

## UPR FACT SHEET

# Right to Life and the Death Penalty

## Introduction

The information within this factsheet is drawn from investigations and reports published by Human Rights Activists in Iran (HRA). The right to life, enshrined in Article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), is a fundamental human right that Iran is obligated to uphold as a party to the ICCPR. However, despite this commitment, Iran faces significant challenges in maintaining this essential right. HRA's comprehensive review of Iran's record highlights numerous areas of concern and provides urgent recommendations for the Islamic Republic of Iran to implement.

**Recommendation:**  
**Ratify International Protocols:** Adopt the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR and implement CRC provisions on juvenile justice.

## Use of Death Penalty

Iran remains one of the world's leading executors, with hundreds of executions carried out annually, often for offenses that do not meet the "most serious crimes" threshold under international law. These include drug-related offenses, economic crimes, and acts of political dissent. Iran also continues to execute juvenile offenders, violating the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

**Recommendation:**  
**Immediate Moratorium on the Death Penalty:** Aim for abolition, especially for non-violent offenses and juveniles.

## Fair Trial Concerns

Reports from HRA reveal that many death sentences in Iran are handed down following trials that fail to meet international fair trial standards. Defendants often face denial of legal representation, forced confessions obtained through torture, and verdicts from an unindependent judiciary.

**Recommendation:**  
**Ensure Fair Trials:** Adhere to international standards, provide legal representation, and protect from torture.

## Extrajudicial Killings and Enforced Disappearances

There have been numerous reports of extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances targeting political activists, ethnic minorities, and human rights defenders. HRA has documented instances where security forces used lethal force against protesters and detainees.

**Recommendation:**  
**Investigate Extrajudicial Killings:** Conduct independent investigations and bring perpetrators to justice.  
**Protect Human Rights Defenders:** Safeguard from harassment, intimidation, and violence.

