



Campaign to Free Political Prisoners in Iran (CFPPI)

Date: 28 October 2025

**To the Members of the Third Committee
United Nations General Assembly
New York, NY**

Your Excellencies,

We, the undersigned — a group of human rights defenders, civil society activists, and families of victims of human rights violations in Iran — express our deepest concern over the intensifying and continuing pattern of organized repression by the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Three years after the beginning of the “Woman, Life, Freedom” movement, the human rights situation in Iran has entered an unprecedented phase of state violence and systematic violations of fundamental rights. While international attention has gradually declined, the Iranian authorities have exploited this silence to launch a new wave of executions, torture, enforced disappearances, and political persecution.

From the beginning of 2025 until the end of September, at least 1,042 individuals have been executed in Iran — placing the country first in the world in proportion to its population. This figure marks a sharp increase compared to previous years: from approximately 580 cases in 2022 to over 975 in 2024, with an upward trend continuing.

The high number of executions in Iran demonstrates a systematic pattern of using the death penalty as a tool of state intimidation and social control. A significant portion of those executed belong to ethnic and religious minorities — particularly Kurds, Baluchis, and Arabs, as well as Afghan migrants. In numerous cases, death sentences have been issued after brief trials lacking minimum fair trial guarantees. Only a fraction of executions are officially announced, while many take place in secrecy. Public hangings have also resumed this year, with several cases of executions carried out in public.

Following the twelve-day armed confrontation between Iran and Israel in June 2025, Iranian security forces exploited the wartime and security atmosphere to intensify domestic repression. During that period, more than 21,000 individuals were arrested nationwide, including civil society activists, journalists, human rights defenders, and dual nationals. Thousands of foreign nationals — mostly Afghan migrants — were also detained on alleged security grounds. The wave of arrests has continued even after the hostilities ended. Many detainees remain subjected to enforced disappearance, with their families unaware of their fate or whereabouts. The risk of torture and execution for these detainees remains acute. Within the one hundred days following the mass arrests, the rate of executions reportedly increased by about 40 percent, averaging four executions per day.

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The situation of political and religious prisoners in Iran — particularly in Evin, Qarchak, Fashafouyeh, and Ghezel Hesar prisons — constitutes clear evidence of torture and inhuman treatment. Shortages of medicine, inadequate food, lack of ventilation, overcrowding, unsanitary conditions, and degrading behavior are part of their daily reality. Many prisoners are denied contact with their families, access to lawyers, and medical care.

In response to these conditions, on 13 October 2025, a group of prisoners in Ghezel Hesar Prison (Karaj) launched a hunger strike in protest against the ongoing wave of executions, the inhumane conditions of detention, and the violent conduct of prison officials. The strike was temporarily suspended after several weeks due to the deteriorating health of prisoners and severe pressure from prison authorities. During the strike, many prisoners suffered from extreme physical weakness, loss of consciousness, and significant weight loss. Authorities sought to break the protest by cutting off access to water, medicine, and phone calls. Several strikers were transferred to solitary confinement and beaten, while their families were left without news for weeks. Although the strike has ended, serious concerns remain about the fate of the detainees and the continued use of executions. The hunger strike represented a powerful act of civil resistance against the state's policy of death. Ignoring its message risks a repetition of atrocities reminiscent of the mass executions of political prisoners in the 1980s.

Torture — both physical and psychological — remains widespread during arrest and interrogation. Methods include beatings, electric shocks, threats of sexual violence, sleep deprivation, and forced administration of psychoactive drugs aimed at physical and mental exhaustion. Deliberate denial of medical treatment and unhygienic conditions have led to the slow death of several detainees. Numerous suspicious deaths in custody indicate that the authorities are deliberately using medical neglect as a means of eliminating dissidents.

In this regard, we respectfully call upon the Third Committee to:

1. Address and condemn the widespread executions and the hunger strike in Ghezel Hesar Prison as grave violations of the right to life and human dignity.
2. Request the UN General Assembly to take note of the findings of the UN Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Iran, and call upon the Human Rights Council to renew and strengthen its mandate, while requesting the Secretary-General to ensure the continued transmission of the Mission's reports to the General Assembly.
3. Support immediate, independent, and unhindered access for UN Special Rapporteurs and observers to Iranian detention facilities.
4. Encourage Member States to impose targeted sanctions on officials responsible for grave human rights violations.
5. Urge Member States and relevant UN bodies to press for an immediate halt to executions, an end to torture, and the release of political and religious prisoners.



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6. Call on OHCHR and UNVFVT to provide urgent psychological, social, and financial support to affected families.

Today, Iran stands at a critical moment in its modern history — a moment in which the right to life and human dignity is being systematically violated. Silence in the face of these abuses amounts to complicity in the perpetuation of impunity and repression.

With respect and hope for prompt and effective action,

The Undersigned :

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