

IRAN: ALL-OUT ATTACK ON HUMAN RIGHTS

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SUMMARY

This submission was prepared for the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Iran in January – February 2025. In it, Amnesty International evaluates the implementation of recommendations made to Iran in its previous review.

It also assesses the national human rights framework and, with regard to the human rights situation on the ground, it raises concern about the ongoing crackdown on the rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly; arbitrary detention and unfair trials; enforced disappearance and torture and other ill-treatment; violations to the rights to freedom of religion or belief and the persecution of ethnic and linguistic minorities; LGBTI people's rights; violence and discrimination against women and girls; impunity for crimes under international law, including the ongoing crimes against humanity relating to the mass enforced disappearances and extrajudicial executions of 1988; and the ongoing use of the death penalty, including against individuals who were under the age of 18 at the time of the crime.

The submission ends with a set of recommendations to Iran which, if implemented, would contribute to improving the human rights situation.

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FOLLOW UP TO THE PREVIOUS REVIEW

1. At its Universal Periodic Review (UPR) in 2019, Iran received 329 recommendations. Of these, Iran fully supported 143, partially supported 45, rejected 123, and noted 18.¹
2. Iran only made modest progress on a small number of the supported recommendations, while failing to implement or regressing in the implementation of the vast majority of others.
3. Iran fully or partially supported eight recommendations to cooperate with and accept visits from Human Rights Council mechanisms.² However, despite requests for visits from 13 Special Procedures, only the Special Rapporteur on unilateral coercive measures was granted access since 2005.³ Iran also continues to deny the UN Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Iran access to the country.⁴

THE NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS FRAMEWORK

4. Iran is party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination; and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. However, Iran has failed to fully incorporate into domestic law key human rights guarantees contained therein. Amnesty International regrets that Iran rejected recommendations to ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment; and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.⁵
5. While Iran's constitution contains some human rights safeguards, these are undermined by vague qualifications of compliance "with Islamic criteria".⁶
6. Amnesty International regrets Iran's rejection of recommendations to establish a national human rights institution in line with the Paris Principles.⁷ The High Council for Human Rights of the Islamic Republic of Iran has consistently publicly defended Iran's appalling human rights record including at the UN Human Rights Council.

THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION ON THE GROUND

FREEDOMS OF EXPRESSION, ASSOCIATION AND ASSEMBLY

7. Despite Iran fully or partially supporting 12 recommendations pertaining to the rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly, it has taken regressive steps further undermining these rights.⁸ Since Iran's last UPR, authorities have intensified their crackdown on dissent, including through lethal dispersals of nationwide and localized protests and mass arrests, abusive interrogations, unjust prosecutions and arbitrary detentions of tens of thousands of people for peacefully exercising their human rights.⁹
8. Authorities continue to ban independent political parties, trade unions and civil society organizations; censor media; block and/or filter mobile apps and social media platforms.¹⁰
9. Iran's security forces have systematically and unlawfully fired live ammunition and metal pellets to crush protests. Most recently, during the "Woman Life Freedom" uprising of September-December 2022, they unlawfully killed hundreds of protesters and bystanders, including at least 44 children.¹¹ During the nationwide protests of November 2019, security forces unlawfully killed hundreds of people, including 23

children.¹² Thousands were blinded or sustained other severe injuries as a result of the unlawful use of force during protest crackdowns.

10. Since November 2019, authorities have repeatedly disrupted internet and mobile phone networks during protests to suppress mobilization and impede information sharing.¹³

ARBITRARY DETENTION AND UNFAIR TRIALS

11. Iran has failed to implement the 12 recommendations it fully or partially supported related to ensuring that individuals are not arbitrarily detained for exercising their human rights and to guarantee fair trial rights, including to adequate defence.¹⁴
12. Despite supporting the recommendation¹⁵ to ensure the independence of the judiciary, Iran's judiciary, in particular Revolutionary Courts, remains deeply intertwined with and operates under the influence of security and intelligence bodies.¹⁶
13. Defendants are systematically denied fair trial rights, including, to: access a lawyer of their choosing; meaningfully challenge the legality of their detention; the presumption of innocence; not self-incriminate; and meaningful review.
14. Forced "confessions" obtained under torture are frequently broadcast on state television and used by courts to issue convictions.¹⁷
15. Those arbitrarily detained solely for their peaceful exercise of human rights include protesters, journalists, lawyers, human rights defenders, political dissidents, students, actors, musicians, writers, and relatives of victims demanding accountability.¹⁸ Iran also continues to arbitrarily detain foreign and dual nationals for leverage, in some cases constituting the crime of hostage taking.¹⁹

ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCE AND TORTURE AND OTHER CRUEL, INHUMAN OR DEGRADING TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT

16. Despite fully or partially supporting five recommendations²⁰ related to the protection from torture during arrest and in detention, authorities routinely subject detainees to enforced disappearance, holding them in undisclosed locations and subjecting them to torture and other ill-treatment to punish them and/or extract forced "confessions".²¹
17. Iran's Constitution and legislation fail to provide for the absolute prohibition of torture, only banning acts carried out "for the purpose of extracting confession or acquiring information", including during interrogations.²²
18. Torture and other ill-treatment are widespread and systematic in prisons and other detention centres across Iran.²³ Amnesty International also documented how security and intelligence agents subjected protesters arrested during the 2022 nationwide to rape and other sexual violence.²⁴
19. Despite supporting three recommendations on prisoners' right to health,²⁵ authorities continue to deliberately deny prisoners adequate healthcare, including for the purposes of punishment, humiliation, or obtaining forced "confessions".²⁶
20. Amnesty International recorded the names of 96 prisoners who died in custody between January 2010 and April 2022, involving credible reports of denial of adequate healthcare.²⁷ Amnesty International also recorded 46 other deaths in custody involving physical acts of violence between January 2010 and

September 2021.²⁸ No adequate investigations were carried out into the causes or circumstances of their deaths.

21. Prison and prosecution authorities continue to detain people in cruel and inhuman conditions characterized by overcrowding, poor sanitation, inadequate food and water, poor ventilation, and insect infestation.²⁹
22. Iranian law provides for cruel and inhuman punishments amounting to torture, including flogging, amputation,³⁰ blinding, crucifixion and stoning. Between 1 January 2020 and 31 December 2023, at least 678 people were sentenced to flogging,³¹ including for acts protected by international law.³² Since the last UPR review, Iran has continued to carry out floggings and amputations.

FREEDOM OF RELIGION OR BELIEF AND PERSECUTION OF ETHNIC AND LINGUISTIC MINORITIES

23. Iran has failed to implement the 13 recommendations it fully or partially supported to protect ethnic and religious minorities including against discrimination.³³
24. Freedom of religion and belief is systematically violated. Members of religious minorities, including Christians, Jews, Gonabadi Dervishes, Yaresan (Ahl-e Haq) and Shi'a Muslims who convert to Sunni Islam or another faith, face harassment, arbitrary arrest and detention and prison sentences solely for practising their faith.
25. Widespread and systematic attacks have continued against the persecuted Baha'i minority, including arbitrary arrest and detention, enforced disappearances, forcible closure of businesses, confiscation of property, bans on higher education, and desecration and demolition of Baha'i cemeteries.³⁴
26. Ethnic minorities, including, Ahwazi Arabs, Azerbaijani Turks, Baluchis, Kurds and Turkmen, face widespread discrimination, curtailing their access to education, employment, adequate housing and political office. Members of minorities who denounce violations face arbitrary detention, torture, grossly unfair trials, and the death penalty.³⁵
27. Baluchis and Kurds, were disproportionately impacted by the security forces' use of lethal force during the "Woman Life Freedom" uprising.³⁶

LGBTI PEOPLE'S RIGHTS

28. Iran failed to implement the two recommendations it partially supported to take measures to protect individuals from violence and discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity.³⁷
29. Laws criminalizing consensual same-sex sexual conduct and gender non-conformity have fostered an environment where killings and other violence against LGBTI individuals by non-state actors are tolerated amid pervasive impunity for homophobic and transphobic hate crimes.³⁸
30. Authorities have subjected LGBTI people and rights defenders to arbitrary detention and prosecution due to their real or perceived sexual orientation and/or gender identity, as well as activism supporting LGBTI rights.³⁹

VIOLENCE AND DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

31. Iran has failed to implement the 38 recommendations it partially or fully supported regarding women's rights.⁴⁰

32. Authorities treat women as second-class citizens, including in relation to marriage, divorce, child custody, employment, inheritance and political office.⁴¹ The age of criminal responsibility is nine lunar years for girls but at 15 lunar years for boys.⁴² Child marriage continues to be permitted under the law.⁴³

33. Since the “Woman Life Freedom” uprising, sparked by the death in custody of Jina/Mahsa Amini on 16 September 2022 following her arrest by enforcers of degrading and discriminatory compulsory veiling laws,⁴⁴ authorities have launched an all-out assault on women and girls defying compulsory veiling, introducing policies severely violating their rights and restricting their freedom of movement.⁴⁵ Since April 2024, when the authorities announced the implementation of the nationwide “Noor (light) plan”, security forces have further intensified their violent enforcement of compulsory veiling, subjecting women and girls to constant surveillance, beatings, sexual violence, electric shocks, arbitrary arrest and detention.⁴⁶ This is despite Iran fully or partially supporting recommendations to protect women's rights and ensure non-discrimination,⁴⁷ and promote their participation in public life, education and employment.⁴⁸

34. In the aftermath of the 2022 nationwide protests, the authorities introduced the “Bill to Support the Family by Promoting the Culture of Chastity and Hijab”, which codifies the assault on women's rights including by providing for up to 10 years' imprisonment for defying compulsory veiling. The bill is nearing final approval.⁴⁹

35. Despite fully or partially supporting recommendations to take steps to protect women and girls from violence,⁵⁰ Iran has failed to criminalize gender-based violence, including domestic violence and marital rape,⁵¹ and failed to adequately investigate and end attacks against thousands of schoolgirls deliberately poisoned between November 2022 and April 2023.⁵²

DEATH PENALTY

36. Iran has failed to implement the two recommendations it partially supported regarding the reduction of the number of offences punishable by death.⁵³

37. The death penalty remains prescribed in national law for offences other than those considered “the most serious crimes” under international law, such as drug trafficking.⁵⁴ Courts continue to impose death sentences and executions are carried out after unfair trials, sometimes in public.

38. Since Iran's previous UPR, authorities have increasingly used the death penalty as a tool of repression against protesters, dissidents and ethnic minorities to sow fear, stifle dissent and deter further protests.⁵⁵

39. Ethnic minorities continue to be disproportionately impacted by the death penalty.⁵⁶ Since the last UPR, authorities forcibly disappeared and executed in secret members of ethnic minorities.⁵⁷

40. Since its previous UPR, Iran has executed at least 2,311 people according to records by Amnesty International and the Abdorrahman Boroumand Center;⁵⁸ the majority were convicted of drug-related offences. At least 13 were executed in connection with protests.

41. Between 1 January 2020 and 31 December 2023, Iran executed at least 17 individuals who were under 18 years at the time of the crime.⁵⁹

IMPUNITY FOR CRIMES UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW, INCLUDING CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY

42. Iran has failed to make progress on three recommendations it fully or partially supported on the right to effective remedy or reparations.⁶⁰

43. Iran continues to commit crimes against humanity through the ongoing enforced disappearance of at least 5,000 imprisoned political dissidents who were extrajudicially executed in secret between July and

September 1988.⁶¹ These ongoing enforced disappearances, and the concealment and the destruction of mass grave sites,⁶² cause severe suffering and anguish to victims' families, amounting to torture or other inhumane treatment.⁶³

44. Officials in Iran refuse to ensure justice, truth or reparation for survivors and victims of crimes under international law and other grave human rights violations.⁶⁴ Since Iran's previous UPR, no public official has been investigated or prosecuted in line with international standards for extrajudicial executions and other unlawful killings, torture including rape or enforced disappearances.⁶⁵
45. Authorities routinely subject bereaved family members who advocate on behalf of their relatives or seek accountability to arbitrary arrest, unjust prosecution, and other forms of harassment and intimidation.⁶⁶
46. Iranian authorities continue to cover up the real number of those unlawfully killed by security forces during the nationwide protests of September-December 2022,⁶⁷ November 2019⁶⁸ and previous protests, and deny and distort the truth about the circumstances surrounding the killings. Iranian authorities have announced various non-judicial national "fact-finding committees" to investigate killings during the nationwide protests of September-December 2022. However, their methods of work, mandates and findings remain shrouded in secrecy, and their composition includes members who have publicly justified violations.⁶⁹

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION BY THE STATE UNDER REVIEW

Amnesty International calls on the government of Iran to:

National human rights framework

1. Honour its standing invitation to the UN Special Procedures to visit Iran without restrictions on duration or scope and ensure they are allowed to meet victims and human rights defenders without hindrance, and immediately facilitate a visit by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Iran;
2. Fully and effectively cooperate with the UN Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Iran and independent human rights investigators and allow them unfettered access to the country.

Freedoms of expression, association and assembly

1. Repeal or reform vaguely worded provisions of the Islamic Penal Code that unduly restrict the rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly;
2. Ensure that no one is subjected to arbitrary detention and prosecution solely for the exercise of their rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly, and immediately and unconditionally release anyone detained on this basis.

Arbitrary detention and unfair trials

1. Ensure that all trials meet international standards of fairness, including by ensuring that anyone charged with a criminal offence has access to a lawyer of their choosing from the time of arrest and throughout the investigation, trial, and appeal processes;
2. Ensure that all statements and other information obtained as a result of torture and other ill-treatment are excluded from evidence in all proceedings, apart from cases against alleged perpetrators.

Enforced disappearance and torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment

1. Immediately disclose the fate and whereabouts of all detainees subjected to enforced disappearance, and release them, unless there is sufficient admissible evidence not obtained through torture or other ill-treatment to charge them with a recognizable criminal offence;
2. Define torture as a crime in national legislation in line with international law and standards;

3. Ensure that everyone in detention, is protected from torture and other ill-treatment, including rape and other forms of sexual violence and ensure that all those suspected of criminal responsibility are held accountable in fair trials;
4. Ensure that all those in custody are held in conditions meeting international standards for the treatment of prisoners; and guarantee their access to timely and adequate healthcare of the same standard available in the community free of charge and without discrimination.

Freedom of religion or belief and persecution of ethnic and linguistic minorities

1. Repeal all provisions in national legislation that directly discriminate or have a discriminatory impact on persons belonging to ethnic or religious minorities; take measures to ensure that persons belonging to minorities are empowered to exercise fully and effectively all their human rights without any discrimination; and create favourable conditions to enable persons belonging to minorities to express their characteristics and to develop their culture and language.

LGBTI people's rights

1. Decriminalize consensual same-sex sexual conduct and gender non-conformity and adopt legislation to respect and protect LGBTI people from discrimination, violence and other human rights violations;
2. Adopt legislation expressly prohibiting hate crimes, including those perpetrated on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity.

Violence and discrimination against women and girls

1. Abolish all laws, regulations and procedures that discriminate directly against women and girls or have a discriminatory impact on them; including those imposing mandatory dress codes;
2. Introduce effective legislation and administrative policies to end violence against women and girls, including by criminalizing domestic violence, including marital rape, with appropriate and proportionate penalties.

Death penalty

1. Immediately establish an official moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty;
2. 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;
3. Repeal provisions in the Islamic Penal Code that impose the death penalty for acts that are not internationally recognizable criminal offences, fall under the peaceful exercise of human rights or do not meet the threshold of “most serious crimes” under international law.

Impunity for crimes under international law, including crimes against humanity

1. Undertake fundamental constitutional, legislative and administrative reforms to create an independent, impartial, transparent and effective judiciary capable of addressing impunity;
2. Immediately take steps to address the systematic failure in fulfilling obligations under international law to conduct prompt, thorough, independent and impartial criminal investigations into allegations of crimes under international law and other serious human rights violations including the crimes against humanity relating to the prison massacres of 1988; extrajudicial executions and other unlawful killings including in the context of protest crackdowns; enforced disappearance, torture and other ill-treatment; and prosecute all public officials against whom there is sufficient admissible evidence in fair trials;
3. Protect survivors, families of victims and others seeking truth, justice and reparations against reprisals.

ANNEX 1

KEY AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTS FOR FURTHER REFERENCE

Amnesty International Annual Reports

- *The State of the World's Human Rights: April 2024* (Index: POL 10/7200/2024), 23 April 2024, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/pol10/7200/2024/en/>, pp. 201-205.
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- *Human rights in the Middle East and North Africa: Review of 2019* (Index: MDE 01/1357/2020), 18 February 2020, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde01/1357/2020/en/>, pp. 23-26.

Reports and key outputs organized by issue:

Freedoms of expression, association and assembly

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- Iran: *Leaked official documents ordering deadly crackdown highlight need for international attention* (Index: MDE 13/6070/2022), 30 September 2022, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/6070/2022/en/>
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Arbitrary detention and unfair trials

- Iran: *Flawed reforms: Iran's new code of criminal procedure* (Index: MDE 13/2708/2016), 11 February 2016, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/2708/2016/en/>

Enforced disappearance and torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment

- Iran: *"They violently raped me": Sexual violence weaponized to crush Iran's 'Woman life freedom' uprising* (Index: MDE 13/7480/2023), 6 December 2023, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/7480/2023/en/>
- Iran: *In death's waiting room: Deaths in custody following deliberate denial of medical care in Iran's prisons* (Index: MDE 13/5447/2022), 12 April 2022, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/5447/2022/en/>
- Iran: *Details of 72 deaths in custody since 2010* (Index: MDE 13/4669/2021), 15 September 2021, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/4669/2021/en/>
- Iran: *Trampling Humanity: Mass arrests, disappearances and torture since Iran's November 2019 protests* (Index: MDE 13/2891/2020), 2 September 2020, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/2891/2020/en/>

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- Iran: *"Stop ruthless attacks on persecuted Baha'i religious minority"*, 24 August 2022, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2022/08/iran-stop-ruthless-attacks-on-persecuted-bahai-religious-minority/>
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- Iran: *Joint statement: Urgent international action needed to secure release of Kurdish activists and others arbitrarily detained in Iran* (Index: MDE 13/3624/2021), 3 February 2021, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/3624/2021/en/>

LGBTI people’s rights

- Iran: *Murder of 20-year-old gay man highlights urgent need to protect LGBTI rights* (Index: MDE 13/4129/2021), 17 May 2021, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/4129/2021/en/>

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- Iran: *You shall procreate: Attacks on women’s sexual and reproductive rights in Iran* (Index: MDE 13/1111/2015), 11 March 2015, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/MDE13/1111/2015/en/>

Death penalty

- *Death sentences and executions in 2023* (Index: ACT 50/7952/2024), 29 May 2024, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/act50/7952/2024/en/>, pp. 31-34.
- *Death sentences and executions in 2022* (Index: ACT 50/6548/2023), 16 May 2023, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/act50/6548/2023/en/>, p. 30.
- *Death sentences and executions in 2021* (Index: ACT 50/54148/2022), 24 May 2022, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/act50/54148/2022/en/>, pp. 43-46.
- *Death sentences and executions in 2020* (Index: ACT 50/3760/2021), 21 April 2021, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/act50/3760/2021/en/>, p. 40-42.
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Impunity for crimes under international law, including crimes against humanity

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- Iran: *Blood-soaked secrets: Why Iran's 1988 prison massacres are ongoing crimes against humanity* (Index: MDE 13/9421/2018), 4 December 2018, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/9421/2018/en/>
- Iran: *Criminal Cover-up: Iran destroying mass graves of victims of 1988 killings* (Index: MDE 13/8259/2018), 30 April 2018, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/8259/2018/en/>

¹ Working Group of the Universal Periodic Review (WG UPR), Report: Islamic Republic of Iran, 27 December 2019, UN Doc. A/HRC/43/12. For Iran's positions on recommendations by States, see: WG UPR, Report: Islamic Republic of Iran: Addendum, 20 February 2020, UN Doc. A/HRC/43/12/Add.1.

² WG UPR, Report: Islamic Republic of Iran (previously cited), recommendations 26.34 (Albania), 26.35 (Australia), 26.37 (Czechia), 26.39 (Sierra Leone), 26.40 (State of Palestine) (Republic of Moldova), 26.41 (Germany), 26.42 (Peru), 26.43 (Egypt).

³ Since 2006, the following mandate holders have requested visits to Iran: the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Iran; the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers; the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary, or arbitrary executions; the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment; the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression; the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association; the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief; the Special Rapporteur on minority issues; the Independent expert on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order; the UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism; the Working Group on discrimination against women and girls, the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention and the Working Group on enforced or involuntary disappearances. Iran has extended an invitation to the Special Rapporteur on the right to food (2015), the Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health (2019) and the Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of the unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights (2022). With the exception of the Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights, who undertook a country visit Iran in May 2022, no other visit has yet to materialize.

⁴ The independent international fact-finding mission on the Islamic Republic of Iran, Report, 2 February 2024, UN Doc. A/HRC/55/67, para. 2.

⁵ Note: Rejections include recommendations which Iran did not support, as well as recommendations which it noted. WG UPR, Report: Islamic Republic of Iran (previously cited), recommendations 26.3 (Georgia), 26.4 (Botswana), 26.6 (Republic of Moldova) (Estonia) (Burundi) (Kenya) (Czechia) (Bahrain), 26.7 (Ecuador), 26.8 (Togo) (Czechia), 26.9 (Republic of Moldova) (Estonia) (Denmark), 26.10 (Seychelles), 26.11 (Togo) (Uganda) (Burkina Faso), 26.12 (Croatia), 26.14 (Spain), 26.15 (Greece), 26.16 (Luxembourg), 26.17 (North Macedonia), 26.18 (Albania), 26.19 (Austria), 26.20 (Fiji), 26.21 (Germany), 26.22 (Ghana), 26.24 (Latvia), 26.28 (Slovenia), 26.30 (Estonia), 26.31 (Poland), 26.239 (Thailand), 26.32 (Latvia).

⁶ For example, Article 20 of the constitution guarantees women's right to equality subject to "observance of Islamic criteria" while Article 27 protects freedom of assembly when not "detrimental to the fundamental principles of Islam" – limitations that the authorities use to violate human rights.

⁷ Note: Rejections include recommendations which Iran did not support, as well as recommendations which it noted. WG UPR, Report: Islamic Republic of Iran (previously cited), recommendations 26.62 (Qatar), 26.63 (Tunisia), 26.67 (Nepal).

⁸ WG UPR, Report: Islamic Republic of Iran (previously cited), recommendations 26.79 (Kyrgyzstan), 26.156 (Argentina), 26.157 (Australia), 26.161 (Finland), 26.162 (Ghana), 26.165 (Italy), 26.167 (New Zealand), 26.169 (France), 26.324 (Republic of Korea), 26.325 (Belgium), 26.326 (Slovenia), 26.329 (Norway).

⁹ See: Amnesty International, "Iran: New wave of brutal attacks against Baluchi protesters and worshippers", 26 October 2023, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2023/10/iran-new-wave-of-brutal-attacks-against-baluchi-protesters-and-worshippers/>; Amnesty International, *Iran: They are shooting brazenly: Iran's militarized response to May 2022 protests* (Index: MDE 13/5789/2022), 3 August 2022, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/5789/2022/en/>, pp. 6-7; Amnesty International, *Trampling Humanity: Mass arrests, disappearances and torture since Iran's November 2019 protests* (Index: MDE 13/2891/2020), 2 September 2020, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/2891/2020/en/>; Amnesty International, "Iran: Thousands arbitrarily detained and at risk of torture in chilling post-protest crackdown", 16 December 2019, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2019/12/iran-thousands-arbitrarily-detained-and-at-risk-of-torture-in-chilling-post-protest-crackdown-2/>

¹⁰ Amnesty International, *The State of the World's Human Rights: April 2024* (Index: POL 10/7200/2024), 23 April 2024, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/pol10/7200/2024/en/>, p.202.

¹¹ Amnesty International, *Iran: Killings of children during youthful anti-establishment protests* (Index: MDE 13/6104/2022), 9 December 2022, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/6104/2022/en/>

¹² Amnesty International, *Iran: Details of 321 deaths in crackdown on November 2019 protests* (Index: MDE 13/2308/2020), 29 July 2022, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/2308/2020/en/>. This document was originally published on 20 May 2020 and was subsequently updated with new information on 16 November 2021 and, more recently, on 29 July 2022. See also Amnesty International, 'They shot our children': *Killings of minors in Iran's November 2019 protests* (Index: MDE 13/1894/2020), 4 March 2020, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/1894/2020/en>

¹³ Amnesty International, *They are shooting brazenly* (previously cited); Amnesty International, *Iran: Internet shutdowns curb protests and conceal human rights violations in Sistan and Baluchistan* (Index: MDE 13/3782/2021), 4 March 2021, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/3782/2021/en/>; Amnesty International, *A web of impunity: The killings Iran's internet shutdown hid* (Index: MDE 13/3308/2020), 16 November 2020, [https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/3308/2020/en/](https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/3308/2020/en)

¹⁴ WG UPR, Report: Islamic Republic of Iran (previously cited), recommendations 26.151 (France), 26.157 (Australia), 26.167 (New Zealand), 26.170 (Switzerland), 26.172 (Bahrain), 26.174 (Bhutan), 26.176 (Spain), 26.177 (France), 26.178 (Germany), 26.180 (North Macedonia), 26.284 (Ghana), 26.322 (Afghanistan).

¹⁵ WG UPR, Report: Islamic Republic of Iran (previously cited), recommendations 26.178 (Germany).

¹⁶ See for example: Amnesty International, *Iran: "They violently raped me": Sexual violence weaponized to crush Iran's 'Woman life freedom' uprising* (Index: MDE 13/7480/2023), 6 December 2023, [https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/7480/2023/en/](https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/7480/2023/en), pp. 98-100; Amnesty International, *Amnesty International Report 2022/23: The state of the world's human rights* (Index: POL 10/5670/2023), 27 March 2023, [https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/pol10/5670/2023/en/](https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/pol10/5670/2023/en), pp. 197-198; Amnesty International, *Iran: Prisoner of conscience's health at risk: Hamed Ghaehoghlan* (Index: MDE 13/3641/2021), 8 February 2021, [https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/3641/2021/en/](https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/3641/2021/en); Amnesty International, *Trampling Humanity* (previously cited); Amnesty International, *Flawed reforms: Iran's new code of criminal procedure* (Index: MDE 13/2708/2016), 11 February 2016, [https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/2708/2016/en/](https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/2708/2016/en)

¹⁷ Amnesty International, *Trampling Humanity* (previously cited), pp. 56-59. See also: Amnesty International, *Iran: Harrowing accounts of torture committed with impunity – new findings on Afkari brothers* (Index: MDE 13/4349/2021), 26 June 2021, [https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/4349/2021/en/](https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/4349/2021/en); Amnesty International, *Trampling Humanity* (previously cited), pp. 53-56.

¹⁸ Amnesty International, *The State of the World's Human Rights: April 2024* (previously cited), p. 202.

¹⁹ Amnesty International, *Further Information: Swedish-Iranian at Grave Risk of Execution in Iran: Ahmadreza Djalali* (Index: MDE 13/8279/2024), 8 July 2024, [https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/8279/2024/en/](https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/8279/2024/en); Amnesty International, *Iran/Sweden: Staggering blow to justice for 1988 prison massacres in Iran amid long overdue release of Swedish nationals* (Index: MDE 13/8181/2024), 18 June 2024, [https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/8181/2024/en/](https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/8181/2024/en); Amnesty International, *Iran/Belgium: Iran must be held accountable for hostage-taking after overdue release of Olivier Vandecasteele in prisoner swap* (Index: MDE 13/6835/2023), 26 May 2023, [https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/6835/2023/en/](https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/6835/2023/en); Amnesty International, *Iran: Tortured Belgian aid worker forcibly disappeared: Olivier Vandecasteele* (Index: MDE 13/6488/2023), 27 February 2023, [https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/6488/2023/en/](https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/6488/2023/en); Amnesty International, *Iran: The crime of holding Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe hostage must not go unpunished* (Index: MDE 13/5609/2022), 1 June 2022, [https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/5609/2022/en/](https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/5609/2022/en), pp. 6-7; Amnesty International, *Iran: Swedish-Iranian doctor held hostage and at risk of retaliatory execution* (Index: MDE 13/5623/2022), 19 May 2022, [https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/5623/2022/en/](https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/5623/2022/en)

²⁰ WG UPR, Report: Islamic Republic of Iran (previously cited), recommendations 26.5 (Republic of Korea), 26.23 (Indonesia), 26.140 (Australia), 26.142 (Canada), 26.180 (North Macedonia).

²¹ See for example: Amnesty International, *Iran: "They violently raped me": Sexual violence weaponized to crush Iran's 'Woman life freedom' uprising* (previously cited), p. 24; Amnesty International, *Further Information: Activist forcibly disappeared for over a year: Ebrahim Babaei* (Index: MDE 13/6540/2023), 14 March 2023, [https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/6540/2023/en/](https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/6540/2023/en); Amnesty International, *Trampling Humanity* (previously cited), pp. 29-33.

²² Article 38 of Iran's Constitution fails to define as torture conduct by state agents where mental or physical pain or suffering is inflicted on an individual as a form of punishment or intimidation or for any reason based on discrimination or in order to coerce, punish, or intimidate a third person.

²³ Amnesty International, "Iran: Leaked video footage from Evin prison offers rare glimpse of cruelty against prisoners", 25 August 2021, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2021/08/iran-leaked-video-footage-from-evin-prison-offers-rare-glimpse-of-cruelty-against-prisoners/>; Amnesty International, *Iran: Harrowing accounts of torture committed with impunity – new findings on Afkari brothers* (previously cited), pp. 6-7; Amnesty International, *Trampling Humanity* (previously cited), pp. 34-47.

²⁴ Amnesty International, "They violently raped me" (previously cited); Amnesty International, "Iran: Child detainees subjected to flogging, electric shocks and sexual violence in brutal protest crackdown", 10 March 2023, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2023/03/iran-child-detainees-subjected-to-flogging-electric-shocks-and-sexual-violence-in-brutal-protest-crackdown/>; Amnesty International, *Iran: Leaked official documents ordering deadly crackdown highlight need for international attention* (Index: MDE 13/6070/2022), 30 September 2022, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/6070/2022/en>

²⁵ WG UPR, Report: Islamic Republic of Iran (previously cited), recommendations 26.145 (Austria), 26.146 (Malta), 26.147 (Norway).

²⁶ See for example: Amnesty International, “*They violently raped me*” (previously cited), pp. 59-60; Amnesty International, *Iran: Mother with baby denied proper care in jail: So’ada Khadirzadeh* (Index: MDE 13/5827/2022), 7 July 2022, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/5827/2022/en/>; Amnesty International, *Trampling Humanity* (previously cited), pp. 44-45.

²⁷ Amnesty International, *In death’s waiting room: Deaths in custody following deliberate denial of medical care in Iran’s prisons* (Index: MDE 13/5447/2022), 12 April 2022, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/5447/2022/en/>

²⁸ Amnesty International, *Iran: Details of 72 deaths in custody since 2010* (Index: MDE 13/4669/2021), 15 September 2021, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/4669/2021/en/>

²⁹ See for example: Amnesty International, “*They violently raped me*” (previously cited), pp. 60-62; Amnesty International, “*Iran: Leaked video footage from Evin prison offers rare glimpse of cruelty against prisoners*” (previously cited); Amnesty International, *Trampling Humanity* (previously cited), pp. 45-46.

³⁰ Amnesty International, “*Iranian officials must be held accountable for amputating the fingers of two men*”, 29 July 2022, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2022/07/iranian-officials-must-be-held-accountable-for-amputating-the-fingers-of-two-men/>; Amnesty International, *Iran: Finger amputation risk for eight prisoners* (Index: MDE 13/5718/2022), 16 June 2022, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/5718/2022/en/>

³¹ According to the Abdorrahman Boroumand Center for Human Rights in Iran, who keep annual records of the reported flogging sentences. See also: Amnesty International, *The State of the World’s Human Rights: April 2024* (previously cited), p. 203; Amnesty International, *Amnesty International Report 2022/23: The state of the world’s human rights* (previously cited), p. 198; Amnesty International, *Amnesty International Report 2021/22* (Index: POL 10/4870/2022), 29 March 2022, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/pol10/4870/2022/en/>, p. 199; Amnesty International, *Amnesty International Report 2020/21: The state of the world’s human rights* (Index: POL 10/3202/2021), 7 April 2021, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/pol10/3202/2021/en/>, p. 192.

³² See for example: Amnesty International, “*Iran: Draconian campaign to enforce compulsory veiling laws through surveillance and mass car confiscations*”, 6 March 2024, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2024/03/iran-draconian-campaign-to-enforce-compulsory-veiling-laws-through-surveillance-and-mass-car-confiscations/>; Amnesty International, *Authorities order guillotine machine to amputate prisoners’ fingers days after flogging a labour rights activist* (Index: MDE 13/3416/2020), 3 December 2020, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/3416/2020/en/>, pp. 2-4; Amnesty International, *Trampling Humanity* (previously cited).

³³ WG UPR, Report: Islamic Republic of Iran (previously cited), recommendations 26.81 (Czechia), 26.154 (Haiti), 26.162 (Ghana), 26.190 (Bulgaria), 26.296 (Switzerland), 26.297 (Peru), 26.298 (Republic of Korea), 26.302 (Seychelles), 26.308 (Cuba), 26.309 (France), 26.310 (Haiti), 26.314 (Japan), 26.318 (New Zealand).

³⁴ See: Amnesty International, *The State of the World’s Human Rights: April 2024* (previously cited), p. 204; Amnesty International, “*Iran: Stop ruthless attacks on persecuted Bahá’í religious minority*”, 24 August 2022, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2022/08/iran-stop-ruthless-attacks-on-persecuted-bahai-religious-minority/>; Amnesty International, *Iran: Intensified assault on Iran’s Bahá’í minority* (Index: MDE 13/5975/2022), 23 August 2022, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/5975/2022/en/>; Amnesty International, “*Iran: Stop destruction of mass grave site and allow dignified burials of persecuted Bahá’ís*”, 29 April 2021, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2021/04/iran-stop-destruction-of-mass-grave-site-and-allow-dignified-burials-of-persecuted-bahais-2/>

³⁵ Amnesty International, *Amnesty International Report 2020/21: The state of the world’s human rights* (previously cited), pp. 193-194; Amnesty International, *Iran: Joint statement: Urgent international action needed to secure release of Kurdish activists and others arbitrarily detained in Iran* (Index: MDE 13/3624/2021), 3 February 2021, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/3624/2021/en/>

³⁶ More than 100 people were unlawfully killed in Sistan and Baluchistan province alone during the “Woman Life Freedom” uprising. See: Amnesty International, *Iran: Urgent international action needed to stop mass killings of Baluchi protesters* (Index: MDE 13/6193/2022), 10 November 2022, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/6193/2022/en/>

³⁷ WG UPR, Report: Islamic Republic of Iran (previously cited), recommendations 26.81 (Czechia), 26.86 (New Zealand).

³⁸ Amnesty International, *Iran: Murder of 20-year-old gay man highlights urgent need to protect LGBTI rights* (Index: MDE 13/4129/2021), 17 May 2021, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/4129/2021/en/>; pp. 3-5.

³⁹ See for example Amnesty International, *Iran: Iranian LGBTI defender sentenced to death: Zahra Sedighi-Hamadani & Elham Choubdar* (Index: MDE 13/6035/2022), 15 September 2022, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/6035/2022/en/>

⁴⁰ WG UPR, Report: Islamic Republic of Iran (previously cited), recommendations 26.5 (Republic of Korea), 26.174 (Bhutan), 26.175 (Fiji), 26.223 (Peru), 26.224 (Philippines), 26.225 (Albania), 26.226 (Azerbaijan), 26.227 (Botswana), 26.228 (Bulgaria), 26.229 (Cambodia), 26.230 (Cambodia), 26.231 (Dominican Republic), 26.233 (Honduras), 26.234 (Japan), 26.235 (Kyrgyzstan), 26.236 (Lao People’s Democratic Republic), 26.237 (Myanmar), 26.238 (Poland), 26.245, (Lithuania), 26.246 (Malta), 26.248 (New Zealand), 26.249 (Tunisia), 26.250 (Sierra Leone), 26.251 (Finland), 26.252 (Indonesia), 26.255 (Montenegro), 26.256 (Iceland), 26.257 (Bangladesh), 26.258 (Canada), 26.259 (Slovenia), 26.260 (Honduras), 26.261 (Nepal), 26.269 (Uganda), 26.273 (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), 26.277 (France), 26.282 (Italy), 26.294 (Nigeria), 26.329 (Norway).

⁴¹ Amnesty International, *The State of the World’s Human Rights: April 2024* (previously cited), p. 203. For more information see: Amnesty International, *You shall procreate: Attacks on women’s sexual and reproductive rights in Iran* (Index: MDE 13/1111/2015), 11 March 2015, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/MDE13/1111/2015/en/>

⁴² Amnesty International, *You shall procreate* (previously cited), pp. 33-34.

⁴³ Amnesty International, *You shall procreate* (previously cited), p. 34.

⁴⁴ Amnesty International, *Iran: Urgent international action needed to ensure accountability for Mahsa Amini’s death in custody* (Index: MDE 13/6060/2022), 27 September 2022, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/6060/2022/en/>

⁴⁵ Punitive policies included: immobilizing women’s cars; denying women access to employment, education, healthcare, banking services and/or public transport; and referring women to the judiciary, which imposed imprisonment, fines and degrading punishments. For more information see: Amnesty International, *Iran: Authorities doubling down on punishments against women and girls defying discriminatory veiling laws* (Index: MDE 13/7041/2023), 26 July 2023, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/7041/2023/en/>

⁴⁶ Amnesty International, *Iran: Women and Girls Facing Violent Crackdown* (Index: MDE 13/8029/2024), 7 May 2024,

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/8029/2024/en/>; Amnesty International, “*Iran: Draconian campaign to enforce compulsory veiling laws through surveillance and mass car confiscations*” (previously cited); Amnesty International, *Iran: Testimonies provide a frightening glimpse*

into the daily reality of women and girls (Index: MDE 13/7770/2024), 6 March 2024,
<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/7770/2024/en/>.

⁴⁷ WG UPR, Report: Islamic Republic of Iran (previously cited), recommendations 26.5 (Republic of Korea), 26.174 (Bhutan), 26.175 (Fiji), 26.231 (Dominican Republic), 26.234 (Japan), 26.235 (Kyrgyzstan), 26.236 (Lao People's Democratic Republic), 26.245 (Lithuania), 26.246 (Malta), 26.248 (New Zealand) 26.294 (Nigeria).

⁴⁸ WG UPR, Report: Islamic Republic of Iran (previously cited), recommendations 26.223 (Peru), 26.224 (Philippines), 26.226 (Azerbaijan), 26.227 (Botswana), 26.229 (Cambodia), 26.230 (Cambodia), 26.233 (Honduras), 26.237 (Myanmar), 26.257 (Bangladesh), 26.258 (Canada), 26.259 (Slovenia), 26.260 (Honduras), 26.261 (Nepal), 26.329 (Norway).

⁴⁹ In December 2023, Iran's Expediency Council intervened to approve the draconian Bill to Support the Family by Promoting the Culture of Chastity and Hijab and sent it for final approval to the Guardian Council, which returned the bill to parliament again for further amendments. See also: Amnesty International, The State of the World's Human Rights: April 2024 (previously cited), p. 203.

⁵⁰ WG UPR, Report: Islamic Republic of Iran (previously cited), recommendations 26.228 (Bulgaria), 26.238 (Poland), 26.249 (Tunisia), 26.250 (Sierra Leone), 26.251 (Finland), 26.252 (Indonesia), 26.255 (Montenegro), 26.256 (Iceland).

⁵¹ See Amnesty International, *The State of the World's Human Rights: April 2024* (previously cited), pp. 203-204.

⁵² Amnesty International, *Iran: Millions of schoolgirls at risk of poisoning* (Index: MDE 13/6696/2023), 19 April 2023,
<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/6696/2023/en/>

⁵³ WG UPR, Report: Islamic Republic of Iran (previously cited), recommendations 26.114 (Cyprus), 26.118 (Spain).

⁵⁴ In a regressive move, in January 2024, a parliamentary committee approved a bill to reform the Anti-Narcotics Law, which, if adopted, will expand the range of drug-related offences incurring the death penalty. For more information see: Amnesty International, "Don't let them kill us": *Iran's relentless execution crisis since the 2022 uprising* (Index: MDE 13/7869/2024), 4 April 2024,

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/7869/2024/en/>, pp. 24-25. See also: Amnesty International, *Iran: Drug-related executions surging in Iran* (Index: MDE 13/7895/2024), 4 April 2024, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/7895/2024/en/>; Amnesty International, "Iran executes 853 people in eight-year high amid relentless repression and renewed 'war on drugs'", 4 April 2024,
<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2024/04/iran-executes-853-people-in-eight-year-high-amid-relentless-repression-and-renewed-war-on-drugs/>

⁵⁵ Amnesty International, *Further Information: Risk of Protest-Related Executions After Unfair Trials* (Index: MDE 13/8077/2024), 22 May 2024,
<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/8077/2024/en/>; Amnesty International, "Don't let them kill us": *Iran's relentless execution crisis since the 2022 uprising* (previously cited), pp. 17-20; Amnesty International, "Iran: Chilling execution spree with escalating use of death penalty against persecuted ethnic minorities", 2 March 2023, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2023/03/iran-chilling-execution-spree-with-escalating-use-of-death-penalty-against-persecuted-ethnic-minorities/>; Amnesty International, "Iran: Chilling use of the death penalty to further brutally quell popular uprising", 16 November 2022, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2022/11/iran-chilling-use-of-the-death-penalty-to-further-brutally-quell-popular-uprising/>; Amnesty International, "Iran: Horrific wave of executions must be stopped", 27 July 2022,
<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2022/07/iran-horrific-wave-of-executions-must-be-stopped/>; Amnesty International, *Death sentences and executions in 2021* (Index: ACT 50/54148/2022), 24 May 2022, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/act50/54148/2022/en/>, p. 43; Amnesty International, *Death sentences and executions in 2020* (Index: ACT 50/3760/2021), 21 April 2021,
<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/act50/3760/2021/en/>, pp. 40-41.

⁵⁶ For example, in 2023, the Baluchi ethnic minority accounted for 20% of overall executions despite making up only five per cent of Iran's population.

⁵⁷ See for example: Amnesty International, "Don't let them kill us": *Iran's relentless execution crisis since the 2022 uprising* (previously cited), pp. 13-14; Amnesty International, *Iran: Four Ahwazi Arab men secretly executed* (Index: MDE 13/3864/2021), 18 March 2021,
<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/3864/2021/en/>; Amnesty International, "Iran: Forcibly disappeared prisoner feared 'executed by firing squad'", 30 June 2020, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2020/06/iran-forcibly-disappeared-prisoner-feared-executed-by-firing-squad/>

⁵⁸ Iran executed at least 48 people between its last UPR review on 8 November 2019 and 31 December 2019. Between 1 January 2020 and 31 December 2023, Iran executed at least 1,989 people. According to the Abdorrahman Boroumand Center for Human Rights in Iran, between 1 January and 30 June 2024, Iran has executed at least 274 people. See also: Amnesty International, "Don't let them kill us" (previously cited); Amnesty International, *Death sentences and executions in 2022* (Index: ACT 50/6548/2023), 16 May 2023,
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