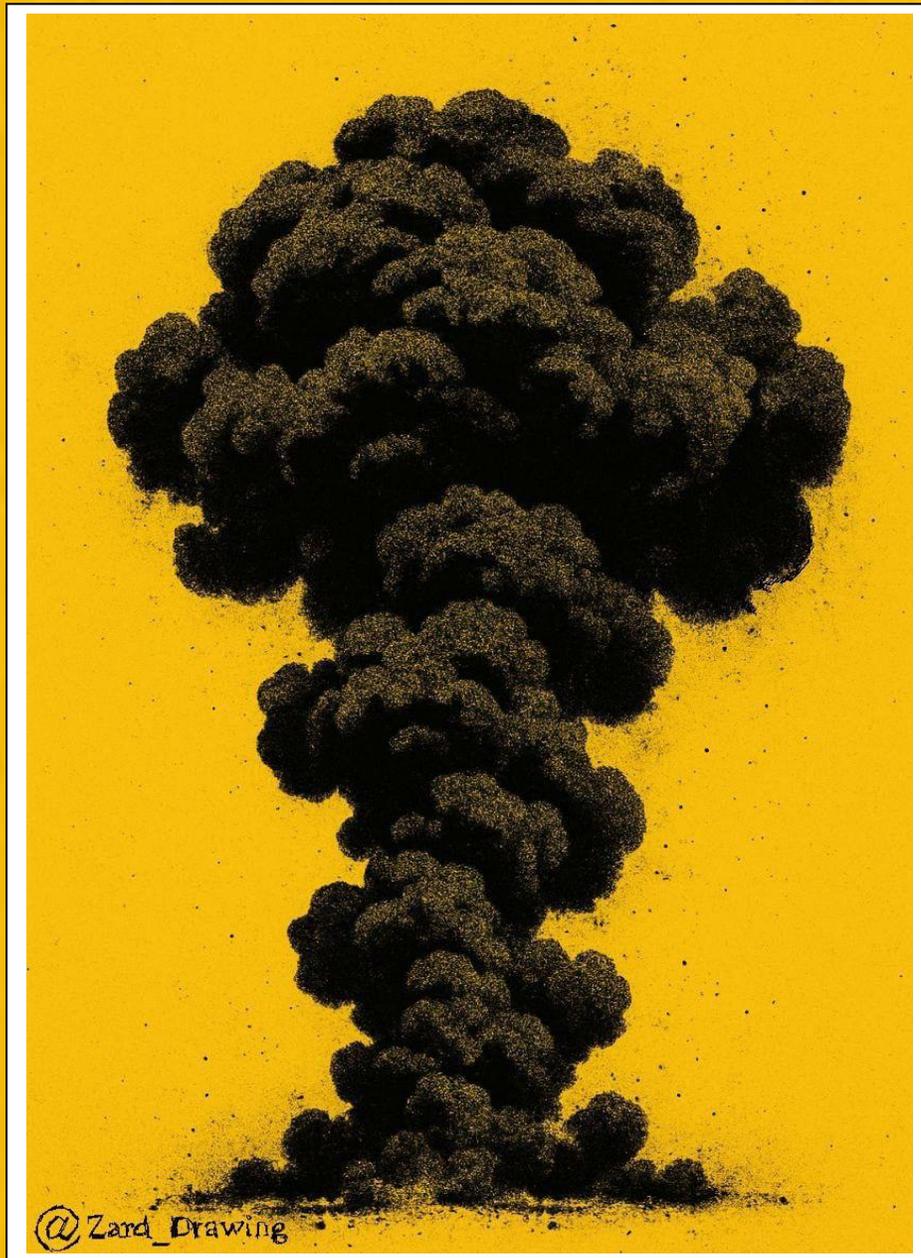


WHILE THE WORLD WATCHED THE SKY, THE CELLS WENT DARK

IN THE SHADOW OF CONFLICT: CRACKDOWN ACROSS IRAN, ARRESTS, FORCED TRANSFERS, AND EXECUTIONS



Campaign to Free Political Prisoners in Iran
August 2025



Escalation of Human Rights Violations in Iran Following the June 2025 Conflict

Report Summary

This report documents a significant escalation in human rights violations in the Iran, particularly within the country's prison system—following the 12-day conflict with Israel that took place from 13 to 25 June 2025. During and after this period, the regime in Iran intensified state repression, marked by mass arrests, an expanded use of death sentences, and enforced disappearances, primarily targeting political prisoners.

The regime exploited the wartime context as a justification to deepen its crackdown on civil society, human rights defenders, and political prisoners, as well as the systematic forced transfer of political prisoners from Evin Prison to other detention facilities. These prisoners were moved to prisons that primarily house individuals convicted of drug-related and violent crimes—a strategy designed to isolate, degrade, and endanger political detainees by placing them in hostile and unsafe environments.

The policy of transferring prisoners from infamous Evin prison appears to be part of a broader effort by the regime to dismantle Evin Prison and obscure the reality of political imprisonment in Iran. Notably, the regime in Iran has previously attempted to shut down Evin prison in 2015¹ to claim internationally that Iran doesn't have political prisoners.

A central focus of this report is the aftermath of the Israeli airstrike on Evin Prison on 23 June 2025, which caused structural damage and casualties. Surviving detainees were forcibly relocated under degrading and threatening conditions to notorious detention centres, including Qarchak Prison and Fashafouyeh Prison (also known as the Greater Tehran Central Penitentiary).

Both Qarchak and Fashafouyeh prisons are extensively documented for their severe overcrowding, inadequate medical care, unsanitary conditions, and the systematic denial of

¹ Bidaran:17/08/2015, [Please do not let the Islamic Republic of Iran destroy the Evin prison, It \(...\)](#) - بيداران

basic human rights. These facilities have been sanctioned by both the United States and the European Union in 2021 due to their roles in serious and ongoing human rights violations.

Escalation During and After the 12-Day Conflict

The conflict served as a pretext for the regime in Iran to dramatically escalate repression, including violent crackdowns within prisons, communication blackouts, and increased military presence inside detention facilities.

Key Abuses Reported:

- **Communication Blackouts During the Conflict:**
Phone lines were cut in multiple prisons, severing detainees' contact with families. Limited communication was only partially restored days later.

- **Violent Suppression in Prisons:**
Testimonies from CFPPI sources confirm brutal responses to prisoners seeking safety:
 - Dizelabad Prison (city of Kermanshah):
Prisoners requesting protection were fired upon. Multiple deaths and injuries were reported. No investigations have been launched.

 - Adelabad Prison (city of Shiraz):
Prisoners were beaten and placed in solitary confinement when requesting safety measures.

 - Increased Military Presence:
Prisons including Evin, Mahabad, and Urumiyeh saw a notable surge in security forces, creating a climate of fear.

Despite the gravity of these abuses, no independent investigations have been undertaken. Families of victims have been threatened, and prison authorities remain unaccountable.

Widespread Repression Beyond Prisons

The regime in Iran has extended its crackdown far beyond prison walls, targeting civil society, minority communities, and activists in a systematic campaign to suppress dissent.

Key Developments:

- **Mass Arrests:**

Hundreds have been detained, with disproportionate targeting of ethnic and religious minorities. Hundreds have been arrested since the 13th July 2025.
- **Suppression of Dissent:**

Internet restrictions, phone searches at checkpoints, arbitrary arrests, and harassment of victims' families have become widespread.
- **Executions:**

Over 100 executions occurred in June 2025 alone, marking a sharp increase in the regime's reliance on capital punishment.
- **Legal Escalations:**
 - 17 June 2025: Parliament expanded the charge of *Moharebeh* ("enmity against God") to include alleged "collaboration with the Israeli government," now punishable by death.
 - 25 June 2025: Judiciary spokesperson Asghar Jahangir announced sweeping amendments to espionage laws, criminalizing vaguely defined acts of "collaboration with Israel" and establishing special judicial branches to expedite such cases under exceptional legal procedures.

These developments pose an acute threat to civil society, human rights defenders, and basic civil liberties.

Ongoing Threat to Protesters from the 'Women, Life, Freedom' Movement

Individuals arrested during the "Women, Life, Freedom" protests remain imprisoned, with many now facing politically motivated charges of collaboration with Israel, punishable by death. These accusations are widely regarded as baseless and part of a broader campaign to suppress dissent.

Individuals at Imminent Risk of Execution

At least six political prisoners have reportedly been executed under this pretext, raising serious concerns about due process and the use of the death penalty as a tool of political repression.

- Rezgar Babamiri (father of Jina Amini)
- Pejman Soltani
- Soran Ghasemi
- Kaveh Salehi
- Taifour Salimi Babamiri
- Ali Mojdem
- Moein Khanfari
- Mohammadreza Moghadam
- Mohammad Darvish Naroie
- Yasin Kabdani
- Mehdi Hassani and Behrouz Ehsani-Eslamloo were executed on 27 July 2025
- Edris Ali, Azad Shojaei and Rasoul Ahmad Rasoul were executed on 25 June 2025 during the 12-day conflict

- Majod Mosayebi was executed on 22 June 2025 during the 12-day conflict

🔗 For weekly updated of List of political prisoners in Iran sentenced to execution or in danger of being given death sentence. ²

Israeli Airstrike on Evin Prison and Its Aftermath

On 23 June 2025, an Israeli airstrike hit Evin Prison, damaging administrative buildings, the medical clinic, kitchen, visitation areas, and prosecution offices. Casualties were reported. Amnesty International confirmed these findings using satellite imagery, eyewitness accounts, and video evidence.³

Forced Transfers and Disappearances

Following the airstrike, political prisoners were forcibly relocated from Evin to Qarchak and Fashafouyeh prisons—both notorious for inhumane conditions. Some were also reportedly transferred to Ghezel Hesar Prison.

Examples of prisoners subjected to forced disappearances include:

- Ahmadreza Djalali (Iranian-Swedish national), Jailed teacher Mehdi Shandiz, Bijan Kazemi, Cécile Kohler and Jacques Paris (French nationals)
 - *Update:* Kohler was transferred to Qarchak on 29 July 2025 from an IRGC “Safe House⁴.”

² <https://cfppi.org/2023/02/02/list-of-political-prisoners-in-iran-sentenced-to-execution-or-in-danger-of-being-given-death-sentence>

³ Amnesty International 22/07/2025: [Israeli attack on Tehran prison must be investigated as a war crime](#)

⁴ [Extracts from a CNN report](#): Khaneh Amn, which translates to “Safe House,” refers to secret, undisclosed locations where detainees are subjected to enforced disappearance and torture by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC).

Targeted Transfer of Female Political Prisoners – Evin Prison Women’s Ward

After the 23 June strike, on the same day, female political prisoners resisted forced transfer.

In retaliation, authorities:

- Cut off water supply and suspended phone communications.
- Threatened forced removal by *Gard-e Vizheh* (Special Security Forces).
- At 7:00 AM the following day (24 July), 62 women were forcibly transferred to Qarchak Prison, one with children. Prisoners were handcuffed, physically and verbally mistreated, and confined in overcrowded halls without proper ventilation. Prisoners had no contact with families for 48 hours; afterward, each was granted a 90-second call.

Details of the Forced Transfer Following the Attack – 23 June 2025

Following the Israeli airstrikes on Evin Prison on 23 June 2025, female political prisoners resisted relocation due to deep mistrust of the authorities and uncertainty about their destination. According to CFPPI sources, this resistance was met with coercive retaliation by prison officials.

In response to the women’s refusal to leave their ward, authorities deliberately cut off the water supply, initially leading prisoners to believe the disruption was a result of the airstrike. However, it later became clear that the water had been intentionally shut off as a pressure tactic to force compliance. The authorities threatened to bring in *Gard-e Vizheh* (Special Security Forces). Fearing an assault with tear gas, the prisoners felt they had no choice but to comply and leave with the guards on 24 July.

Throughout that day of 23 June, all telephone communication between the women’s ward and the outside world was suspended. Prison authorities claimed that the airstrikes had damaged the phone lines. However, sources confirmed that by the afternoon of the same day, inmates in some of the male wards were able to contact their

families, strongly suggesting the communication blackout in the women's ward was deliberate and targeted.

This sequence of actions illustrates a systematic use of deprivation and misinformation to compel forced transfers and silence female political prisoners during a moment of heightened vulnerability and confusion.

Grave and Escalating Human Rights Violations at Qarchak Women's Prison

Qarchak Women's Prison has long been notorious for its inhumane and degrading conditions. It has repeatedly been documented as a facility wholly unfit for human detention. In recent years, the Iranian authorities have deliberately exiled political prisoners to Qarchak as a form of escalated psychological and physical punishment, exposing them to extreme neglect and life-threatening health hazards. Qarchak Prison was sanctioned by both the United States and the European Union in 2021 for its role in serious human rights violations. At present, the conditions in Qarchak have deteriorated to a crisis level, posing an imminent and serious threat to the health, dignity, and lives of prisoners.

Severe Overcrowding and Inhumane Quarantine Conditions

Quarantine halls at Qarchak lack even the most basic necessities. Each prisoner is allotted approximately 65 cm of space on a bed—barely enough to lie down. Authorities continue to transfer more prisoners into this ward, including newly arrested individuals and others moved from solitary confinement. With no additional space or bedding available, new detainees are forced to sleep on the floor, often in cramped and unhygienic conditions. This has created a hostile and unsanitary environment, where extreme overcrowding heightens both physical suffering and the risk of violence and disease.

Alarming Sanitation Crisis and Lack of Basic Facilities

Sanitary conditions inside Qarchak are grossly inadequate and pose serious health risks.

Prisoners report:

- Limited access to clean drinking water

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- Dysfunctional or insufficient toilet facilities
- No access to clean and suitable bathing or washing facilities
- No kitchen access or proper food preparation areas
- No air conditioning, even during extreme weather

These conditions violate international human rights standards and reflect deliberate neglect, increasing the potential for outbreaks of communicable diseases and compounding prisoners' suffering.

Systematic and Deliberate Medical Neglect

Medical deprivation in Qarchak is not incidental—it is systemic and widespread, endangering the lives of many inmates. Access to essential medications and life-saving treatment is routinely denied, even in cases of elderly prisoners with critical illnesses:

- Raheleh Rahemipour (age 74): Suffers from a brain tumor and heart condition but has received no treatment whatsoever.
- Parvin Mirasan (age 68): Endures Parkinson's disease and severe joint inflammation, yet remains medically neglected.
- Vrishe Moradi: A death row inmate with serious chronic conditions, was denied medical care after protesting mistreatment in March 2025.
- Marzieh Farsi: suffers from Cancer.
- Multiple other prisoners suffer from diabetes, asthma, cancer, and other chronic diseases. They receive no proper treatment, and medications—when available—are distributed arbitrarily, without regard to prescriptions or medical need.

Such systemic medical negligence constitutes a clear violation of the right to health and humane treatment, as protected under international law.

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The regime has a documented history of deliberately and systematically using the deprivation of medical care as a weapon to violate the fundamental right to life of prisoners.⁵

Targeted Transfers and Dangerous Mixing of Prison Populations

In recent developments, over ten new detainees have been transferred to Qarchak, further exacerbating the lack of space and intensifying overcrowding. These actions appear to reflect a deliberate policy by the authorities to concentrate female political prisoners in Qarchak, regardless of the prison's inability to provide humane conditions.

Alarming, witnesses report that some newly transferred detainees were visibly under the influence of narcotics and were allegedly charged with "transferring drones for Israel". These transfers not only endanger political prisoners by forcing them to share space with individuals in highly unstable conditions but also suggest the regime's increasing use of Qarchak as a central holding facility for politically high-risk detainees.

This situation demands immediate international attention and intervention. The treatment of detainees at Qarchak constitutes cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment, and may amount to torture under international law. Urgent action is required to protect those held in Qarchak and to hold the responsible authorities accountable for these ongoing violations.

Female political prisoners at Ward 209, Evin Prison

After the airstrike, prisoners in Ward 209 were taken to a shelter and the solitary confinement's doors were not opened.

Testimony from Motahareh Gounei (recently released):

“We broke out of the cells during the explosions, while the guards had orders not to open the solitary cells.” Prior to her release, she and others were subsequently transferred to another prison, then to a Ministry of Intelligence “safe house.”

⁵ CFPPI 2013:Report on prisoners deprived of medical attention, <https://cfppi.org/2022/01/16/iran-report-on-prisoners-deprived-of-medical-attention/>

Forced Transfer of Male Political Prisoners to Fashafouyeh (Greater Tehran Central Penitentiary)

On 23 June 2025, in the aftermath of the Israeli airstrike on Evin Prison, authorities forcibly transferred male prisoners to Fashafouyeh (Greater Tehran Central Penitentiary). Some of the prisoners reportedly transferred to Ghezel Hesar Prison. Eyewitnesses report that numerous buses arrived at Evin, and prisoners, shackled and handcuffed, were violently loaded onto vehicles without warning or explanation.

Prisoners were given no opportunity to gather personal belongings or take essential medications. According to a prisoner account, one detainee, already injured by the airstrike, was denied hospital treatment; instead, guards dragged him into the bus and transferred him to Fashafouyeh alongside others. Guards reportedly pointed firearms at the prisoners, creating a pervasive atmosphere of terror. One witness described the moment as so threatening that inmates feared they were about to be executed.

Inhumane Conditions in Fashafouyeh Prisons

Fashafouyeh Prison is widely condemned by international human rights organizations for its severe human rights violations. Over the past several years, the regime has used this facility—like Qarchak Prison—as a site of exile and punitive transfer for political prisoners. Inmates are often deliberately placed among individuals convicted of violent crimes, further endangering their lives.

One tragic example is Alireza Shir Mohammad Ali, a 21-year-old arrested during the 2018 anti-government protests. In June 2019, he was stabbed 30 times in the neck and stomach by two non-political prisoners and died as a result. His case reflects the lethal consequences of this strategy.

On 3 August 2025, two political prisoners—Ali Ghanadzadeh and Mahmoud Daraei-Manesh—who were arrested during the *Women, Life, Freedom* protests and are currently held in Fashafouyeh Prison, were stabbed by a non-political inmate. Both prisoners sustained injuries as a result of the attack.

Fashafouyeh Prison was sanctioned by both the United States and the European Union in 2021 for serious and systematic human rights violations.

Conditions Faced by Transferred Prisoners

Political prisoners transferred to Fashafouyeh prison have been subjected to harsh and degrading conditions, including:

- Extreme overcrowding, with prisoners crammed into small, poorly ventilated cells
- Very limited access to clean drinking water
- Non-functional or inadequate hygiene and toilet facilities
- No access to clean bathing or washing amenities
- Widespread medical neglect, including the withholding of critical medications
- Severely restricted visitation rights, further isolating prisoners from their families

The overall hygiene and infrastructure are described as grossly inadequate, creating unsanitary and unsafe living conditions that violate international standards.

One particularly alarming case involves Matlab Ahmadian, a political prisoner transferred from Evin following the airstrike. He is reportedly suffering from cancer, diaphragmatic hernia, spinal canal stenosis, and a urinary tract infection. Despite written confirmation by prison medical staff and external specialists, the prison authorities are withholding his essential medications, a practice that amounts to deliberate medical torture.

Conclusion and Recommendations

Recent developments highlight a coordinated and escalating crackdown by the regime in Iran aimed at breaking the will of political prisoners through physical abuse, forced displacement and disappearance, and the systematic denial of medical care. These actions form part of a broader strategy of repression, particularly targeting political detainees as well as members of ethnic and religious minority communities. The use of war as a pretext for intensified state violence has further deepened the ongoing human rights crisis in the country.

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The international community must act with urgency to investigate these systematic abuses and transfers, demand accountability, and ensure access for independent observers.

The Campaign to Free Political Prisoners in Iran (CFPPI) calls on the UN Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Iran, the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the UN Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary, or arbitrary executions to take immediate action and:

- Investigate the conditions of political prisoners held in Qarchak Prison, Fashafouyeh Prison, and Ghezel Hesar Prison.
- Demand immediate access to assess the treatment, health status, and whereabouts of political prisoners transferred from Evin Prison;
- Call for an immediate halt to all executions and pressure the regime in Iran to unconditionally release all political prisoners
- Investigate the ongoing use of arbitrary arrests, solitary confinement, enforced disappearances, torture, and denial of medical care.

CFPPI further urges all governments, the European Union, and the European Parliament to:

- Actively support independent international investigations into these violations;
- Apply diplomatic and political pressure on the regime in Iran to halt executions and to release political prisoners.
- Demand access to proper medical care for political prisoners;
- Publicly condemn the ongoing harassment and arbitrary arrests of human rights defenders and justice-seeking families, and exert pressure on the authorities in Iran to immediately cease these practices.
- Hold the regime in Iran accountable for the inhumane treatment of political prisoners.

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The Campaign to Free Political Prisoners in Iran (CFPPI) is one of the first organizations advocating globally for the release of political prisoners in the Islamic Republic of Iran. CFPPI was established in 2006 and is dedicated to amplifying the voices of detainees and their families while actively working to end all forms of torture and abolish the death penalty in the country.

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