies, so more families can be reunited and more Australians can return home.

In April, detained Russian opposition leader and activist **Aleksei Navalny finally received healthcare**, which he urgently needed. Because compassionate people like you put pressure on the authorities, he was treated and released from hospital in June. We won't rest until he's safe and free.

Earlier this year, **Chinese authorities released Tashi Wangchuk from jail**. He's a Tibetan language activist who spent the past five years in jail for "inciting separatism" – all because he campaigned for the Tibetan language to be taught at schools in Tibet.

Finally, at home, **people from the Uyghur, Tigrayan and Kurdish communities joined us on an advocacy trip to Canberra**. Over just a few days, they had *44 meetings with politicians*

advocating for their communities. We also reached over *20 million Australians* in the media raising awareness about the treatment of Uyghur people in China.

July 26, 2021

Iran Human Rights (IHR): Eleven days after the peaceful Khuzestan protests began due to water shortages, protests have spread to Isfahan, Kurdistan, East Azerbaijan, Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari, North Khorasan, Lorestan, Bushehr, Alborz and Tehran provinces. There are also reports of live ammunition being used to suppress the protests resulting in at least ten protesters being killed in Khuzestan and Lorestan and widespread arrests across Iran. [Click](#) here for more information.

July 22, 2021

6 month Report on the Death Penalty in Iran: In the first six months of 2021, at least 117 people were executed in Iranian prisons. There has been a rise in the number of executions since the June presidential election, with at least 38 people executed in one month (18 June-18 July). Iran Human Rights' statistics department has registered and confirmed 117 executions in the first half of 2021. Of those executed, six were women and 111 were men. 123 executions were registered for the same period last year. Of the 117 executions, only 28 were announced by domestic media or officials and the other 89 were carried out secretly. [Click](#) here for more information.

July 20, 2021

Iran Human Rights (IHR);: The Khuzestan civil and peaceful protests against water shortages and its consequences has been brutally suppressed by the Islamic Republic's security forces. According to reports, several people have been killed and many injured and arrested in the last five days. Iran Human Rights strongly condemns the use of force against protesters demanding their most basic rights. [Click](#) here for more information.

June 12, 2021

Iran Human Rights (IHR): Death row juvenile offender Ali Arjangi has been transferred to Fatemi Hospital after trying to commit suicide in Ardabil Central Prison. "Ali Arjangi's suicide attempt may be his last effort to make his voice be heard by the international community. A voice that says, I want to live. I hope the media and international community hear Ali's voice and do what they can to save his life," said Mahmood Amiry-Moghaddam, director of Iran Human Rights. [Click](#) here for more information.

June 7, 2021

Iran Human Rights (IHR); announced today that civil activist Sasan Niknafas has died in the custody of the Greater Tehran Penitentiary due to the prison and judicial authorities' negligence.

He was unfit to serve his sentence due to multiple illnesses but judicial authorities had refused his release despite numerous requests. His death follows that of Gonabadi dervish, Behnam Mahjoubi, who died under similar circumstances on February 21, 2012. [Click](#) here for more info.

March 30, 2021

Iran Human Rights Report (2020)

### **2020 Annual Report at a glance**

- At least 267 people were executed in 2020, compared to 280 in 2019 and 273 in 2018
- 91 executions (34%) were announced by official sources. In 2019 and 2018, 84 people (30%) and 93 (34%) respectively, had been announced by authorities
- 66% of all executions included in the 2020 report, i.e. 176 executions, were not announced by the authorities
- At least 211 executions (79% of all executions) were for murder charges
- At least 25 people (approximately 10%) were executed for drug-related charges
- 1 public execution, the lowest number in the last 15 years
- At least 4 juvenile offenders were among those executed
- At least 9 women were executed
- 2 executions in relation to the nationwide protests
- 1 execution based on charges related to running a political social media channel
- 1 execution for consumption of alcoholic beverages
- At least 38 executions in 2020 and more than 3,619 executions since 2010 have been based on death sentences issued by the Revolutionary Courts
- At least 662 prisoners sentenced to death for murder charges were forgiven by the families of the murder victims in 2020 (374 in 2019) – a significant increase compared to previous years

[Click](#) here for more details.

March 15, 2021

Iran Human Rights (IHR); March 15, 2021: Maryam (Massoumeh) Karimi who had been sentenced to *qisas* (retribution-in-kind) for the murder of her husband, has been executed in Rasht Central Prison after the victim's "next of kin" refused to forgive her or accept *diya* (blood money) instead of retribution. According to informed sources, as next of kin, "her daughter carried out the execution of her mother." [Click](#) here for more information.

February 23, 2021

Iran Human Rights (IHR) condemns the killing of Baluch citizens and warns of the impending bloody crackdown. IHR Director, Mahmood Amiry-Moghaddam said: “Having sparked public outrage by executing more than 20 Baluchis in the past two months, the Islamic Republic of Iran is now progressing towards a more bloody crackdown by shooting and killing Baluchis making ends meet through fuel transportation.”. “The last time the internet was cut off in parts of Iran in November 2019, hundreds of citizens were killed by security forces,” he said of the possibility of the internet being cut off in Saravan, the town at the centre of the crackdown. [Click](#) here for more information.

February 4, 2021

Iran Human Rights (IHR): 300 days after their arrests, Ali Younesi and Amirhossein Moradi, two elite Sharif University students, continue to be held in Evin Prison’s Ward 209 without being charged or access to a lawyer. A letter from the Islamic Republic’s Ambassador to the United Nations (UN) shows how he attempted to cover-up breaches of their human rights by making false allegations against them. [Click](#) here for more Information.

February 4, 2021

Amnesty International Press Release:

Eight Baluchi and Ahwazi Arab prisoners at risk amid alarming rise in executions. [Click](#) here for more information.

February 3, 2021:

**URGENT INTERNATIONAL ACTION NEEDED TO SECURE RELEASE OF KURDISH ACTIVISTS AND OTHERS ARBITRARILY DETAINED IN IRAN**

We, the undersigned 37 civil society and human rights organizations, call for the urgent attention of the international community to an ongoing wave of arbitrary arrests, incommunicado detention, and enforced disappearances by the Iranian authorities, targeting scores of people from Iran’s disadvantaged Kurdish minority in the provinces of Alborz, Kermanshah, Kurdistan, Tehran, and West Azerbaijan. [Click](#) here for more info.

January 31, 2021

Iran Human Rights (IHR); January 30, 2021: Javid Dehghan-Khold, a Baluch prisoner sentenced to death on political and security charges, has been executed in Zahedan Central Prison. Iran Human Rights condemns Javid Dehghan-Khold’s execution in the strongest terms and calls upon the international community and Iranian civil society for a strong response to the continuing wave of Baluch executions. The execution was carried out despite calls by the UN Human Rights Office and rights groups. [Click](#) here for more information.

January 26, 2021

Iran Human Rights (IHR); January 26, 2021: There has been a dramatic rise in the execution of Baluch citizens over the last five weeks, with 19 Baluch prisoners being executed in Mashhad and Zahedan Central Prisons. Of those, four were executed on political and security charges. The arbitrary arrests of Kurdish activists which began on January 9 has also continued. Around 70 Kurdish activists have been arrested in the cities of Karaj, Tehran, Mahabad, Rabat, Naghdeh, Bukan, Marivan, Sanandaj, Saghez and Sarvabad. For more information, [Click](#) here.

January 26, 2021

A version of this article appears in print on Jan. 27, 2021, Section A, Page 9 of the New York edition with the headline: Iranians Fleeing Persecution Find Shelter but Not Security Across the Border in Turkey. Turkey Offers Uncertain Refuge for Iranians Fleeing Persecution An abduction and a murder have scared dissidents seeking shelter in Turkey into looking further afield for safety [Click here](#) for more information.

January 25, 2021

Iran Human Rights (IHR); January 25, 2021: Ali Arjangi who was sentenced to death for a murder he is accused of committing at 17, has until May to come up with the *diya* (blood money) amount set by the victim's family. [Click](#) here for more information.

January 22, 2021

United Nations Treaty Comes into Force on January 22nd!

Physicians for Social Responsibility Wisconsin is thrilled to celebrate the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), or the Nuclear Weapon Ban Treaty. The treaty was adopted on July 7, 2017 and will finally enter into force on January 22, 2021 after 51 countries ratified it. [Click here](#) for more information.