



Yearly report
HENGAW ORGANIZATION
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Hengaw's Statistical Report on the Implementation
of the Death Sentence in Iran in 2023

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Hengaw Organization for Human Rights

**Hengaw's statistical report on
the executions in Iran during 2023**



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Based on the statistics registered in the Statistics and Documents Center of Hengaw, In 2023, at least 829 prisoners were executed in different prisons across Iran. It has been learned that the death sentences of six of them have been carried out in public. Also, during the last year, the death sentences of 22 women and five children were carried out in the prisons of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Compared to 2022, when the death sentences of 540 prisoners were carried out, this year there was an increase of 289 cases equal to 53.5%. These executions took place in 31 provinces of Iran which Alborz province with 166 cases, recorded the highest number of executions.

Out of a total of 829 prisoners whose executions have been recorded by Hengaw, so far the full identity of 678 of them has been verified and the identity of 151 people is under investigation.

In this report, in addition to the special reports of Hengaw inside Iran, to document and collect information, our colleagues have contacted the families of a large number of victims. Also sources and data from several other active human rights organizations in Iran which are approved by Hengaw, and have been used.

Also, some cases that have been published by these organizations but weren't approved by Hengaw have not been included in this report due to a lack of transparency and the many risks in revealing the execution cases for human rights defenders and civil activists. Therefore these statistics do not completely reflect all cases of executions in Iran during 2023 and certainly, the number is more than what has been reported.



This report consists of 11 separate sections including tables and charts;

Part one: Separation of executed prisoners according to charges.

Part two: The death sentences of political and religious prisoners.

Part three: The death sentences of children.

Part four: The death sentences of women.

Part five: Separation of executions according to national and ethnic minorities

Part six: The death sentences of Kurdish prisoners.

Part seven: the death sentences of Baloch prisoners.

Part eight: The death sentences of prisoners from Afghanistan.

Part nine: Separation of executions according to provinces.

Part ten: Public executions.

Part eleven: Conclusion.



Part one: Separation of executed prisoners according to charges

Based on the statistics registered in the Statistics and Documents Center of Hengaw, in 2023, the majority of executions were related to people accused of drug-related charges who were sentenced to death by the judiciary of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

56% of the executions last year, which is equivalent to 464 cases, were for drug-related charges.

Drugs: 464 cases, equivalent to 56% of all cases.

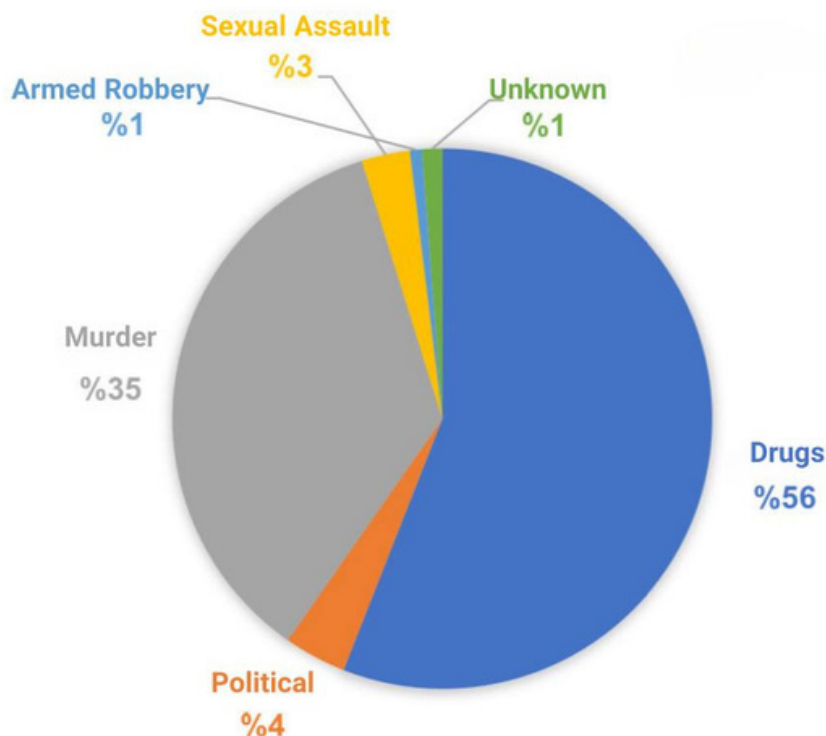
Political and religious activities: 31 cases equal to 4% of all cases.

Intentional murder: 294 cases equal to 35% of all cases.

Rape: 24 cases equal to 3% of all cases.

Armed robbery: 6 cases equal to 1% of all cases.

Unknown: 10 cases equal to 1% of the total cases.



Part two: The death sentences of political and religious prisoners.

In 2023, at least 31 prisoners who were charged with political and religious activities and accusations such as “Sob Nabi” (Insulting the prophet) were executed by the Islamic Republic of Iran.

According to this report, 11 people were accused of political activity, 6 people were accused of spying for foreign countries, 6 people were accused of participating in the Jin, Jiyan, and Azadi movement, 2 people were accused of allegedly participating in November 2018 protests, 2 people accused of “Sob Nabi” (insulting the prophet), and two Afghan citizens accused of armed attack in Shahcheragh, Shiraz.

The list of executed political and religious prisoners is as follows:

first name and last name	from	Charge	In jail	Date
Mohammad Mahdi Karami	Bijar	Political	Karaj	7.1.2023
Seyyed Mohammad Hosseini	Gilan	Political	Karaj	7.1.2023
Alireza Akbari	Dual nationality	Espionage	Unknown	14.1.2023
Hossein Abyat	Hamideh	Political	Sepidar Ahvaz	20.2.2023
Sarkawt Ahmadi	Ravansar	Political	Kermanshah	22.2.2023
Mohyeddin Ebrahimi	Oshnavieh	Political	Urmia	17.3.2023
Habib Asyoud	Ahvaz	Political	Unknown	6.5.2023
Sadrullah Fazli Zare	Yasuj	Insulting the Prophet	Arak	8.5.2023
Yousef Mehrdad	Ardabil	Insulting the Prophet	Arak	8.5.2023
Majid Kazemi	Isfahan	Political	Isfahan	19.5.2023
Saeed Yaghoubi	Isfahan	Political	Isfahan	19.5.2023
Saleh Mirhashemi	Isfahan	Political	Isfahan	19.5.2023
Heyman Mostafaei	Marivan	Political	Sanandaj	21.6.2023
Mohammad Ramez Rashidi	Afghanistan	Political	Shiraz	8.7.2023
Naeem Hashemi Ghatali	Afghanistan	Political	Shiraz	8.7.2023
Ghasem Abasteh	Mahabad	Religious	Qazalbesar	5.11.2023
Meysam Chandani	Saravan	Political	Zahedan	11.11.2023
Mohammad Barahouii Anjomani	Zahedan	Political	Zahedan	13.11.2023
Idris Bilerani	Zahedan	Political	Zahedan	13.11.2023
Mohammad Karim Barkzai	Zahedan	Political	Zahedan	13.11.2023
Milad Zahrevand	Malayer	Political	Hamedan	23.11.2023
Ayoub Karimi	Mahabad	Religious	Qazalbesar	29.11.2023

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first name and last name	from	Charge	In jail	Date
Hani Albo Shahbazi	Shadegan	Political	Ahvaz	28.11.2023
Ghodaali Sabermotlagh	Rasht	Political	Rasht	25.11.2023
Gholam Rasoul Heydari	Jask	Political	Shiraz	22.11.2023
Kamran Rezaei	Shiraz	Political	Shiraz	30.10.2023
Mohsen Saravani	Zahedan	Espionage	Zahedan	16.12.2023
Wafa Henareh	Urmia	Espionage	Urmia	28.12.2023
Aram Omri Bardiani	Urmia	Espionage	Urmia	28.12.2023
Rahman Parhazo	Urmia	Espionage	Urmia	28.12.2023
Nasim Namazi	Urmia	Espionage	Urmia	29.12.2023

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Part three: The execution of five children in 2023

Based on the statistics of Hengaw, in 2023, at least five children were executed in Khorram Abad (2 cases), Chabahar, Sabzevar, and Qezelhesar prison of Karaj. These five prisoners were under the age of 18 at the time of committing the crime, and even one of them Hamid Azari was only 17 years old when his death sentence was carried out.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Children signed and ratified by most countries in the world, explicitly guarantees the fundamental rights of children and includes the prohibition of the use of harsh and cruel punishments, including execution, for persons under the age of 18, however, the Islamic Republic of Iran still executes children in prisons.



The names of these five children are as follows;

1- Mohammad Javad Akbari, 19 years old and from Kohdasht, was executed on February 2, 2023, in Parsilon prison in Khorram Abad for drug-related charges. He was 16 years old when he committed the crime

2- Abolfazl Bayat, 20 years old, from Robot Karim, was executed on the charges of murder on September 27, 2023 in Qezelhesar prison, Karaj. He was 16 years old when he committed the crime.

3- Ali Najafi from Kohdasht, was executed on charges of murder on September 27, 2023, in Prsilon prison of Khorram Abad. He was 17 years old when he committed the crime.

4- 17-year-old Hamid Azari from Sabzevar, was executed on the charges of murder on November 24, 2023, in Sabzevar central prison. He was 16 years old when he committed the crime.

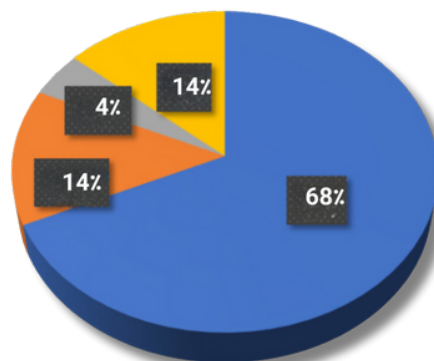
5- Adel Damani, 25 years old, from Chabahar, was executed on November 26, 2024, on charges of murder in Chabahar central prison. He was 16 years old when he committed the crime.

Part four: The death sentences of women

According to the report by the Hengaw Organization for Human Rights, at least 22 female prisoners were executed in Iran's various prisons last year. This number represents 2.7% of the total executions for that period.

The data from Hengaw indicates that 68% of these women were condemned by the judiciary of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Among them, one was executed for alleged espionage on behalf of Israel and three for drug-related offenses. The specifics of the charges for the remaining three women are not disclosed.

Furthermore, the largest number of executions took place in Dastgerd Prison in Isfahan and a prison in Birjand, with four women executed in each. Two women each were executed in the prisons of Mashhad, Rajai Shahr in Karaj, and Kerman. Additionally, one woman each was executed in the prisons of Rasht, Zahedan, Qom, Kahnuj, Hamedan, Yasuj, Urmia, and Ghazal Hesar.

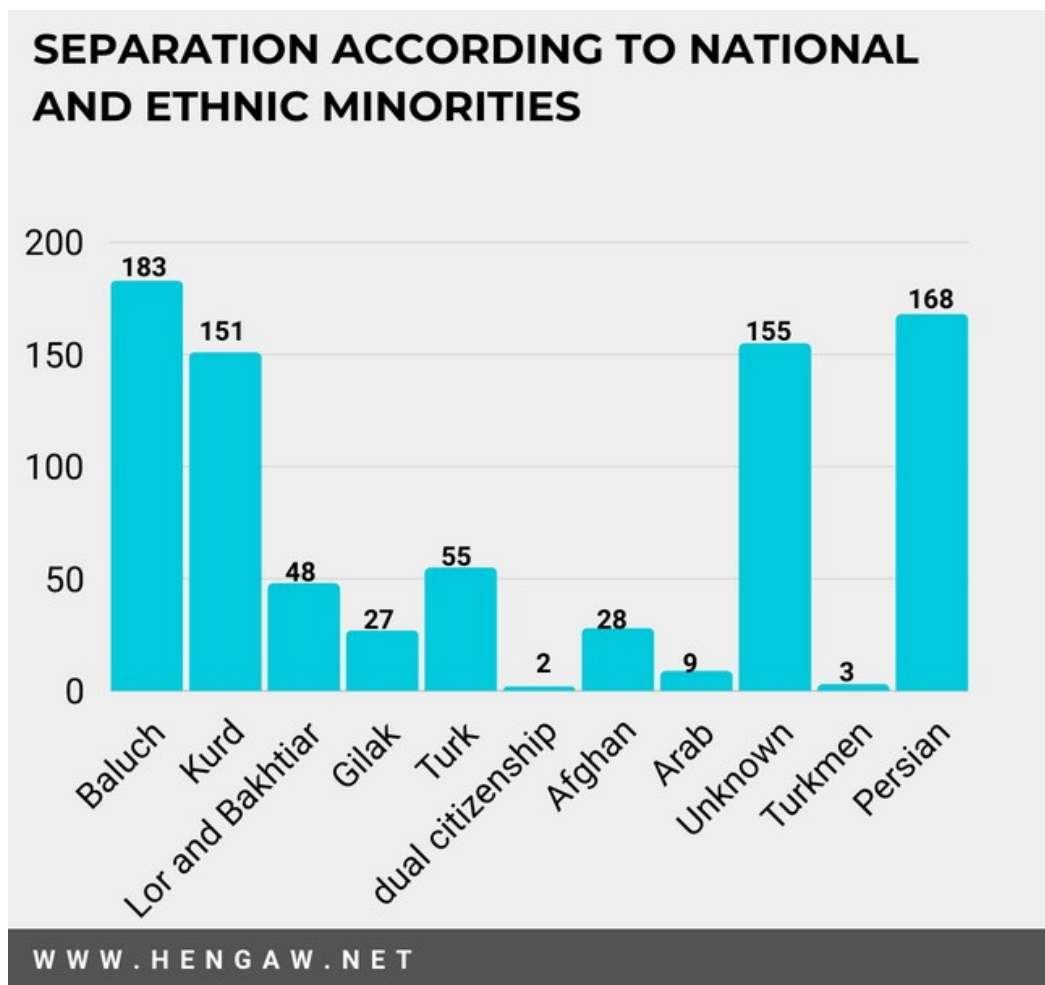


Part five: Separation of executions according to national and ethnic minorities

Based on the data from the Statistics and Documentation Center of the Hengaw Organization for Human Rights, the highest number of executions in Iran during 2023 were of individuals from the Baloch minority, with 183 cases accounting for 22.8% of the total executions. Additionally, 151 Kurdish citizens were executed, making up 18.2% of the total.

The report further details that 55 ethnic Turks, 48 Lors and Lor Bakhtiari, 28 Afghans, 27 Gilaks, 9 Arabs, 3 Turkmen, and 2 prisoners with dual citizenship were also executed in Iranian prisons last year.

Of the total executed, 168 were identified as Persian. Unfortunately, the ethnicities of another 155 prisoners were not specified in the report.



Part six: The death sentences of Kurdish prisoners

Based on the statistics from the Statistics and Documentation Center of the Hengaw Organization for Human Rights, it was documented that at least 151 Kurdish prisoners were executed in the prisons of the Islamic Republic of Iran last year. This figure represents a significant increase of 99 cases, or 190%, from the 52 Kurdish prisoners whose death sentences were carried out in 2022.

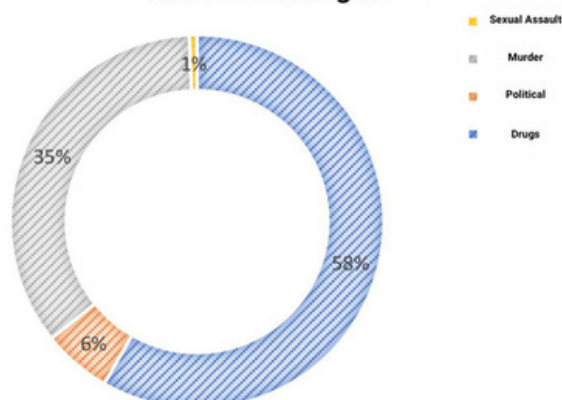
Additionally, last year saw the execution of at least 9 Kurdish political prisoners, accounting for 30% of all the prisoners executed for political and religious reasons in Iran.

A majority of the Kurdish prisoners, 88 in total (58%), were executed for drug-related offenses. Furthermore, 53 prisoners were executed for intentional homicide, 9 for political and religious activities, and one for rape.

In 2023, Urmia Central Prison saw the highest number of executions of Kurdish prisoners, with 28 cases. This was followed by 20 in Qazalhasar Prison in Karaj, 18 in Kermanshah Central Prison, 16 in Karaj Central Prison, 15 in Parsilon Prison in Khorramabad, 14 in Sanandaj Central Prison, 9 in Hamadan Central Prison, 7 in Ilam Central Prison, and in Arak, and 4 in Selmas, 3 in Saqqez, and 2 Kurdish prisoners in Rasht prison.

The report from the Statistics and Documentation Center of the Hengaw Organization for Human Rights also indicates that in the prisons of Ardabil, Aligudarz, Bandar Abbas, Birjand, Khoy, Dezful, Zahedan, Shiraz, Shirvan, Maku, and Naqadeh, one Kurdish prisoner in each facility was executed last year

Categorization of Kurdish Executions
Based on Charges:



Part seven: the death sentences of Baloch prisoners

According to the Hengaw Organization for Human Rights, in 2023, at least 183 Baloch citizens were executed across various Iranian prisons, accounting for 22.8% of all executions in the country for that year.

The report further notes that last year, at least six Baloch political prisoners, three women, and one minor were executed by the Islamic Republic of Iran.

A vast majority, over 81%, of the executed Baloch prisoners (149 cases) faced capital punishment for drug-related offenses.

Additionally, six were executed for political reasons, 27 for intentional homicide, and one was executed following a rape conviction.

The most executions of Baloch citizens occurred in the prisons of Sistan and Baluchestan Province with 60 cases, followed by 38 in Kerman Province, 34 in South Khorasan Province, 13 in Hormozgan Province, 12 in Razavi Khorasan Province, and seven each in Shiraz and Isfahan Provinces. Yazd, Golestan, Semnan, and Alborz Provinces each recorded three executions, while Mazandaran and Qom Provinces had one recorded execution of a Baloch citizen each.

Part eight: The death sentences of prisoners from Afghanistan

The report from the Statistics and Documentation Center of the Hengaw Organization for Human Rights states that in 2023, at least 28 Afghan nationals were executed in Iranian prisons, representing 2.7% of the total executions in Iran for that year.

Of these, the judicial system of the Islamic Republic of Iran sentenced over 68% (15 cases) to death. Additionally, two prisoners were publicly executed for an armed attack on Shah Cheragh in Shiraz, nine were executed for drug-related offenses, and two for charges of rape.

The highest number of executions of Afghan nationals was recorded in Qazalhasar Prison in Karaj, with 10 cases. Four executions occurred in Shiraz, three in Zabul, two each in Kerman Central Prison and Karaj Central Prison, and one Afghan national was executed in the prisons of Zahedan, Roudan, Khorramabad, Aligudarz, Yazd, and Isfahanl.



Part nine: Separation of executions according to provinces

According to the statistics from the Hengaw Organization for Human Rights, at least 166 prisoners were executed in three prisons of Alborz Province (Rajai Shahr, Karaj Central Prison, and Qazalhasar) during 2023, amounting to 20% of the total executions for the year.

Following Alborz Province, Sistan and Baluchistan Province recorded the next highest number of executions with 69 cases. Other provinces with notable execution figures include Kerman with 68 cases, Fars with 56, Isfahan with 50, South Khorasan with 46, West Azerbaijan (Urmia) with 44, Lorestan with 43, Hormozgan with 33, and Central Province with 23. Hamedan had 22 executions, while Gilan, Razavi Khorasan, and East Azerbaijan each recorded 21.

In Kurdistan (Sanandaj) and Kermanshah (Kermashan) Provinces, there were 18 executions each, Ardabil had 17, Khuzestan 15, Golestan and Qazvin each had 12, Qom 10, Zanjan 9, Ilam, Kohgiluyeh and Boyer Ahmad each had 7, and Yazd and North Khorasan each had 6 executions.

As per Hengaw's data, two executions were recorded in Semnan Province. The lowest number of executions was in Tehran and Bushehr Provinces, with one each. Additionally, the locations of two executed prisoners remain unknown.

Part ten: Public executions

Public executions represent a blatant disregard for human dignity and have no place in a civilized society. Used as a political instrument, this form of punishment aims to intimidate and suppress dissent, contradicting the principles of democracy. The Islamic Republic of Iran has historically employed public executions to instill fear and control within its society.

The report from the Hengaw Organization for Human Rights highlights that in 2023, at least six prisoners, including two Afghan nationals accused of an armed attack on Shahcheragh in Shiraz, were executed publicly. These public executions took place in Shiraz (2 cases), Foladshahr in Isfahan (2 cases), and one each in the cities of Bandar Dilam and Maragheh.



Part eleven: Conclusion

Hengaw Organization for Human Rights asserts that the only way to internationally prosecute the Islamic Republic of Iran for its widespread human rights violations, particularly through mass executions, is by thoroughly analyzing recorded statistics of these executions across various social groups.

Given the increasing use of execution as a means of repression, especially during the Woman, Life, Freedom movement "Jin, Jiyan, Azadi" in Iran, Hengaw urges the international community and institutions concerned with global human rights to take a firmer stance against these violations.

One strategy of the Islamic Republic to sustain its execution mechanism as a tool of repression involves the mass execution of citizens under anonymity. These executions often occur for reasons like poverty, systematic ethnic discrimination, and a lack of transparency within Iran's judicial system. Hengaw calls for international institutions to recognize these actions as part of the Islamic Republic's policy of killings and to respond with appropriate, tangible measures against these rampant executions

