The death penalty in Iran

2023 Status: Retentionist
Last execution in 2023

State with the highest execution rate in the world relative to its population

Execution methods: Public hanging, firing squad, crucifixion, stoning

At least 582 people executed

This represents a 75% increase over the number of executions in 2021. The highest number of executions since 2015.

Profile of the people executed:
- At least 16 women
- At least 3 juvenile offenders
- 624 murder convicts sentenced to death have been pardoned by victims’ families under qisas laws
- 44% drugs
- 4% rape
- 3% Moharebeh (waging war against God)
- 49% murder

Charges:
- 4% rape
- 3% Moharebeh (waging war against God)
- 49% murder
- 44% drugs

Ethnic minorities:
- 130 people executed in Kurdistan, Sistan and Baluchistan, western and eastern Azerbaijan provinces
- 174 Baluch prisoners executed across the country

Evolution of the number of executions over the last 15 years:

- 2008: 350
- 2009: 402
- 2010: 546
- 2011: 676
- 2012: 580
- 2013: 687
- 2014: 582
- 2015: 753
- 2016: 972
- 2017: 530
- 2018: 517
- 2019: 273
- 2020: 280
- 2021: 267
- 2022: 333

The 15th annual report on the death penalty in Iran in 2022

Foreword: Atena Daemi

511 executions not reported by the authorities (accounting for 88% of executions)

Executions recorded and documented in 30 provinces

More info at www.ecpm.org and www.iranhr.net
1. Albania
2. Andorra
3. Bosnia and Herzegovina
4. Croatia
5. Liechtenstein
6. Luxembourg
7. Macedonia
8. Monaco
9. Slovenia
10. San Marino
11. Montenegro - Serbia - Kosovo
12. Vatican
13. Switzerland

Abolitionist States for all crimes
States or territories where the death penalty is abolished.

Abolitionist States for ordinary crimes
States or territories where the death penalty is abolished unless there are exceptional circumstances.

States with a moratorium on executions
States or territories where the death penalty is implemented but no executions have been carried out for at least 10 years and which did not oppose the latest UN resolution for a universal moratorium on executions and/or having ratified OP2*.

Retentionist states
States or territories where the death penalty is implemented.

* Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty.

** Palestine is a special case as it cannot vote the resolutions on resolution; has ratified OP2, but the death penalty is still applied in Gaza (last documented executions in 2022).