

HRA Statistics Center

ANNUAL REPORT ON **EXECUTION** IN IRAN 2025-2026

Marking the World Day Against the Death Penalty

2,003

executions recorded

29%

increase from previous year



Human Rights Activists in Iran (HRA)

Annual Report on Execution in Iran: Marking the World Day Against the Death Penalty

On the World Day Against the Death Penalty, the Statistics Center of Human Rights Activists in Iran (HRA) has published its annual report on the situation of the death penalty in Iran.

HRA's Statistics Center relies on the work of HRANA, its network of volunteers across the country, verified open-source material, and official judicial announcements. Given this methodology, a margin of error is to be expected, representing efforts by the Iranian authorities to omit, conceal, or restrict the collection of such data.



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Key data:

Between October 10, 2025, and October 8, 2026, and as a result of 1,857 reports, HRANA documented that at least 2,003 people were executed by hanging in various parts of Iran, an increase of approximately 29% compared with the same period last year — the highest total recorded across the last ten reporting periods. Independent human rights groups are not permitted to operate in Iran; because of this, the information contained in this report should be read not as a complete account of executions in the country, but as a reflection of civil society’s capacity to monitor this issue.

Sentencing Data

In the reporting period, HRA’s Statistics Center documented 230 people sentenced to death, 6 of whom were sentenced to public execution. At least 16 of those sentenced were women, and 74 death sentences were upheld by the Supreme Court.

Sentence Implementation:

In the reporting period, 2,003 people were executed, 9 of them in public. Among the victims whose identities were verified, 47 were women, and 4 were under the age of 18 at the time of the alleged offense.

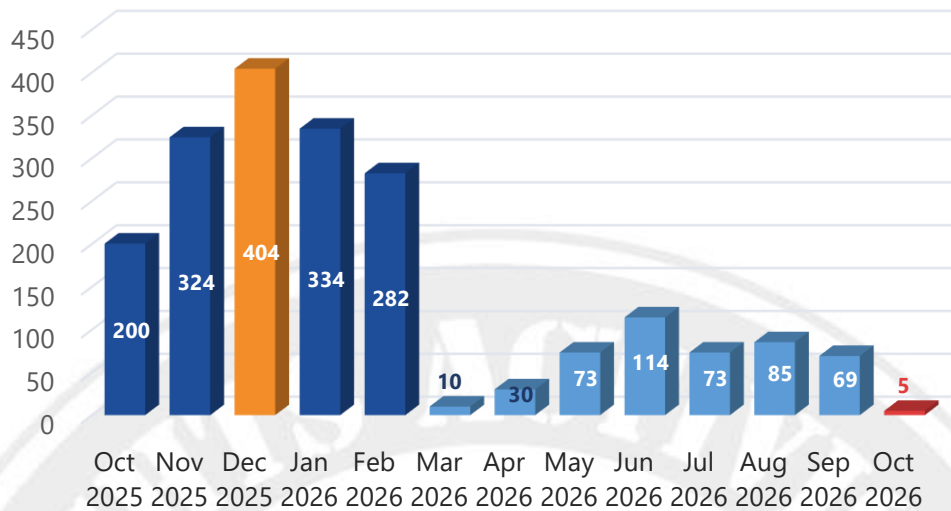
Executions in Iran at a Glance

Indicator	2025–2026	2024–2025 ¹
Total executions	2,003	1,553
Change from previous year	29% increase	88.7% increase
Average frequency	One person every 4.35 hours	One person every 5.61 hours
Women executed	47	51
Juvenile offenders executed	4	3
Public executions	9	8
Political and security-related executions	69	43
Share of drug-related charges	36.25%	48.43%
Unannounced executions	95%	94.14%
Death sentences issued	230 sentences	199 sentences

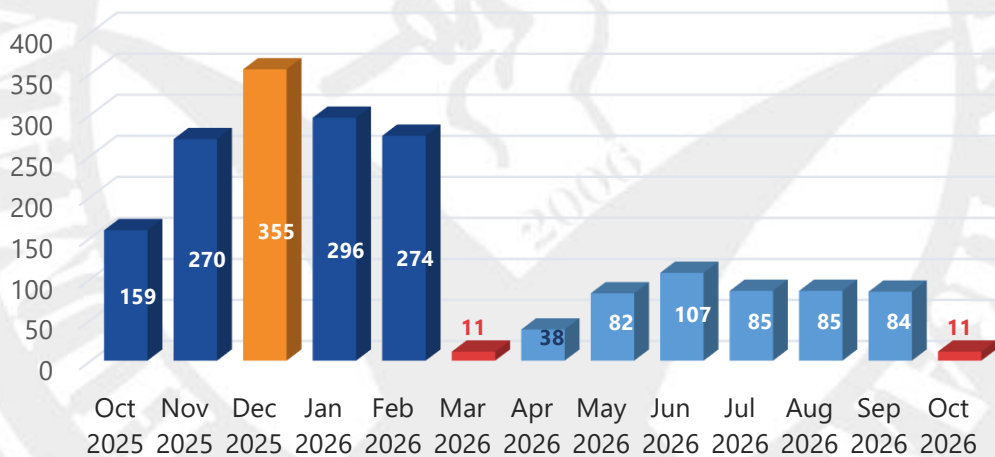
Trends:

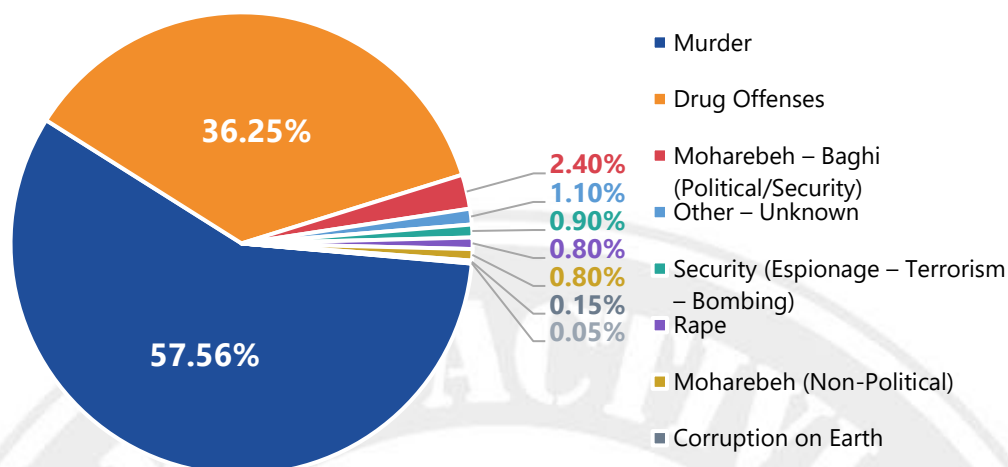
As shown in the chart below, the highest number of executions was recorded in December 2025, while the lowest full-month total was recorded in March 2026. The figures for October 2025 and October 2026, which cover only the last 22 days and the first seven days of those months respectively, are not representative of a full month.

¹ Figures for 2024–2025 have been updated based on supplementary data and may differ from those published in last year’s report.



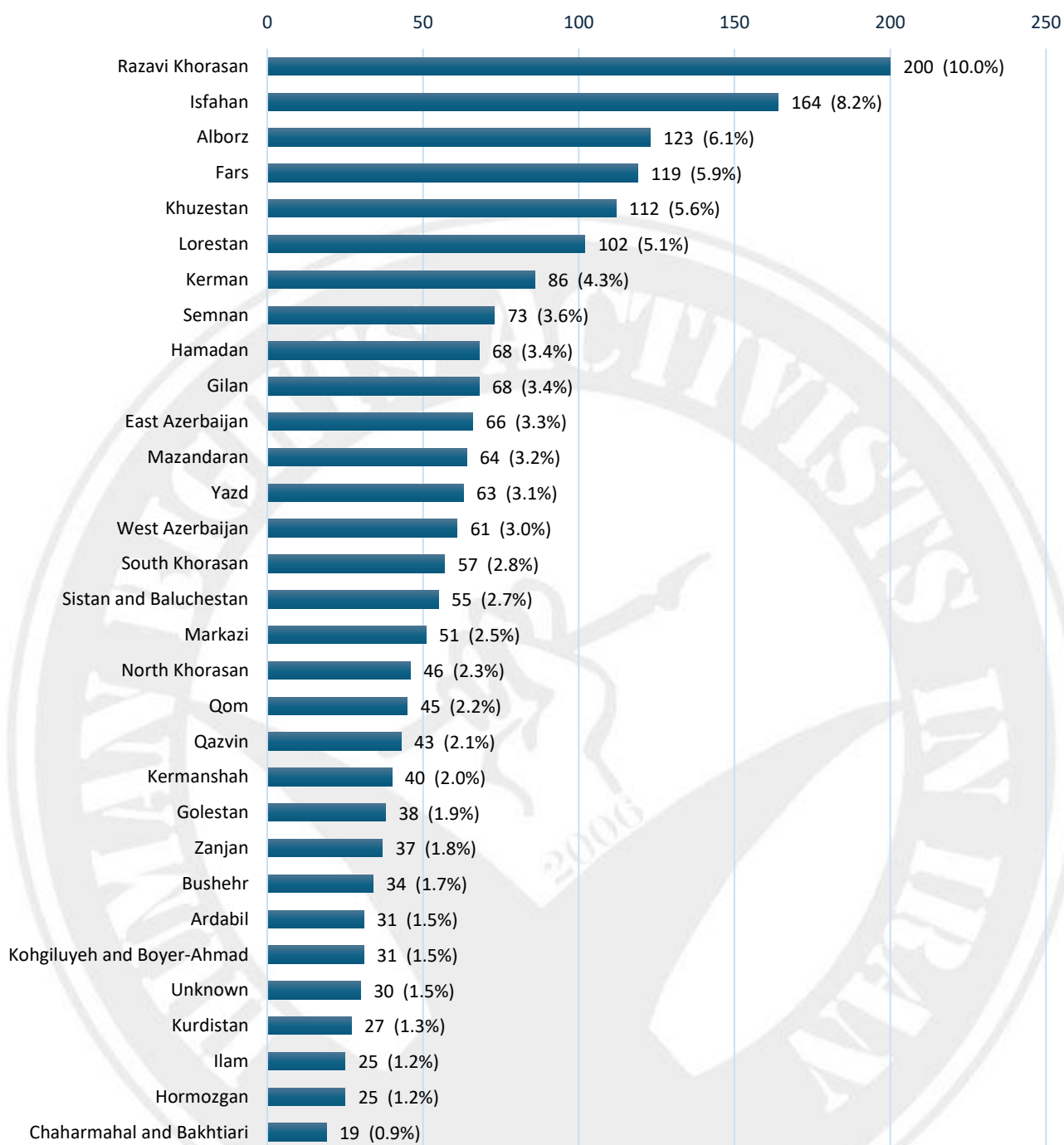
As shown in the chart below, the highest number of reports concerning the death penalty was recorded in December 2025, while the lowest full-month total was recorded in March 2026. The October 2025 and October 2026 figures cover only the last 22 days and the first seven days of those months, respectively, and are not representative of a full month.





According to HRANA documentation throughout the reporting period, 57.56% of those executed in Iran were convicted of murder and 36.25% of drug-related offenses. In addition, 2.40% were executed on charges of moharebeh (waging war against God) or baghi (armed rebellion) in political and security cases, 1.10% on other or unknown charges, 0.90% on security charges (espionage, assassination, bombing), 0.80% on rape charges, 0.80% on non-political moharebeh charges, 0.15% on charges of efsad-e fel-arz (corruption on earth), and 0.05% on economic charges.

The chart below examines executions across Iran's provinces. Razavi Khorasan ranks first with 10.0%, followed by Isfahan with 8.2% and Alborz with 6.1% in second and third place.

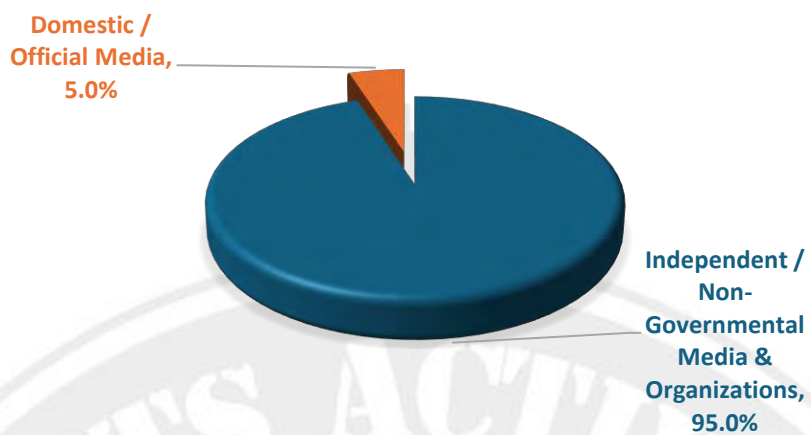


The table below shows the execution rate per 100,000 people in Iran's provinces, based on the number of executions and the population of each province. It compares the extent of executions across provinces and identifies those with the highest execution rates relative to population, which can serve as an indicator of the severity of judicial practice in different regions of the country. However, because executions are counted by prison location, provinces whose prisons also hold inmates from other provinces may show higher rates. Tehran Province is not listed because no executions are carried out there, and 30 executions with unknown province are not included in the calculation.

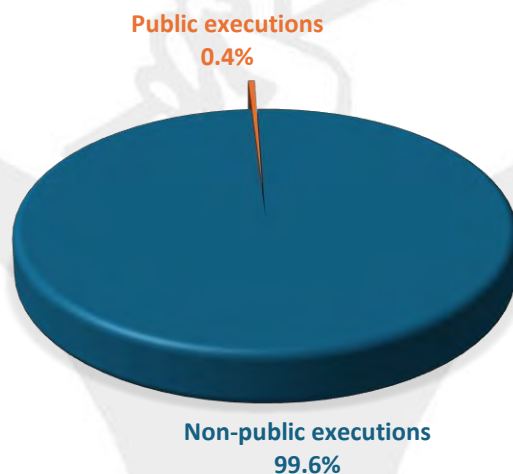
Executions per Capita by Province

Province	Population	Executions	Rate per 100,000 people
Razavi Khorasan	7,109,000	200	2.81
Isfahan	5,429,000	164	3.02
Alborz	3,028,000	123	4.06
Fars	5,136,000	119	2.32
Khuzestan	5,115,000	112	2.19
Lorestan	1,792,000	102	5.69
Kerman	3,413,000	86	2.52
Semnan	787,000	73	9.28
Hamadan	1,769,000	68	3.84
Gilan	2,569,000	68	2.65
East Azerbaijan	4,092,000	66	1.61
Mazandaran	3,415,000	64	1.87
Yazd	1,314,000	63	4.79
West Azerbaijan	3,529,000	61	1.73
South Khorasan	845,000	57	6.75
Sistan and Baluchestan	3,280,000	55	1.68
Markazi	1,472,000	51	3.46
North Khorasan	875,000	46	5.26
Qom	1,454,000	45	3.09
Qazvin	1,346,000	43	3.19
Kermanshah	1,999,000	40	2.00
Golestan	2,016,000	38	1.88
Zanjan	1,119,000	37	3.31
Bushehr	1,277,000	34	2.66
Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad	759,000	31	4.08
Ardabil	1,299,000	31	2.39
Kurdistan	1,689,000	27	1.60
Ilam	597,000	25	4.19
Hormozgan	2,018,000	25	1.24
Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari	997,000	19	1.91

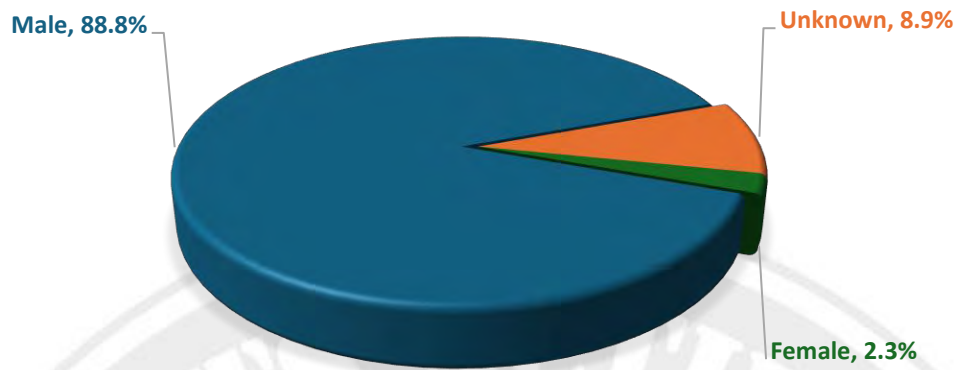
According to HRA documentation, 95% of those executed were executed secretly or without being announced in the media.



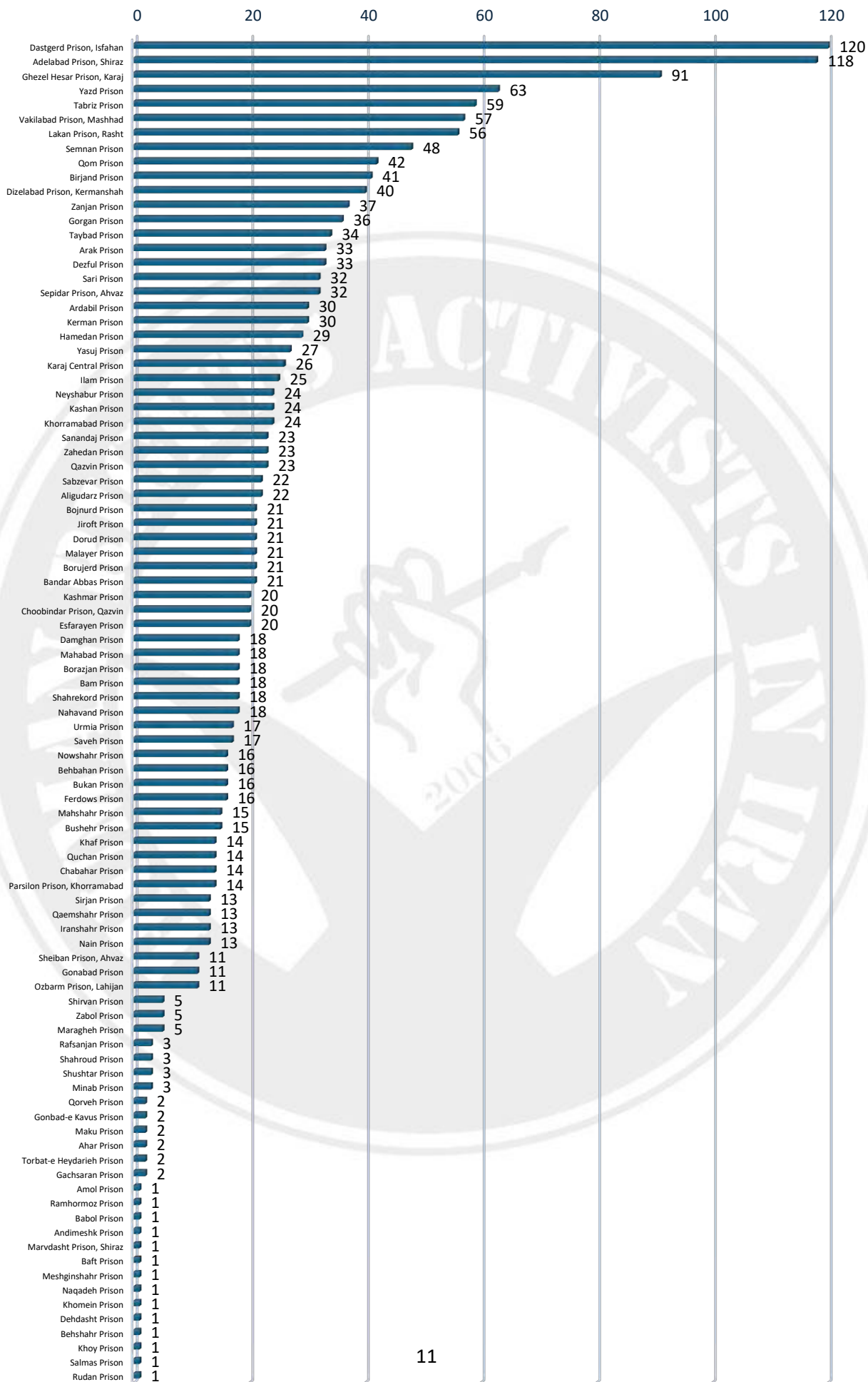
According to the available data, 0.4% of executions were carried out in public.



According to the available data, 2.3% of those executed were women and 88.8% were men; the gender of the remaining 8.9% is unknown.



The chart below shows the number of executions carried out in prisons across Iran. Dastgerd Prison in Isfahan and Adelabad Prison in Shiraz recorded the highest numbers of executions.

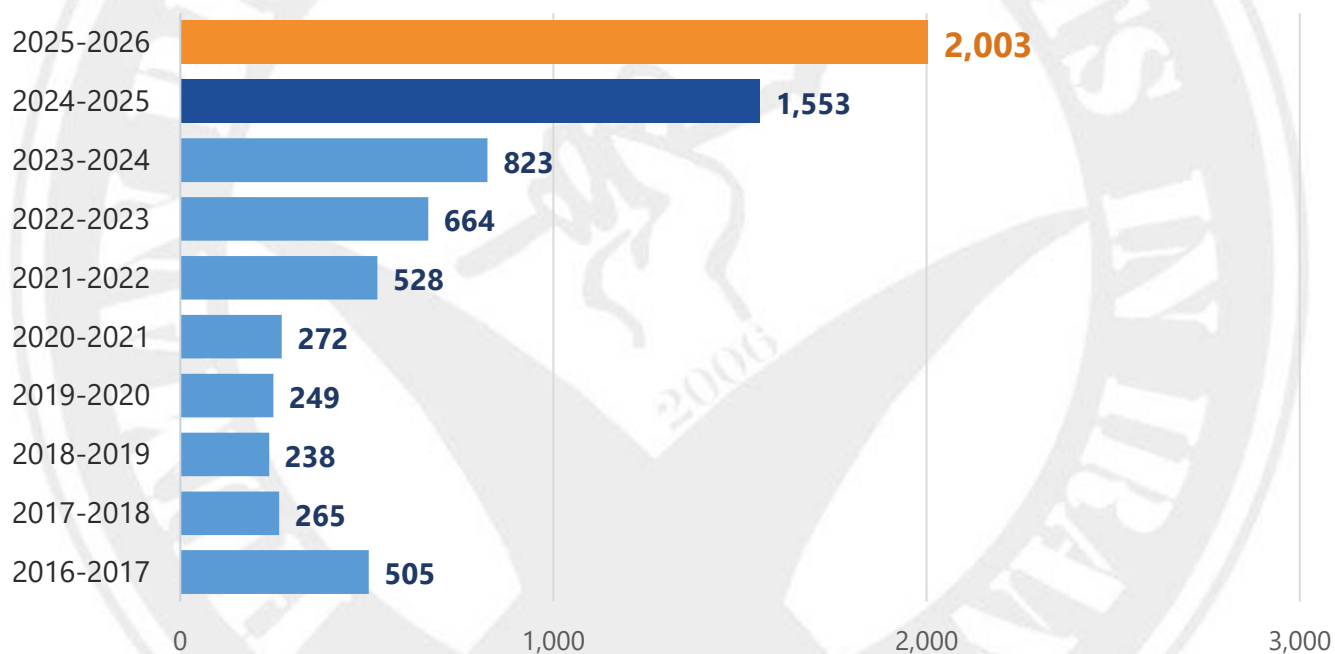


Ten-Year Trend of Executions in Iran (2016–2026)

To complement the review of this year's figures, an examination of execution data over ten reporting periods shows an initial decline followed by a sustained increase, culminating in the highest recorded total of the period.

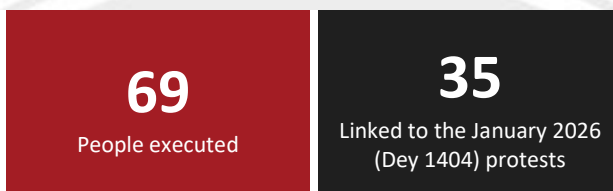
According to data from HRA's Statistics Center, executions declined from 505 in 2016–2017 to 238 in 2018–2019. The number then increased each year from 2019–2020 onward, reaching 2,003 in 2025–2026, the highest total recorded across these ten reporting periods.

Compared with the previous year's total of 1,553, executions increased by approximately 29%. The current total was also more than 182% above the average of 710 executions across the ten reporting periods. These figures were recorded amid continued limitations on access to official and transparent information, with a significant share of executions carried out without official public notification.



Political and Security-Related Executions

This section presents the details of the 69 people executed on political and security-related charges during the period under review, listed in the order in which they were recorded. Each person has a separate card setting out the charge, date of execution, case background, location and prison. Information not available in the data is marked as “Unknown.”



An overview:

- ◀ 35 people (51% of all political and security-related executions) were executed in connection with the January 2026 (Dey 1404) protests.
- ◀ 29 people were executed in April (14) and May 2026 (15) alone, the peak of executions during this period.
- ◀ 29 people were executed on charges of moharebeh (alone or alongside other charges).
- ◀ Among provinces where the location is known, Alborz Province accounts for the largest share, with 19 people.

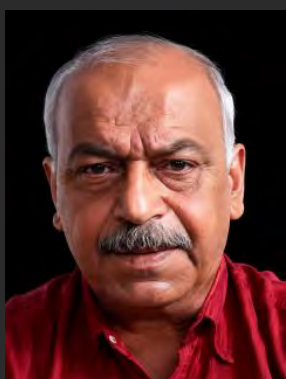
By Province

Province	Number	Percentage	Distribution
Unknown	20	29%	
Alborz	19	28%	
Isfahan	10	14%	
Razavi Khorasan	5	7%	
West Azerbaijan	4	6%	
Qom	4	6%	
Semnan	3	4%	
Kermanshah	2	3%	
Hamadan	1	1%	
Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari	1	1%	
Total	69	100%	

By Month of Execution

Month	Number	Percentage	Distribution
October 2025	1	1%	
November 2025	0	0%	
December 2025	1	1%	
January 2026	4	6%	
February 2026	0	0%	
March 2026	8	12%	
April 2026	14	20%	
May 2026	15	22%	
June 2026	5	7%	
July 2026	9	13%	
August 2026	6	9%	
September 2026	3	4%	
October 2026	3	4%	
Total	69	100%	

1 | Seyed Abolhassan Montazer



Charge	Baghi (armed rebellion) through membership in groups opposed to the state
Date of execution	4 April 2026
Case background	Political prisoner
Province / City	Alborz / Karaj
Prison	Ghezel Hesar Prison, Karaj

2 | Vahid Bani-Amerian



Charge	Baghi (armed rebellion) through membership in groups opposed to the state
Date of execution	4 April 2026
Case background	Political prisoner
Province / City	Alborz / Karaj
Prison	Ghezel Hesar Prison, Karaj

3 | Akbar Daneshvarkar



Charge	Baghi (armed rebellion) through membership in groups opposed to the state
Date of execution	30 March 2026
Case background	Political prisoner
Province / City	Alborz / Karaj
Prison	Ghezel Hesar Prison, Karaj

4 | Babak Alipour



Charge	Baghi (armed rebellion) through membership in groups opposed to the state
Date of execution	31 March 2026
Case background	Political prisoner
Province / City	Alborz / Karaj
Prison	Ghezel Hesar Prison, Karaj

5 | Pouya Ghobadi



Charge	Baghi (armed rebellion) through membership in groups opposed to the state
Date of execution	31 March 2026
Case background	Political prisoner
Province / City	Alborz / Karaj
Prison	Ghezel Hesar Prison, Karaj

6 | Seyed Mohammad Taghavi Sangdehi



Charge	Baghi (armed rebellion) through membership in groups opposed to the state
Date of execution	30 March 2026
Case background	Political prisoner
Province / City	Alborz / Karaj
Prison	Ghezel Hesar Prison, Karaj

7 | Naser Bakrzadeh



Charge	Efsad-fil-arz (corruption on earth) through collaboration with Mossad
Date of execution	2 May 2026
Case background	Political prisoner
Province / City	West Azerbaijan / Urmia
Prison	Unknown

8 | Mohammad Abbasi



Charge	Moharebeh (enmity against God)
Date of execution	13 May 2026
Case background	Dey 1404 (January 2026) protests
Province / City	Alborz / Karaj
Prison	Ghezel Hesar Prison, Karaj

9 | Ehsan Afrashteh



Charge	Espionage for Israel
Date of execution	13 May 2026
Case background	Espionage
Province / City	Unknown
Prison	Unknown

10 | Amirhossein Hatami



Charge	Participation in operational activities against national security on behalf of Israel, the United States and groups opposed to the state; entering classified military sites with intent to remove weapons and ammunition; and destroying and setting fire to public property with intent to confront the Islamic Republic
Date of execution	2 April 2026
Case background	Dey 1404 (January 2026) protests
Province / City	Alborz / Karaj
Prison	Ghezel Hesar Prison, Karaj

11 | Shahin Vahedparast



Charge	Moharebeh (enmity against God)
Date of execution	5 April 2026
Case background	Dey 1404 (January 2026) protests
Province / City	Alborz / Karaj
Prison	Ghezel Hesar Prison, Karaj

12 | Ali Fahim



Charge	Participation in operational activities against national security on behalf of Israel, the United States and groups opposed to the state; entering classified military sites with intent to remove weapons and ammunition; and destroying and setting fire to public property with intent to confront the Islamic Republic
Date of execution	6 April 2026
Case background	Dey 1404 (January 2026) protests
Province / City	Unknown
Prison	Unknown

13 | Mohammadamin Biglari



Charge	Moharebeh (enmity against God)
Date of execution	5 April 2026
Case background	Dey 1404 (January 2026) protests
Province / City	Alborz / Karaj
Prison	Ghezel Hesar Prison, Karaj

14 | Majid Nikandish



Charge	Moharebeh (enmity against God)
Date of execution	30 September 2026
Case background	Dey 1404 (January 2026) protests
Province / City	Razavi Khorasan / Mashhad
Prison	Unknown

15 | Sasan Azadvar Jounghani



Charge	Moharebeh (enmity against God)
Date of execution	30 April 2026
Case background	Dey 1404 (January 2026) protests
Province / City	Isfahan
Prison	Dastgerd Prison, Isfahan

16 | Yaghoub Karimpour



Charge	Intelligence cooperation and espionage for Israel
Date of execution	2 May 2026
Case background	Espionage
Province / City	West Azerbaijan / Urmia
Prison	Unknown

17 | Ramin Zaleh



Charge	Membership in groups opposed to the state and armed action
Date of execution	21 May 2026
Case background	Political prisoner
Province / City	Unknown
Prison	Unknown

18 | Arvin Kheirkhahan



Charge	Moharebeh (enmity against God)
Date of execution	1 August 2026
Case background	Dey 1404 (January 2026) protests
Province / City	Semnan / Shahroud
Prison	Shahroud Prison

19 | Javad Zamani



Charge	Moharebeh (enmity against God) through drawing a weapon; Efsad-fil-arz (corruption on earth); assembly and collusion against national security; disrupting public order and security; and destroying and setting fire to public and private property
Date of execution	16 June 2026
Case background	Dey 1404 (January 2026) protests
Province / City	Semnan / Shahroud
Prison	Unknown

20 | Abolfazl Saedi



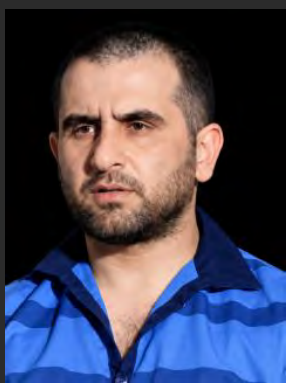
Charge	Moharebeh (enmity against God) through drawing a weapon; Efsad-fil-arz (corruption on earth); assembly and collusion against national security; disrupting public order and security; and destroying and setting fire to public and private property
Date of execution	16 June 2026
Case background	Dey 1404 (January 2026) protests
Province / City	Semnan / Shahroud
Prison	Unknown

21 | Ali Hemmati Sistani



Charge	Moharebeh (enmity against God)
Date of execution	30 September 2026
Case background	Dey 1404 (January 2026) protests
Province / City	Razavi Khorasan / Mashhad
Prison	Unknown

22 | Hossein Pedaran



Charge	Espionage and intelligence cooperation for Israel
Date of execution	19 September 2026
Case background	Espionage
Province / City	Unknown
Prison	Unknown

23 | Mohammad Amini Dehaghani



Charge	Moharebeh (enmity against God)
Date of execution	15 July 2026
Case background	Dey 1404 (January 2026) protests
Province / City	Isfahan
Prison	Unknown

24 | Majid Adineh



Charge	Operational action on behalf of hostile states against national security and interests
Date of execution	23 August 2026
Case background	Dey 1404 (January 2026) protests
Province / City	Alborz
Prison	Unknown

25 | Shahram Sadeghi



Charge	Operational action on behalf of Israel, the United States and hostile states against national security and interests
Date of execution	16 August 2026
Case background	Dey 1404 (January 2026) protests
Province / City	Alborz / Karaj
Prison	Unknown

26 | Fathollah Avari



Charge	Moharebeh (enmity against God) and murder
Date of execution	3 June 2026
Case background	Dey 1404 (January 2026) protests
Province / City	Hamedan
Prison	Hamedan Prison

27 | Mojtaba Kian



Charge	Intelligence activity for Israel and the United States
Date of execution	24 May 2026
Case background	Espionage
Province / City	Unknown
Prison	Unknown

28 | Abbas Akbari Feyzabadi



Charge	Moharebeh (enmity against God)
Date of execution	25 May 2026
Case background	Dey 1404 (January 2026) protests
Province / City	Unknown
Prison	Unknown

29 | Gholamreza Khani Shekarab



Charge	Espionage and intelligence activity for Israel
Date of execution	26 May 2026
Case background	Espionage
Province / City	Unknown
Prison	Unknown

30 | Erfan Shakourzadeh



Charge	Intelligence cooperation with Mossad and the CIA
Date of execution	11 May 2026
Case background	Espionage
Province / City	Alborz / Karaj
Prison	Ghezel Hesar Prison, Karaj

31 | Ebrahim Dowlatabadinejad



Charge	Acting against national security; directing and leading protest gatherings; inciting people to take part in protests; destruction of public property
Date of execution	3 May 2026
Case background	Dey 1404 (January 2026) protests
Province / City	Razavi Khorasan / Mashhad
Prison	Vakilabad Prison, Mashhad

32 | Amirali Mirjafari



Charge	Espionage; acting against national security
Date of execution	21 April 2026
Case background	Dey 1404 (January 2026) protests
Province / City	Unknown
Prison	Unknown

33 | Saeed Davoudi



Charge	Moharebeh (enmity against God)
Date of execution	19 March 2026
Case background	Dey 1404 (January 2026) protests
Province / City	Qom
Prison	Public execution

34 | Saleh Mohammadi



Charge	Moharebeh (enmity against God)
Date of execution	19 March 2026
Case background	Dey 1404 (January 2026) protests
Province / City	Qom
Prison	Public execution

35 | Mehdi Ghasemi



Charge	Moharebeh (enmity against God)
Date of execution	19 March 2026
Case background	Dey 1404 (January 2026) protests
Province / City	Qom
Prison	Public execution

36 | Ali Ardestani

Charge	Espionage for Israel
Date of execution	7 January 2026
Case background	Espionage
Province / City	Unknown
Prison	Unknown

37 | Aghil Keshavarz

Charge	Espionage
Date of execution	20 December 2025
Case background	Espionage
Province / City	West Azerbaijan / Urmia
Prison	Urmia Prison

38 | Mehdi Khanaki

Charge	Operational action on behalf of Israel, the United States and hostile groups
Date of execution	22 July 2026
Case background	Dey 1404 (January 2026) protests
Province / City	Alborz / Karaj
Prison	Ghezel Hesar Prison, Karaj

39 | Hamed Validi

Charge	Moharebeh (enmity against God); collaboration with a hostile state; assembly and collusion against national security; membership in a group aimed at disrupting national security
Date of execution	20 April 2026
Case background	Political prisoner
Province / City	Alborz / Karaj
Prison	Unknown

40 | Mohammad Masoum Shahi

Charge	Moharebeh (enmity against God); collaboration with a hostile state; assembly and collusion against national security; membership in a group aimed at disrupting national security
Date of execution	20 April 2026
Case background	Political prisoner
Province / City	Alborz / Karaj
Prison	Unknown

41 | Erfan Kiani

Charge	Moharebeh (enmity against God) through drawing a cold weapon (machete) to intimidate the public; creating insecurity; inciting people to violent acts; participating in the destruction of public property
Date of execution	25 April 2026
Case background	Dey 1404 (January 2026) protests
Province / City	Isfahan
Prison	Unknown

42 | Aref Khoshkar



Charge	Moharebeh (enmity against God) through carrying and using a weapon and the killing of a Basij member
Date of execution	15 July 2026
Case background	1401 (2022) protests
Province / City	Alborz / Karaj
Prison	Ghezel Hesar Prison, Karaj

43 | Abdoljalil Shahbakhsh



Charge	Baghi through armed attacks on police headquarters and membership in the rebel group Ansar al-Furqan
Date of execution	12 May 2026
Case background	Security prisoner
Province / City	Unknown
Prison	Unknown

44 | Ghaem (Arian) Hosseini



Charge	Moharebeh (enmity against God)
Date of execution	20 August 2026
Case background	Dey 1404 (January 2026) protests
Province / City	Isfahan
Prison	Unknown

45 | Omid Behzad

Charge	Espionage for Israel
Date of execution	3 August 2026
Case background	Espionage
Province / City	Unknown
Prison	Unknown

46 | Pouria Safvat

Charge	Espionage for Israel
Date of execution	3 August 2026
Case background	Espionage
Province / City	Unknown
Prison	Unknown

47 | Abolfazl Sepahi

Charge	Moharebeh (enmity against God)
Date of execution	28 July 2026
Case background	Dey 1404 (January 2026) protests
Province / City	Isfahan
Prison	Public execution

48 | Amirhossein Safari

Charge	Moharebeh (enmity against God)
Date of execution	28 July 2026
Case background	Dey 1404 (January 2026) protests
Province / City	Isfahan
Prison	Public execution

49 | Erfan Esfandiari

Charge	Moharebeh (enmity against God)
Date of execution	19 July 2026
Case background	Dey 1404 (January 2026) protests
Province / City	Isfahan
Prison	Unknown

50 | Golmohammad Mohammadi

Charge	Moharebeh (enmity against God)
Date of execution	19 July 2026
Case background	Dey 1404 (January 2026) protests
Province / City	Isfahan
Prison	Unknown

51 | Mohieddin Abdollahi

Charge	Armed uprising against the Islamic Republic of Iran (baghi)
Date of execution	14 July 2026
Case background	Ideological–security prisoner
Province / City	Kermanshah
Prison	Dizelabad Prison, Kermanshah

52 | Hossein Palani

Charge	Armed uprising against the Islamic Republic of Iran (baghi)
Date of execution	14 July 2026
Case background	Ideological–security prisoner
Province / City	Kermanshah
Prison	Dizelabad Prison, Kermanshah

53 | Mehrdad Mohammadinia

Charge	Collaboration with the Zionist regime and hostile states; creating insecurity and public terror; destroying and setting fire to public property; and participating in operational activities against national security
Date of execution	1 June 2026
Case background	Dey 1404 (January 2026) protests
Province / City	Unknown
Prison	Unknown

54 | Ashkan Maleki



Charge	Collaboration with the Zionist regime and hostile states; creating insecurity and public terror; destroying and setting fire to public property; and participating in operational activities against national security
Date of execution	1 June 2026
Case background	Dey 1404 (January 2026) protests
Province / City	Unknown
Prison	Unknown

55 | Karim Marufpour



Charge	Membership in groups opposed to the state and armed action
Date of execution	21 May 2026
Case background	Political prisoner
Province / City	Unknown
Prison	Unknown

56 | Mehdi Rasouli



Charge	Participation in the killing of a Basij member
Date of execution	3 May 2026
Case background	Dey 1404 (January 2026) protests
Province / City	Razavi Khorasan / Mashhad
Prison	Vakilabad Prison, Mashhad

57 | Mohammadreza Miri

Charge	Participation in the killing of a Basij member
Date of execution	3 May 2026
Case background	Dey 1404 (January 2026) protests
Province / City	Razavi Khorasan / Mashhad
Prison	Vakilabad Prison, Mashhad

58 | Amer Ramesh

Charge	Baghi and membership in an armed group opposed to the state
Date of execution	26 April 2026
Case background	Political prisoner
Province / City	Unknown
Prison	Unknown

59 | Soltanali Shirzadi Fakhr

Charge	Membership in the People's Mojahedin Organization (MEK), collaboration with Israeli intelligence, and Moharebeh (enmity against God)
Date of execution	23 April 2026
Case background	Political prisoner
Province / City	Unknown
Prison	Unknown

60 | Mehdi Farid

Charge	Efsad-fil-arz (corruption on earth) through collaboration with Israel
Date of execution	22 April 2026
Case background	Espionage
Province / City	Unknown
Prison	Unknown

61 | Kourosh Keyvani

Charge	Espionage for Israel
Date of execution	18 March 2026
Case background	Espionage
Province / City	Unknown
Prison	Unknown

62 | Hamidreza Sabet Esmailpour

Charge	Espionage for Israel
Date of execution	28 January 2026
Case background	Espionage
Province / City	Unknown
Prison	Unknown

63 | Amanj Karvanchi

Charge	Baghi through membership in ISIS
Date of execution	24 January 2026
Case background	Political–security prisoner
Province / City	Alborz / Karaj
Prison	Ghezel Hesar Prison, Karaj

64 | Arsalan Sheikhi (Abdolrahman)

Charge	Baghi through membership in ISIS
Date of execution	24 January 2026
Case background	Political–security prisoner
Province / City	Alborz / Karaj
Prison	Ghezel Hesar Prison, Karaj

65 | Mehrab (Mehran) Abdollahzadeh

Charge	Efsad-fil-arz (corruption on earth) through participation in the intentional killing of a Basij member
Date of execution	3 May 2026
Case background	Political prisoner
Province / City	West Azerbaijan / Urmia
Prison	Unknown

66 | Unidentified (espionage defendant)



Charge	Moharebeh (enmity against God) and Efsad-fil-arz (corruption on earth)
Date of execution	18 October 2025
Case background	Espionage
Province / City	Qom
Prison	Qom Prison

67 | Siavash Jamshidi Kheirabadi



Charge	Moharebeh (enmity against God) through drawing a firearm, and assembly and collusion against national security
Date of execution	3 October 2026
Case background	Dey 1404 (January 2026) protests
Province / City	Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari / Shahrekord
Prison	Unknown

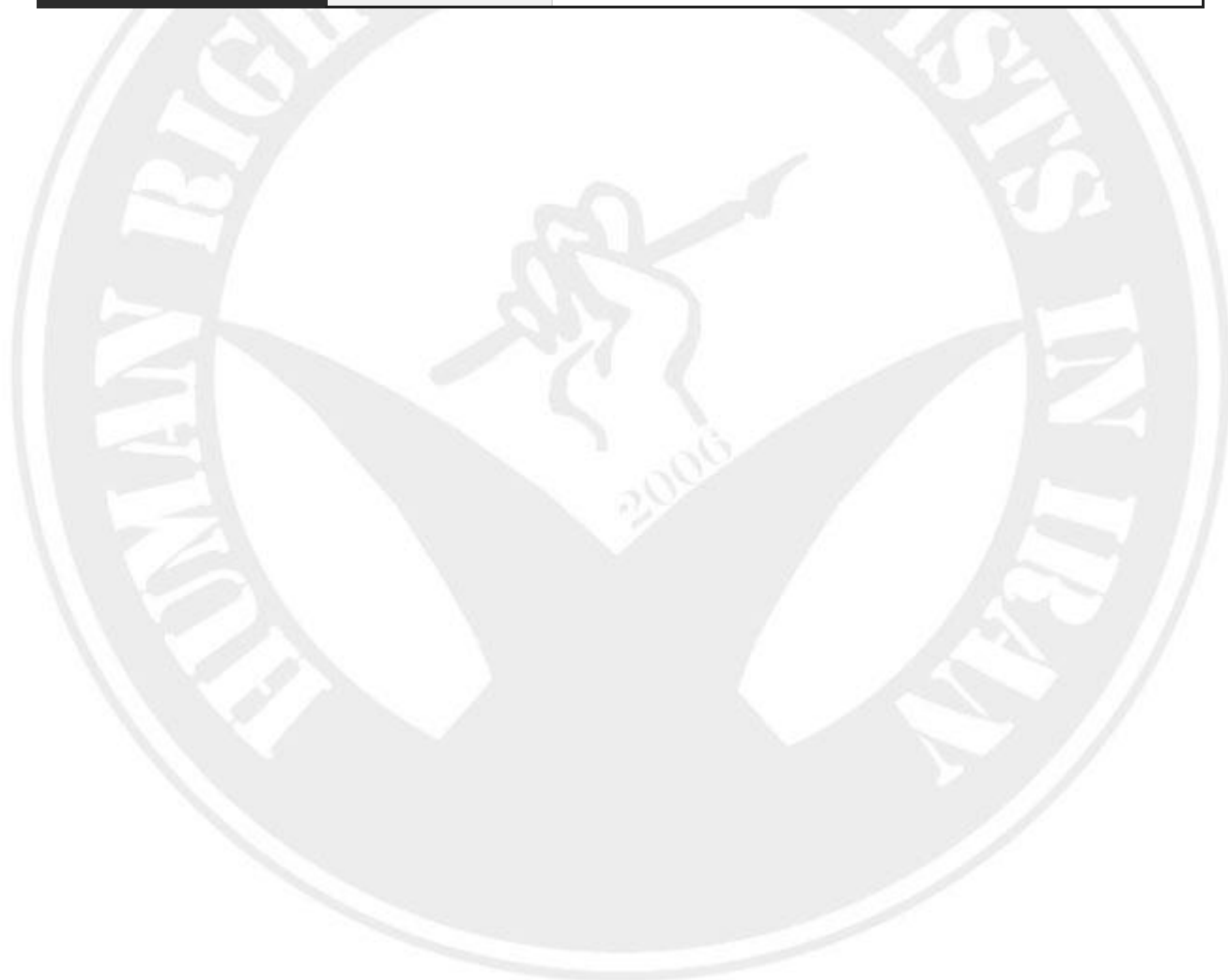
68 | Alireza Sepahi



Charge	Moharebeh (enmity against God), Efsad-fil-arz (corruption on earth), membership in a rebel group, and acting against national security
Date of execution	5 October 2026
Case background	Dey 1404 (January 2026) protests
Province / City	Isfahan
Prison	Dastgerd Prison, Isfahan



Charge	Moharebeh (enmity against God), Efsad-fil-arz (corruption on earth), membership in a rebel group, and acting against national security
Date of execution	5 October 2026
Case background	Dey 1404 (January 2026) protests
Province / City	Isfahan
Prison	Dastgerd Prison, Isfahan



Judicial Actors Behind Death Sentences

Identified judges and courts involved in capital cases

The imposition of the death penalty is not only reflected in execution statistics. Behind every death sentence is a judicial process involving judges, court branches and, in many cases, the Supreme Court. As part of its documentation for the current reporting cycle, HRA's Statistics Center reviewed available information concerning judicial officials and courts involved in issuing or upholding death sentences.

The findings provide only a partial picture. Iranian authorities routinely withhold information about capital proceedings, and public reporting frequently identifies a court without naming the presiding judge or even the branch. Accordingly, the absence of a judge's name from this section should not be read as indicating that the individual was not involved in capital proceedings. It reflects the limits of independently verifiable information.

Scope note. HRA's research on judicial actors covers October 10, 2025 through September 26, 2026. It therefore ends twelve days before the October 8, 2026 cutoff used for the rest of this report. The names and cases below should be understood within that narrower documentation window.

Key finding

The available records show that several judges identified during the current period had also appeared in earlier political, security-related, or protest cases involving the death penalty. In those instances, their involvement was recurring rather than confined to a single proceeding or protest cycle.

Recurring Judicial Involvement

1 | Abolghasem Salavati

Court / Branch	Branch 15, Tehran Revolutionary Court
Judicial tenure	Serving since at least January/February 2008 (Bahman 1386)

Current-period documentation. During the current research period, Salavati was identified in connection with death sentences involving multiple defendants, including Arghavan Fallahi, Mohammad Abbasi, Mohammad Amin Biglari, Shahin Vahedparast, Ali Fahim, Amirhossein Akbari Monfared and Mahnaz Chahardoli, among others.

Prior documented involvement. His involvement in politically sensitive capital proceedings substantially predates the current period. HRA's research documents a record extending back to the post-election trials of 2009 and later identifies his role in death sentences against defendants arrested during the 2022 "Woman, Life, Freedom" protests, including Mohsen Shekari, Mohammad Boroughani and Saman Seydi. The available record therefore indicates repeated involvement across multiple protest cycles.

2 | Iman Afshari

Court / Branch	Branch 26, Tehran Revolutionary Court
Judicial tenure	Serving from January 2019 (Dey 1397) to present

Current-period documentation. Afshari was identified in connection with death sentences affecting a substantial group of defendants during the period examined, including Akbar Daneshvarkar, Seyed Mohammad Taghavi Sangdehi, Babak Alipour, Pouya Ghobadi, Seyed Abolhassan Montazer and Vahid Bani-Amerian, among others.

Prior documented involvement. His involvement in protest-related capital cases predates the present reporting period. During the 2022 protests, he issued a death sentence against Mahan Sadrat-Madani on a charge of moharebeh. His renewed appearance in capital political cases during the current period indicates a recurring judicial role rather than involvement limited to a single case.

3 Vahid Hemmatnejad	
Court / Branch	Branch 5, Isfahan Revolutionary Court
Judicial tenure	Serving from 2023-2024 (1402) to present

Current-period documentation. Hemmatnejad was identified in connection with the cases of Mahnam Navab Safavi and Leila Abolhasani.

Prior documented involvement. His capital-case involvement predates the current protest period. In 2024, he issued a death sentence against political prisoner Mahmoud Mehrabi. In 2026, he sentenced protest detainee Leila Abolhasani to death on a charge of moharebeh. The available record therefore indicates repeated involvement in political and protest-related capital proceedings over several years.

4 Ahmad Darvish-Goftar	
Court / Branch	Branch 1, Rasht Revolutionary Court
Judicial tenure	Serving from July/August 2023 (Mordad 1402) to present

Current-period documentation. Darvish-Goftar was identified in connection with the cases of Peyman (Amin) Farahavar and Ali Pischevarzadeh.

Prior documented involvement. HRA's research documents repeated involvement in political capital cases, including the 2024 death sentence against Sharifeh Mohammadi and later proceedings involving other political prisoners. In 2026, he sentenced January protest detainee Ali Pischevarzadeh to death, indicating recurring involvement in capital cases involving political defendants and protesters.

5 Reza Najafzadeh	
Court / Branch	Branch 3, Urmia Revolutionary Court
Judicial tenure	Serving from approximately August/September 2023 (Shahrivar 1402) to present

Current-period documentation. Najafzadeh was identified in connection with the death sentence of Nasser Bakrzadeh.

Prior documented involvement. HRA's research records a multi-year history of political and protest-related capital proceedings. It identifies a death sentence issued against Hamid Hosseinneshad Heydaranlou in 2024 and multiple death sentences in 2025 against Kurdish defendants linked to the 2022 "Woman, Life, Freedom" protests.

6 | Seyed Mahmoud Sadati

Court / Branch	Branch 1, Shiraz Revolutionary Court
Judicial tenure	Serving since at least February/March 2013 (Esfand 1391)

Current-period documentation. Sadati was identified in connection with the case of Benyamin Naghdi during the period examined.

Prior documented involvement. His prior record includes direct involvement in proceedings against Navid Afkari, who was arrested following the 2018 protests and later executed. HRA's research also draws on European Union documentation concerning his broader record of severe sentences and death-penalty involvement against activists and political dissidents.

Selected Judicial Officials - At a Glance

The table below summarizes selected named officials for whom HRA's research identified court information and current-period case links. It is not an exhaustive list of every judicial actor involved in death-penalty proceedings during the reporting period.

Judicial official	Court / Branch	Individuals identified
Abolghasem Salavati	Tehran Revolutionary Court, Branch 15	Multiple defendants
Iman Afshari	Tehran Revolutionary Court, Branch 26	Multiple defendants
Seyed Mahmoud Kazemzadeh / Mohammad Vakili	Isfahan Revolutionary Court, Branch 1	Sasan Azadvar-Jouneghani
Vahid Hemmatnejad	Isfahan Revolutionary Court, Branch 5	Mahnam Navab Safavi; Leila Abolhasani
Ahmad Darvish-Goftar	Rasht Revolutionary Court, Branch 1	Peyman Farahavar; Ali Pischevarzadeh
Mohammad Ali Darvish-Goftar	Rasht Revolutionary Court, Branch 2	Zahra Shahbaz Tabari
Esmail Asadi	Qazvin Revolutionary Court, Branch 1	Mansour Jamali
Sajjad Dousti	Urmia Revolutionary Court, Branch 1	Yaghoob Karimpour
Reza Najafzadeh	Urmia Revolutionary Court, Branch 3	Nasser Bakrzadeh
Mohammad Mehdi Shahmirzadi	Tehran Revolutionary Court, Branch 23	Mohammad Naderi; Eisa Chari; Borzou Rezaei; Mehdi Nami
Morteza Barati	Former head, Isfahan Revolutionary Court, Branch 1	Alireza Sepahi; Abolfazl Sepahi
Mohammadreza Tavakoli	Isfahan Revolutionary Court, Branch 1	Taraneh Rahimi
Gholamreza Akbari Moghadam	Mashhad Revolutionary Court, Branch 1	Majid Nikandish; Mahboubeh Shaabani; Ebrahim Dolatabadi
Seyed Mahmoud Sadati	Shiraz Revolutionary Court, Branch 1	Benyamin Naghdi

Where the Judge Could Not Be Identified

In a number of documented death-penalty cases, available information identified only the responsible court or judicial authority rather than an individual judge or specific branch. HRA's research recorded such cases involving

judicial authorities or Revolutionary Courts in Sari, Ahvaz, Shiraz, Rasht, Qom, Tehran, Isfahan, Karaj and Zahedan. This gap illustrates the opacity surrounding capital proceedings in Iran and materially limits independent scrutiny of individual decision-makers.

Court / authority identified	Individuals linked
Sari Judicial Authorities	Masih Abbaskhani Davanlou
Ahvaz Revolutionary Court	Farzad Moradi
Shiraz Revolutionary Court	Shahab Dadkhah; Majid Nasiri; one unidentified co-defendant
Rasht Revolutionary Court	Ali Pischevarzadeh
Qom Judicial Authorities	Mehdi Ghasemi; Saleh Mohammadi; Saeed Davoudi
Tehran Judicial Authorities	Amirali Jafari; Kourosh Keyvani
Isfahan Revolutionary Court	Erfan Kiani
Karaj Revolutionary Court	Mohammad Masoum Shahi; Hamed Validi
Zahedan Revolutionary Court	Amer Ramesh

Supreme Court Review

The role of the Supreme Court is analytically distinct from first-instance sentencing. HRA's research identified several Supreme Court judges in cases in which death sentences were reviewed or upheld. Where the available documentation concerns appellate confirmation rather than issuance of the original sentence, this distinction should be preserved.

Judge	Branch	Individuals / cases
Ghasem Mazinani	Branch 9	Ahad Shokouhian; Yaghoub Karimpour; Mehrab (Mehran) Abdollahzadeh; Masoud Piahou; Alireza Peyghambari
Seyed Kazem Sadati Firouzabad	Branch 39	Mohammad Abbasi; Peyman (Amin) Farahavar
Hossein Zebhi	Branch 41	Benyamin Naghdi
Ali Esfahani	Branch 20	Cases documented by HRANA sources