

**Special Report on the State of Executions in Iran on the Occasion of the
World Day Against the Death Penalty (October 10)**

From March 20 to October 6, 2024



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1. Introduction

On the occasion of October 10th, the World Day Against the Death Penalty, this report examines the state of executions in Iran from March 20 to October 6, 2024¹. The death penalty in Iran is not only one of the harshest punishments but is also used as a tool for political control and the suppression of opponents by the Islamic Republic of Iran. These sentences leave wide-reaching impacts on society and the families of the victims, and they also affect the public atmosphere.

During the time period under review, the statistics on executions show an alarming trend of increasing numbers of these punishments this year, with a large portion attributed to drug-related crimes, murder, and national security offenses.

This report analyzes the statistics and the geographical distribution of executions to provide a clear picture of the current state of executions and to examine the serious challenges within Iran's judicial system. The primary goal of this report is to draw the attention of the global community and international organizations to the human rights violations and the use of the death penalty as a tool of repression.

2. Importance of the Issue

One of the fundamental problems in Iran's judicial system is the instrumental use and excessive expansion of traditional Islamic jurisprudence. Concepts such as "moharebeh" (enmity against God) and "baghy" (armed rebellion) are used to define crimes, and "qassameh" (oath-taking) and "judge's knowledge" are used to prove crimes. While these concepts have specific definitions in Islamic jurisprudence, the Iranian judicial system uses them to convict individuals whose crimes do not align with these definitions. Thus, the issuance and execution of sentences may be influenced by personal or governmental interests rather than justice. As a result, one could argue that Iran's judicial system, instead of safeguarding and defending human rights, has resorted to 'crime fabrication.' This not only highlights the disproportion between punishment and crime but also shows how the system has become a tool for repression, particularly against political and social dissidents, violating fundamental human rights.

Furthermore, the use of Islamic legal procedures in Iran's judiciary often diverges significantly from the consensus of international legal systems and stands in stark contrast to international human rights principles. For example, Iran continues to issue death sentences for individuals under the legal age (children), even though this practice is prohibited by the Convention on the Rights of the Child and many other international treaties. Additionally, while many countries have removed armed robbery from the list of capital crimes, Iran still classifies this crime under "moharebeh," deserving the death penalty. This demonstrates Iran's distance from global standards of criminal justice.

Moreover, the application of traditional penal laws in Iran, such as qisas (retribution), allows anger and emotions to overshadow a more humane and expert-based approach. Viewing the offender as an enemy and seeking revenge only fuels instability and increases violence within society.

¹ This timeframe was chosen because the report aims to cover the first six months of the current Iranian year (1403), which is particularly relevant for tracking trends and statistics on executions during this period leading up to the World Day Against the Death Penalty on October 10.

Therefore, legal regulations in Iran are not based on modern civil laws but are shaped by political and governmental preferences, posing a major challenge to human rights and social justice.

3. Purpose of the Report

The purpose of this report is to document the executions carried out in Iran from March 20 to October 6, 2024, in order to demonstrate how the use of traditional legal concepts in defining crimes and punishments in Iran has pushed the boundaries of human rights, human dignity, and fair trials towards the brink of violating justice. This has led Iran's judicial system to act, on the one hand, as a tool for suppressing the people and, on the other hand, as a promoter of irrational and emotional tendencies within society in favor of the death penalty.

The report seeks to attract the attention of the international community and human rights organizations to the human rights violations and the unjust nature of Iran's judicial system by providing accurate statistics and analyses. To prevent the Iranian government from misusing legal regulations to its advantage, a set of actions, including internal and international pressures, documenting human rights violations, strengthening independent civil and judicial institutions, and supporting human rights movements, is necessary. However, deep changes require the coordination of these factors, and without social and international support, many challenges will remain.

It is hoped that this report will raise public awareness, strengthen domestic and international movements against executions, and pressure the Iranian government to cease using this punishment.

4. Reporting Challenges

There are several challenges in gathering information and statistics on executions in Iran. These include a lack of transparency from government institutions, media restrictions, and government crackdowns on independent human rights organizations. These barriers lead to some information either being completely inaccessible or released in incomplete or distorted form. Nevertheless, this report has utilized reliable sources and strived for accuracy in documentation to present a clear picture of the state of executions.

5. Methodology and Sources of the Report

This report is based on information collected from credible and diverse sources, including international and domestic human rights organizations, independent media, and the official monthly reports of Iranska Föreningen Mot Avrättningar (IFMA). The primary sources for this report include:

- Monthly reports of the association: Data related to executions, especially over different time periods, were obtained from the association's monthly reports, which helped in providing a more detailed analysis of the state of executions.
- Iran Human Rights and Amnesty International: These organizations have provided comprehensive reports on the state of executions and human rights violations in Iran.

- Iranian domestic and state-run media: Outlets such as Rokna, Mizan, and Hamshahri have, in some cases, provided official information on the issued and implemented sentences.
- Independent and domestic human rights organizations: Organizations like Hrana, Hengaw, Hal Vash, and Kurdpa have published more detailed information on the state of executions in various provinces and regions of Iran.

These sources have contributed to the creation of a documented and comprehensive report on the state of executions in Iran.

6. Content of the Report: Review of Executions in Iran from March 20 to October 6, 2024

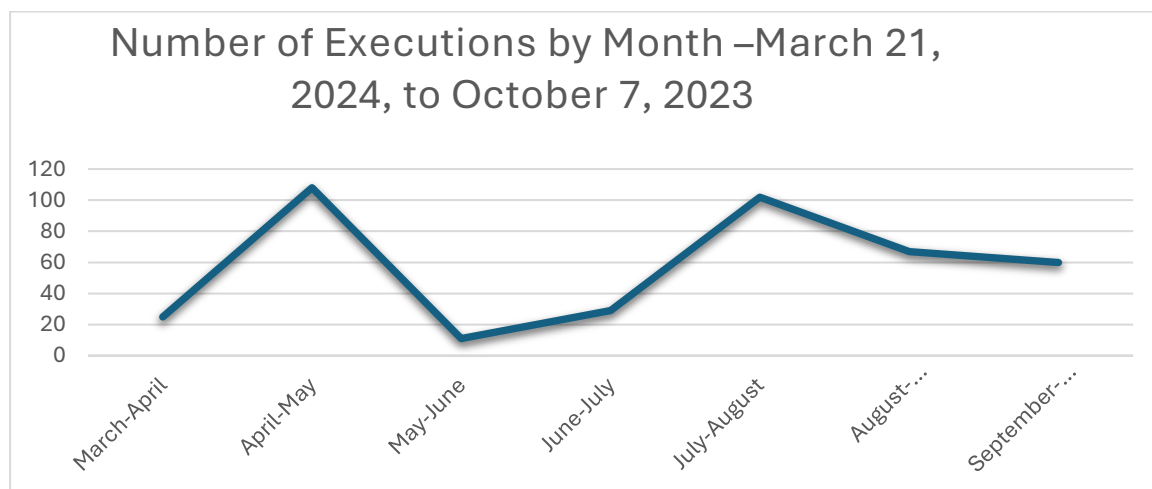
In this section, we will examine the number of executions carried out in Iran during the specified period, the judicial reasons and charges cited for these executions, their geographical distribution across various provinces and prisons, political executions, the issuance and confirmation of death sentences for political and non-political prisoners, and the execution of individuals with physical and mental disabilities, as well as mass executions.

The report will also address the human and social impacts of these executions, especially on the families of the victims, and the challenges faced by human rights organizations in documenting and reporting these cases.

6.1. Total Number of Executions

According to data collected from March 20 to October 6, 2024, at least 402 people lost their lives due to the implementation of death sentences in Iran. This figure is reported despite claims by Iran Human Rights and Amnesty International that many executions are not announced by official Iranian sources. Due to the severe restrictions on access to information, some of these executions are not included in the reports of activists and human rights organizations.

Based on the collected information, the highest number of executions occurred in April, with 108 recorded executions, followed by August, with 102 recorded executions.



The lowest number of executions was reported in June, with 11 executions. It seems that the sharp decline in executions during June is related to political events in Iran. The helicopter crash that killed Ebrahim Raisi and the early presidential elections shifted the focus of the government and judiciary toward electoral issues and reducing social tensions, which temporarily led to a reduction in the number of executions. An analysis of execution statistics for October 2024 shows that in just the first half of the month, at least 60 people were executed. This number is about double the number of executions in July, which saw 29 executions. This increase in executions may be related to several factors:

- **Intensified Political and Social Pressures**

Given the political and security situation in the country, this increase in executions is likely a response to both internal and international pressures and unrest. In politically sensitive months, the Iranian government sometimes uses executions as a tool to instill fear and suppress dissent.

- **Accelerated Execution of Judicial Sentences**

Mehr (October) typically follows the summer holidays, a period when the government may speed up the execution of judicial sentences. This could explain the sudden rise in executions compared to previous months.

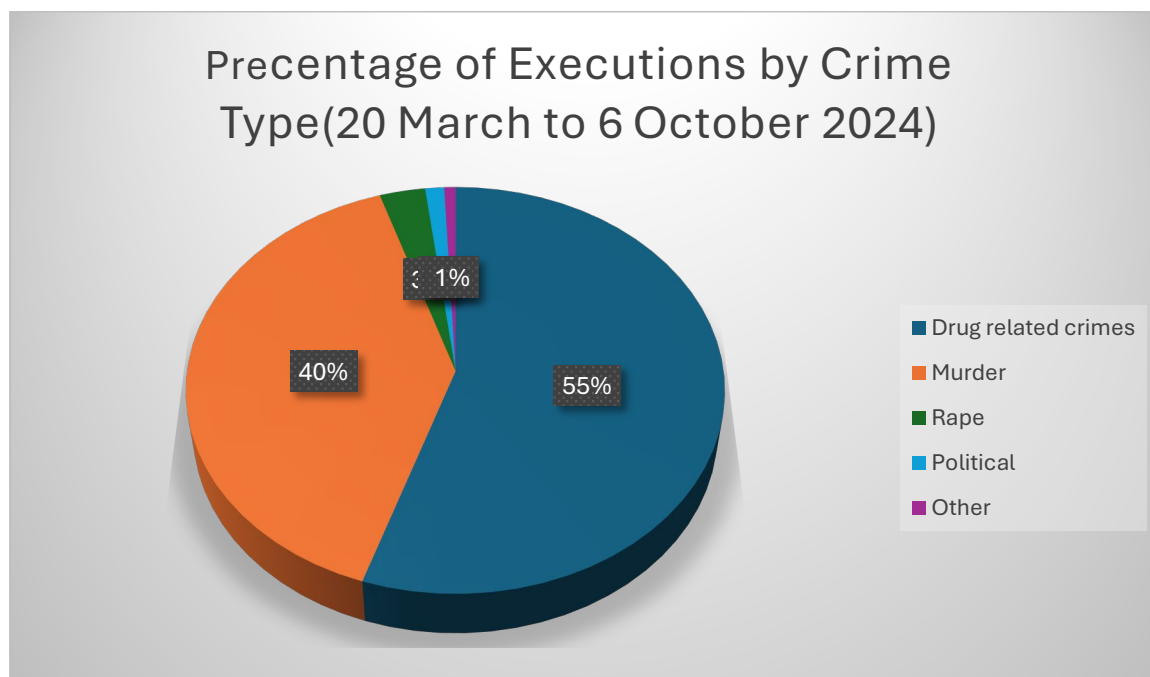
6.2. Reasons for Executions

According to the collected data, executions in Iran have been carried out for various reasons. Crimes such as drug-related offenses, premeditated murder, rape, armed robbery, and political crimes have been among the main reasons for issuing death sentences during this period.

Political crimes are primarily announced by the judiciary as "moharebeh" (enmity against God), "acting against national security," and "corruption on earth," which are, in reality, severe charges aimed at suppressing political dissidents.

	Drug related crimes	Premeditated Murder	Rape	Armed robbery	Political
March 20 – April 19	15	9	1	-	-
April 20 – May 20	70	36	-	-	2
May 21 – June 21	7	3	1	-	-
June 22 – July 22	14	13	1	-	1
July 23 – August 22	59	37	4	-	2
August 23 – September 22	34	33	-	-	-
September 23 – October 6	22	30	5	2	-
Total	221	161	12	2	5

The largest number of executions were related to drug-related crimes, accounting for about 55% of all executions. Following that, 40% of the executed individuals were convicted of retribution (qisas). Executions related to rape, where the victim did not lose their life, made up approximately 3% of the total executions.



Special and Ambiguous Cases

*On Tuesday, October 1st, an individual named **Abdol Habibi** was executed in **Kahnooj Prison**. However, no detailed information regarding the nature of his crime has been released, and it is unclear for what (non-political) reason he was executed. This ambiguity reflects the lack of transparency from Iran's judiciary. The absence of transparency in execution cases, especially in non-political ones, raises serious concerns about human rights and the administration of justice.*

Such cases, where information about the crime and reasons for execution are not fully disclosed, highlight that the process of enforcing judicial sentences in Iran is marked by a lack of transparency and violations of human rights principles. These practices can lead to the misuse of judicial rulings and the instrumentalization of executions as a tool for repression.

6.3. Political Executions

From March 20 to October 6, 2024, Iran witnessed executions based on political and security charges. The Tehran Revolutionary Court sentenced seven individuals—Anwar Khazri, Ayub Karimi, Davood Abdollahi, Farhad Salimi, Qasem Abesteh, Kamran Sheikheh, and Khosrow Basharat—to death on charges of membership in a "Salafi group" and involvement in the murder of the Imam of Khalafaye Rashideen Mosque in Mahabad. Three of them—Khosrow Basharat, Anwar Khazri, and Kamran Sheikheh—were executed on May 1, May 16, and July 26, 2024, respectively. Amnesty International and other human rights organizations believe that

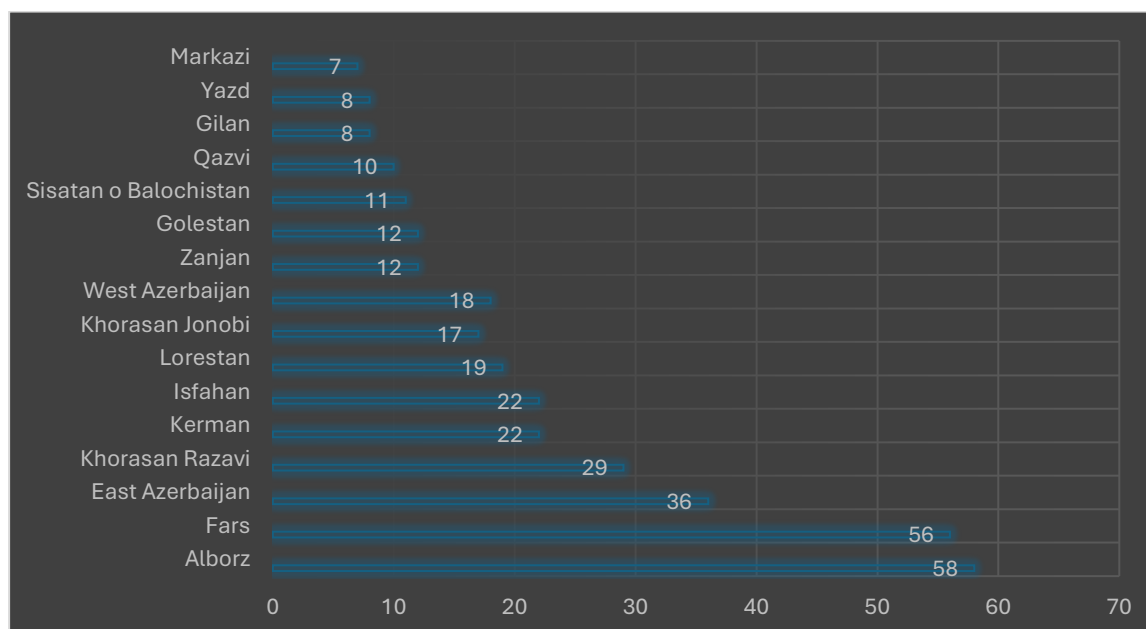
the trial process lacked transparency, serving as yet another example of mass executions of political dissidents by the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Additionally, on August 6, 2024, the death sentence of Gholamreza Rasai was carried out. He denied accusations related to the killing of an IRGC intelligence officer during a violent incident at a memorial service for Khalil Alinajad (one of the leaders of the Yarsan community) in November 2022 in the city of Sahneh. There were many ambiguities in this case.

6.4. Geographical Distribution of Executions

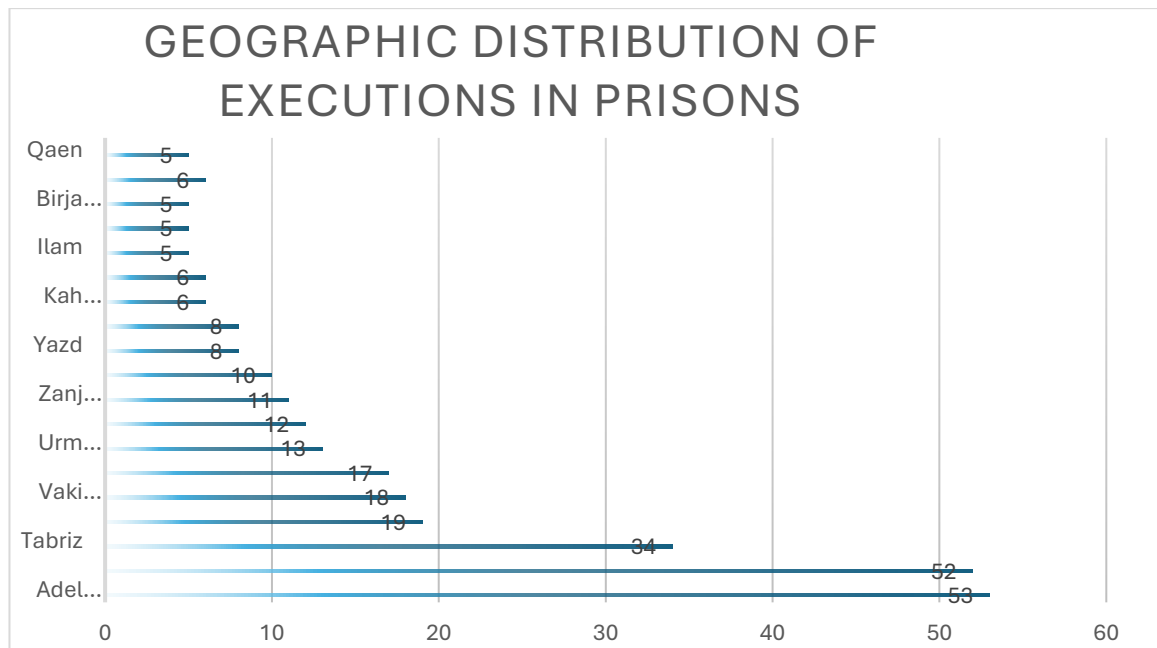
This section will examine the geographical distribution of executions across various provinces in Iran. Analyzing these statistics shows that some regions have witnessed more executions than others. This distribution may be related to factors such as social and economic conditions, government policies, or the types of crimes committed in each region.

Geographic Distribution of Executions in the Provinces



The provided statistics show that executions have taken place in 30 provinces out of a total of 31 provinces in the country, with no executions reported in North Khorasan. Alborz province, with 58 executions (14.5% of the total executions), has the highest number of executions. Following that are Fars province with 56 executions (14% of the total) and East Azerbaijan with 36 executions (9% of the total). It appears that these two provinces, due to their large populations and geographical location, are more likely to be exposed to the enforcement of harsh judicial sentences.

Additionally, the data indicate that executions have been carried out in 60 different prisons across the country.



Adelabad Prison in Fars province, with 53 executions, has carried out the highest number of executions, followed by Ghezel Hesar Prison in Alborz province with 52 executions, Tabriz Prison in East Azerbaijan province with 34 executions, Dastgerd Prison in Isfahan province with 19 executions, and Vakilabad Prison in Khorasan Razavi province with 18 executions. Executions in other prisons across the country have ranged between 1 and 12 cases.

It is also worth noting that, according to reports, on April 19, 2024, an individual was hanged in one of the prisons in Gilan province on charges of murder. The identity of the individual has not been disclosed and remains unknown. Additionally, according to Iranian government reports, on April 24, 2024, an individual was executed by retribution (qisas) for the murder of the child of a former member of Golestan City Council, although no details regarding the province or prison of execution were provided (Hrana: September 25, 2024).

6.5. Issuance and Confirmation of Death Sentences

An examination of death sentences during this period reveals that a large portion of the sentences were issued by the Iranian judiciary, and in some cases, were confirmed by the Supreme Court. However, some of these sentences were revoked due to public pressure and the efforts of international and human rights organizations. Below is an analysis of this subject during the period under study.

According to published reports, at least 84 death sentences were issued by Iranian courts, of which 31 were confirmed. According to Hrana, Malek Ali Fadaei Nesab, Farhad Shakeri, Eisa Eidmohammadi, Abdulhakim Azim Gorgij, Abdulrahman Gorgij, and Taj Mohammad Khormali, political prisoners, were sentenced to death in August on charges of 'baghy' (armed rebellion) for their membership in the Salafi group Hezb al-Forqan and the National Solidarity Front of Sunni Activists. Their death sentences were confirmed by the Supreme Court. Sharifeh Mohammadi was also sentenced to death by the Rasht court in July on charges of 'baghy' for anti-regime propaganda, acting against national security, and membership in an opposition

group. Additionally, Pakhshan Azizi was sentenced to death in Tehran on August 2 on charges of 'baghy.'

In September, Hatam Ozdemir's death sentence for 'baghy' was confirmed, and the death sentences for Behrouz Ehsani and Mehdi Hasani, political prisoners, were issued on charges of 'baghy,' 'moharebeh' (enmity against God), 'corruption on earth,' and membership in the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran (MEK). The charge of 'baghy,' which has been widely used against political and civil prisoners by the Islamic Republic's judiciary in recent years, has placed many of these prisoners at risk of execution.

6.6. Mass Executions in Collective Cases

Mass executions are not a new phenomenon in Iran; over the years, the Islamic Republic has employed such executions in both political/security and non-political cases. Reviews of this period show the repetition of such tragedies. In a street fight that led to the death of one person, six people were sentenced to death, and five of them were executed on May 12, 2024. The sixth individual, Qasem Salehi, managed to escape execution by paying a 5 billion toman compensation (diyah) to the victim's family. Mass executions not only address issues of individual justice but also highlight significant differences in how the law is applied. The issue of compensation and the disparity in the outcomes for the accused points to deeper issues, such as economic justice and financial discrimination, demonstrating how those with better financial access can secure more favorable judicial outcomes.

6.7. Issuance and Execution of Death Sentences for Physically and Mentally Vulnerable Individuals

Reviews show that some of the victims were not only marginalized but also vulnerable and lacked access to rehabilitation and care services. Among those executed was Parvin Mousavi, a 53-year-old woman suffering from cancer, who was executed on May 18, 2024, in Urmia Prison for drug trafficking. Rashed Baluchi, a 35-year-old man, was executed on April 28, 2024, in Bandar Abbas Prison for murder, despite suffering from mental illness and holding a medical red card, according to Hengaw. Razieh, a mother, was executed on May 16, 2024, in Vakilabad Prison for killing her two children due to severe economic and social challenges. State media heavily covered her execution, portraying her as a cruel and ruthless mother. This kind of media representation obscures the deeper social crisis and the role it played in this tragedy. Such media portrayals not only ignore the roots of the problems leading to such events but also highlight the lack of social and psychological support needed to assist individuals in similar situations.

7. Analysis of Demographic Characteristics of Executions

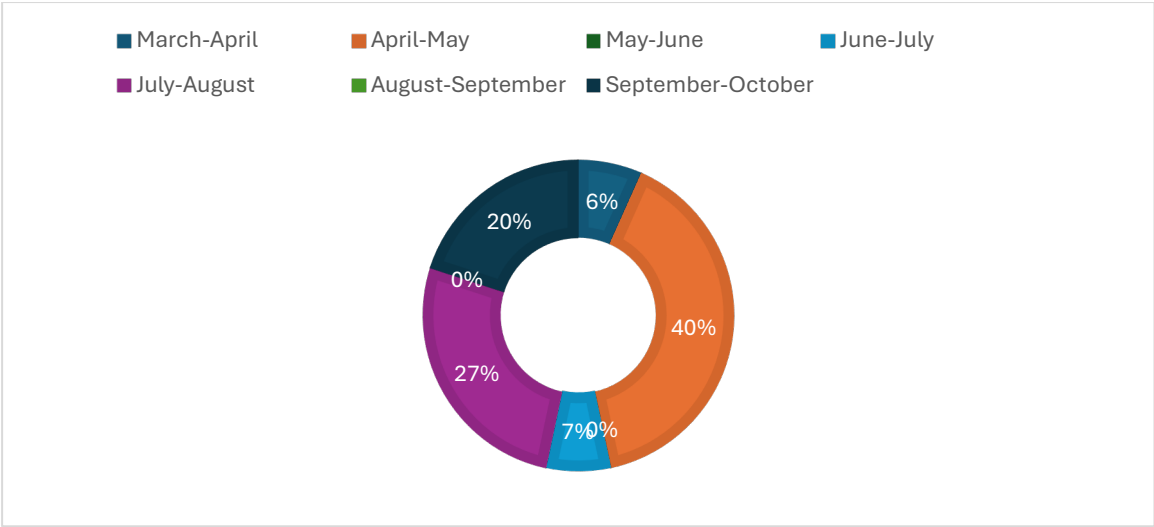
This section analyzes the demographic characteristics of individuals executed during the period under study. These characteristics include gender, age, marital status, and children, as well as nationality. Analyzing this data helps to better understand the social and familial impacts of executions in Iran.

7.1. Gender and Age

Reports indicate that at least 15 women were executed from March 20 to October 6, 2024. The majority of these women were executed in cases related to drug trafficking and murder. By

comparison, during the same period in 2023, at least 10 women were executed (Iran Human Rights: 2023). Nine of these women were executed in qisas cases related to murder.

Percentage of Women Executed During the Period Under Study



Investigations into the cases show that most of the women executed had killed their husbands. The remaining women were hanged in drug-related cases.

A review of the identities of those executed during this period shows that the average age of those executed was between 19 and 60 years. Although the age of a significant number of the victims has not been reported, investigations show that most of those executed in Iran fall within the 30 to 40-year-old age group.

7.2. Execution of Juvenile Offenders

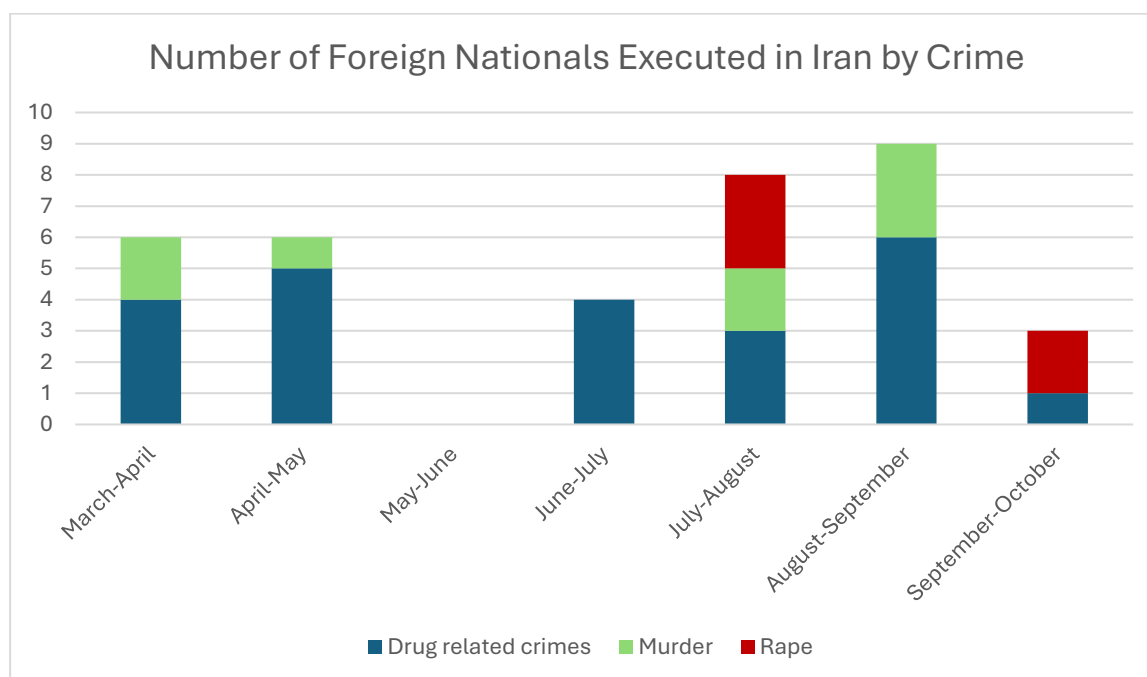
Among the victims executed during this period, three were juvenile offenders. Marjan Hajizadeh, who was arrested at the age of 16 for drug-related crimes, was hanged in Zanjan Prison on April 11, 2024, at the age of 19. Ramin Saadat Zamani, arrested at 17 for killing someone in a street fight, repeatedly emphasized his innocence but was executed in Miandoab Prison on May 18, 2024, at the age of 22. Mehdi Jahanpour, convicted of murder at the age of 16, was executed in Adelabad Prison, Shiraz, on September 16, 2024.

According to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the execution of individuals who were under 18 at the time of their crime is prohibited. However, Iran remains one of the countries that continues to carry out these sentences. The Islamic Republic of Iran signed the convention in 1993 with a reservation that it would not contradict Islamic law and domestic regulations, which is why it does not feel bound to enforce certain parts of the treaty, including the ban on executing juvenile offenders.

This practice has sparked widespread reactions from international organizations and has been repeatedly condemned by human rights organizations such as Amnesty International and the United Nations. Numerous reports indicate that children in Iran are sentenced to death without fair trials and under unsuitable prison conditions.

7.3. Execution of Foreign Nationals

One of the less-discussed but important aspects of executions in Iran is the execution of foreign nationals. Many of these individuals are sentenced for crimes such as drug trafficking, murder, and national security-related offenses. Most of the foreign nationals executed in Iran are from neighboring countries and are migrant workers driven to crime due to poverty and harsh living conditions.



According to reports, at least 36 foreign nationals have been executed in Iran during the reported period. Organizations such as Amnesty International and the United Nations have repeatedly pointed out that many foreign nationals executed in Iran have had no access to a lawyer or translator, and in many cases have suffered from unfair trial processes. In addition, foreign nationals often endure very poor conditions in prisons, and many of them face severe mental and psychological pressure. Furthermore, numerous reports have emerged regarding torture or inhumane and degrading treatment during detention and imprisonment.

It also appears that the Islamic Republic uses the execution of foreign nationals as a tool to demonstrate its determination in combating drug trafficking and addressing security threats. These executions are more common in border regions, where drug trafficking is prevalent. The United Nations and human rights bodies, such as the UN Human Rights Council and UN Special Rapporteurs, have repeatedly called on Iran to halt the execution of foreign nationals and comply with human rights principles, including ensuring fair trials. UN Special Rapporteurs have also emphasized that Iran must adhere to its international obligations, particularly in relation to the rights of migrants and refugees.

7.4. Social and Familial Status of Execution Victims

Executions in Iran not only destroy the lives of those sentenced to death but also leave significant impacts on their families and the social status of the victims. Many of those executed were married and had children, who are left to face increasingly complex life circumstances

after the execution. This section will explore the marital and family status of execution victims and demonstrate how these sentences have devastating effects on the families and surrounding communities of the victims.

Despite the efforts of activists and human rights organizations, little information is available regarding the marital status, number of children, and the age and gender of the children of those executed. According to available information during the reported period, at least 140 children have lost one of their parents to executions, although it must be acknowledged that the actual number may be higher.

A significant portion of these families, due to reasons such as poverty, long distances, and lack of knowledge about the execution date, were unable to have a final visit with their loved ones. This inability to have a last visit is itself a form of psychological violence against the families and will have deep emotional and psychological impacts on them.

8. Conclusion

The review of the state of executions in Iran from March 20 to October 6, 2024, shows that executions continue to be one of the main tools of the Islamic Republic to suppress political, social, and even economic dissidents. While most of these executions are attributed to drug-related crimes and murder, the use of terms such as *Moharebeh* (enmity against God) or corruption on earth, which can include criminal offenses like armed robbery or drug trafficking, allows the government to sentence individuals to death under such charges.

This report shows that many death sentences, especially in political and security-related cases, lack transparency and fair trials, a process condemned repeatedly by international organizations such as Amnesty International.

The execution of juveniles and foreign nationals are also cases that represent clear violations of international law and demonstrate Iran's disregard for its human rights commitments. This report also highlights the psychological and social impacts of executions on families, especially on the children of victims, and emphasizes the need for deep reforms in Iran's judicial system.

Finally, this report calls on the international community and human rights organizations to support anti-death penalty movements in Iran and to pressure the Iranian government to cease the use of this inhumane punishment. The continued use of executions as a tool for control and repression not only violates human rights in Iran but also has destructive effects on society and future generations.