

Flygtningenævnets baggrundsmateriale

Bilagsnr.:	1239
Land:	Iran
Kilde:	Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty
Titel:	New Executions A Sign Of Growing Repression In Iran Amid War
Udgivet:	31. marts 2026
Optaget på baggrundsmaterialet:	15. juni 2026



Document #2138832

RFE/RL – Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (Author)

New Executions A Sign Of Growing Repression In Iran Amid War

- By [Ray Furlong](#) and
- [RFE/RL's Radio Farda](#)

[Iran](#) announced the execution of two political prisoners on March 31, a day after the death penalty was also carried out on two others, in a sign that the clerical authorities are stepping up a crackdown on internal opposition in the country.

The men, identified as Babak Alipour and Pouya Ghobadi, were accused of membership in the [Mujahedin-e Khalq \(MEK\)](#), an exiled opposition group that seeks to overthrow the Islamic republic and that Tehran regards as a terrorist organization.

The executions show that despite US and Israeli strikes [wiping out](#) much of Iran's leadership and degrading its military-industrial capacities, there are no visible signs that the clerical authorities are losing control. In fact, repression appears once again to be on the rise.

The men's lawyer, Babak Paknia, wrote on social media that hours after the executions his office had still not received the verdict from the trial that sealed their fate.

"Before the sentence is carried out, it is necessary to notify its contents to the defense lawyers or at least to the defendant himself. The minimum right of the convicted person is to be able to benefit from the right to retrial and to a stay of execution," he added.

Three other men were executed earlier this month.

Torture, Confessions

Mahmood Amiry-Moghaddam, an Iranian human rights campaigner based in Norway, told RFE/RL's Radio Farda that Alipour and Ghobadi were "kept in solitary confinement for long periods after their arrest. They were tortured and confessions were extracted from them -- confessions that, even under the laws of the Islamic republic itself, are not actually legal."

In a statement responding to the executions, the MEK said "this reflects the regime's fear of the people and their embrace of the resistance units. This bloodshed will forever roll up the disgraceful scroll of the regime."

The MEK described the two men as "heroic" members, but their affiliation with the organization could not be independently confirmed.

Meanwhile, two other defendants in the same case, Vahid Bani-Amirian and Abolhassan Montazer, could face the same sentence.

"The Islamic republic's main threat -- what truly endangers its survival -- is the Iranian people and popular protests. The goal of these executions is to instill fear among the population," Amiry-Moghaddam said.

Iran was wracked by [mass protests in January](#) that were brutally suppressed by security forces. HRANA, a US-based human rights monitoring group, said it had verified nearly 7,000 deaths during Iran's crackdown on protesters in January and many more arrests. It says 1,574 civilians have died since the United States and Israel launched [air strikes](#) on Iran on February 28.

Before the strikes began, US President Donald Trump had written on social media that ["help is on the way"](#) for Iranian protesters and said achieving regime change in Iran would be "the best thing that could happen."

Recent statements by US officials, however, have not listed regime change as a campaign objective, though Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth told reporters at a briefing in Washington on March 31 that "regime change has occurred" and the "primary" focus now is getting Iran to make a deal.

'Clashes' In Iranian Prison

State media have reported increasing numbers of people arrested for being "spies" and "mercenaries."

Police chief Ahmadreza Radan was quoted as reporting hundreds of arrests on various charges relating to the war. This also raises the issue of conditions within prisons.

"Access to even basic necessities is extremely limited. Food conditions were already very bad before the war, but since the war started they've become much worse," Reza Younesi, whose father is in Tehran's notorious Evin Prison, told Radio Farda on March 31.

"Beyond that, the explosions in Tehran -- some of which occurred near Evin -- have had severe psychological effects on the prisoners. Fear and anxiety dominate the prison atmosphere under these wartime conditions," he added.

Younesi's brother and father are being held in different prisons, having both been accused of MEK membership.

Younesi, who now lives in Sweden, also described a riot in Iran's Ghezel Hesar Prison, where his brother is incarcerated. The incident occurred on March 30 when two prisoners there, Mohammad Taghavi Sangdehi and Akbar Daneshvarkar, were taken for execution.

"Other prisoners resisted and clashes occurred," he said, adding that about 20 prisoners were taken away and "most likely transferred to solitary confinement, but we don't know exactly where they are."

These latest executions of four men, on March 30-31, follow that of **three men** on March 19. These three were arrested during the January protests, while those most recently executed had been in jail since 2024.

Amiry-Moghaddam, who heads a group called Iran Human Rights, said the clerical authorities in the country were using the war as a cover for executions.

"In the shadow of war, the political cost of these executions is much lower. Normally, if a protester or a political prisoner were executed, the Islamic republic would face much harsher reactions from the international community.... But now attention is focused on the war," he said.

On March 30, a UN expert panel issued a statement expressing "grave concern" about the executions carried out that day, plus the others earlier in March. The statement also condemned US and Israeli military action, stating "the people of Iran are under attack from outside and from within."

The statement also notes that Iran's authorities have imposed an Internet blackout in the country that has now lasted 32 days, "cutting people off from information and causing severe economic harm."

ecoi.net description:

Article on the announcement of execution of 2 political prisoners accused of membership in the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran (MEK) and the execution of 2 others

Country:

Iran

Source:

[RFE/RL – Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty](#) (Author)

Published:

31 March 2026

Original link:

<https://www.rferl.org/a/iran-us-war-executions-repression/33721498.html>

Document type:

Media Report

Language:

English

Available on ecoi.net since:

13 April 2026

Document ID:

2138832

Austrian Red Cross	Wiedner Hauptstraße	Contact
Austrian Centre for	32, 1041 Wien	Imprint & Disclaimer
Country of Origin and	T +43 1 589 00 583	F.A.Q.
Asylum Research and	F +43 1 589 00 589	Data Protection Notice
Documentation	info@ecoi.net	
(ACCORD)		

ecoi.net is run by the Austrian Red Cross (department ACCORD) in cooperation with Informationsverbund Asyl & Migration. ecoi.net is funded by the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, the Austrian Ministry of the Interior and Caritas Austria. ecoi.net is supported by ECRE & UNHCR.

