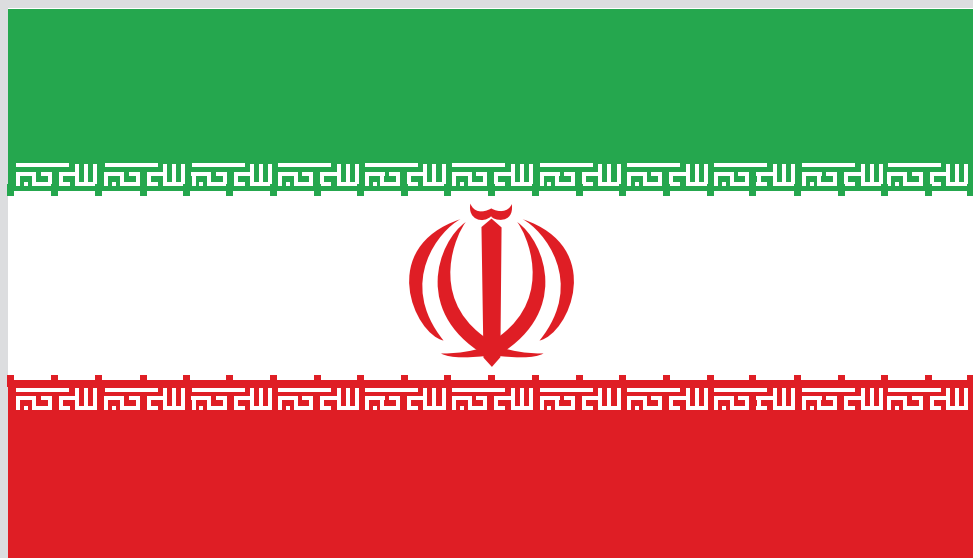




THE DEATH PENALTY IN LAW AND IN PRACTICE



IRAN



**EC
PM** TOGETHER
AGAINST
THE DEATH
PENALTY



IRAN
HUMAN
RIGHTS

APPLICATION OF THE DEATH PENALTY AND CONDITIONS OF DETENTION OF PEOPLE ON DEATH ROW

THE SITUATION OF PEOPLE SENTENCED TO DEATH

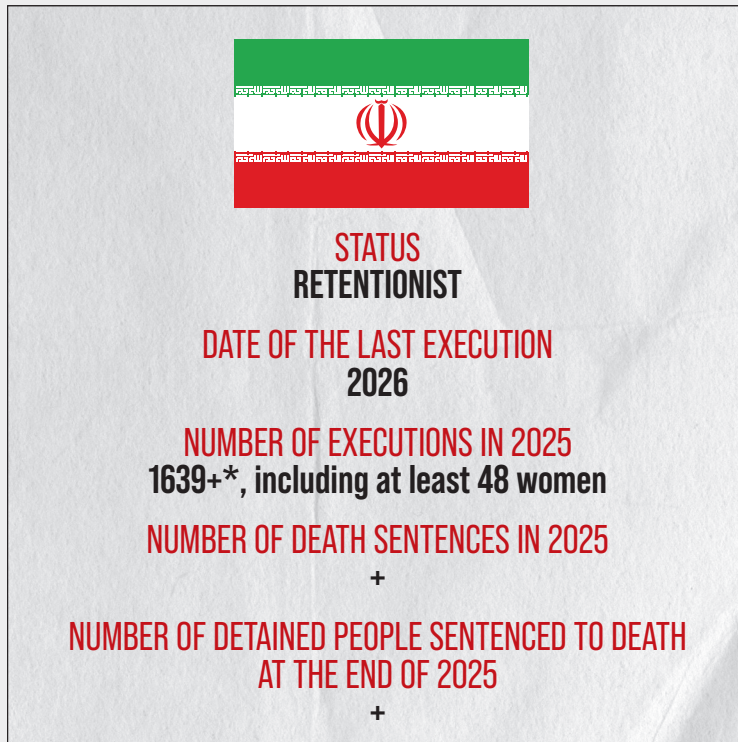
There are various specificities in the application of the death penalty in Iran, one of the country with the highest rate of executions worldwide.

There is an almost total lack of transparency: the number of death sentences and executions is difficult to know. The reported number of executions is a minimum; as Iranian authorities do not announce all the executions implemented. In 2025, less than 7% of the executions recorded by IHRNGO were reported by the official media and authorities, compared to 9.7% in 2024, 15% in 2023, 12% in 2022, 16.5% in 2021 and an average of 33% from 2017 to 2021.

Torture is widely in order to extract confession, whether people face political or security-related charges, as well as charges for murder or rape. Almost all people arrested for drug-related offences have been kept in solitary confinement and subjected to physical and psychological torture in the investigation phase following their arrest, while being denied access to a lawyer. In many cases, confessions extracted in detention have been the only evidence available for the judge to base his verdict on. Moreover, confessions are regularly broadcasted on Iranian state media. Defendants are also being forced to testify against each other. This practice has been particularly prevalent in the current death row protester cases.

After being sentenced to death, people remain on death row. It might take weeks, months and sometimes years for the execution to be carried out following the final verdict. All death sentences must be approved by the Supreme Court. In addition, the Head of Judiciary must authorise all *qisas* executions prior to implementation. According to Iranian law, the defendant's lawyer must be informed of the scheduled execution 48 hours prior to its implementation. However, most of the time this is not the case in practice, especially in political and security-related cases.

The lack of due process is a major obstacle to improvements in the situation of the death penalty in the country. The lack of an impartial and independent judiciary and inequality before the law are the most important structural reasons for this lack of due process. The Head of Judiciary is directly selected by the country's highest political authority, the Supreme Leader, and must report to him. The Chief of the Supreme Court and all judges are selected by the Head of Judiciary based on their ideological affiliation and political background, making the judiciary a political wing. Violations of fair trial guarantees resulting from these considerations are most evident in decisions carried out by the Revolutionary Courts, which have jurisdiction over charges including *moharebeh* (enmity against God), *efsad-fil-arz* (corruption on earth), *baghy* (armed rebellion), and drug-related offences. Judges' discretionary powers, especially in



*93% were not announced by the authorities.

juvenile cases, further exacerbate the dire consequences for defendants who are also facing inequality before the law: men have more rights than women, Muslims have more rights than non-Muslims, and Shia Muslims have more rights than Sunni Muslims.

PARDON

While multiple offences are punishable by death, the two charges leading to the majority of executions in recent years have been murder and drug-related offences. The Penal Code does not explicitly state that convicted people for murder are subject to the death penalty but rather to *qisas*, or “retribution-in-kind”. This practice places responsibility on the victim’s family to decide whether the defendant should be executed or not. It also encourages the family to personally carry out the execution. But some alternatives exist: the family can also demand *diyya* (blood money) instead of *qisas* or can decide to grant forgiveness. In a survey conducted by IHRNGO and the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty measuring “Iranians’ attitudes toward the death penalty” in 2020, 79% of Iranians living inside Iran said they would not choose *qisas* if an immediate family member was murdered. In the past five years, the forgiveness movement in Iran has grown significantly. In 2025 and 2024, at least 566 and 649 people sentenced to death for murder charges were forgiven by the families of the murder victims per *qisas* laws.

APPLICATION OF THE DEATH PENALTY BY CATEGORY OF PEOPLE

Iran is the world’s top executioner of women, with at least 48 executed in Iran in 2025, the highest number of women executions in 20 years, and 55% increase compared to 2024 (31). Between 2010 and 2025, at least 289 women were executed, with the majority convicted of murder and drug-related offences. Many of them were victims of domestic violence, child brides, or from marginalised socio-economic backgrounds. Women are confronted to key challenges such as lack of fair trial rights, gender biases in legal processes, and the absence of support structures for women on death row.

Iran is one of the last remaining country to sentence and execute child offenders, in violation to the State’s own obligations under international law¹. Between 2010 and 2025 at least 71 child offenders were executed in Iran.

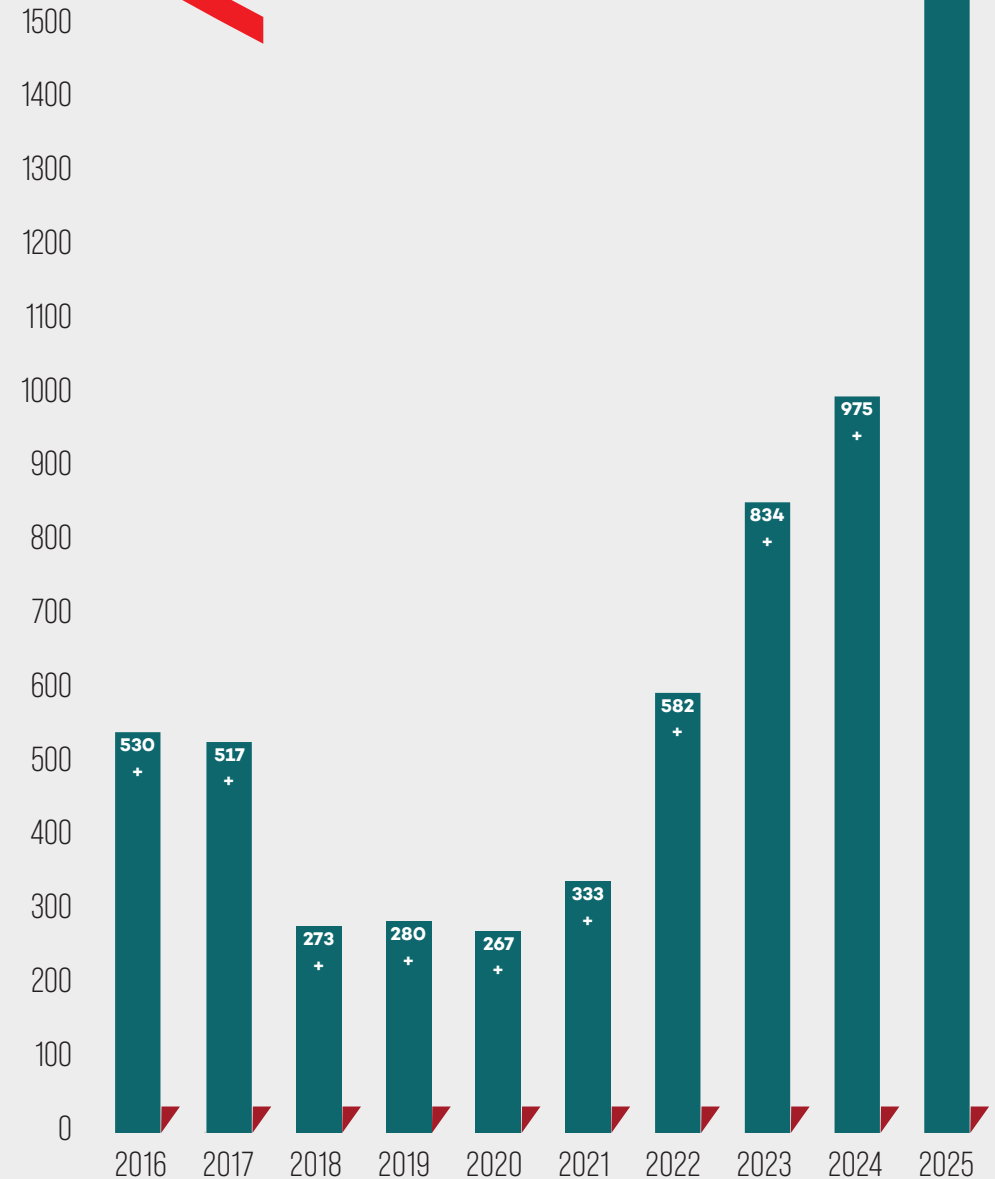
The 2013 Islamic Penal Code (IPC) defines the “age of criminal responsibility” as the age of maturity under Sharia law; A girl older than 8.7 years and a boy older than 14.6 years can therefore be sentenced to death.

In addition, people suffering from psychosocial and intellectual disabilities are executed every year in Iran, which is contrary to the Resolution adopted by the United Nations Commission on Human Rights². The mandatory sentencing regimes prevent that judges may individualise sentencing and courts may properly consider mitigation evidence for every person charged with a capital offence, including evidence of trauma, domestic and gender-based violence, as well as psycho-social and intellectual disabilities.

1 Iran has ratified the International Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

2 UN Commission on Human Rights, The Question of the Death Penalty, 25 April 2003, E/CN.4/RES/2003/67, 4(g).

EVOLUTION OF THE NUMBER OF EXECUTIONS OVER THE LAST 10 YEARS



Source: IHR, ECPM, Annual Reports on the death penalty in Iran – 2016-2025

NATIONAL LEGAL FRAMEWORK

THE CONSTITUTION

Chapter III of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran contains provisions related to the rights of the people. Article 22 states: “The dignity, life, property, rights, domicile, and occupations of people may not be violated, unless sanctioned by law.”

OTHER LEGISLATIONS

Codified laws relating to the death penalty can be found in the 2013 Islamic Penal Code (IPC) and the Anti-Narcotics Law and its 2017 Amendment.

There are also uncodified laws relating to the death penalty. Article 220 of the IPC states that Article 167 of the Constitution can be invoked by the judge to pronounce *hudud* punishments that the law has not addressed: “The judge is bound to endeavour to judge each case on the basis of the codified law.” In the absence of such laws, the judge has to deliver judgment on the basis of authoritative Islamic sources and authentic fatwa that can carry the mandatory death penalty. The judge cannot refrain from admitting and examining cases and delivering judgement based on the lack or deficiency of the law in the matter, or its brevity or contradictory nature.

THE ISLAMIC PENAL CODE

The current IPC came into force in 2013 and provides the death penalty for a wide range of crimes. The number of offences is amongst the highest in the world. Section Two sets out four types of punishments, three of which relate to the death penalty: *hadd*, *qisas* and *ta'zir*.

Hadd (pl. *hudud*): fixed punishments for which Sharia or Islamic law has fixed the measure, degree and method. They can be divided into three subcategories:

- Sexual offences: incest, rape, *zina* (adultery), *lavat* (sodomy or consensual homosexual penetrative sex), *tafkhez* (intercrual sex) where the “active party” is non-Muslim and the “passive party” is Muslim.
- Offences against the State and religion: *efsad-fil-arz*, *moharebeh*, *baghy*, *sabol-nabi* (insulting the prophet) and *ertedad* (apostasy).
- Repeat offences on the fourth occasion: theft, adultery, sodomy, *mosahegheh* (lesbian sex), intercrual sex, pimping, insulting the prophet, alcohol consumption, *qadf* (false accusation of sodomy or adultery), *moharebeh*, *efsad-fil-arz* and *baghy*.

Qisas: retribution-in-kind for “intentional murder”, which due to a lack of grading and disregard for intent or circumstances, includes both intentional and unintentional killings.

Ta'zir: punishment for offences at the discretion of the judge. This currently applies to drug-related offences.

Murder, drug possession and trafficking, rape, *moharebeh*, *efsad-fil-arz* and *baghy* are the most common charges resulting in the death penalty. The majority of charges

punishable by death in Iran do not meet the threshold of “the most serious crime” as defined by the United Nations Human Rights Committee.

The Islamic Penal Code prescribes several execution methods, including hanging, firing squads, crucifixion and stoning. Hanging has been the only method used since 2008 (with the exception of 2020). Public executions are also carried out. In 2025, at least 11 people were hanged in public places.

THE ANTI-NARCOTICS LAW

Iran’s Anti-Narcotics Law was drafted in 1988 and amended in 1997, 2011 and 2017. Altogether, the Anti-Narcotics Law, including the 1997 and 2011 Amendments, imposed the death penalty for 17 drug-related offences. The 2017 Amendment introduced a mechanism to limit the use of the death penalty and commute the sentences of those on death row to life imprisonment. The 2017 Amendment created hope that there will eventually be a complete halt in drug-related executions. And while it did lead to a decline in male drug executions and a complete drop in female executions until 2021, the outcome was not guaranteed. In 2021, drug executions were at a four-year record high and increased fivefold compared to 2020, and five women were executed for drug-related offences. Since then, the 2017 Amendment has been reversed in practice, with drug-related executions rising from an average of 24 per year between 2018–2020 to at least 471 in 2023, 503 in 2024 and 795 in 2025.

THE 2025 “ESPIONAGE LAW”: LAW ON INTENSIFYING THE PUNISHMENT FOR ESPIONAGE AND COOPERATION WITH THE ZIONIST REGIME AND HOSTILE STATES AGAINST NATIONAL SECURITY AND INTERESTS¹

Promulgated on 15 October 2025, this law is a repercussion of the 12 days war between Israel and Iran in June 2025. This legislation expands the scope of the death penalty in three main ways :

1. Creation of new categories of capital offences, extension of the risk of execution to:
 - broadly defined “operational” and “intelligence” acts,
 - various forms of cooperation with hostile entities,
 - cyber and infrastructure-related offences,
 - in some cases, activities involving satellite communication devices.
2. Lowering of the threshold for capital liability by allowing the death penalty where conduct is merely deemed capable of harming security, creating fear, or strengthening a hostile actor, even if the act is not completed or the assistance is indirect.
3. Incremental likelihood of executions by fast-tracking cases in designated Revolutionary Courts, shortening procedural deadlines, permitting courts to fill investigative gaps themselves, and mandating pre-trial detention where “sufficient evidence” is alleged, thereby weakening fair-trial safeguards and the defence’s ability to challenge the case.

¹ IHRNGO, The “Law on Intensifying the Punishment for Espionage”: New Tool for Fast-Tracking Executions in Iran, 10 June 2026.

LIST OF LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE DEATH PENALTY

ISLAMIC PENAL CODE

Article 132 In the cases of offenses punishable by *hadd*, multiple offenses shall be sentenced with multiple [*hadd*] punishments, except in cases where the offenses committed and their punishments are the same.

Note 1 - If the offender is sentenced to death and imprisonment, or death and banishment, only the death penalty shall be executed.

Note 2 - In the cases where two or more *hadd* offenses are in line and committed in the same occasion, only the most severe punishment shall be executed; for example *tafkhiz* [rubbing a penis between a person's thighs without penetration] while committing *lavat* in which case only the punishment for *lavat* shall be executed.

Note 3 - If a man and a woman commit *zena* together more than one time, if the death penalty and flogging or stoning and flogging are imposed, only the death penalty or stoning, whichever is applicable, shall be executed.

Note 4 - If a *qazf* is committed against two or more individuals, two or more punishments shall be imposed.

Article 136 Where anyone commits the same offense punishable by *hadd* three times, and each time the *hadd* punishment is executed upon him/her, the *hadd* punishment on the fourth occasion shall be the death penalty.

Article 224 In the following cases the *hadd* punishment for *zena* is the death penalty:
(a) *Zena* with blood relatives who are prohibited to marry.
(b) *Zena* with a step-mother; in which case, the man who committed *zena* shall be sentenced to the death penalty.
(c) *Zena* of a non-Muslim man with a Muslim woman; in which case, the man who committed *zena* shall be sentenced to the death penalty.
(d) *Zena* committed by coercion or force [i.e. rape]; in which case, the man who committed *zena* by coercion or force shall be sentenced to the death penalty.

Note 3 - Punishment of the woman who has committed *zena* in paragraphs (b) and (c) shall be in accordance with other provisions of *zena*.

Note 2 - The conduct of anyone who commits *zena* with a woman who did not consent to engage in *zena* with him, while she is unconscious, asleep, or drunk, shall be regarded as *zena* committed by coercion [i.e. rape]. In cases of *zena* by deceiving and enticing a non-pubescent girl, or by abducting, threatening, or intimidating a woman, even if she surrenders herself as a result of that, the abovementioned rule shall apply.

Article 225 The *hadd* punishment for *zena* of a man and a woman who meet the conditions of *ehsan* shall be stoning to death. Where the execution of stoning is not possible, upon proposal of the court of final judgment and approval

of the Head of Judiciary, if the offense is proved by testimony of witnesses, the man and a woman who have committed *zena* and meet the conditions of *ehsan* shall be sentenced to the death penalty [hanging]; otherwise, each one of them shall be given one hundred lashes.

Article 234 The *hadd* punishment for *lavat* shall be the death penalty for the insertive/active party if he has committed *lavat* by using force, coercion, or in cases where he meets the conditions for *ehsan*; otherwise, he shall be sentenced to one hundred lashes. The *hadd* punishment for the receptive/passive party, in any case (whether or not he meets the conditions for *ehsan*) shall be the death penalty.

Note 3 - If the insertive/active party is a non-Muslim and the receptive/passive party is a Muslim, the *hadd* punishment for the insertive/active party shall be the death penalty.

Note 2 - *Ehsan* is defined as a status that a man is married to a permanent and pubescent wife and whilst he has been sane and pubescent has had a vaginal intercourse with the same wife while she was pubescent, and he can have an intercourse with her in the same way [vaginal] whenever he so wishes.

Article 236 In the case of *tafkhiz*, the *hadd* punishment for the active and passive party shall be one hundred lashes and it shall make no difference whether or not the offender meets the conditions of *ehsan* [mentioned in note 2 of article 234], or whether or not [the offender] has resorted to coercion.

Note - If the active party is a non-Muslim and the passive party is a Muslim, the *hadd* punishment for the active party shall be the death penalty.

Article 262 Anyone who swears at or commits *qazf* against the Great Prophet [of Islam] (peace be upon him) or any of the Great Prophets, shall be considered as *Sāb ul-nabi* [a person who swears at the Prophet], and shall be sentenced to the death penalty.

Note - Commission of *qazf* against, or swearing at, the [twelve] *Shi'ite* Imams (peace be upon them) or the Holy Fatima (peace be upon her) shall be regarded as *Sab-e nabi*.

Article 278 The *hadd* punishment for theft is as follows:
(a) On the first occasion, amputation of the full length of four fingers of the right hand of the thief in such a manner that the thumb and palm of the hand remain.
(b) On the second occasion, amputation of the left foot from the end of the knob [on the foot] in such a manner that half of the sole and part of the place of anointing [during ablution] remain.
(c) On the third occasion, life imprisonment.
(d) On the fourth occasion, the death penalty even though the theft is committed in prison.

Note 3 - When the thief is lacking the limb which shall be amputated, s/he shall be sentenced to the punishment prescribed for *ta'zir* thefts.

Note 2 - Regarding paragraph (c) of this article and other thefts that do not fall under the category of *ta'zir*, if the offender repents during the execution

of the punishment, and the Supreme Leader agrees with his/her release, s/he shall be pardoned and released. In addition the Supreme Leader can replace his/her punishment with another *ta'zir* punishment.

Article 282 The *hadd* punishment for *moharebeh* is one of the following four punishments:
(a) The death penalty (hanging)
(b) Crucifixion
(c) Amputation of right hand and left foot
(d) Banishment

Article 286 Any person, who extensively commits felony against the bodily entity of people, offenses against internal or international security of the state, spreading lies, disruption of the economic system of the state, arson and destruction of properties, distribution of poisonous and bacterial and dangerous materials, and establishment of, or aiding and abetting in, places of corruption and prostitution, [on a scale] that causes severe disruption in the public order of the state and insecurity, or causes harsh damage to the bodily entity of people or public or private properties, or causes distribution of corruption and prostitution on a large scale, shall be considered as *mofsed-e-fel-arz* [corrupt on earth] and shall be sentenced to death.

Note - When, considering all the evidence and circumstances, the court does not establish the intention to cause extensive disruption in the public order, or creating insecurity, or causing vast damage or spreading corruption and prostitution in a large scale, or the knowledge of effectiveness of the acts committed, provided that the offense committed is not punishable under the title of a different offense, it shall sentence the offender to a *ta'zir* imprisonment of the fifth or sixth degree, considering the harmful consequences of the offense.

Article 287 Any group that wages armed rebellion against the state of the Islamic Republic of Iran, shall be regarded as *moharebs*, and if they use [their] weapon, its members shall be sentenced to the death penalty.

ANTI-NARCOTICS LAW

Article 2 Anybody who cultivates poppies, coca or cannabis for the purpose of producing narcotic drugs or industrial non-medical psychotropic drugs shall be sentenced, in addition to his crops being destroyed, to the following punishments according to the amount of his or her cultivation:
1. First offense, a fine in the amount of ten million to one hundred million rials in cash.
2. Second offense, a fine in the amount of fifty million to five hundred million rials in cash, plus 30 to 70 lashes.
3. Third offense, a fine in the amount of one hundred million to one billion rials in cash, plus 1 to 70 lashes together with two to five years of imprisonment.
4. Fourth offense, death penalty.

Article 4 Anybody who smuggles in or out, produces, distributes, deals in or puts on sale bhang, Indian hemp-juice, grass, opium and opium juice, residue (*shireh*), other forms of opiate, and/or other types of narcotics or industrial non-medical psychotropic drugs, a list of which is approved by the Iranian Parliament, shall be sentenced to the following punishments, taking into account the quantity of said materials:

1. Up to 50 grams, a fine in the amount of up to four million rials in cash and up to fifty lashes.
2. More than fifty grams up to five hundred grams, a fine in the amount of four to fifty million rials in cash, plus twenty to seventy four lashes as well as up to three years of imprisonment if the court finds it necessary.
3. More than five hundred grams to five kilograms, a fine in the amount of fifty million rials to two hundred million rials in cash plus fifty to seventy four lashes and three to fifteen years of imprisonment.
4. More than five kilograms, death penalty and confiscation of properties associated with criminal activity.

Note: If it is established that the perpetrator of the crime under paragraph 4 of this Article has not succeeded in distributing or selling narcotic drugs which weight for 20 or less than 20 kilograms, he or she shall be sentenced to life imprisonment plus seventy four lashes and confiscation of property, excepting the provision of the normal living cost for his family.

Article 5 Anyone who keeps, conceals, carries opium and other drugs mentioned in Article 4 shall be sentenced to the following punishments, taking into consideration the quantity of the drugs.

1. Up to fifty grams, a fine in the amount up to three million rials in cash, plus up to fifty lashes.
2. More than fifty grams up to five hundred grams, a fine in the amount of five to fifteen million rials in cash, plus ten to seventy four lashes.
3. More than five hundred grams up to five kilograms, a fine in the amount of fifteen million to sixty million rials in cash plus forty to seventy four lashes and two to five years of imprisonment.
4. More than five kilograms to twenty kilograms, a fine in the amount of sixty million to two hundred million rials in cash plus fifty to seventy four lashes and five to ten years of imprisonment, and in the event of recidivism all the mentioned punishments would be implemented and confiscation of property excepting the provision of the normal living cost for his or her family rather than a fine, and for the third time, death penalty and confiscation of property excepting the provision of the normal living cost for his or her family.
5. More than twenty to one hundred kilograms, a fine in the amount of two million rials for per kilogram in addition to punishments mentioned in Article 4 and in the event of recidivism, death penalty and confiscation of property excepting the normal living costs for his or her family.
6. More than one hundred kilograms, life imprisonment in addition to the fine and lash punishments mentioned in paragraphs 4 and 5 of this Article and in

the event of recidivism death penalty and confiscation of property excepting the normal living cost for his or her family.

NB: The amount of drugs that is punished by execution changed from five kilograms to fifty kilograms in 2017; see article 45.

Article 6 The punishment of the perpetrator of the crimes mentioned in paragraphs 1,2 and 3 of the Articles 4 and 5 shall be increased for the second time to one and a half of the punishments set forth in each or other paragraphs, and for the third time to twice as much as the mentioned punishments and in the subsequent instances to two and a half, three and a half times for the punishment of the new crime.

The punishment of whipping for the second time onwards shall be seventy four lashes at the maximum.

In the instances mentioned above, if as a consequence of recidivism of the crime the total of the narcotic drugs amounts to more than five kilograms, the perpetrator of the crime will be sentenced to death penalty and confiscation of property. In the case of recidivism of the mentioned crimes in Articles 4 and 5, the amounts of drugs exceed 5 kilograms, the perpetrator shall be sentenced to twice as much as the punishments prescribed in paragraph 4 of Article 5.

Article 8 Anyone who imports, exports, distributes, produces, deals in, keeps or stores, conceals and carries (or transports) heroin, morphine, cocaine and other chemical derivatives of morphine or cocaine or Lysergic Acid Diethylamide (LSD), Methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA or ecstasy), gamma-hydroxybutyric acid (GHB), Flunitrazepam, Amphetamine, Methamphetamine (crystal meth), and/or other narcotics or industrial non-medical psychotropic drugs, a list of which is approved by the Iranian Parliament, shall be sentenced to the following punishments, taking into account the amount of said drugs:

1. Up to five centigrams, a fine in the amount of five hundred thousand to one million rials in cash plus twenty to fifty lashes.

2. More than five centigrams to one gram, a fine in the amount of two million to six million rials in cash plus thirty to seventy lashes.

3. More than one gram up to four grams, a fine in the amount of eight million to twenty million rials in cash plus two to five years of imprisonment and thirty to seventy lashes.

4. More than four grams up to fifteen grams a fine in the amount of twenty million to forty million rials in cash, plus five to eight years of imprisonment and thirty to seventy four lashes.

5. More than fifteen up to thirty grams, a fine in the amount of forty million to sixty million rials fine in cash, plus ten to fifteen years of imprisonment and thirty and seventy four lashes.

6. More than thirty grams, death penalty and confiscation of property.

Note: If it is established that the perpetrator of the crime under paragraph 6 of this Article has committed it for the first time and has not succeeded in distributing or selling the drugs and the amount of drugs does not exceed 100 grams or, according to the quality and route of transportation, he or

she has not determined to distribute/sell them inside the country, the court shall sentence him or her to life imprisonment and confiscation of his or her family.

Note 2: In all above cases, if the accused is an employee of the government or government-affiliated companies and establishments, he or she shall be sentenced in addition to the punishments mentioned in this article, to permanent dismissal from governmental services.

Article 9 The punishment of the perpetrator of the crimes set forth at paragraphs 1 to 5 of Article 8 shall be for the second time one and a half and for the third time twice as much as the punishment mentioned in each paragraph. The punishment of whipping for the second time onwards shall be seventy four lashes at the maximum.

In the fourth time if the total narcotics as a result of repetition reaches thirty grams, the offender is considered as corruptor on earth and shall be sentenced to death penalty.

The death punishment, if deemed appropriate, shall be carried out on the premises of his residence and in public. In case the total of narcotics in the fourth time as a result of repetition does not reach thirty grams, the offender shall be condemned to a fine in the amount of forty to sixty million rials in cash with ten to fifteen years of imprisonment plus thirty to seventy four lashes.

Article 11 Armed smuggling of narcotic drugs, the subject matter of this law, is punished by execution. If deemed appropriate, the execution shall be carried out on the premises of the offender and in public.

Article 12 Anyone who smuggles narcotic drugs into prisons, barracks, or rehabilitation centres for addicts, shall be sentenced, as the case may be, to the maximum punishments mentioned in Articles 4 to 9 and in the case that the offender is a government employee, he or she shall also be condemned to permanent expulsion from government services. In the event as a consequence of negligence of the persons in charge, narcotic drugs are smuggled into such centers, the offending officers shall be sentenced as the case may be to the punishment of: a) Demotion
b) Temporary
c) Permanent dismissal

Article 18 In cases where a perpetrator hires or employs someone to commit the aforementioned crimes, and/or organize and manage their business, or financially support or invest in their business, and the punishment for the perpetrator is life imprisonment, that person will be punished by execution and confiscation of the properties associated with the criminal activity. In other cases, s/he will receive maximum punishment. The boss or leader of the operation will be punished by execution.

Article 26 Whoever places, in an attempt of accuse another person, narcotic drugs and the tools and equipment of their use in a locality, shall be sentenced to the maximum punishment attaching to the same offence.

Article 32 The death sentences issued by virtue of this act shall be final and enforceable after the endorsement of the Chairman of the Supreme Court or the Prosecutor General. In other cases, should the sentence deemed probable by the Chairman of the Supreme Court or the Prosecutor General to contravene the law or the religious canon or that the judge who pronounced the sentence is not competent, the Chairman of the Supreme Court or the Prosecutor General will be entitled to revise or quash the sentence, however the existence of such entitlement shall not bar the sentence from being final and enforceable.

Article 35 Anyone who forces children and juveniles under the age of 18 or mentally incapacitated persons to use drugs and/or commit any of the aforementioned crimes in any way and/or forces someone else to use narcotics or psychotropic drugs by any means and/or forcibly injects drugs into his/her body and/or drugs them in any way will receive one and a half times the maximum punishment for the relevant crime and in case of life imprisonment, they will be sentenced to execution and forfeiture of the properties associated with criminal activity. In case of other actions such as persuasion, the perpetrator of the crime will be charged as an accomplice.

Article 40 Anybody who knowingly and voluntarily manufactures, purchases, sells, maintains, carries, imports, exports and supplies industrial/chemical substances such as acetic anhydride, anthranilic acid, phenylacetic acid, acetyl chloral and other substances mentioned in the Tables I and II of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, 1988, and related amendments or try to import, purchase, sell, manufacture, maintain and export codeine or methadone in order to produce or convert into narcotic drugs shall be sentenced to punishments mentioned in Article 5, based on the amount of illicit drugs.

Article 45 (Drug Bill Reform Measure)

Perpetrators of crimes which carry execution or life imprisonment sentences under this law shall be charged with Mofsed fel-Arz ("One who spreads corruption on earth") and sentenced to death and forfeiture of the properties associated with narcotics and psychotropic drugs provided that one of the following conditions is met. Otherwise, those who are "subject to the death penalty" shall be sentenced to first degree imprisonment of up to thirty years and a first degree fine of twice the minimum amount, and those who are "subject to life imprisonment" shall be sentenced to second degree imprisonment and fine. In each case the individual shall be sentenced to forfeiture of the properties associated with narcotics and psychotropic drug. Conditions:

(a) The accomplice or at least one of the accomplices draws his/her weapon during the commission of the crime or carries a firearm or hunting weapon in order to engage law enforcement agents.

For the purposes of this paragraph, weapon refers to a cold weapon (knife etc.) and weapons and ammunitions mentioned by the Punishment of Smuggling of Weapons and Ammunition and Possessors of Weapons

and Ammunitions Act enacted on August 29, 2011.

(b) The perpetrator is a leader (as described in Article 130 of the Islamic Penal Code enacted on April 21, 2013), financial supporter or investor and/or has exploited children or juveniles under the age of 18 or mentally incapacitated persons for the commission of the crime.

(c) The perpetrator has previously been sentenced to execution or life imprisonment or imprisonment for more than fifteen years for drug offenses subject to this law.

(d) The perpetrator has committed crimes described in Article 4 of this law, provided that they involve more than fifty kilograms, involving more than two kilograms of substances mentioned in Article 8 of this law, or involving other offences described in Article 8 provided that the amount is more than three kilograms. This paragraph will be implemented if the perpetrators, defendants, and criminals, who have been sentenced before this law takes effect meet one of the conditions of (a), (b), or (c).

Note: The perpetrator of offences that, based on this law, are punishable by a term of imprisonment of more than five years, may not benefit from suspension of punishment, conditional release, or other forms of clemency, except for amnesty by the Supreme Leader mentioned in paragraph (k) of article 110 of the Constitution, provided that the minimum legal penalty is issued pursuant to the exception of the Note to Article 38 of this law, and if more than the minimum legal penalty is issued, after serving the minimum sentence the court may suspend the sentence for five to ten years.

LAW ON INTENSIFYING THE PUNISHMENT FOR ESPIONAGE AND COOPERATION WITH THE ZIONIST REGIME AND HOSTILE STATES AGAINST NATIONAL SECURITY AND INTERESTS¹

Article 1 Any operational action carried out for the Zionist regime or hostile governments, including the government of the United States of America or other hostile regimes and groups, or for any of their affiliated agents, against the security of the country, shall be punishable by confiscation of all assets, in compliance with the latter part of Note (5) to Article (19) of the Islamic Penal Code adopted on 21 April 2013, with its subsequent amendments and additions, and by the death penalty.

Likewise, any intelligence or espionage activity for the said regimes, governments and groups, or any of their affiliated agents, shall be punishable by confiscation of all assets, in compliance with the latter part of Note (5) to Article (19) of the Islamic Penal Code, and by the death penalty.

Note 1 – The realisation of all offences under this Law shall be subject to Article (144) of the Islamic Penal Code.

Note 2 – From the perspective of this Law and other laws, the United States government and the Zionist regime are deemed hostile. In other cases, the authority for determining hostile governments, regimes and groups shall be the Supreme National Security Council. The authority to determine any ces-

¹ Vokalapress, Law on Intensifying the Punishment for Espionage and Cooperation with the Zionist Regime and Hostile States against National Security and Interests, October 2025.

sation of hostility shall also be the Supreme National Security Council.

Note 3 – What is meant by “operational action” in this Article is any action that could endanger the security of the country, including actions that are capable of causing killing, destruction of public or private places or property, creating public fear and terror or disrupting communication networks, information systems or the country’s infrastructure.

Note 4 – What is meant by “intelligence activity” in this Article is any collection of information that could endanger the security of the country.

Article 2 Any security, military, economic, financial or technological action or any direct or indirect assistance which results in strengthening, consolidating or conferring legitimacy upon the Zionist regime shall render the perpetrator liable to confiscation of all assets, in compliance with the latter part of Note (5) to Article (19) of the Islamic Penal Code, and to the death penalty. In other cases, the perpetrators, having regard to the harmful consequences of the offence, shall be sentenced to *ta’zir* (discretionary) imprisonment of the second to fourth degree.

Article 3 Any cooperation or assistance in carrying out the following acts, with the intent of cooperating with the Zionist regime or hostile governments or other hostile regimes and groups, shall render the perpetrator liable to confiscation of all assets, in compliance with the latter part of Note (5) to Article (19) of the Islamic Penal Code, and to the death penalty:

(a) The manufacture, assembly, supply, transfer, any form of dealing in, transport, storage, import into the country, use or any form of utilisation of any conventional or unconventional weapons, whether cold, firearms or otherwise, including chemical, biological and nuclear weapons, whether traditional or modern, in any manner that is capable of causing killing, destruction or creating fear and terror, or their parts and components.

(b) The manufacture, assembly, supply, transfer, any form of dealing in, transport, storage, import into the country, use or any form of utilisation of micro-aircraft (including small drones and quadcopters), drones or intelligent (robotic) devices or their parts and components, for military, espionage, destructive, terrorist or disruptive use against vital systems and the country’s infrastructure.

(c) Any form of cyber warfare, cyber attacks, disruption of communication networks, information systems or vital infrastructure of the country and sabotage of public or private facilities or premises.

Note 1 – Any receipt of money or property, such as real estate, vehicles, gold, foreign currency or any type of crypto-asset from spies or persons affiliated with intelligence services, with knowledge of their affiliation, where it leads to the commission of the acts covered by this Article and Articles (1) and (2) of this Law, shall be punishable, as the case may be, by the penalties prescribed in those Articles. If the perpetrator, for reasons beyond their control, does not succeed in carrying out the act, they shall, if considered part of enemy forces, be subject to the penalty in the opening sentence of this Article, and

otherwise shall be sentenced to fourth-degree *ta’zir* imprisonment; and if they never intended to commit the act from the outset or later desisted, they shall be sentenced to a cash fine equivalent to the amount received.

Note 2 – The matters set out in this Article, where they are not for the purpose of cooperating with, strengthening, consolidating or conferring legitimacy upon the Zionist regime, hostile governments or other hostile regimes and groups, shall be governed by the relevant laws.

Article 5 The use, carrying, possession, purchase, sale or import of unlicensed satellite-based electronic internet communication devices such as Starlink for personal use is prohibited and shall be punishable by sixth-degree *ta’zir* imprisonment and confiscation of the equipment.

The provision, production, distribution, installation, operation and import for the purpose of distribution of such devices shall be punishable by fifth-degree *ta’zir* imprisonment. Carrying out any of the aforesaid acts for the purpose of confronting the system (the state) or espionage, where the perpetrator is considered an enemy force, shall be punishable by the death penalty; otherwise, where it does not constitute *efsad-fil-arz*, *moharebeh* (enmity against god) or a more severe punishment, it shall be punishable by fourth-degree *ta’zir* imprisonment.

INTERNATIONAL LEGAL FRAMEWORK

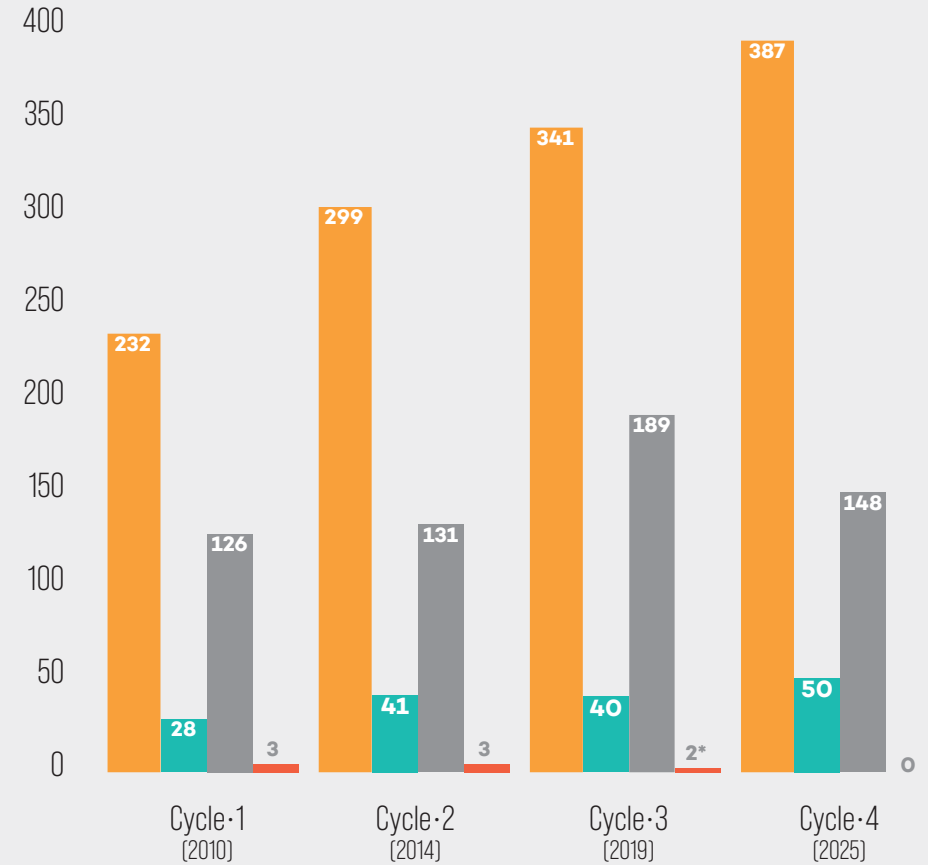
MAIN INTERNATIONAL TEXTS ON THE ABOLITION OF THE DEATH PENALTY

TEXT	DATE OF RATIFICATION OR ACCESSION
International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), 1966	24 June 1975
Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (OP2), 1989	X
Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT), 1984	X
Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT), 2002	X
International Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), 1989	13 July 1994
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), 2006	23 October 2009

VOTE ON THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A UNIVERSAL MORATORIUM ON THE USE OF THE DEATH PENALTY



UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEWS (UPR)



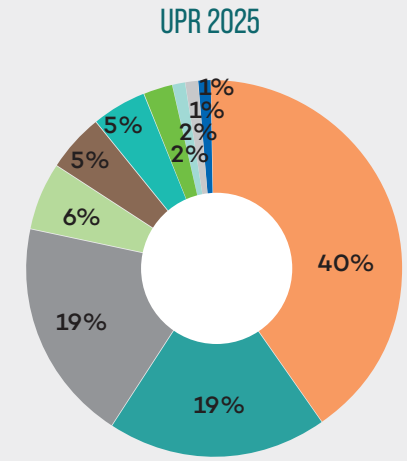
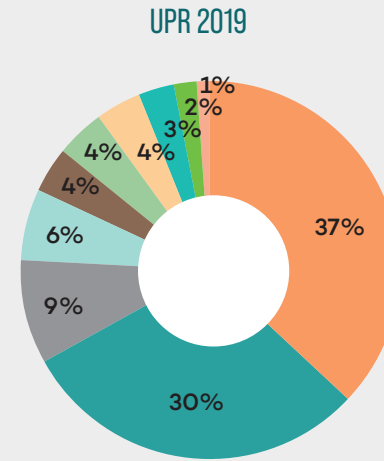
- Total number of recommendations
 - Number of recommendations on the death penalty
 - Total number of supported recommendations
 - Number of supported recommendations on the death penalty
- * (partially accepted)

RECOMMENDATIONS RELATING TO THE DEATH PENALTY ISSUED TO IRAN IN 2025

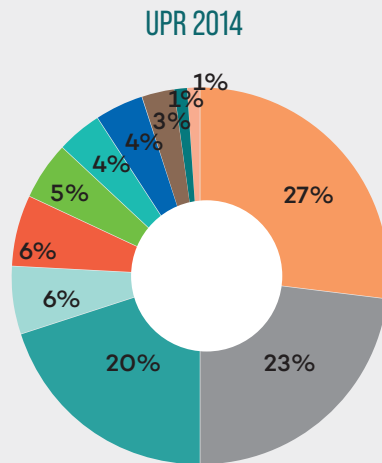
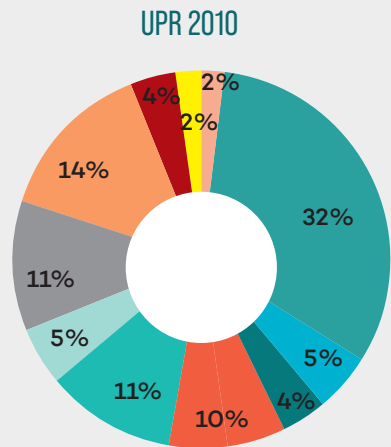
No.	RECOMMENDATION	Number	Accepted	Noted
38.14	Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Romania)	1		1
38.23	Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, and reform the Penal Code to restrict the death penalty to serious crimes as a first step towards its abolition (Spain)	1		1
38.81	Abolish the death penalty (Albania) (Canada) (Denmark) (Iceland)(Israel)	5		5
38.82	Abolish the death penalty, particularly for minors (Uruguay)	1		1
38.83	Abolish all instances of the death penalty in all relevant legislation (Malta)	1		1
38.84	Abolish the death penalty for all crimes without exception (Marshall Islands)	1		1
38.85	Pursue further judicial reforms including the possibility of implementing a moratorium on the death penalty, especially concerning minors (Philippines)	1		1
38.86	Refrain from continuing to apply the death penalty, abolish it and introduce an immediate moratorium on its application (Paraguay)	1		1
38.87	Establish a formal moratorium on the death penalty as a step towards its abolition and, as a first step, prohibit its application to offences committed by minors (Portugal)	1		1
38.88	Commute all death sentences and establish an immediate moratorium on the death penalty with a view to abolishing it (Republic of Moldova)	1		1
38.89	Consider placing a moratorium on the death penalty with a view to its eventual abolition (Sierra Leone); Consider adopting a moratorium on the death penalty (Sri Lanka)	2		2
38.90	Introduce a moratorium on the death penalty, including for juvenile offenders, with a view towards abolition (Sweden)	1		1
38.91	Reduce the number of crimes punishable by death and establish a moratorium on its use for minors at the time of the offences as well as for drug-related offences in line with its international obligations (Switzerland)	1		1
38.92	Issue an immediate moratorium on the use of the death penalty, especially for juveniles (Ukraine)	1		1
38.93	Establish a formal moratorium on the death penalty and immediately ban the death penalty for minors (Australia)	1		1
38.94	Respect the right to life and therefore ensure that the death penalty is not imposed and, as a first step, establish an official moratorium (Austria)	1		1
38.95	Adopt a moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty at least for crimes committed by persons under 18, in accordance with the Islamic Republic of Iran's obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Belgium)	1		1

38.96	Put in place a moratorium on the use of the death penalty, with a view to its abolition (Brazil); Impose immediately a moratorium on the use of the death penalty, with a view to its complete abolition (Croatia); Establish a moratorium on the death penalty, with a view to abolishing it (Liechtenstein); Establish a moratorium on the application of the death penalty, with a view to its definitive abolition (Luxembourg); Introduce an immediate moratorium on the death penalty, with a view to its abolition (Mexico); Impose a moratorium on the death penalty, with a view to its abolition (Kingdom of the Netherlands); Establish a moratorium on executions, with a view to abolishing the death penalty (New Zealand); Establish immediately an official moratorium on executions, with a view to abolishing the death penalty (North Macedonia)	8		8
38.97	Introduce a moratorium on the death penalty, particularly for children, as a first step towards abolition (Montenegro)	1		1
38.98	Reduce the number of crimes punishable by death and encourage public debate on a moratorium on them (Chile)	1		1
38.99	Abolish amputation sentences, and imprisonment for breach of contractual obligations, and declare a moratorium on the death penalty (Colombia)	1		1
38.100	Establish a moratorium on the application of the death penalty (Cyprus); Establish a moratorium on the death penalty (Estonia) (Latvia); Establish a moratorium on death sentences and executions (France)	4		4
38.101	Establish a moratorium on executions, and abolish the death penalty, at least for juvenile offenders and drug-related crimes (Czechia)	1		1
38.102	Abolish the death penalty and stop planned executions for persons who committed crimes while below the age of 18 and ensure that the Islamic Republic of Iran fully complies with the Convention on the Rights of the Child ratified by the Islamic Republic of Iran (Norway)	1		1
38.103	Abolish the use of the death penalty and immediately establish an official moratorium on executions (Finland)	1		1
38.104	End the execution of death sentences and abolish the death penalty entirely, especially for political and religious offences and non-violent crimes such as drug offences and, most eminently, for minors (Germany)	1		1
38.105	Introduce an immediate moratorium on the use of the death penalty with a view to abolishing it and prohibit the execution of child offenders in all circumstances (Greece)	1		1
38.106	Cease all executions pending the abolition of the death penalty (Iceland)	1		1
38.107	Share comprehensive data on the death penalty and executions with the United Nations (Iceland)	1		1
38.108	Establish a moratorium on executions and immediately cease the issuing of death sentences for individuals under the age of 18 at the time of their alleged crime in line with the Islamic Republic of Iran's obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Ireland)	1		1

38.109	Introduce a moratorium on executions with a view to the complete abolition of the death penalty, ban executions for crimes committed by minors, and introduce alternative punishments for drug-related crimes (Italy)	1		1
38.110	Stop the executions and pursue a consistent policy towards the abolition of the death penalty (Lithuania)	1		1
38.111	Take steps to abolish the death penalty, and introduce an immediate moratorium on its use (Namibia)	1		1
38.112	Amend article 91 of the Islamic Penal Code to prohibit the use of the death penalty for crimes committed by persons below 18 years of age in all circumstances (New Zealand)	1		1
38.139	Guarantee all individuals, but especially those facing charges carrying the death penalty, a fair trial consistent with obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, including access to a lawyer of their choosing (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)	1		1
TOTAL		50	0	50

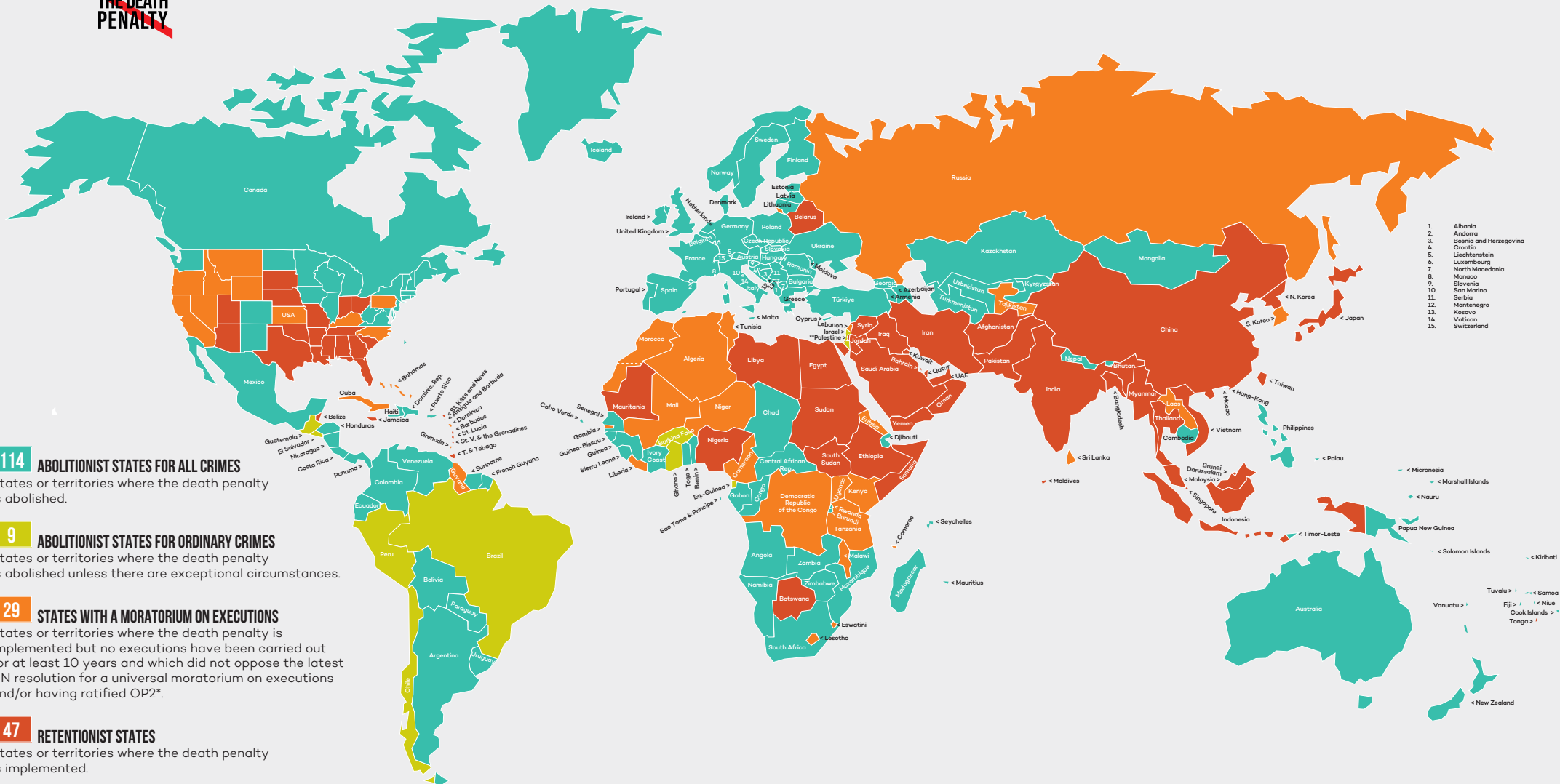


EVOLUTION OF THE THEMES OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS MADE TO IRAN BETWEEN 2010 AND 2025



- Moratorium
- Child offenders
- Abolition
- Commutations
- Most serious crime
- OP2
- Drugs
- Method of execution
- Homosexuality
- Fair trial / Due process
- Justice reform
- Crime Punishable by death
- ICCPR
- Right to life
- Apostasy / Witchcraft / Heresy
- Political prisoners
- Public executions
- Alternative sentencing

Since 2010, the three main subjects of recommendations issued to Iran were the death penalty for child offenders, the establishment of a moratorium on executions and the abolition of the death penalty. The calls for a moratorium on executions have grown from 14% of all recommendations themes in 2010 to 40.5% in 2025. The subject of judicial reforms limiting the scope of the death penalty was also raised by several states in 2025.



114 **ABOLITIONIST STATES FOR ALL CRIMES**
States or territories where the death penalty is abolished.

9 **ABOLITIONIST STATES FOR ORDINARY CRIMES**
States or territories where the death penalty is abolished unless there are exceptional circumstances.

29 **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*.

47 **RETENTIONIST STATES**
States or territories where the death penalty is implemented.

1. Albania
2. Andorra
3. Bosnia and Herzegovina
4. Croatia
5. Liechtenstein
6. Luxembourg
7. North Macedonia
8. Monaco
9. Slovenia
10. San Marino
11. Serbia
12. Montenegro
13. Kosovo
14. Vatican
15. Switzerland

* Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty.
** Palestine is a particular case: it cannot vote the moratorium resolution, has ratified OP2, but the death penalty is still applied in Gaza (last documented executions in 2023).

ABOLITION NOW

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