



Campaign to Free Political Prisoners in Iran (CFPPI)

28 October 2025

To: Excellencies, Distinguished Members of the United Nations Human Rights Council

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.

The situation of political and religious prisoners in Iran — particularly in Evin, Qarchak, Fashafouyeh, and Ghezel Hesar prisons — constitutes clear evidence of torture and

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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.

We, the undersigned, firmly believe in the need for an urgent and coordinated international response, and therefore call upon the United Nations Human Rights Council to take the following actions:

1. Recognize and formally condemn the widespread executions and the hunger strike in Ghezel Hesar Prison as grave and ongoing violations of the right to life and human dignity in Iran.
2. Renew and strengthen the mandate of the UN Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Iran, with a specific focus on documenting executions, torture, enforced disappearances, and prison conditions.
3. Ensure immediate, independent, and unhindered access for UN Special Rapporteurs and international observers to Iranian prisons, including Evin, Rajae Shahr (Gohardasht), Ghezel Hesar, Qarchak, Fashafouyeh, Zahedan, Adelabad (Shiraz), Urmia Central Prison, Sheiban (Ahvaz), and Dizelabad (Kermanshah), to assess detention conditions and the treatment of prisoners.
4. Encourage the international community to impose targeted and individual sanctions — within existing UN and international legal mechanisms — against judicial, security, and prison officials responsible for gross human rights violations in Iran.



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5. Urge UN Member States and relevant UN bodies to use all available diplomatic, political, and legal instruments to exert effective pressure on Iranian authorities to immediately halt executions, end torture, and release all political and religious prisoners.
6. Call upon specialized UN agencies, including the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and relevant support funds such as the UN Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture (UNVFVT), to adopt urgent measures to provide psychological,
7. social, and financial assistance to the families of victims of executions and arbitrary detentions.

Today, Iran stands at one of the most critical junctures in its modern history — a time when the right to life, liberty, and human dignity is being systematically violated. Executions are no longer a matter of judicial process, but an instrument of political survival and control.

We urge the United Nations Human Rights Council to use all its legal and moral capacities to halt the ongoing wave of executions, address the plight of prisoners in Ghezel Hesar and other detention facilities, and put an end to torture and enforced disappearances in Iran. Silence in the face of such 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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