



Iranian Association Against Executions

Date: 2024-12-10

To: The Honorable Members of the Swedish Parliament,

Subject: International Human Rights Day: Urgent Attention to Executions in Iran

Dear Members of Parliament,

On behalf of the Iranian Association Against Executions (IFMA), we wish to express our profound gratitude for Sweden's unwavering commitment to human rights and justice. We write to you with a strong sense of urgency to highlight the increasing number of executions in Iran, their devastating social consequences, and the ongoing injustices against prisoners and their families.

From December 1, 2023, to December 1, 2024, at least 855 individuals have been executed in Iran. Among them were 25 women, many lifelong victims of abuse, including forced marriages as children and domestic violence. These executions have left over 300 children orphaned, many in vulnerable circumstances.

Our investigations reveal a deeply concerning practice: in some cases, custody of these children is given to individuals who directly carried out or approved the execution of a parent under the principle of Qisas (retributive justice). For example, children whose mothers were executed after being convicted of murdering their abusive spouses are often placed in the custody of the deceased father's grandfather, who requested the mother's execution.

The concept of Qisas, a principle in Islamic law, allows the victim's family to demand retribution (execution) or forgiveness in exchange for blood money. While the Iranian judiciary claims this principle is rooted in ideals of justice, it actually perpetuates a cycle of violence and fails to meet international standards of justice and human rights. Its application in Iran often results in outcomes that cause additional trauma to the victims' families, particularly vulnerable children.

Public executions—including four cases in the past year—along with executions of minors (five cases) and individuals with mental or physical disabilities further underscore the judiciary's disregard for international conventions to which Iran is a party. Additionally, social and political activists, such as Ahmadreza Djalali, along with many protesters, face immediate execution based on vague accusations aimed at silencing opposition.

We appeal to the Swedish Parliament to take the following actions:

1. Advocate for international condemnation of these practices within the European Union, the United Nations, and other global platforms.
2. Support targeted sanctions against Iranian officials complicit in human rights violations.

3. Raise awareness of these atrocities by engaging Swedish and European communities through media and public campaigns.
4. Demand independent investigations into Iran's judicial practices and the systematic misuse of Qisas.

IFMA is ready to cooperate and share detailed data and analyses. We invite you to review our comprehensive reports, available at <https://ifmavoice.com/>, documenting these injustices and their societal impacts.

Sweden's leadership in defending human rights on the global stage is indispensable. By taking these actions, you can help amplify the voices of the victims and pave the way for justice and accountability.

With the utmost respect and gratitude,

Raheleh Behzadi (Chairperson)

Iranian Association Against Executions

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