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# Médias Internationaux



## Executions In Iran Increased 75% As Anti-Government Protests Surged

By Craig Peters — Last updated Apr 15, 2023

Tehran's hardline government has increased executions in an effort to discourage protests that have exploded across the country over the past year following the police-custody death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini, who was arrested for improperly wearing her hijab. File photo by EPA-EFE

April 14 (UPI) — Iran's hardline government executed at least 582 people last year in an effort to sow public fear as anti-government protests surged across the country, according to a new human rights report.

The number of Iranians executed in 2022 was the highest since 2015 and marked a 75% increase over the previous year when 333 were put to death, according to the [annual report](#) on the Death Penalty in the Islamic Republic — compiled by Iran Human Rights and a French-based anti-death penalty group known as ECPM.

The government was deliberately using the executions to set an example that was intended to “instill societal fear in order to hold onto power,” the [report alleges](#).

Protests have gripped the country for months following the September police-custody death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini, who was arrested for improperly wearing her hijab.

The resulting crackdown has netted more than 100 additional protest defendants who face death penalty trials in the coming months.

Another 20 protesters have already been sentenced to death in preliminary trials but were still awaiting their fate, the report says.

The report identified 15 executions had been carried out for nebulous charges related to national security, like “enmity against God” and “corruption on Earth.” At least four protesters were among this group, including Mohsen Shekari, who in December became the first demonstrator to be publicly hanged.

The theocratic government has faced increasing pressure from world leaders over the recent executions of political prisoners, which has led to a wave of government-sanctioned deaths for other capital crimes, the report said.

“The international reactions to the death sentences against protesters have made it difficult for the Islamic Republic to proceed with their executions,” said Iran Human Rights Director Mahmood Amiry-Moghaddam. “To compensate, and in order to spread fear among people, the authorities have intensified the execution for non-political charges.”

Mahmood continued to call on the global community to help stop “the Islamic Republic’s execution machine” by taking a stronger stance against Tehran.

The report alleges that nearly 90% of executions for crimes like murder, rape and drug trafficking had been carried out without any public knowledge, while just 71 executions, or 12%, were announced by the government.

The report also noted that 16 women were executed throughout 2022 and that three juvenile offenders were also put to death in that time.

In total, more than 4,000 executions have been carried out in the country since 2010 under orders of the Revolutionary Courts, the report says.



## Iran raised execution numbers drastically in 2022 to hold onto power - report

At least 582 people were executed, including four for allegedly spying for Israel, in 2022

The Islamic Republic of Iran increased its execution rate by 75% in 2022 compared to 2021 with a view toward spreading fear among a restive Iranian population that has staged protests against Tehran's rulers, according to a new report by the Norway-based Iran Human Rights (IHR) and France's Together Against the Death Penalty (ECPM).

The report noted that "At least 582 people were executed, an increase of 75% compared to 2021. In 2022, Iran's authorities demonstrated how crucial the death penalty is to instill societal fear in order to hold onto power. Weeks into the nationwide 'Woman-Life-Freedom' protests, triggered by the state killing of [Jina \(Mahsa\) Amini](#) on 16 September 2022, 6 hundreds of protesters were facing show trials at the Revolutionary Courts, many with charges punishable by death."

According to the report, two protesters were executed in December 2022. At the time of publishing this report, four protesters have been executed, more than 100 protesters remain at risk of death penalty charges, sentences and execution and at least 20 others have been sentenced to execution."

"The international reactions to the death sentences against protesters have made it difficult for the Islamic Republic to proceed with their executions," said [Iran Human Rights](#) Director Mahmood Amiry-Moghaddam. "To compensate, and in order to spread fear among people, the authorities have intensified the execution for non-political charges. These are the low-cost victims of the Islamic Republic's execution machine. In order to stop this machine, the international community and civil society inside and outside Iran must show the same reaction to each and every execution."

According to the report, "Unfortunately, international reactions have been lacking against the execution of non-political prisoners. This trend has continued into 2023."

Djalali was sentenced to “efsad-fil-arz (corruption on earth) through espionage for Israel.” The report said his trial was “grossly” unfair. “He has been sent back and forth to the gallows on multiple occasions in exchange attempts by [Islamic Republic](#) authorities.”

The US government has classified Iran's regime as the world's worst state-sponsor of terrorism.

### Iran frames people for collaborating with Israel

The human rights NGOs wrote that “4 people were executed for collaboration with Israel” in 2022. Iran's regime frequently frames political dissidents for spying for Israel.

The report also cited the case of Ahmadreza Djalali, a Swedish-Iranian scientist, who was arrested while on an academic visit to Iran.



## Executions Surge In Iran In Bid To “Spread Fear,” Rights Groups Say

By Craig Peters — Last updated Apr 14, 2023

Iran hanged 75% more people in 2022 than the previous year, two rights groups said on Thursday, warning the country’s “killing machine” might be putting even more people to death this year following protests that rocked the country.

The figure of at least 582 executions was the highest for Iran since 2015, and well above the figure of 333 for 2021, a **report** by Norway-based Iran Human Rights (IHR) and Paris-based Together Against the Death Penalty (ECPM) said.

Last year was marked by the eruption of nationwide protests sparked by the death in September of Mahsa Amini, a 22-year-old ethnic Kurd who had been arrested for allegedly violating the strict dress rules for women.

The authorities responded with a crackdown that saw several executions from protest-related cases that prompted an international outcry.

IHR director Mahmood Amiry Moghaddam said that while the international reaction was keeping protest-related executions in check, Iran was pressing ahead with executions on other charges “to compensate, and in order to spread fear among people.”

“We fear the number of executions will dramatically increase in 2023 if the international community does not react more,” he told AFP.

“Every execution in Iran is political, regardless of the charges,” he added, describing those executed on drug or murder charges as the “low cost victims” of Iran’s “killing machine.”

Moghaddam said that with over 150 executions in the first three months of this year alone, the overall total for 2023 risks being the highest in some two decades, exceeding even 2015 when, according to IHR, 972 people were put to death in Iran.

The report cited a “60 Minutes” interview with Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi on September 18, 2022, in which he referred to protesters as “disrupters of security” and said their prosecution and punishments would continue.

The report said that after four men were executed on protest-related charges, 100 more protesters were facing execution after being sentenced to death or charged with capital offenses.

The report expressed alarm over a sharp rise in the number of drug-related executions after the protests erupted.

A fall in the number of drug-related executions — driven by 2017 amendments to the anti-narcotics law — had been behind a drop in the overall number of executions in Iran up to 2021.

More than half of those executed after the start of the protests, and 44 percent of the 582 executions recorded in 2022, were on drug-related charges.

This was more than double the number in 2021, and 10 times higher than the number of drug-related executions in 2020, the report said.

The rights groups lamented what they said was a lack of reaction from the United Nations Office for Drugs and Crimes (UNODC) and its donor states.

“Lack of reaction by the UNODC and donor countries to the reversal of these reforms (of 2017) sends the wrong signal to the Iranian authorities,” ECPM director Raphael Chenuil-Hazan said.

The report said members of the mainly Sunni Muslim Baluch minority accounted for 30 percent of executions nationwide, even though they account for just 2% to 6% of Iran’s population.

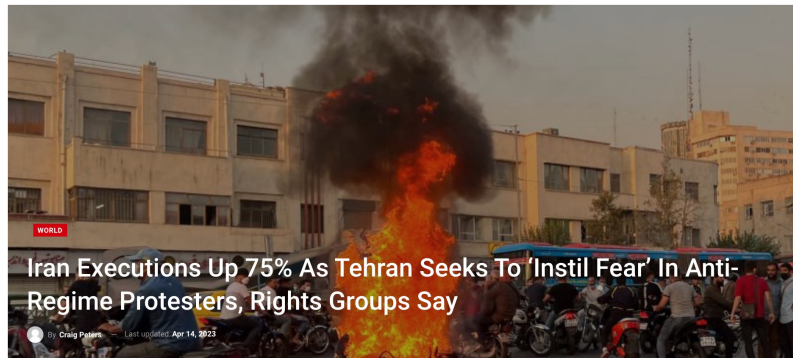
The numbers of ethnic Kurds and Arabs executed were also disproportionate, especially for drug crimes. “The death penalty is part of the systematic discrimination and extensive repression ethnic minorities of Iran are subjected to,” the report said.

The most executions — 288, or 49% — were for murder, the highest in more than 15 years.

Two people, including protester Majidreza Rahnavaard, were hanged in public, the report said. At least three juvenile offenders were among those executed, while at least 16 women were hanged.

Iran’s penal code allows execution by methods that include firing squad, stoning and even crucifixion, but in recent years all executions have been carried out by hanging.

Chenuil-Hazan said Iran executes more people annually than any nation other than China — for which no accurate data is available — and more in proportion to its population than any nation in the world.



Iran executed at least 582 people last year, a 75% increase on the previous year, according to human rights groups who say the rise reflects an effort by Tehran to “instill fear” among anti-regime protesters.

It was the highest number of executions in the Islamic republic since 2015, according to a [report](#) released Thursday by the Norway-based Iran Human Rights (IHR) and the France-based Together Against the Death Penalty (ECPM) groups.

The vast majority of the executions – at least 544 – were of people accused of murder and drug-related offenses, said the report. It added that almost 90% of the executions it recorded were not announced by Iranian authorities and some had been carried out in secret.

The two rights groups said the increase was Tehran’s way of trying to frighten protesters and prevent dissent, following a nationwide uprising sparked by the death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini last September.

“Iran’s authorities demonstrated how crucial the death penalty is to instill societal fear in order to hold onto power,” the report said.

Iranian authorities have responded to the protests with brute force, mass arrests and hasty sham trials, drawing sharp global condemnation and sanctions from the United States.

The report documented 15 executions carried out on the vaguely defined charges of “enmity against God” and “corruption on Earth.”

Mohsen Shekari – reportedly the first person to be executed in connection with the protests – was hanged on December 8 after he was convicted of “waging war against God” for allegedly stabbing a member of the Basij paramilitary force, a wing of Iran’s Revolutionary Guard, at a protest in Tehran on September 23. Less than a week later, Majidreza Rahnavard was also convicted for reportedly killing two members of the same paramilitary force and injuring four others on November 17.

Two other Iranian young men – Mohammad Mehdi Karami, a karate champion; and Seyed Mohammad Hosseini, a volunteer children’s coach – were hanged on January 7 this year in connection with the protests, according to Iran’s judiciary news agency Mizan. They were convicted of killing a member of the Basij paramilitary force in Karaj on November 3, Mizan reported. The human rights report said they were charged with “corruption on Earth.”

Dozens of other protesters have received death sentences in recent months.

Iran’s Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has openly praised the Basij for its role in the crackdown, describing the protesters as “rioters” and “thugs” backed by foreign forces.

But United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Chief Volker Turk has criticized the crackdown as pushing Iran into a “full-fledged human rights crisis.”

More than half of the executions last year took place after the protests erupted in September. Some 44% of all those sentenced to death were accused of drug-related offenses, despite no evidence of a marked rise in drug use or trafficking reported by international agencies, the report said.

IHR Director Mahmood Amiry-Moghaddam suggested Iran would have executed even more people had it not been for “international reactions to the death sentences against protesters” which had “made it difficult for the Islamic republic to proceed” with the killings.

“To compensate, and in order to spread fear among people, the authorities have intensified executions for non-political charges. These are the low-cost victims of the Islamic republic’s execution machine,” Amiry-Moghaddam said.

“In order to stop this machine, the international community and civil society inside and outside Iran must show the same reaction to each and every execution,” he added.

In the report, the two rights groups urged the international community “to increase efforts to support the demands of the Iranian people for respect of their fundamental human rights and the abolition of the death penalty.”

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14/04/2023

## Iran executions up 75% as Tehran seeks to 'instill fear' in protesters, rights groups say

(CNN) — Iran executed at least 582 people last year, a 75% increase on the previous year, according to human rights groups who say the rise reflects an effort by Tehran to “instill fear” among anti-regime protesters.

It was the highest number of executions in the Islamic republic since 2015, according to a [report](#) released Thursday by the Norway-based Iran Human Rights (IHR) and the France-based Together Against the Death Penalty (ECPM) groups.

The vast majority of the executions – at least 544 – were of people accused of murder and drug-related offenses, said the report. It added that almost 90% of the executions it recorded were not announced by Iranian authorities and some had been carried out in secret.

The two rights groups said the increase was Tehran's way of trying to frighten protesters and prevent dissent, following a [nationwide uprising](#) sparked by the death of 22-year-old [Mahsa Amini](#) last September.

“Iran's authorities demonstrated how crucial the death penalty is to instill societal fear in order to hold onto power,” the report said.

Iranian authorities have responded to the protests with brute force, mass arrests and [hasty sham trials](#), drawing sharp global condemnation and [sanctions](#) from the United States.

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#### RELATED ARTICLE

Executions aren't new in Iran, but this time they're different

Two other Iranian young men – Mohammad Mehdi Karami, a karate champion; and Seyed Mohammad Hosseini, a volunteer children's coach – were hanged on January 7 this year in connection with the protests, according to Iran's judiciary news agency Mizan. They were convicted of killing a member of the Basij paramilitary force in Karaj on November 3, Mizan reported. The human rights report said they were charged with "corruption on Earth."

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But United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Chief Volker Turk has criticized the crackdown as pushing Iran into a "full-fledged human rights crisis."

## An 'execution machine'

More than half of the executions last year took place after the protests erupted in September. Some 44% of all those sentenced to death were accused of drug-related offenses, despite no evidence of a marked rise in drug use or trafficking reported by international agencies, the report said.

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Iran's regime is trying to execute its way out of trouble

"To compensate, and in order to spread fear among people, the authorities have intensified executions for non-political charges. These are the low-cost victims of the Islamic republic's execution machine," Amiry-Moghaddam said.

"In order to stop this machine, the international community and civil society inside and outside Iran must show the same reaction to each and every execution," he added.

In the report, the two rights groups urged the international community "to increase efforts to support the demands of the Iranian people for respect of their fundamental human rights and the abolition of the death penalty."



## Two Rights Groups: Iran Executions Surge in Bid to 'Spread Fear'

Friday, 14 April, 2023 - 05:45



IHR director Mahmood Amiry Moghaddam and ECPM director Raphael Chenuil-Hazan speak during a press conference held Thursday (Iran Human Rights)

Two rights groups revealed on Thursday that Iran is using death penalty as an “execution machine” aimed at spreading fear as protests shook the country in 2022.

According to Norway-based Iran Human Rights (IHR) and France's Together Against the Death Penalty (ECPM), Iran hanged 75 percent more people in 2022 than the previous years and it executed at least 582 people last year, the highest figure since 2015.

In a joint report published Thursday, the two organizations said that the death penalty was used “once again as an essential tool of intimidation and repression by the Iranian regime in order to maintain the stability of its power.”

HR director Mahmood Amiry Moghaddam said, “In order to spread fear among the demonstrating population and youth, the authorities have intensified executions of prisoners sentenced for non-political reasons.”

He noted that in order to stop the killing machine used by the Iranian regime, the international community and civil society must actively show their opposition whenever someone is executed in the country.

Amiry Moghaddam said that while the international reaction was keeping protest-related executions in check, Iran was pressing ahead with executions on other charges to deter people from protesting.

Last year was marked by the eruption in September of nationwide protests sparked by the death of Mahsa Amini, a 22-year-old ethnic Kurd who had been arrested for allegedly violating the strict dress rules for women.

The authorities responded with a crackdown that saw four men hanged in protest-related cases, executions that prompted an international outcry.

The report said that after the four men were executed on protest-related charges, 100 more protesters risk execution after being sentenced to death or charged with capital offences.

The figure of at least 582 executions was the highest for Iran since 2015 and exceeding even 2015 when, according to the rights groups, 972 people were put to death in Iran.

“We fear the number of executions will dramatically increase in 2023 if the international community does not react more,” Amiry Moghaddam told AFP.

“Every execution in Iran is political, regardless of the charges,” he added, describing those executed on drug or murder charges as the “low cost victims” of Iran's “killing machine.”

Amiry Moghaddam also said that with over 150 executions in the first three months of this year alone, the overall total for 2023 risked being the highest in some two decades, exceeding even 2015.

The report confirmed that hundreds of detainees are currently sentenced to death or are being tried on charges that carry the death penalty.

A fall in the number of drug-related executions -- driven by 2017 amendments to the anti-narcotics law -- had been behind a drop in the overall number of executions in Iran up to 2021.

More than half of those executed after the start of the protests, and 44 percent of the 582 executions recorded in 2022, were on drug-related charges.

This was more than double the number in 2021, and 10 times higher than the number of drug-related executions in 2020, it said.

The rights groups lamented what they said was a lack of reaction from the United Nations Office for Drugs and Crimes (UNODC) and its donor states to this "dramatic surge".

Meanwhile, ECPM director Raphael Chenuil-Hazan said that "lack of reaction by the UNODC and donor countries to the reversal of these reforms (of 2017) sends the wrong signal to the Iranian authorities."

The report said members of the mainly Sunni Muslim Baluch minority accounted for 30 percent of executions nationwide, even though they account for just two to six percent of Iran's population.

The numbers of ethnic Kurds and Arabs executed were also disproportionate, especially for drug crimes, the report said.

“The death penalty is part of the systematic discrimination and extensive repression ethnic minorities of Iran are subjected to,” it said.

The most executions -- 288, or 49 percent -- were for murder, the highest in more than 15 years.

Two people, including protester Majidreza Rahnavard, were hanged in public, the report said. At least three juvenile offenders were among those executed while at least 16 women were hanged.

Iran's penal code allows execution by methods that include firing squad, stoning and even crucifixion but in recent years all executions have been carried out by hanging.

Chenuil-Hazan said Iran executes more people annually than any nation other than China -- for which no accurate data is available -- and more in proportion to its population than any nation in the world.

“Iran has always used the death penalty since 1979 (the Islamic revolution) in a systematic and significant way,” he said.

Tehran has rejected a report by Javaid Rehman, the council's rapporteur on Iran. It bans Rehman from visiting the country.

At a meeting of the UN Human Rights Council last month, Ali Bahraini, Iran's permanent ambassador to the United Nations Office in Geneva, slammed false reports prepared on the human rights situation in Iran, including by Rehman.

The Iranian ambassador said Rehman's allegations were imaginary and Iran was being singled out and targeted in the council.

“They try to portray their imaginations as the reality of the situation in Iran,” he said.

# Iran executions surged in 2022 to 'spread fear' - report



EPA

A man protests in Lisbon against Iran's execution in December of two men over the anti-government protests

By David Gritten  
BBC News

**Executions in Iran rose by 75% in 2022, with at least 582 people put to death as authorities sought to "spread fear" among protesters, campaign groups say.**

The figure was the highest since 2015, according to Norway-based Iran Human Rights (IHR) and France's Together Against the Death Penalty (ECPM).

Their report is based both on official announcements and sources inside Iran.

Most of those executed were convicted of murder or drug charges, but two protesters were hanged in December.

Mohsen Shekari, 22, and Majidreza Rahnavard, 23, were found guilty of the vague national security charge of "enmity against God" following what the report said were "show trials" based on confessions obtained through torture.

Another two protesters were executed at the start of this year, while dozens have reportedly been sentenced to death or charged with capital offences.

The protests swept across the Islamic Republic following the death in custody of Mahsa Amini, a 22-year-old Kurdish woman who was detained by morality police in Tehran in September for allegedly wearing her hijab "improperly".

**IHR and ECPM's annual report on the death penalty in Iran** says only 71 of the executions they recorded last year were announced by official sources.

The rest were "unannounced" or "secret" executions that were reported by sources including eyewitnesses, family members, lawyers and people working for prisons or the judiciary, it adds.

According to the report, 288 (49%) of those put to death were convicted of murder, which was the highest number in 15 years. They included 13 women and three people who allegedly committed crimes when they were children.

Another 256 people (44%), including three women, were executed after being convicted of drug-related charges, up from 126 in 2021 and 10 times higher than the figure for 2020.

The report warns that the significant reduction in the number of drug-related executions that came as a result of a 2017 amendment to the Anti-Narcotics Law "has now been completely reversed in practice" and laments the "lack of reaction" from the United Nations.

The report also draws what it calls an "insidious link" between surges in executions and anti-government unrest, with one coinciding with the start of protests by teachers in May and another beginning a month after the death of Mahsa Amini.

"The international reactions to the death sentences against protesters have made it difficult for the Islamic Republic to proceed with their executions," says Mahmood Amiry-Moghaddam, IHR's director.

"To compensate, and in order to spread fear among people, the authorities have intensified the execution for non-political charges. These are the low-cost victims of the Islamic Republic's execution machine."



Iran hanged 75 percent more people in 2022 than the previous year, two rights groups said on Thursday, warning this "killing machine" risked putting even more people to death this year after protests rocked the country.

The figure of at least 582 executions was the highest for Iran since 2015 and well above the figure of 333 for 2021, the report by Norway-based Iran Human Rights (IHR) and Paris-based Together Against the Death Penalty (ECPM) said.

Last year was marked by the eruption of nationwide protests sparked by the death in September of Mahsa Amini, a 22-year-old ethnic Kurd who had been arrested for allegedly violating the strict dress rules for women.

The authorities responded with a crackdown that saw four men hanged in protest-related cases, executions that prompted an international outcry.

IHR director Mahmood Amiry Moghaddam said that while the international reaction was keeping protest-related executions in check, Iran was pressing ahead with executions on other charges to deter people from protesting.

"We fear the number of executions will dramatically increase in 2023 if the international community does not react more," he told AFP.

"Every execution in Iran is political, regardless of the charges," he added, describing those executed on drug or murder charges as the "low cost victims" of Iran's "killing machine".

He said that with over 150 executions in the first three months of this year alone, the overall total for 2023 risked being the highest in some two decades, exceeding even 2015 when, according to IHR, 972 people were put to death in Iran.

The report said that after the four men were executed on protest-related charges, 100 more protesters risk execution after being sentenced to death or charged with capital offences.

It expressed alarm over a sharp rise in the number of drug-related executions after the protests erupted.

A fall in the number of drug-related executions -- driven by 2017 amendments to the anti-narcotics law -- had been behind a drop in the overall number of executions in Iran up to 2021. More than half of those executed after the start of the protests, and 44 percent of the 582 executions recorded in 2022, were on drug-related charges.

This was more than double the number in 2021, and 10 times higher than the number of drug-related executions in 2020, it said.

The rights groups lamented what they said was a lack of reaction from the United Nations Office for Drugs and Crimes (UNODC) and its donor states to this "dramatic surge".

"Lack of reaction by the UNODC and donor countries to the reversal of these reforms (of 2017) sends the wrong signal to the Iranian authorities," ECPM director Raphael Chenuil-Hazan said.

The report said members of the mainly Sunni Muslim Baluch minority accounted for 30 percent of executions nationwide, even though they account for just two to six percent of Iran's population.

The numbers of ethnic Kurds and Arabs executed were also disproportionate, especially for drug crimes, the report said.

"The death penalty is part of the systematic discrimination and extensive repression ethnic minorities of Iran are subjected to," it said.

The most executions -- 288, or 49 percent -- were for murder, the highest in more than 15 years.

Two people, including protester Majidreza Rahnavard, were hanged in public, the report said. At least three juvenile offenders were among those executed while at least 16 women were hanged.

Iran's penal code allows execution by methods that include firing squad, stoning and even crucifixion but in recent years all executions have been carried out by hanging.

Chenuil-Hazan said Iran executes more people annually than any nation other than China -- for which no accurate data is available -- and more in proportion to its population than any nation in the world.

"Iran has always used the death penalty since 1979 (the Islamic revolution) in a systematic and significant way," he said.



# 'Killing machine' Iran snuffed out life of 582 people in 2022; over 150 executed so far this year

Iran's penal code allows execution by methods that include firing squad, stoning and even crucifixion, but all executions in the recent years have been carried out by hanging

**Tehran:** Iran has become a "killing machine" as the country has hanged 582 people in last year, 75 per cent higher than 2021, Iran Human Rights (IHR) and Paris-based Together Against the Death Penalty (ECPM) documented.

The latest figures of execution by Iranian authorities have been higher since 2015 and well above the figure of 333 for 2021.

According to IHR, 972 people were put to death in Iran in 2015.

In the first three months (January, February and March) of 2023 alone, more than 150 people have been executed.

IHR director Mahmood Amiry Moghaddam told *AFP*, with the alarming number of executions in mere three months, raises concerns that the overall total for 2023 could be the highest in some two decades.

Iranian authorities have aimed to "instil fear" by hanging its population, the reports said.

Iran has been witnessing large scale anti-government protests since September 2022, following the death of 22-year-old Kurdish woman Mahsa Amini, who was arrested for allegedly violating the country's strict dress code.

In a crackdown to protests, the authorities hanged four men which prompted an international outcry. Also, 100 other protesters risk execution after being sentenced to death or charged with capital offences in the country.

Moghaddam saying though the international reaction was keeping protest-related executions in check, Iran did not stop and instead continued with executions on other charges to instil fear among people, stopping them from protesting.

"We fear the number of executions will dramatically increase in 2023 if the international community does not react more," Mahmood said.

"Every execution in Iran is political, regardless of the charges," he added, describing those executed on drug or murder charges as the "low cost victims" of Iran's "killing machine".

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*With inputs from AFP*

## NEWS

## "Execution Machine:" Iran Hanged 75 Percent more People in 2022

Iran executed at least 582 people in 2022, 75 percent more people than the previous year, two rights groups say, denouncing an "execution machine" aimed to "spread fear among people" as anti-government protests swept the country.

Last year's number of executions was the highest since 2015 and well above the figure of 333 recorded in 2021, the Norway-based Iran Human Rights (IHR) and France's Together Against the Death Penalty (ECPM) said in their ["Annual Report of the Death Penalty in Iran 2022."](#)

Iran has been swept by anti-government protests sparked by the September 2022 death of a 22-year-old woman, Mahsa Amini, who had been detained for allegedly wearing her headscarf improperly.

The authorities responded to the women-led protest movement with a fierce crackdown in which 520 people were killed and over 20,000 were unlawfully detained. After biased trials, the judiciary has handed down stiff sentences, including the death penalty, to protesters. At least four young men were hanged in protest-related cases, prompting an international outcry.

IHR director Mahmood Amiry Moghaddam said that while the international reaction was keeping protest-related executions in check, the Islamic Republic was pressing ahead with executions on other charges to intimidate the population.

"...in order to spread fear among people, the authorities have intensified the execution for non-political charges. These are the low-cost victims of the Islamic Republic's execution machine," he added.

According to the report, 100 protesters still risked execution after being sentenced to death or facing charges that carry the death penalty.

The report expressed alarm over a sharp rise in the number of drug-related executions following the eruption of the nationwide protests.

Iran's 2017 amendments to the anti-narcotics law led to a fall in the number of drug-related executions and in the overall number of executions up to 2021.

More than half of those executed after the start of the protests demanding fundamental economic, social and political changes, and 44 percent of the 582 executions recorded in 2022, had been sentenced to death for drug-related charges.

That's more than double the number in 2021 and 10 times higher than the number of drug-related executions recorded the previous year.

ECPM director Raphael Chenuil-Hazan said that "lack of reaction" from the United Nations Office for Drugs and Crimes (UNODC) and its donor states to this surge "sends the wrong signal to the Iranian authorities."

According to the report, the death penalty is "part of the systematic discrimination and extensive repression ethnic minorities of Iran are subjected to."

Members of the mainly Sunni Baluch minority accounted for nearly one-third of all executions across the country, while only representing up to 6 percent of Iran's population.

The numbers of ethnic Kurds and Arabs executed were also disproportionate, especially for drug crimes.

Almost half of all executions -- 288 -- were for murder charges, the highest in more than 15 years, the report said.

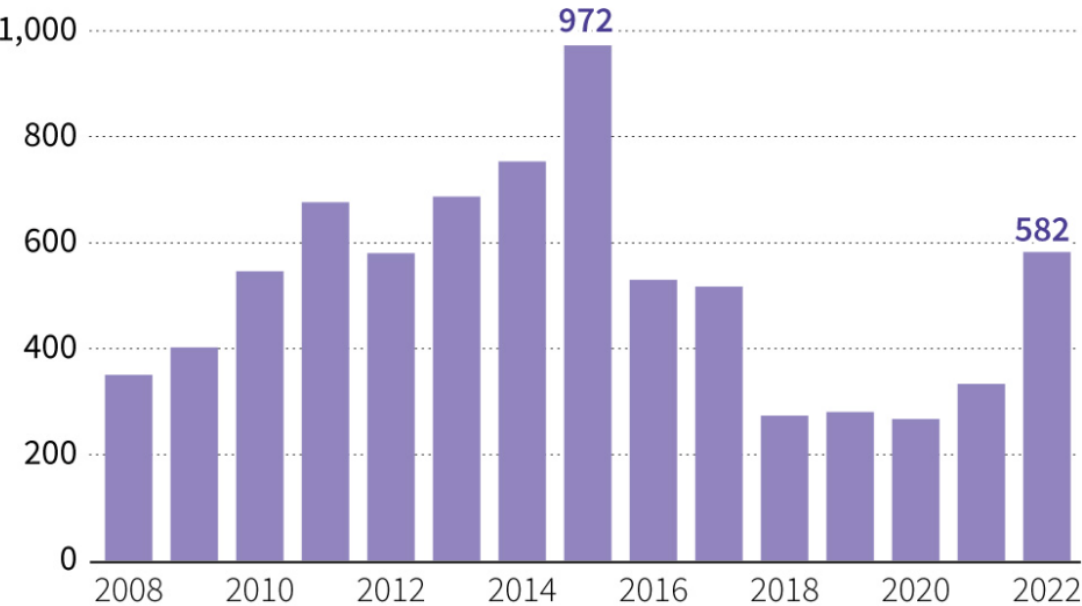
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FROM AFP NEWS

# Executions In Iran

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Number of people executed per year



Source: Iran Human Rights, Together Against the Death Penalty



Executions in Iran  
JONATHAN WALTER

Text size

582

972

Source: Iran Human Rights, Together Against the Death Penalty

Executions in Iran

## Iran's 'killing machine:' Executions surge by 75% in 2022

**'We fear the number of executions will dramatically increase in 2023 if the international community does not react more'**

Iran hanged 75 percent more people in 2022 than the previous year, two rights groups said Thursday, warning this "killing machine" risked putting even more people to death this year after protests rocked the country.

The figure of at least 582 executions was the highest for the Islamic Republic since 2015 and well above the figure of 333 for 2021, Iran Human Rights (IHR) and Together Against the Death Penalty said in their report.

Last year was marked by the eruption of nationwide anti-regime protests sparked by the death in September of Mahsa Amini, a 22-year-old ethnic Kurd who was arrested for allegedly violating the strict dress rules for women. Authorities responded with a crackdown that saw four men hanged in protest-related cases – executions that prompted an [international outcry](#).

IHR director Mahmood Amiry Moghaddam said that while the international reaction was keeping protest-related executions in check, Iran was pressing ahead with executions on other charges to [deter people from protesting](#).

"We fear the number of executions will dramatically increase in 2023 if the international community does not react more," Moghaddam told *AFP*. "Every execution in Iran is political, regardless of the charges," he added, describing those executed on drug or murder charges as the "low-cost victims" of [Iran's "killing machine."](#)

He said that with over 150 executions in the first three months of this year alone, the overall total for 2023 risked being the highest in some two decades, exceeding even 2015 when, according to IHR, 972 people were put to death in Iran.

The report noted that members of the mainly Sunni Muslim Baluch minority accounted for 30 percent of [executions nationwide](#) – even though they account for just two to six percent of Iran's population – and that the numbers of ethnic Kurds and Arabs executed were also disproportionate.

# Executions in Iran surged 75% in 2022, rights groups say

► There were 582 executions last year while 151 have been killed so far in 2023

[Iran](#) executed almost 600 people last year in an attempt to spread fear, rights groups said on Thursday after months of [anti-regime protests](#).

Tehran executed at least 582 people last year — the highest number since 2015, according to the Norway-based Iran Human Rights and Paris-based Together Against the Death Penalty.

In 2021, Iran was second to China for the most number of executions.

It has executed several prominent figures in recent years, including top athletes, journalist Ruhollah Zam and former deputy defence minister Alireza Akbari, a British-Iranian national.

The surge came as Iran was rocked by nationwide protests following the death of [Mahsa Amini](#) in morality police custody, sparking public fury against Tehran and its hardline rule.

More than 500 people were killed in the ensuing crackdown by security forces.

It regularly executes people convicted of drug-related charges and moharebeh, or “enmity against God”, and often executes juvenile offenders.

Relatives say loved ones are often moved to solitary confinement without notifying the family of their imminent execution and that the authorities bury prisoners without family members being present.

Tehran has sentenced at least a dozen people to death this year, according to Amnesty International, which warned of a “chilling execution spree” last month.

Authorities use the death penalty to repress ethnic minorities, the rights group said, executing at least one Arab, 14 Kurds and 13 Balochis after “grossly unfair trials”.

At least 94 people were killed in January and February this year, according to findings from Amnesty and the Abdorrahman Boroumand Centre.

"It is harrowing that executions routinely occur amid the systematic use of torture-tainted 'confessions' to convict defendants," said Amnesty's Diana Eltahawy.

[Pope Francis](#) has spoken out against the executions.

"The death penalty cannot be employed for a purported state justice, since it does not constitute a deterrent nor render justice to victims, but only fuels the thirst for vengeance," he said in January.

Two women are among the 151 executed so far this year, according to Iran Human Rights.

Four people have been executed over the recent protests, described by the UN as "state-sanctioned killing".

[Mohsen Shekari](#), 23, was the first to be executed in December, a week after four people were put to death for allegedly co-operating with Israeli intelligence.

Dozens of others are on death row for joining the demonstrations, which Tehran has blamed on foreign powers, particularly the US and Israel.

All were found guilty of moharebeh after speedy trials — in some cases those accused were given [only 15 minutes](#) to defend themselves.

Western powers issued new sanctions over the executions, targeting members of Iran's judiciary and senior Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps officials.

Authorities said the men had killed members of the security forces, but rights groups and activists denounced the trials as "sham hearings" with little evidence.

The family of Jamshid Sharmahd, a US resident on death row in Iran, told *The National* that US President Joe Biden has failed him.

Mr Sharmahd, an outspoken critic of the regime, was abducted in 2020 and taken to Iran, where authorities accused him of involvement in a 2008 mosque bombing.

He denies the charges.





13/04/2023

## **Executions in Iran surged by 75% in 2022: Rights groups**

582 executions were documented in 2022, in comparison to 333 in 2021

Mohammed Hamood Ali Al Ragawi | 13.04.2023 - Update : 13.04.2023

### **ISTANBUL**

Iran-focused rights groups on Thursday said that executions in Iran surged by 75% in 2022.

The Norway-based Iran Human Rights (IHR) and Paris-based Together Against the Death Penalty said in a report that 582 executions were documented in 2022, the highest in Iran since 2015, in comparison to 333 carried out in 2021.

"Once again (the death penalty has been) used as an ultimate tool of intimidation and oppression by the Iranian regime in order to maintain the stability of its power," said the NGOs in their joint statement.

"In order to instill fear among the population and young protesters, authorities have intensified the executions of prisoners sentenced for reasons other than political ones," added IHR Director Mahmood Amiry Moghaddam.

Iran witnessed several death penalty sentences for people accused of joining mass protests across Iran following the death of 22-year-old Iranian woman Mahsa Amini in September last year while in police custody after she was detained in Tehran for violating the mandatory hijab norms.

Western countries subsequently imposed a slew of sanctions on Iranian officials and entities, accusing them of repression against protesters. Iranian officials, in turn, blamed the US and its European allies for "instigating rioters."

## IHR, ECPM Organizations: Death sentences in Iran increased by 75% in 2022

Two human rights organizations reported that the number of death sentences in Iran increased by 75% last year, pointing out that the Iranian state authorities use the death penalty as a means of intimidation and repression.



Two human rights organizations stated that the number of death sentences carried out in Iran in 2022 increased by 75%, reaching at least 582 sentences, which is the largest number recorded in the Islamic Republic since 2015, after 333 sentences were carried out in 2021, the report by Norway-based Iran Human Rights (IHR) and Paris-based Together Against the Death Penalty (ECPM)



In a joint report published today, the two organizations said that the death penalty was used: "Once again, an essential tool of intimidation and repression by the Iranian regime in order to maintain the stability of its power."

"In order to spread fear among the demonstrating population and youth, the authorities have intensified executions of prisoners sentenced for non-political reasons," IHR director Mahmood Amiry Moghaddam said.

He added, "In order to stop the killing machine used by the Iranian regime, the international community and civil society must actively show their opposition whenever someone is executed in the country."

The report confirmed, according to Al-Hurra Network, that hundreds of detainees are currently sentenced to death or are being tried on charges that carry the death penalty.

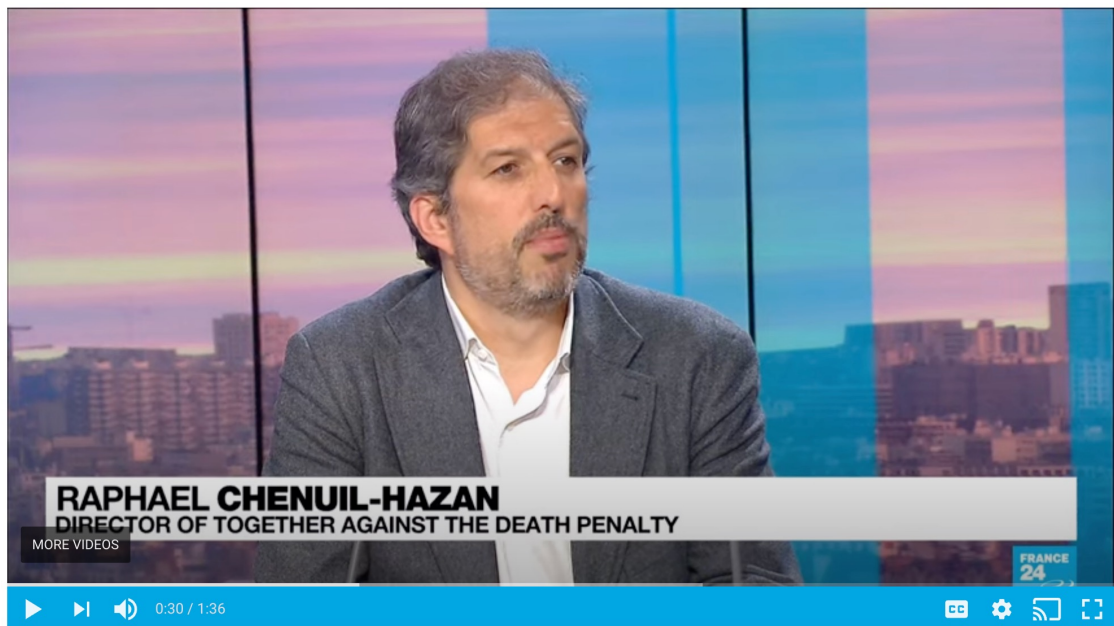
According to the report, the Baluchis, most of whom are Sunnis, are estimated at 30% of those executed, although they constitute only 2% to 6% of Iran's population. This disparity was also observed among the Kurdish and Arab components.

The report stated that the death penalty is: "a means of pressure and, on a larger scale, a tool of repression to manage social problems in the country," noting: "288 executions - constituting 49% of the total number - were justified by murder cases, the highest number since 15 years.

The report indicated that two people were executed by hanging in a public square. Three of those executed were minors, and 16 were women.

The killing of the young woman, Gina Amini, in mid-September 2022, sparked a great women's and popular uprising that spread throughout the world, and was met by the Iranian state authorities with repression, arrests, and violence, which sparked international condemnation.

## Iran crackdown: NGOs decry surge in executions



Iran hanged at least 582 people in 2022, a 75 percent rise in the number of executions over the previous year as protests shook the country, two rights groups said Thursday. It was the highest number since 2015 and well above the figure of 333 in 2021, the report by Norway-based Iran Human Rights (IHR) and Paris-based Together Against the Death Penalty (ECPM) said, denouncing a bid by Iran's leadership to "spread fear" among the population after protests erupted in September.

# Iran executed 582 people in 2022, rights groups say

Deutsche Welle | 13 Apr 2023, 21:52

Two rights groups said the number of those executed in 2022 was 75% higher than the toll from 2021. Last year saw the start of nationwide protests following the death of Jina Mahsa Amini.

Iranian authorities executed last year 582 individuals, human rights groups said, a 75% increase from the year 2021.

The Norway-based Iran Human Rights (IHR) and Paris-based Together Against the Death Penalty (ECPM) said in the Thursday report that four were hanged following taking part in the protests which ignited late last year.

Iran witnessed mass protests starting in September 2022 which were sparked by the death of 22-year-old ethnic Kurd Jina Mahsa Amini, who died while in police custody.

The two groups condemned what they described as an "execution machine."

In 2021, Iran executed 333 people. The groups said they had also counted 151 executions so far this year.

## Targeting non-protesters

Iran Human Rights Director Mahmood Amiry-Moghaddam said that the execution of the four protesters prompted strong international reactions, making it "difficult for the Islamic republic to proceed with their executions."

"To compensate, and in order to spread fear among people, the authorities have intensified the execution for non-political charges," Moghaddam said.

"Every execution in Iran is political, regardless of the charges," Moghaddam said, describing those sentenced to death on drugs or criminal charges as "low-cost victims" for the regime in Tehran, because their execution was less liable to draw wider condemnation.

As per the report, over half of those executed since the start of the protests were sentenced to death on drug-related charges. In 2022, 49% of the executions were over murder charges.

The groups also highlighted a lack of transparency with announcing the executions. They said that over 88% of all executions and 99% of drug-related ones were not officially announced by the authorities.

Iran met the September 2022 protests with brute force, prompting several Western sanctions and global condemnation.

HUMAN RIGHTS | IRAN

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04/13/2023

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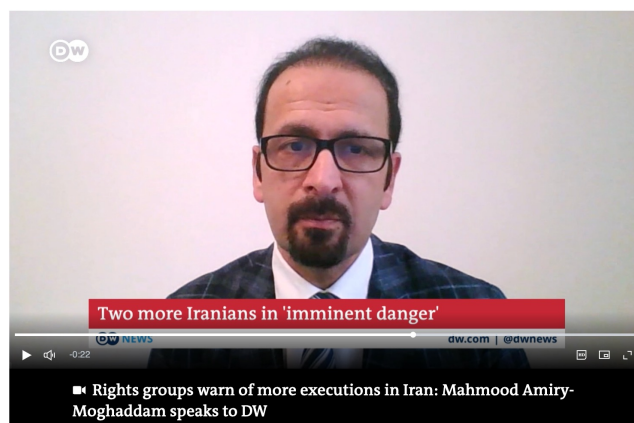
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## Iran executed more than 580 people in 2022, 75% more than the previous year, according to several NGOs

Story by Daniel Stewart • Yesterday 14:36

Iran's authorities executed 582 people by hanging in 2022, according to a report published by the non-governmental organizations Iran Human Rights (IHR) and Together Against the Death Penalty (ECPM), which have highlighted that the figure is the highest since 2015 and claimed that the Iranian government's goal is to "instill fear in order to cling to power."

The NGOs have indicated in the preface of the report that "due to a very difficult context, lack of transparency and the obvious risks and constraints faced by activists in Iran, the report does not give a complete picture about the use of the death penalty in Iran."

"There are reports of executions that are not included in this report due to insufficient details or the inability to confirm cases through two different sources," they explained, before stressing that it also does not include the 537 protesters killed during the protests following the death of Mahsa Amini and "suspicious deaths in custody" or "those killed by torture."

In this regard, they recalled that to date four people have been executed for their role in the protests, which erupted in September following the death in custody of Amini, a young Kurdish-Iranian woman arrested in the capital, Tehran, for allegedly wearing the veil incorrectly.

More than 100 protesters face charges carrying the death penalty and at least 20 have been sentenced to death in first-instance trials," they said, before noting that "strong international criticism" has "spared" some of those convicted for now.

However, they explained that "the authorities intensified the execution of prisoners on non-political charges, with at least 127 executed in November-December 2022". These include 67 sentenced for drug offenses and 53 on murder charges.

IHR Director Mahmud Amiri-Moqadam said that "international reactions to the death sentences against protesters made it difficult for the Islamic Republic to carry out the executions. To compensate and spread fear among the people, the authorities intensified executions on non-political charges," he lamented.

"These are the low-cost victims of the Islamic Republic's execution machine. To stop this machine, the international community and civil society inside and outside Iran must show the same reaction to each and every execution," he stressed.



In this line, the aforementioned NGOs have detailed that more than half of those executed since the beginning of the protests and 236 of the total -- representing 44 percent -- had been convicted of drug offenses, which is more than twice as many as in 2021 and ten times more than in 2020.

The report further notes that only 71 of the executions (12 percent) were announced by official sources, down from 16.5 percent in 2021 and the average of 33 percent between 2018 and 2020, while the 288 ajusticiamientos for murder is the highest figure in more than 15 years.

On the other hand, they have indicated that 23 people were executed on rape charges, while 15 were executed on security-related charges, including two participants in the protests. In addition, two people, including one convicted of acts during the demonstrations, were hanged in public spaces.

**EXECUTIONS OF MINORITY MEMBERS** The NGOs further stated that "executions of members of ethnic minorities also continued to rise in 2022" and specified that "data collected shows that Baloch prisoners account for 30 percent of all those executed in the country, despite representing only two to six percent of Iran's population".

"According to the report, 130 people were executed in the ethnic provinces of West Azerbaijan, East Azerbaijan, Sistan and Balochistan and Kurdistan, which is more than double the figure in 2021 (62) and in 2020 (60)," they said, before adding that "over the past ten years, most of the prisoners executed on security-related charges were Arabs, Baloch and Kurds."

"Ethnic minorities are among the socio-economically marginalized groups in Iran. The death penalty is part of the systematic discrimination and extensive repression to which ethnic minorities are subjected in Iran," they denounced.

On the other hand, they pointed out that in 2022, 288 people were executed for murder and indicated that among them were three minors. Most of those executed on murder charges were not accused of premeditated murder," said Amiri-Moqadam.

A change in legislation to distinguish between premeditated murder and manslaughter could significantly limit the use of the death penalty in Iran, but as with the Anti-Drug Law, changes need sustained international pressure," argued the IHR director.

Finally, the report notes that "coerced confessions obtained under torture, denial of access to lawyers, due process and fair trials, and a judicial apparatus that functions as a repressive organ of government without separation of powers and judicial independence are key obstacles to the abolition of the death penalty in Iran.

More than 44 years after its establishment, the revolutionary courts are still responsible for a large number of death sentences handed down in Iran," say the NGOs, who also note that "at the same time, calls for accountability and justice have increased in Iran and have gained the support of the international community".

Source: (EUROPA PRESS)

## Iran Executions Reach Highest Level Since 2015, Rights Monitors Say



A photo obtained from the Iranian Mizan news agency on December 12 shows the public execution of Majidreza Rahnavard in Iran's Mashhad city, the second capital punishment linked to nearly three months of protests.

Iran saw a “dramatic surge” in executions in 2022, human rights groups reported on April 13. Tehran executed at least 582 people last year, the highest figure since 2015, according to a report by the Norway-based Iran Human Rights (IHR) and France’s Together Against The Death Penalty. IHR’s director said international condemnation was restraining Tehran but added that Iran continues using executions to intimidate the public amid a major surge in anti-government protests since the death in custody of a young woman last September. *To read the original story by AFP, [click here](#).*

# Iran executions surge 75 percent in 2022: Human rights group

Iran hanged at least 582 people in 2022, a 75 percent rise in the number of executions over the previous year as protests shook the country, two rights groups said Thursday.

It was the highest number since 2015 and well above the figure of 333 in 2021, the report by Norway-based Iran Human Rights (IHR) and Paris-based Together Against the Death Penalty (ECPM) said.

The report denounced a bid by Iran's leadership to "spread fear" among the population after protests erupted in September.



## Iran executions surged in 2022 to 'spread fear' - report

*Their report is based both on official announcements and sources inside Iran.*

Executions in Iran rose by 75% in 2022, with at least 582 people put to death as authorities sought to "spread fear" among protesters, campaign groups say.

The figure was the highest since 2015, according to Norway-based Iran Human Rights (IHR) and France's Together Against the Death Penalty (ECPM).

Their report is based both on official announcements and sources inside Iran.

Most of those executed were convicted of murder or drug charges, but two protesters were hanged in December.

Mohsen Shekari, 22, and Majidreza Rahnavard, 23, were found guilty of the vague national security charge of "enmity against God" following what the report said were "show trials" based on confessions obtained through torture.

Another two protesters were executed at the start of this year, while dozens have reportedly been sentenced to death or charged with capital offences.

The protests swept across the Islamic Republic following the death in custody of Mahsa Amini, a 22-year-old Kurdish woman who was detained by morality police in Tehran in September for allegedly wearing her hijab "improperly".

IHR and ECPM's annual report on the death penalty in Iran says only 71 of the executions they recorded last year were announced by official sources.

The rest were "unannounced" or "secret" executions that were reported by sources including eyewitnesses, family members, lawyers and people working for prisons or the judiciary, it adds.

According to the report, 288 (49%) of those put to death were convicted of murder, which was the highest number in 15 years. They included 13 women and three people who allegedly committed crimes when they were children.

Another 256 people (44%), including three women, were executed after being convicted of drug-related charges, up from 126 in 2021 and 10 times higher than the figure for 2020.

The report warns that the significant reduction in the number of drug-related executions that came as a result of a 2017 amendment to the Anti-Narcotics Law "has now been completely reversed in practice" and laments the "lack of reaction" from the United Nations.

The report also draws what it calls an "insidious link" between surges in executions and anti-government unrest, with one coinciding with the start of protests by teachers in May and another beginning a month after the death of Mahsa Amini.

"The international reactions to the death sentences against protesters have made it difficult for the Islamic Republic to proceed with their executions," says Mahmood Amiry-Moghaddam, IHR's director.

"To compensate, and in order to spread fear among people, the authorities have intensified the execution for non-political charges. These are the low-cost victims of the Islamic Republic's execution machine."

AFP

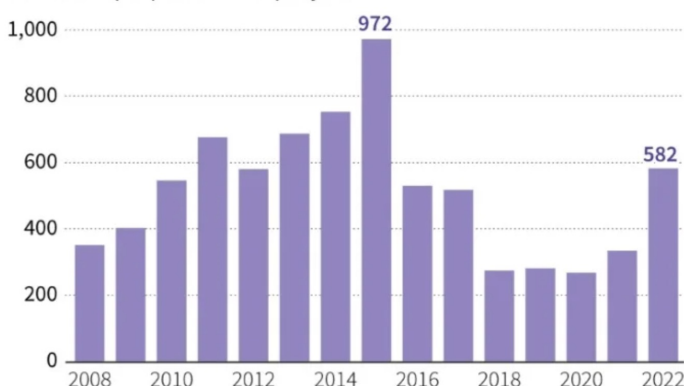
## Iran executions surge in bid to 'spread fear': rights groups

Stuart Williams

Thu, April 13, 2023 at 1:50 PM GMT+2 · 3 min read

### Executions in Iran

Number of people executed per year



Source: Iran Human Rights, Together Against the Death Penalty

AFP

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Last year was marked by the eruption of nationwide protests sparked by the death in September of Mahsa Amini, a 22-year-old ethnic Kurd who had been arrested for allegedly violating the strict dress rules for women.

The authorities responded with a crackdown that saw four men hanged in protest-related cases, executions that prompted an international outcry.

IHR director Mahmood Amiry Moghaddam said that while the international reaction was keeping protest-related executions in check, Iran was pressing ahead with executions on other charges to deter people from protesting.

"We fear the number of executions will dramatically increase in 2023 if the international community does not react more," he told AFP.

"Every execution in Iran is political, regardless of the charges," he added, describing those executed on drug or murder charges as the "low cost victims" of Iran's "killing machine".

He said that with over 150 executions in the first three months of this year alone, the overall total for 2023 risked being the highest in some two decades, exceeding even 2015 when, according to IHR, 972 people were put to death in Iran.

- 'Dramatic surge' -

The report said that after the four men were executed on protest-related charges, 100 more protesters risk execution after being sentenced to death or charged with capital offences.

It expressed alarm over a sharp rise in the number of drug-related executions after the protests erupted.

A fall in the number of drug-related executions -- driven by 2017 amendments to the anti-narcotics law -- had been behind a drop in the overall number of executions in Iran up to 2021.

More than half of those executed after the start of the protests, and 44 percent of the 582 executions recorded in 2022, were on drug-related charges.

This was more than double the number in 2021, and 10 times higher than the number of drug-related executions in 2020, it said.

The rights groups lamented what they said was a lack of reaction from the United Nations Office for Drugs and Crimes (UNODC) and its donor states to this "dramatic surge".

"Lack of reaction by the UNODC and donor countries to the reversal of these reforms (of 2017) sends the wrong signal to the Iranian authorities," ECPM director Raphael Chenuil-Hazan said.

The report said members of the mainly Sunni Muslim Baluch minority accounted for 30 percent of executions nationwide, even though they account for just two to six percent of Iran's population.

The numbers of ethnic Kurds and Arabs executed were also disproportionate, especially for drug crimes, the report said.

"The death penalty is part of the systematic discrimination and extensive repression ethnic minorities of Iran are subjected to," it said.

The most executions -- 288, or 49 percent -- were for murder, the highest in more than 15 years.

Two people, including protester Majidreza Rahnavard, were hanged in public, the report said. At least three juvenile offenders were among those executed while at least 16 women were hanged.

Iran's penal code allows execution by methods that include firing squad, stoning and even crucifixion but in recent years all executions have been carried out by hanging.

Chenuil-Hazan said Iran executes more people annually than any nation other than China -- for which no accurate data is available -- and more in proportion to its population than any nation in the world.

"Iran has always used the death penalty since 1979 (the Islamic revolution) in a systematic and significant way," he said.

## Executions surge in Iran in bid to "spread fear," rights groups say

Iran hanged 75% more people in 2022 than the previous year, two rights groups said on Thursday, warning the country's "killing machine" might be putting even more people to death this year following protests that rocked the country.

The figure of at least 582 executions was the highest for Iran since 2015, and well above the figure of 333 for 2021, a report by Norway-based Iran Human Rights (IHR) and Paris-based Together Against the Death Penalty (ECPM) said.

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Moghaddam said that with over 150 executions in the first three months of this year alone, the overall total for 2023 risks being the highest in some two decades, exceeding even 2015 when, according to IHR, 972 people were put to death in Iran.

The report cited a "60 Minutes" interview with Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi on September 18, 2022, in which he referred to protesters as "disrupters of security" and said their prosecution and punishments would continue.

The report said that after four men were executed on protest-related charges, 100 more protesters were facing execution after being sentenced to death or charged with capital offenses.

The report expressed alarm over a sharp rise in the number of drug-related executions after the protests erupted.

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"Lack of reaction by the UNODC and donor countries to the reversal of these reforms (of 2017) sends the wrong signal to the Iranian authorities," ECPM director Raphael Chenuil-Hazan said.



# Surge in Iran executions aims to 'spread fear', rights groups say

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The figure of at least 582 executions was the highest since 2015 in [Iran](#) and well above the figure of 333 in 2021, the report by Norway-based Iran Human Rights (IHR) and Paris-based Together Against the Death Penalty (ECPM) said.

Last year was marked by the eruption in September of nationwide protests sparked by the death of [Mahsa Amini](#), a 22-year-old ethnic Kurd who had been arrested for allegedly violating the strict dress rules for women.

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IHR director Mahmood Amiry Moghaddam said that while the international reaction was keeping protest-related executions in check, Iran was pressing ahead with executions on other charges to intimidate the general population.

"The international reactions to the death sentences against protesters have made it difficult for the Islamic Republic to proceed with their executions," he said.

"To compensate, and in order to spread fear among people, the authorities have intensified the execution for non-political charges. These are the low-cost victims of the Islamic Republic's execution machine," he added.

The report said that after the four men were executed on charges related to the protests, one hundred more protesters still risked execution after being sentenced to death or facing charges that carry the death penalty.

## **'Dramatic surge'**

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## Since Iran's 1979 Islamic Revolution, 'death penalty used as political tool to keep regime in power'



Iran hanged 75 percent more people in 2022 than the previous years, two rights groups said on Thursday, denouncing an "execution machine" aimed at spreading fear as protests shook the country. The figure of at least 582 executions was the highest since 2015 in Iran and well above the figure of 333 in 2021, the report by Norway-based Iran Human Rights (IHR) and Paris-based Together Against the Death Penalty (ECPM) said. For more, FRANCE 24's Tom Burges Watson is joined by Raphaël Chenuil-Hazan, ECPM's Executive Director and President of the French Platform for Human Rights (PDH).



13/04/2023

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# Rights Groups Say Executions in Iran Reach Highest Level Since 2015

Two human rights groups said in a report issued Thursday that Iran executed at least 582 prisoners last year, the country's highest level since 2015.

Norway-based Iran Human Rights and Paris-based Together Against the Death Penalty said the number of executions had risen 75% compared to the previous year.

The groups said in their report that Iran uses the death penalty as a way to intimidate and oppress people in order to maintain power.

The report said about half of the executions were for murder charges.

Citing the protests that began in September following the death in police custody of Mahsa Amini, the groups said four protesters have been executed and that 100 others "remain at risk of death penalty charges, sentences and execution."



## Rights groups report Iran executed over 500 people in 2022

Patrick Slater | Vermont Law School, US

APRIL 13, 2023 08:17:40 PM



Human rights groups Iran Human Rights (IHR) and Together Against the Death Penalty (ECPM) Thursday **released** a report showing a dramatic increase in the total number of executions in Iran for 2022. The report claims that 582 people were executed in Iran- the highest number of executions since 2015.

The report highlights how the number of executions only includes those of prisoners condemned to the death penalty and that the total number of government killings could be higher. The report condemned the killings, stating, "The situation in [Iran] thus remains worrying, with the death penalty once again being used as a final tool of intimidation and oppression by the Iranian regime in order to maintain the stability of its power." The report also highlighted how many of those executed belonged to ethnic minority groups in Iran.

Of the executions, the report claims over 80 percent were not announced by the authorities, about 50 percent were related to murder convictions, and another 40 percent were related to drug convictions. Of the executions officially reported, 3 were reportedly juvenile offenders, 16 were women, and 15 were protestors. The report also highlighted the mass arrests and executions of protestors who participated in the massive **uprisings** against the 2022 **killing** of Mahsa Amini. The report claims that over 500 people have been killed in connection to the protests, with many more at risk of execution for their involvement.

The report also focused on how the total amount of executions in 2022 increased by 75 percent from 2021. The dramatic increase could be largely attributed to the rise in arrests and persecution of those convicted of drug charges.

The report concluded by listing various recommendations which should be taken into account by international authorities to ensure that executions in Iran cease. Among them were urges to prioritize Iran's human rights record and policies during international negotiations and encourage Iran to ratify the International Convention Against Torture.



## Iran's 'execution machine' amid anti-hijab protests? 75% spike in hangings

Iran Anti-Hijab Protests: More than half of the executions were after the start of the protests, the report noted.



Iran Anti-Hijab Protests: A woman holds a placard with a picture of Iranian woman Mahsa Amini during a protest against her death.(AP)

Iran executed 75 per cent more people in 2022 than the previous years, two rights groups said, denouncing an "execution machine" aimed at spreading fear amid massive protests that shook the country last year. At least 582 executions took place in Iran, well above the figure of 333 in 2021, Norway-based Iran Human Rights (IHR) and Paris-based Together Against the Death Penalty (ECPM) said.

Massive protests erupted in Iran following the death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini who died in police custody after she was arrested for allegedly violating the strict dress rules for women- not wearing her hijab properly. The protests faced crackdown that saw four men hanged in cases and executions which prompted an international outcry.

IHR director Mahmood Amiry Moghaddam said that the international reaction has kept protest-related executions in check but Iran is still using executions on other charges to intimidate protestors.

"The international reactions to the death sentences against protesters have made it difficult for the Islamic Republic to proceed with their executions. To compensate, and in order to spread fear among people, the authorities have intensified the execution for non-political charges. These are the low-cost



Massive protests erupted in Iran following the death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini who died in police custody after she was arrested for allegedly violating the strict dress rules for women- not wearing her hijab properly. The protests faced crackdown that saw four men hanged in cases and executions which prompted an international outcry.

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"The international reactions to the death sentences against protesters have made it difficult for the Islamic Republic to proceed with their executions. To compensate, and in order to spread fear among people, the authorities have intensified the execution for non-political charges. These are the low-cost victims of the Islamic Republic's execution machine," he said.

More than half of the executions were after the start of the protests, and 44 percent of the 582 executions recorded in 2022 were on drug-related charges, the report noted.

"The death penalty is part of the systematic discrimination and extensive repression ethnic minorities of Iran are subjected to," it said.

The report said that one hundred more protesters still risked execution after being sentenced to death. It also expressed alarm over the spike in the number of drug-related executions.

"Lack of reaction by the UNODC and donor countries to the reversal of these reforms (of 2017) sends the wrong signal to the Iranian authorities," ECPM director Raphael Chenuil-Hazan said.

# Iran hanged at least 582 prisoners in 2022 - up 75% in a year - using its 'execution machine' to spread fear among protesters, rights group reveals

- There were at least 582 executions in Iran last year - the highest since 2015
- Authorities cracked down on those protesting against death of Mahsa Amini
- Amini died in custody after being arrested for allegedly breaching dress code

Human rights groups have condemned [Iran's](#) 'execution machine' which is spreading fear among protesters after revealing at least 582 prisoners were hanged in 2022.

The shocking new figures show Iran hanged 75 per cent more people in 2022 than the year before, according to the report by Norway-based Iran Human Rights (IHR) and Paris-based Together Against the Death Penalty (ECPM).

The figure of 582 executions, which is the highest in Iran since 2015, is well above the 333 carried out in 2021.

**Protests and riots have engulfed Iran since 22-year-old ethnic Kurd Mahsa Amini died in police custody** in Tehran in September 2022. She had been arrested for allegedly breaching the country's strict dress codes for women.

The Iranian state has sparked outrage both nationally and internationally for its barbaric response to protesters in which four men were hanged in protest-related cases.

**A shock report by human rights groups found Iran hanged at least 582 prisoners in 2022 - up 75 per cent in a year. Pictured: Protests against the Iranian regime in London**

**The figure of 582 executions, which is the highest in Iran since 2015, is well above the 333 carried out in 2021. Pictured: Protests in Tehran on October 27**

**The Iranian state sparked outrage both nationally and internationally for its barbaric response to protesters Pictured: A woman protests in Lyon, France, in January**

IHR director Mahmood Amiry Moghaddam said that while the international outcry was keeping protest-related executions in check, Iran was pressing ahead with executions on other charges to intimidate the general population.

'The international reactions to the death sentences against protesters have made it difficult for the Islamic Republic to proceed with their executions,' he said.

'To compensate, and in order to spread fear among people, the authorities have intensified the execution for non-political charges. These are the low-cost victims of the Islamic Republic's execution machine.'

The damning report said that after the four men were executed on charges related to the protests, one hundred more protesters still risked execution after being sentenced to death or facing charges that carry the death penalty.

Earlier this month, horrifying footage showed **a man pouring yoghurt over the heads of two Iranian women** who entered a shop without wearing hijabs. They were then arrested for flouting the country's strict dress code.

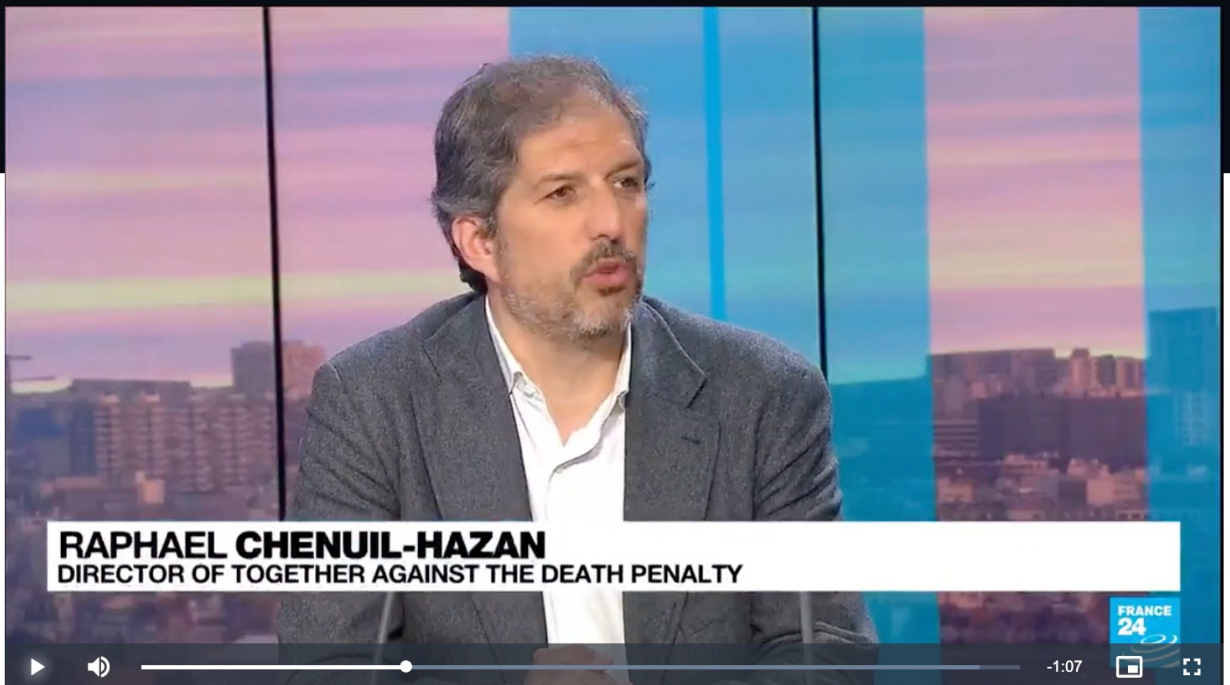
And last month, rights group Amnesty International reported that **children as young as 12 have been subjected to rape, electrocution and flogging** for their involvement in the nationwide protests.

The latest report on executions has also expressed alarm over a sharp rise in the number of drug-related hangings after the protests erupted.

More than half of those executed after the start of the protests, and 44 percent of the 582 executions recorded in 2022, were on drug-related charges.



# Iran crackdown: NGOs decry surge in executions



Iran hanged at least 582 people in 2022, a 75 percent rise in the number of executions over the previous year as protests shook the country, two rights groups said Thursday. It was the highest number since 2015 and well above the figure of 333 in 2021, the report by Norway-based Iran Human Rights (IHR) and Paris-based Together Against the Death Penalty (ECPM) said, denouncing a bid by Iran's leadership to "spread fear" among the population after protests erupted in September.



## Executions in Iran surged 75% last year: Human rights groups

BY AGENCIES | ISTANBUL | APR 13, 2023 - 6:11 PM GMT+3 |



Protesters chant slogans during a protest over the death of a woman who was detained by the morality police, in downtown Tehran, Iran on Sept. 21, 2022. (AP File Photo)

**T**here has been a 75% increase in the number of executions carried out in Iran last year, according to human rights activists.

Under the country's arch-conservative and repressive leadership, there have been around 75% more executions compared to the previous year, the Oslo-based human rights organization Iran Human Rights (IHRNGO) and France's Together Against the Death Penalty (ECPM) reported.

According to the report, the **country executed at least 582 detainees in 2022, compared to 333 in 2021**. Nearly half of the death sentences were for murder and around another half for drug offenses, according to the report.

Those executed for the controversial charges of "waging war against God" and "corruption on Earth," according to their interpretation of religion, amounted to 3%.

"In order to instill fear among the population and young protesters, authorities have intensified the executions of prisoners sentenced for reasons other than political ones," added IHR Director Mahmood Amiry Moghaddam.

Death sentences in Iran are usually carried out by hanging.

According to the report, the increase indicates that the death penalty is being used as "intimidation" and "oppression" to deal with the country's social problems. Human rights activists also criticized the high proportion of ethnic minorities among those executed.

Amnesty International also recently accused the authorities in Iran once again of using the death penalty as an "instrument of repression" against ethnic minorities.

Human rights activists have criticized the use of the death penalty in Iran for years. There are no official figures on executions.

Iran also executed four participants in the recent wave of protests which were triggered by the death of the Iranian Kurdish woman Mahsa Amini. The 22-year-old was arrested in mid-September by the morality police for allegedly violating Islamic dress codes and died a few days later in police custody.

Iran witnessed several death penalty sentences for people accused of joining mass protests across Iran following the death of 22-year-old Iranian woman Mahsa Amini in September last year while in police custody after she was detained in Tehran for violating the mandatory hijab norms.

Western countries subsequently imposed a slew of sanctions on Iranian officials and entities, accusing them of repression against protesters. Iranian officials, in turn, blamed the US and its European allies for "instigating rioters."



## Iran executed 582 in 2022, rights group says IV News

Two rights groups said the number of people executed in 2022 would be 75% higher than the toll from 2021. Last year, nationwide protests erupted after the death of Jina Mahsa Amini.

Iranian authorities executed 582 people last year, according to human rights groups, a 75% increase from 2021.

The Norwegian Organization for Human Rights (IHR) and the Paris-based group Against the Death Penalty (ECPM) said in Thursday's report that four people were hanged after taking part in the protests that broke out late last year.

Iran witnessed mass protests that began in September 2022, sparked by the death of 22-year-old Kurd Jina Mahsa Amini, who died while in police custody.

The two groups condemned what they described as an "execution machine".

In 2021, Iran executed 333 people. The groups also said they have counted 151 executions so far this year.

Mahmood Amiry-Moghaddam, Iran's human rights chief, said the execution of the four protesters had sparked a strong international response, making it "difficult for the Islamic Republic to continue the executions".

"To compensate and spread fear among the people, the authorities have increased executions for non-political charges," Moghaddam said.

"Every execution in Iran is political, regardless of the charges," Moghaddam said, describing those sentenced to death for drug or criminal charges as "low-cost victims" for the regime in Tehran, because their executions are less likely to provoke more condemnation. .

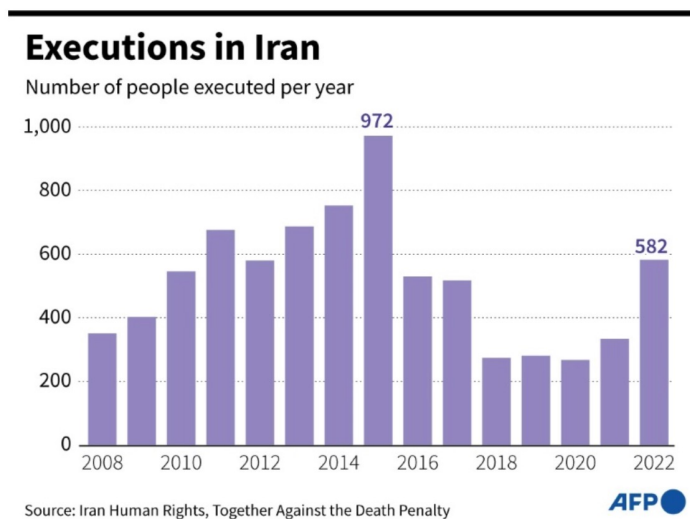
According to the report, more than half of those executed since the beginning of the protests were sentenced to death on drug-related charges. In 2022, 49% of executions were for murder.

The groups also pointed to a lack of transparency when the executions were announced. They said that over 88% of all executions and 99% of drug-related executions were not officially reported by the authorities.

Iran met the September 2022 protests with brutal force, prompting several Western sanctions and global condemnation.

# Iranian executions increase in attempt to 'spread fear': human rights groups

**B** By The Bharat Express News April 13, 2023



Iran will have hanged 75 percent more people by 2022 than the previous year, two rights groups said Thursday, warning that this "killing machine" risked killing even more people this year after protests rocked the country.

The number of at least 582 executions was the highest for Iran since 2015 and well above the 2021 figure of 333, according to the report by Norway-based Iran Human Rights (IHR) and Paris-based Together Against the Death Penalty (ECPM). ).

Last year was marked by the eruption of nationwide protests over the September death of Mahsa Amini, a 22-year-old ethnic Kurd who was arrested for allegedly violating strict dress codes for women.

Authorities responded with a crackdown that saw four men hanged in protest-related cases, executions that sparked international outcry.

IHR director Mahmood Amiry Moghaddam said while the international response kept protest-related executions in check, Iran continued to carry out executions on other charges to deter people from protesting.

"We fear that the number of executions will increase dramatically in 2023 if the international community stops responding," he told AFP.

"Every execution in Iran is political, regardless of the charges," he added.

He said that with more than 150 executions in the first three months of this year alone, the 2023 total was threatening to become the highest in some two decades, even higher than 2015, when according to IHR 972 people were executed in Iran. were brought to death.

The report said that after the four men were executed on protest-related charges, another 100 protesters are at risk of execution after being sentenced to death or charged with capital crimes.

It expressed alarm over a sharp rise in drug-related executions following the outbreak of the protests.

A decline in drug-related executions – triggered by changes to the anti-drug law in 2017 – has driven down Iran's total number of executions through 2021.

More than half of those executed after the start of the protests, and 44 percent of the 582 executions recorded in 2022, were on drug-related charges.

This was more than double the number in 2021 and 10 times higher than the number of drug-related executions in 2020, it said.

The rights groups complained about what they said was a lack of response from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes (UNODC) and its donor states to this "dramatic rise".

"Lack of response from UNODC and donor countries to roll back these reforms (of 2017) sends the wrong signal to the Iranian authorities," said ECPM Director Raphael Chenuil-Hazan.

According to the report, members of the predominantly Sunni Baluch minority were responsible for 30 percent of executions nationwide, even though they represent only 2 to 6 percent of Iran's population.

The number of ethnic Kurds and Arabs executed was also disproportionate, especially for drug offenses, the report said.

"The death penalty is part of the systematic discrimination and extensive repression to which ethnic minorities in Iran are subjected," it said.

Most of the executions – 288 or 49 percent – were for murder, the highest in more than 15 years.

Two people, including protester Majidreza Rahnavard, were hanged in public, the report said. Those executed included at least three juvenile offenders, while at least 16 women were hanged.

Iran's penal code allows for executions by firing squad, stoning and even crucifixion, but in recent years all executions have been carried out by hanging.

Chenuil-Hazan said Iran executes more people annually than any country other than China – for which no accurate data is available – and more in proportion to its population than any other country in the world.

"Iran has always applied the death penalty in a systematic and significant way since 1979 (the Islamic revolution), " he said.

## Executions surge by 75pc in Iran after anti-government protests

Human rights groups say 'show trials' and non-public executions are being used 'in order to spread fear among people'



Authorities in Tehran are said to be cracking down on perceived violations of the country's strict hijab laws | CREDIT: Fatemeh Bahrami/Anadolu Agency via Getty Images

Iran recorded a 75 per cent increase in executions last year, according to an annual report by two human rights groups, as Tehran grapples to contain an [anti-government protest movement](#).

On Thursday, Norway-based Iran Human Rights (IHR) and Paris-based Together Against the Death Penalty said that Iran executed at least 582 prisoners in 2022, the highest number since 2015 and a major increase from 333 executions in 2021.

"In 2022, Iran's authorities demonstrated how crucial the death penalty is to instil societal fear in order to hold onto power," their annual report on capital punishment in the country said.



The report recorded a particular spike in executions after a nationwide anti-government protest movement began in September following [the death in police custody](#) of Mahsa Amini, a 22-year-old woman who was arrested for allegedly violating the Islamic republic's public dress code.

Since then four people have been executed for crimes related to protesting, at least 20 protesters have been sentenced to death in preliminary trials and more than 100 remain at risk of capital punishment.

The report credited international pressure and targeted sanctions with "raising the political cost of executing protesters," but said that "in response" authorities intensified the execution of prisoners convicted of non-political charges.

At least 127 people were executed in November and December 2022 on drug and murder charges. So far this year, Iran has executed 151 prisoners, according to IHR.

"International reactions to the death sentences against protesters have made it difficult for the Islamic republic to proceed with their executions," said Mahmood Amiry Moghaddam, IHR's director.

"To compensate, and in order to spread fear among people, the authorities have intensified the execution for non-political charges. These are the low-cost victims of the Islamic republic's execution machine," he added.

Fewer than 12 per cent of executions were announced publicly by the government, the report said, calling it the greatest lack of transparency in the use of capital punishment in the past decade.

All of the executions were by hanging, two of which were carried out in public, including protester Majidreza Rahnavard, the report said. At least three juvenile offenders were among those executed while at least 16 women were hanged.

The report cited the use of forced confessions extracted under torture, denial of access to lawyers, due process and fair trials, and the lack of an independent judiciary as of particular concern in death penalty cases.

It cited [the case of Mohsen Shekari](#) who was arrested during protests in September and sentenced to death in a "show trial" after he said he was tortured into signing confessions without a lawyer present. He was executed in December, just 75 days after his arrest.

## World

## **Iran has become a machine of death! Gives cruel death sentence even in drugs case**

**Tehran** :Iran plans to execute 75 percent more people in 2022 than in previous years. The aim, according to two rights groups, was to spread fear amid the massive protests that rocked the country last year. Last year, a woman was arrested in Iran for wearing the hijab incorrectly. The custodial death of the woman had triggered massive protests across the country. The women protested by burning their hijabs and chopping off their hair. Norway-based Iran Human Rights (IHR) and Paris-based Together Against the Death Penalty (ECPM) said at least 333 executions in Iran last year, up from 333 in 2021. 582 people were put to death. Iran was on fire after the death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini in police custody. The execution of four people amid the protests sparked international outrage and people from around the world took to the streets in support of Iranian protesters.

### **Death penalty on non-political charges**

IHR director Mahmoud Amiri Moghaddam said the response from around the world had stopped the protest executions. But Iran is still using other accusations to intimidate protesters. "International reactions to the death penalty against protesters have made it difficult for Iran to execute them, but authorities have ramped up executions on non-political charges to instill fear in the public," he/she said.

Saudi Arabia Azan: Why are the Muslims of the world angry on Saudi Arabia?

### **44 percent hanged in drugs case**

The report said that more than half of the death cases have come to light after the start of the protests. Of the 582 deaths reported in 2022, 44 per cent were drug-related. The report says, 'Even after being sentenced to death, more than a hundred protesters are facing the threat of hanging. It has also expressed concern over the spurt in drug-related deaths.

## Iran Execution : मौत की मशीन बन गया है ईरान! ड्रग्स केस में भी दे देता है फांसी की क्रूर सजा, 2022 में मारे गए 582 लोग

**तेहरान :** ईरान ने पिछले वर्षों की तुलना में 2022 में 75 प्रतिशत अधिक लोगों को मौत के घाट उतार दिया। दो अधिकार समूहों के अनुसार इनका उद्देश्य पिछले साल देश को हिलाकर रख देने वाले बड़े पैमाने पर विरोध के बीच डर फैलाना था। ईरान में पिछले साल गलत तरीके से हिजाब पहनने के लिए एक महिला को गिरफ्तार कर लिया गया था। महिला की हिरासत में मौत हो जाने के बाद देशभर में बड़े पैमाने पर विरोध प्रदर्शन शुरू हो गए थे। महिलाओं ने हिजाब को जलाकर और अपने बाल काटकर विरोध प्रदर्शित किया था।

नॉर्वे स्थित ईरान ह्यूमन राइट्स (IHR) और पेरिस स्थित टुगेदर ओगेंस्ट द डेथ पेनल्टी (ECPM) ने कहा कि 2021 में 333 के आंकड़े से ज्यादा ईरान में पिछले साल कम से कम 582 लोगों को मौत के घाट उतार दिया गया। 22 साल की महसा अमिनी की पुलिस हिरासत में मौत के बाद ईरान जल उठा था। विरोध प्रदर्शनों के बीच चार लोगों को फांसी दिए जाने से अंतरराष्ट्रीय आक्रोश बढ़ गया था और दुनियाभर से लोग ईरानी प्रदर्शनकारियों के समर्थन में सड़कों पर उतर आए थे।

### गैर-राजनीतिक आरोपों में मौत की सजा

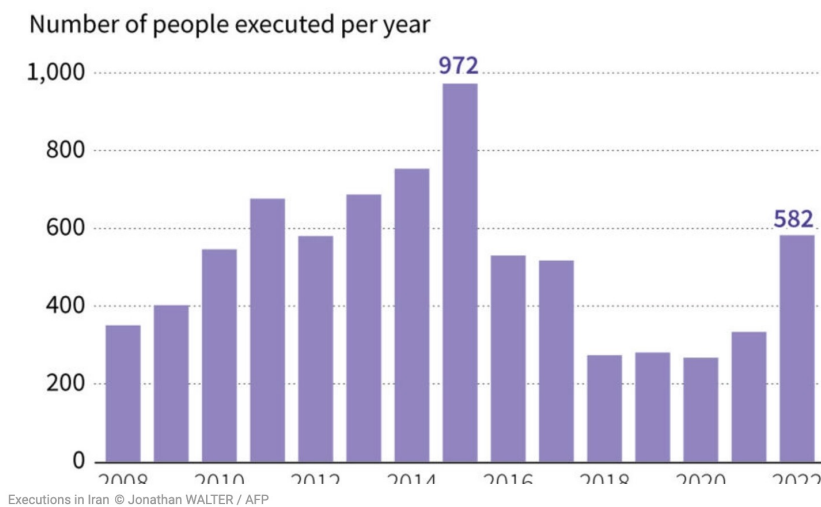
आईएचआर के निदेशक महमूद अमीरी मोघदाम ने कहा कि दुनियाभर से आई प्रतिक्रिया ने विरोध संबंधी फांसी को तो रोक दिया। लेकिन ईरान अभी भी प्रदर्शनकारियों को डराने-धमकाने के लिए अन्य आरोपों का इस्तेमाल कर रहा है। उन्होंने कहा, 'प्रदर्शनकारियों के खिलाफ मौत की सजा को लेकर अंतरराष्ट्रीय प्रतिक्रियाओं ने ईरान के लिए उन्हें फांसी पर लटकाना मुश्किल बना दिया है लेकिन लोगों में डर फैलाने के लिए अधिकारियों ने गैर-राजनीतिक आरोपों में मौत देना तेज कर दिया है।'

### 44 प्रतिशत फांसी ड्रग्स केस में

रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि आधे से अधिक मौत के मामले विरोध की शुरुआत के बाद सामने आए हैं। 2022 में दर्ज 582 मौत के

मामलों में से 44 प्रतिशत का संबंध नशीली दवाओं से था। रिपोर्ट कहती है, 'मौत की सजा सुनाए जाने के बाद भी सौ से अधिक प्रदर्शनकारियों को फांसी पर लटकाए जाने का खतरा मंडरा रहा है।' ड्रग्स से संबंधित मौत दिए जाने के मामलों में उछाल पर भी चिंता व्यक्त की गई है।

## Iran executions surge in bid to 'spread fear': rights groups



**Paris (AFP) – Iran hanged 75 percent more people in 2022 than the previous year, two rights groups said on Thursday, warning this "killing machine" risked putting even more people to death this year after protests rocked the country.**

The figure of at least 582 executions was the highest for Iran since 2015 and well above the figure of 333 for 2021, the report by Norway-based Iran Human Rights (IHR) and Paris-based Together Against the Death Penalty (ECPM) said.

Last year was marked by the eruption of nationwide protests sparked by the death in September of Mahsa Amini, a 22-year-old ethnic Kurd who had been arrested for allegedly violating the strict dress rules for women.

The authorities responded with a crackdown that saw four men hanged in protest-related cases, executions that prompted an international outcry.

IHR director Mahmood Amiry Moghaddam said that while the international reaction was keeping protest-related executions in check, Iran was pressing ahead with executions on other charges to deter people from protesting.

"We fear the number of executions will dramatically increase in 2023 if the international community does not react more," he told AFP.



The figure of at least 582 executions was the highest since 2015 in Iran © Ludovic MARIN / AFP

## 'Dramatic surge'

The report said that after the four men were executed on protest-related charges, 100 more protesters risk execution after being sentenced to death or charged with capital offences.

It expressed alarm over a sharp rise in the number of drug-related executions after the protests erupted.

A fall in the number of drug-related executions – driven by 2017 amendments to the anti-narcotics law – had been behind a drop in the overall number of executions in Iran up to 2021.

More than half of those executed after the start of the protests, and 44 percent of the 582 executions recorded in 2022, were on drug-related charges.

This was more than double the number in 2021, and 10 times higher than the number of drug-related executions in 2020, it said.



The rights groups lamented what they said was a lack of reaction from the United Nations Office for Drugs and Crimes (UNODC) and its donor states to this "dramatic surge".

"Lack of reaction by the UNODC and donor countries to the reversal of these reforms (of 2017) sends the wrong signal to the Iranian authorities," ECPM director Raphael Chenuil-Hazan said.

The report said members of the mainly Sunni Muslim Baluch minority accounted for 30 percent of executions nationwide, even though they account for just two to six percent of Iran's population.

The numbers of ethnic Kurds and Arabs executed were also disproportionate, especially for drug crimes, the report said.

"The death penalty is part of the systematic discrimination and extensive repression ethnic minorities of Iran are subjected to," it said.

The most executions – 288, or 49 percent – were for murder, the highest in more than 15 years.

Two people, including protester Majidreza Rahnavaard, were hanged in public, the report said. At least three juvenile offenders were among those executed while at least 16 women were hanged.

Iran's penal code allows execution by methods that include firing squad, stoning and even crucifixion but in recent years all executions have been carried out by hanging.

Chenuil-Hazan said Iran executes more people annually than any nation other than China – for which no accurate data is available – and more in proportion to its population than any nation in the world.

"Iran has always used the death penalty since 1979 (the Islamic revolution) in a systematic and significant way," he said.



## **According to human rights groups: Significantly more executions in Iran after protests – hundreds of death sentences carried out**

According to human rights groups, the number of executions in Iran rose by 75 percent in 2022, which was marked by ongoing protests, compared to the previous year.

According to human rights groups, the number of executions in Iran rose by 75 percent in 2022, which was marked by ongoing protests, compared to the previous year. At least 582 death sentences were carried out last year, according to a report by the Norway-based organization Iran Human Rights (IHR) and the French alliance Against the Death Penalty (ECPM). In 2021 it was 333.

The past year in Iran was marked by the outbreak of protests after the death of 22-year-old Kurdish woman Mahsa Amini in police custody. The Iranian authorities cracked down on the demonstrators.

"International reactions to the death sentences against demonstrators have made it difficult for the Islamic Republic to proceed with its executions," said IHR director Mahmood Amiry-Moghaddam. Instead, Iran is pushing ahead with executions on other, apolitical charges in order to intimidate the population: "These are the cheap victims of the Islamic Republic's execution machine," added Amiry-Moghaddam.

Amini was arrested by the vice squad in September for allegedly improperly wearing her headscarf. Activists allege that Amini was mistreated by the police.

## Iran hanged 75 percent more people in 2022 than the previous years

• Apr 13, 2023, 02:35 pm IST



Iran hanged 75% more people in 2022 than in previous years, according to two rights groups, who denounced an "execution machine" aimed at spreading fear as protests shook the country. According to the report by Norway-based Iran Human Rights (IHR) and Paris-based Together Against the Death Penalty (ECPM), the figure of at least 582 executions was the highest since 2015 and far exceeded the figure of 333 in 2021. In September of last year, nationwide protests erupted in response to the death of Mahsa Amini, a 22-year-old ethnic Kurd who had been arrested for allegedly violating the strict dress rules for women. The authorities responded with a crackdown that saw four men hanged in protest-related cases, eliciting international condemnation. While the international reaction was keeping protest-related executions in check, IHR director Mahmood Amiry Moghaddam stated that Iran was pressing ahead with executions on other charges in order to intimidate the general population. According to the report, after the four men were executed on protest-related charges, one hundred more protesters faced execution after being sentenced to death or facing charges carrying the death penalty.

# Iran: Nearly 600 Executions In 2022

**According to human rights organizations, at least 582 people were executed in Iran in 2022 – significantly more than in the previous year. And for the first few months of this year, activists draw a bleak balance sheet.**

According to human rights organizations, at least 582 death sentences were carried out in Iran last year. This means that the number of executions in the country has increased significantly compared to the previous year.

The Norway-based organization Iran Human Rights (IHR) and the French non-governmental organization “Ensemble contre la peine de mort” (“Together Against the Death Penalty”), or ECPM for short, agree that in 2022 about 75 percent more death penalties were carried out than in 2021. Two years ago, at least 333 executions took place in Iran.

At the end of last year, the US human rights organization Iran Human Rights Activists News Agency (HRANA) spoke of at least 565 executions in Iran in 2022.

## related to ongoing protests

For IHR director Mahmood Amiry-Moghaddam, the increase is also related to the nationwide protests that broke out after the death of 22-year-old Kurdish woman Mahsa Amini last September. The young woman died presumably as a result of violence by the so-called moral police. The massive protests were directed against the strict Islamic laws such as the obligation to wear a headscarf, but also increasingly against the ruling regime in Iran as a whole.

In December Iran carried out its first death penalty on a man involved in the protests. The offense cited was “waging war against God”. More executions followed in connection with the nationwide demonstrations. According to human rights activists, up to 20,000 people were arrested during the protests.

## IHR has already counted more than 150 executions since the beginning of the year

According to Amiry-Moghaddam, executions in connection with the protests were made more difficult for the Iranian regime by “international reactions”. The EU had also decided on sanctions against Iran because of the violent suppression of the protests and tightened them again in January. The IHR director warns that Iran is pushing ahead with executions on other, non-political charges in order to intimidate the population.

According to figures from the IHR, more than 150 people have already been executed in Iran since the beginning of this year. Since 2010, the organization has recorded more than 7,130 executed death sentences. Amnesty International spoke of at least 94 confirmed executions in January and February. Most of those killed were members of minorities such as Kurds or Baluchis.

## World News: Increase in Hangings in Iran Amid Anti-Hijab Protests Raises Concerns of an 'Execution Machine'

Iran executed 75% more people in 2022 than in previous years, with at least 582 executions taking place, As seen in the coverage by human rights groups Iran Human Rights and Together Against the Death Penalty. The groups have denounced an "execution machine" designed to spread fear amid protests that shook the country last year. More than half of the executions took place after the start of the protests, and 44% were on drug-related charges. The report noted that one hundred more protesters still risked execution after being sentenced to death. The groups also expressed alarm over the spike in the number of drug-related executions.

As seen in the coverage by a report by Norway-based Iran Human Rights (IHR) and Paris-based Together Against the Death Penalty (ECPM), Iran executed 75% more people in 2022 than the previous years. The report highlighted that at least 582 executions took place in Iran, well above the figure of 333 in 2021. The rights groups denounced an "execution machine" aimed at spreading fear amid massive protests that shook the country last year.

The protests erupted in Iran following the death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini who died in police custody after she was arrested for allegedly violating the strict dress rules for women- not wearing her hijab properly. The protests faced crackdown that saw four men hanged in cases and executions which prompted an international outcry.

IHR director Mahmood Amiry Moghaddam said that the international reaction has kept protest-related executions in check but Iran is still using executions on other charges to intimidate protestors. "The international reactions to the death sentences against protestors have made it difficult for the Islamic Republic to proceed with their executions. To compensate, and in order to spread fear among people, the authorities have intensified the execution for non-political charges. These are the low-cost victims of the Islamic Republic's execution machine," he said.

More than half of the executions were after the start of the protests, and 44 percent of the 582 executions recorded in 2022 were on drug-related charges, the report noted. The report also expressed alarm over the spike in the number of drug-related executions. "The death penalty is part of the systematic discrimination and extensive repression ethnic minorities of Iran are subjected to," it said.

The report said that one hundred more protesters still risked execution after being sentenced to death. The lack of reaction by the UNODC and donor countries to the reversal of these reforms (of 2017) sends the wrong signal to the Iranian authorities, ECPM director Raphael Chenuil-Hazan said.

The use of the death penalty in Iran has long been a of concern for human rights groups. The country has one of the highest execution rates in the world, and many of those sentenced to death are executed for drug-related offenses. In 2017, Iran passed a reform that reduced the number of crimes punishable by death, but the recent spike in executions suggests that the reform has been reversed.

The international community has repeatedly called on Iran to end the use of the death penalty, but the country has so far refused to do so. The United Nations has also expressed concern about the use of the death penalty in Iran, and has called on the country to respect the human rights of its citizens.

In closing, the report by IHR and ECPM highlights the alarming rise in executions in Iran, particularly after the anti-hijab protests that shook the country last year. The report calls on the international community to take action to end the use of the death penalty in Iran and to hold the country accountable for its human rights violations. It is high time for Iran to respect the human rights of its citizens and put an end to its "execution machine".



## 'Killing machine': Iran ramps up executions to 'instil fear'

 COMMENTS



Executions in Iran jumped by 75% in 2022, according to two human rights organisations.

In their report, [Iran Human Rights](#) (IHR) and Together Against the Death Penalty documented at least 582 hangings last year, denouncing what they called a "killing machine" aimed at "instilling fear" in the population.

Starting in September 2022, Iran was rocked by mass anti-government protests sparked by the death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini, who was arrested for allegedly violating the country's strict dress code.

Authorities violently repressed the movement, killing more than 522 and arresting nearly 20,000, as per a January report by the US-based Human Rights Activist News Agency.

Four people have been hung so far in connection to the dissent, though the report suggests 100 detainees are on death row or facing capital charges. However, most of last year's executions are for criminal - not strictly political - reasons.



"Once again [the death penalty has been] used as an ultimate tool of intimidation and oppression by the Iranian regime in order to maintain the stability of its power," said the NGOs in a joint statement.

"In order to instil fear among the population and young protesters, authorities have intensified the executions of prisoners sentenced for reasons other than political ones," added IHR Director Mahmood Amiry Moghaddam.

"To stop the death machine put in place by the Iranian regime, the international community and civil society, whether there or not, must actively show their opposition each time a person is executed in the country," he continued.

Alongside executions, security forces have been accused of deliberately blinding protesters by firing at their faces and **using combat weapons**, such as machine guns, against demonstrations, especially in minority areas.

Widespread allegations of rape and sexual assault by officials in detention centres have also circulated.

According to the report, the death penalty is dispassionately used against Iran's ethnic and religious minorities, such as Kurds, Turks, Arabs and Balochis.

It details that the Baloch minority represent 30% of all executions while accounting for only 2 to 6% of the population.

The death penalty is "a means of pressure and, more broadly, a repressive lever to manage the social problems of the country," said the authors.

Their report found that the number of executions for drug trafficking increased sharply, equating to nearly half the total number recorded last year.

The figure is double the amount in 2021 and ten times that of 2020.

The NGOs behind the report denounced inaction by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

"The lack of response from UNODC and its affiliated countries does not send the right message to the Iranian authorities," said Together Against the Death Penalty Director Raphaël Chenuil-Hazan.

"The abolition of the death penalty for crimes related to drug trafficking must be set as an indispensable condition for future cooperation between UNODC and Iran."