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IRAN

**SUBMISSION TO THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE
139TH SESSION, 9 OCTOBER – 3 NOVEMBER 2023**

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1. INTRODUCTION

Amnesty International submits the following information to the UN Human Rights Committee ahead of the review of the fourth periodic report of the Islamic Republic of Iran (Iran) at its 139th session, setting out some of the organization's key concerns and recommendations related to the implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) by the Iranian government.

The submission highlights Iran's ongoing human rights and impunity crisis, characterized by widespread violations of its obligations under the ICCPR. It provides Amnesty International's findings since the review of the third periodic report of Iran at the 103rd session of the Human Rights Committee from 17 October to 4 November 2011 in relation to the use of the death penalty; the unlawful use of firearms and force; violations of the rights to privacy, freedoms of religion or belief, expression, association and peaceful assembly; torture and other ill-treatment; arbitrary detention and unfair trials; violence and discrimination against women and girls, ethnic, linguistic and religious minorities, and LGBTI people; enforced disappearance; ongoing crimes against humanity relating to the mass enforced disappearances and extrajudicial executions of 1988; and denials of the rights to reparation and effective remedy. This is not an exhaustive list of concerns.

2. DEATH PENALTY (ARTICLE 6)

Between 1 January 2012 and 31 July 2023, the Iranian authorities arbitrarily executed more than 5,000 people after unfair trials, in which judges frequently relied on torture-tainted "confessions".¹ The majority of those executed were convicted of drug-related offences. Some executions were carried out in public, while others in secret without prior notice to lawyers or relatives.

Those executed in the same time period included at least 57 individuals who were under the age of 18 when the alleged crime took place.² Under Article 147 of the 2013 Islamic Penal Code, the age of criminal responsibility for boys is 15 lunar years and for girls nine lunar years. Article 91 of the Islamic Penal Code grants judges discretionary power to replace the death penalty with an alternative punishment in cases of murder and some other capital crimes if they determine that the child did not comprehend the nature of the crime or its consequences or their "mental growth and maturity" are in doubt.³

¹ Between 1 January and 31 July 2023, Iran has executed at least 411 people. Iran executed at least 4,663 people between 1 January 2012 and 31 December 2022. Amnesty International, *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. 38; Amnesty International, *Death sentences and executions in 2021* (Index: ACT 50/54148/2022), 24 May 2022, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/act50/5418/2022/en/>, p. 60; 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/>, p. 55; Amnesty International, *Death sentences and executions in 2019* (Index: ACT 50/1847/2020), 21 April 2020, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/act50/1847/2020/en/>, p. 52; Amnesty International, *Death sentences and executions in 2018* (Index: ACT 50/9870/2019), 10 April 2019, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/act50/9870/2019/en/>, p. 46; Amnesty International, *Death sentences and executions in 2017* (Index: ACT 50/7955/2018), 12 April 2018, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/act50/7955/2018/en/>, p. 38; Amnesty International, *Death sentences and executions in 2016* (Index: ACT 50/5740/2017), 11 April 2017, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/act50/5740/2017/en/>, p. 40; Amnesty International, *Death sentences and executions in 2015* (Index: ACT 50/3487/2016), 6 April 2016, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/act50/3487/2016/en/>, p. 63; Amnesty International, *Death sentences and executions in 2014* (Index: ACT 50/0001/2015), 1 April 2015, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/act50/0001/2015/en/>, p. 62; Amnesty International, *Death sentences and executions in 2013* (Index: ACT 50/001/2014), 27 March 2014, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/act50/001/2014/en/>, p. 50; Amnesty International, *Death sentences and executions in 2012*, (Index: ACT 50/001/2013), 10 April 2013, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/act50/001/2013/en/>, p. 48.

² Amnesty International, *Death sentences and executions in 2022* (previously cited), p. 13; Amnesty International, *Death sentences and executions in 2021* (previously cited), p. 14; Amnesty International, *Death sentences and executions in 2020* (previously cited), p. 43; Amnesty International, *Death sentences and executions in 2019* (previously cited), p. 37; Amnesty International, *Death sentences and executions in 2018* (previously cited), p. 35; Amnesty International, *Death sentences and executions in 2017* (previously cited), p. 31; Amnesty International, *Death sentences and executions in 2016* (previously cited), p. 32; Amnesty International, *Death sentences and executions in 2015* (previously cited), p. 50; Amnesty International, *Death sentences and executions in 2014* (previously cited), p. 47; Amnesty International, *Death sentences and executions in 2013* (previously cited), p. 33.

³ Amnesty International, *Execution of tortured youth highlights cruelty of Iran's qesas system* (Index: MDE 13/5049/2021), 26 November 2021, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/5049/2021/en/>; Amnesty International, "Iran: Execution of young man 'vengeful and cruel'", 21 April 2020, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2020/04/iran-execution-of-young-man-vengeful-and-cruel/>; Amnesty International, *Growing up on death row: The death penalty and juvenile offenders in Iran* (Index: MDE 13/3112/2016), 26 January 2016, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/3112/2016/en/>.

The death penalty is maintained for acts protected by the rights to privacy and freedoms of expression, religion or belief including “insulting the Prophet”, drinking alcohol, and consensual sexual relationships between same-sex adults or outside marriage.

The death penalty is also imposed for vaguely worded offences such as “enmity against God” (*moharebeh*) and “corruption on earth” (*efsad-e fel-arz*), as well as for rape, financial corruption and drug-related offences.

Adultery remains punishable by stoning under the Islamic Penal Code.

Since the December 2017-January 2018 nationwide protests, the authorities are increasingly using the death penalty as a tool of repression against protesters, dissidents and ethnic minorities.⁴ This practice has intensified following the 2022 “Woman Life Freedom” uprising.⁵ To date, authorities arbitrarily executed seven people in relation to the uprising: two in 2022 and five in 2023.

Ethnic minorities remain disproportionately impacted by the death penalty. Since at least 2021, the Baluchi ethnic minority has accounted for around 20 per cent of the recorded executions despite making up only five per cent of Iran’s population.

2.1 RECOMMENDATIONS

Pending full abolition of the death penalty:

- Immediately establish an official moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty and commute all existing death sentences.
- Amend Article 91 of the 2013 Islamic Penal Code to prohibit the use of the death penalty for crimes committed by persons below 18 years of age, in all circumstances.
- Quash all convictions and death sentences imposed after grossly unfair trials. If charged with internationally recognizable offences, defendants must be granted fair retrials, excluding torture-tainted and/or coerced “confessions” and other unlawfully obtained “evidence”, and without resort to the death penalty.
- 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 the “most serious crimes” under international law.

3. UNLAWFUL USE OF FIREARMS AND LETHAL FORCE (ARTICLES 2, 6, 7 & 21)

Amnesty International’s extensive documentation into the authorities’ crackdown on waves of mostly peaceful protests that have periodically rocked the country since the nationwide protests of December 2017-January 2018, reveals a widespread pattern of security forces using force and firearms without any regard for the principles of legality, necessity and proportionality and when protesters posed no imminent threat of death or serious injury to security forces or others. Security forces, including the Revolutionary Guards, the paramilitary Basij forces, the Law Enforcement Command of the Islamic Republic of Iran (known by its Persian acronym *Faraja*), which is Iran’s police, and the Special Forces (*yegan-e vijeh*) of Iran’s police, have systematically and unlawfully fired live ammunition and metal pellets as a means to disperse, intimidate and punish protesters.

⁴ 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-sprees-with-escalating-use-of-death-penalty-against-persecuted-ethnic-minorities/>; 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 2021* (previously cited), p. 43; Amnesty International, *Death sentences and executions in 2020* (previously cited), pp. 40-41.

⁵ Amnesty International, *Iran: List of individuals at risk of execution in connection with nationwide protests* (Index: MDE 13/6308/2022), 16 December 2022, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/6308/2022/en/>; 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/>

This has resulted in hundreds of unlawful killings and thousands of injuries amounting to torture or other ill-treatment, including blinding, loss of limb and impaired mobility.

Most recently, during the unprecedented popular uprising against decades of repression and inequality that took place between September and December 2022, security forces repeatedly fired live ammunition and metal pellets using shotguns, pistols, Kalashnikov rifles, among other weapons.⁶ Amnesty International recorded the names and details of hundreds of protesters and bystanders unlawfully killed by security forces, including at least 47 children.⁷ Baluchis and Kurds, two of Iran's oppressed ethnic minorities, were disproportionately impacted, with more than 100 people unlawfully killed in Sistan and Baluchistan province alone.⁸ Hundreds were blinded or sustained other serious eye injuries from metal pellets. Thousands more sustained other injuries; many were unable to seek medical care due to fear of arrest.

During the nationwide protests between 15 and 19 November 2019, security forces unlawfully killed hundreds of protesters and bystanders, including at least 23 children.⁹

The authorities have also unlawfully killed and/or injured protesters and bystanders, including children, during other nation-wide or provincial level protests that took place in December 2017-January 2018,¹⁰ January 2020, July-August 2021, November 2021, and May 2022.¹¹

Authorities continue to cover up the real death toll by blaming deaths on "unspecified persons", accidents or suicides, despite a large body of evidence pointing to the responsibility of security forces. Authorities dismiss complaints by victims' families and shield those responsible from accountability.¹²

Every year, security forces unlawfully shoot and kill, with impunity, scores of unarmed Kurdish cross-border couriers (*kulbars*) between the Kurdistan regions of Iraq and Iran, and Baluchi fuel porters (*soukhtbar*) in Sistan and Baluchistan province.¹³ Amnesty International has also documented a pattern of security forces unlawfully killing Afghans who attempt to cross the Afghanistan-Iran border to reach safety.¹⁴

Prison security forces have also unlawfully used firearms and teargas to suppress prison protests. Amnesty International has recorded at least 15 deaths in custody following the lethal use of firearms and/or teargas by security forces to suppress protests over Covid-19 safety fears in March 2021¹⁵ and eight deaths in custody following the use of unlawful force at Tehran's Evin prison on 15 October 2022.¹⁶

3.1 RECOMMENDATIONS

- Cease the use of firearms and lethal force against people, including protesters, prisoners, kulbars, soukhtbars, and Afghan asylum-seekers, when they pose no imminent threat of life or serious injury to security forces or others.

⁶ Amnesty International, *Amnesty International Report 2022/23: The state of the world's human rights* (Index: POL 10/5670/2023/en), 27 March 2023, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/pol10/5670/2023/en/>, p. 196.

⁷ 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/>

⁸ 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/>

⁹ 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/>

¹⁰ Amnesty International, *'Iran's 'year of shame': More than 7,000 arrested in chilling crackdown on dissent during 2018'*, 24 January 2019, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2019/01/irans-year-of-shame-more-than-7000-arrested-in-chilling-crackdown-on-dissent-during-2018/>

¹¹ See: 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.

¹² See Section 13 "Right to reparation or effective remedy" for recommendations on accountability; Amnesty International, *Iran: They are shooting brazenly* (previously cited) pp. 20-21.

¹³ Amnesty International, *Amnesty International Report 2022/23* (previously cited), p. 198; Amnesty International, "Unlawful killings of destitute fuel porters must be independently investigated", 2 March 2021, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/press-release/2021/03/iran-unlawful-killings-of-destitute-fuel-porters-must-be-independently-investigated/>

¹⁴ Amnesty International, "Iran/Turkey: Fleeing Afghans unlawfully returned after coming under fire at borders", 31 August 2022, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2022/08/iran-turkey-fleeing-afghans-unlawfully-returned-after-coming-under-fire-at-borders/>

¹⁵ 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/>

¹⁶ Amnesty International, *Iran: Tortured prisoners at Evin prison are in urgent need of international protection* (Index: MDE 13/6129/2022), 18 October 2022, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/6129/2022/en/>

- Cease the unlawful use of metal pellets during protests, which violates the absolute prohibition on torture or other ill-treatment.
- Repeal or amend, with a view to bringing into conformity with international law, the Law on the Use of Firearms by Armed Forces in Necessary Incidents, which allows security forces to use firearms without regard to the high threshold imposed by international law and standards.

4. FREEDOMS OF EXPRESSION, ASSOCIATION AND ASSEMBLY (ARTICLES 9, 19, 21 & 22)

The Iranian authorities continue to heavily suppress the rights to freedom of expression, association, and peaceful assembly. Since Iran's last review, the authorities have subjected tens of thousands of people to arbitrary arrest and detention, enforced disappearance, torture or other ill-treatment, unjust prosecution and imprisonment after unfair trials, solely for their exercise of their rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly.¹⁷

Since 2011, hundreds of human rights defenders have been arbitrarily detained on spurious national security-related charges based solely on their peaceful human rights activism;¹⁸ many have been sentenced to prison terms exceeding a decade.¹⁹

Those targeted include journalists, lawyers, students, trade union and labour rights activists, political dissidents, writers, artists, dual nationals, women's rights activists, minority rights activists, environmental activists, anti-death penalty activists and bereaved relatives demanding accountability.²⁰

Revolutionary Courts have consistently cited criticism of Iran's human rights record on social media and communication with international human rights mechanisms, independent media outlets and human rights organizations based outside Iran as evidence of "criminal" conduct.²¹

Charges routinely used against those arrested for peacefully exercising their rights, drawn from the Islamic Penal Code, contravene the principle of legality as they are overly broad and vague.²² Other charges commonly used include "insulting the Supreme Leader" (Article 514), and "insulting Islamic sanctities" (Article 513). These effectively criminalize free expression.

Authorities continue to pressure human rights defenders, journalists and dissidents, including those based abroad, to stop their work by detaining or otherwise harassing their relatives living in Iran.²³

¹⁷ Amnesty International, *Amnesty International Report 2022/23* (previously cited), pp. 197-198; Amnesty International, "Iran's 'year of shame': More than 7,000 arrested in chilling crackdown on dissent during 2018" (previously cited).

¹⁸ Amnesty International, *Caught in a web of repression: Iran's human rights defenders under attack* (Index: MDE 13/6446/2017), 2 August 2017, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/6446/2017/en/>

¹⁹ Amnesty International, "Iran: Sentencing of human rights lawyer to 30 years in prison and 111 lashes 'a shocking injustice'", 3 June 2019, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/press-release/2019/06/iran-sentencing-of-human-rights-lawyer-to-30-years-in-prison-and-111-lashes-a-shocking-injustice/>; Amnesty International, *Iran: 38 years and 148 lashes for women's rights defender: Nasrin Sotoudeh* (Index: MDE 13/0024/2019), 14 March 2019, www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/0024/2019/en/

²⁰ 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. 198; Amnesty International, *Caught in a web of repression* (previously cited), pp. 17-18.

²¹ Amnesty International, *Caught in a web of repression* (previously cited), pp. 16, 19, 53-54.

²² See Amnesty International, *Caught in a web of repression* (previously cited), p. 18.

²³ Amnesty International, *Iran: Release Ahwazi Arab man forcibly disappeared in reprisal for his relative's activism* (Index: MDE 13/4334/2021), 24 June 2021, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/4334/2021/en/>; Amnesty International, *Amnesty International Report 2021/22* (previously cited), p. 198; Amnesty International, "Iran: Family of women's rights activist arrested in despicable attempt to intimidate her into silence", 25 September 2019, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/press-release/2019/09/iran-family-of-womens-rights-activist-arrested-in-despicable-attempt-to-intimidate-her-into-silence/>

Further, authorities have also subjected family members who advocate on behalf of their relatives or seek accountability to harassment, intimidation or arrest, and have routinely banned or dispersed their peaceful gatherings.²⁴

Authorities have also adopted a militarized response to protests by using unlawful force, including lethal force, to disperse, intimidate and punish protesters and have carried out mass arbitrary arrests.²⁵

The authorities ban all independent parties, civil society organizations and independent trade unions, censor all forms of media and jam foreign satellite television channels. Social media platforms, including WhatsApp, Instagram, Facebook, Telegram, Twitter, Signal and YouTube, remain blocked.²⁶

Since the November 2019 protests, authorities have repeatedly disrupted internet and mobile phone networks during protests to suppress mobilization and impede people's ability share information.²⁷

As of September 2023, the draconian Internet User Protection Bill, which would further erode online freedoms and access to the global internet, remains pending. The bill would criminalize the production and distribution of censorship circumvention tools and intensify surveillance.

4.1 RECOMMENDATIONS

- Repeal or substantially amend, with a view to bringing into conformity with international human rights law and standards, vaguely worded provisions of the Islamic Penal Code that unduly restrict the rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly, such as Articles 498, 499, 500, 508, 513, 514, and 610.
- Ensure that no one is subjected to arbitrary arrest and detention and prosecution solely for the peaceful exercise of their rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly, and immediately and unconditionally release anyone detained on this basis.
- Desist from using internet shutdowns to clamp down on human rights; reinstate access to social media platforms and enact legislation in line with international human rights law that recognizes the fundamental role that the internet plays in the exercise of human rights.

5. TORTURE AND OTHER ILL-TREATMENT (ARTICLES 6, 7 & 10)

Since Iran's last review period, Amnesty International has documented the widespread and systematic use of torture and other ill-treatment by police, intelligence and security agents, and prison officials against detainees both during arrest and later in detention centers and prisons across the country.²⁸

Methods of torture frequently reported by victims include punching, kicking, floggings, and beatings with batons and cables; prolonged solitary confinement; deliberate denial of healthcare; electric shocks; suspensions upside down; exposure to extreme temperatures; bombardment of light or sound over a sustained period;

²⁴ Amnesty International, *Iran: Harassment of families of victims unlawfully killed during protests must end* (Index: MDE 13/7084/2023), 21 August 2023, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/7084/2023/en/>; Amnesty International, *Iran: Family under repeated attack for seeking justice: Elham Afkari and Vahid Afkari* (Index: MDE 13/6280/2022), 7 December 2022, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/6280/2022/en/>; Amnesty International, "Iran must end harassment of imprisoned lawyer's family", 12 July 2012, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2012/07/iran-must-end-harassment-of-imprisoned-lawyers-family/>

²⁵ Amnesty International, *They are shooting brazenly* (previously cited), pp. 6-7.

²⁶ Amnesty International, *Amnesty International Report 2022/23* (previously cited), p. 197.

²⁷ 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/>

²⁸ 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/>, 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/>, pp. 34-46.

forced administration of chemical substances; waterboarding; and mock executions. Amnesty International has also documented the use of rape and other acts of sexual violence, including against men, women and children arrested in the context of the September-December 2022 protests. Psychological torture methods reported by victims include degrading insults and profanities; death and rape threats, and threats to harm detainees' family members.²⁹

Amnesty International has recorded the names of at least 142 prisoners who died in custody between January 2010 and April 2022 following torture or other ill-treatment. These include 96 cases involving deliberate denial of medical care³⁰ and 46 other cases involving physical acts of violence.³¹ In 2022 and 2023, dozens more died in custody in suspicious circumstances involving credible reports of torture and other ill-treatment including beatings and denial of medical care.³²

While domestic legislation bans certain types of abusive conduct during interrogations, it does not include a specific crime of torture or its definition.³³ Article 38 of Iran's Constitution prohibits the use of torture "for the purpose of extracting confession or acquiring information" and fails to provide for its absolute prohibition.³⁴

5.1 CORPORAL PUNISHMENTS AMOUNTING TO TORTURE

Iran's Islamic Penal Code retains punishments violating the absolute prohibition of torture and other ill-treatment, including flogging, blinding, amputation,³⁵ crucifixion and stoning. Individuals, including children, can be subjected to flogging for dozens of offences including theft and assault.³⁶

These punishments are prescribed for acts protected under international human rights law such as attending peaceful protests and cultural gatherings, drinking alcohol,³⁷ engaging consensually in same-sex sexual conduct or sexual relations outside of marriage, and attending mixed-gender parties.³⁸

Between 1 January 2012 and 31 July 2023, the authorities have flogged at least 707 people.³⁹

In the same time period, the authorities also carried out amputation of the fingers, hands, and/or feet of at least 41 men convicted of robbery,⁴⁰ and sentenced multiple individuals to deliberate blinding under the principle of "retribution in kind" (*qesas*).⁴¹

²⁹ Amnesty International, *Trampling Humanity* (previously cited), p. 47.

³⁰ 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/>

³¹ Amnesty International, *Iran: Details of 72 deaths in custody since 2010* (previously cited).

³² Amnesty International, *Amnesty International Report 2022/23* (previously cited), p. 198.

³³ Amnesty International, *Trampling Humanity* (previously cited), pp. 35-36.

³⁴ 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.

³⁵ Amnesty International, *Authorities order guillotine machine to amputate prisoners' fingers days after flogging a labour rights activist* (Index: MDE 13/3416/2020), 3 December 2022, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/3416/2020/en/>; 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, *Finger amputation risk for eight prisoners* (Index: MDE 13/5718/2022), 16 June 2022, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/5718/2022/en/>; Amnesty International, "Iran: Authorities committing torture by cruelly amputating man's hand", 24 October 2019, www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2019/10/iran-authorities-committing-torture-by-cruelly-amputating-mans-hand/; Amnesty International, "Iran: authorities amputate a man's hand in shocking act of cruelty", 18 January 2018, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2018/01/iran-authorities-amputate-a-mans-hand-in-shocking-act-of-cruelty/>; Amnesty International, *Iran amputates fingers of two men in shocking act of cruelty* (Index: MDE 13/1998/2015), 1 July 2015, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/1998/2015/en/>

³⁶ Amnesty International, "Suicidal inmate subjected to 60 lashes and at risk of amputation", 17 February 2021, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/press-release/2021/02/iran-suicidal-inmate-subjected-to-60-lashes-and-at-risk-of-amputation/>

³⁷ Amnesty International, "Iran: Prisoner of conscience flogged 100 times for 'drinking alcohol and insulting Islam'", 1 August 2019, www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2019/08/iran-prisoner-of-conscience-flogged-100-times-for-drinking-alcohol-and-insulting-islam/; Amnesty International, "Iran: Young man flogged 80 times for drinking alcohol as a child", 11 July 2018, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2018/07/iran-young-man-flogged-80-times-for-drinking-alcohol-as-a-child/>

³⁸ Amnesty International, "Iran: Wave of floggings, amputations and other vicious punishments", 18 January 2017, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/press-release/2017/01/iran-wave-of-floggings-amputations-and-other-vicious-punishments/>

³⁹ According to Abdorrahman Boroumand Center who keep annual records of the reported flogging sentences that have been carried out.

⁴⁰ According to Abdorrahman Boroumand Center who keep annual records of the reported amputation sentences that have been carried out.

⁴¹ Amnesty International, *Iran: Three people risk court-ordered blinding* (Index: MDE 13/6084/2022), 5 October 2022, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/6084/2022/en/>; Amnesty International, "Man in Iran blinded in one eye in 'unspeakably cruel' retribution punishment", 5 March 2015, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2015/03/iran-eye-for-an-eye-acid-retribution/>

5.2 DELIBERATE DENIAL OF MEDICAL CARE IN PRISONS

Authorities are committing violations of the right to life by deliberately denying ailing prisoners lifesaving healthcare, causing or contributing to deaths in custody. Amnesty International examined the circumstances surrounding 96 deaths in custody which occurred between January 2010 and April 2022, in prisons across Iran, involving credible reports on the denial of access to healthcare.⁴² The authorities also routinely subject people held for politically motivated reasons to torture and other ill-treatment by deliberately depriving them of access to adequate medical care for the purposes of punishing, intimidating or humiliating them or obtaining forced “confessions”.⁴³

The lack of respect for prisoners’ lives and well-being is facilitated by deeply flawed provisions in Iran’s Prisons Regulations. Articles 8(h) and 137 of the Prisons Regulations give prison directors and prosecution officials the power to ignore or overrule medical advice and make healthcare decisions concerning the transfer of prisoners to outside hospitals.⁴⁴

5.3 INHUMANE CONDITIONS OF DETENTION

Prison and prosecution authorities, working under the judiciary, detain people in inhumane conditions characterized by overcrowding, poor sanitation, inadequate food and water, insufficient beds, poor ventilation and insect infestation.⁴⁵

During the Covid-19 pandemic, prisoners across Iran complained about the authorities’ failure to sufficiently protect them from the disease.⁴⁶ Prisoners displaying Covid-19 symptoms were neglected for days, including when they had pre-existing conditions increasing their vulnerability.⁴⁷ Leaked official letters reviewed by Amnesty International revealed that the Iranian government ignored repeated requests by senior prison officials for additional resources to control the spread of Covid-19 and treat the ill.⁴⁸

Individuals detained solely for the peaceful exercise of their human rights are often placed next to individuals convicted of violent crimes, often for punitive purposes, which places them at risk of assault and even death.⁴⁹

In 2021, leaked surveillance footage from Tehran’s Evin prison showed prison officials beating, sexually harassing and otherwise torturing or ill-treating prisoners. The videos also reaffirmed concerns around chronic overcrowding and solitary confinement in inhumane conditions.⁵⁰

5.4 RECOMMENDATIONS

- Define torture as a crime in national legislation in line with international law and standards, ensuring that the prohibition of torture is not restricted to when it is “for the purpose of extracting confession or acquiring information” as it currently is under the Constitution, and encompasses pain or suffering that is inflicted on an individual as a form of punishment or intimidation or for any reason based on discrimination.

⁴² Amnesty International, *In death’s waiting room* (previously cited).

⁴³ 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, *Iran: Jailed cancer patient tortured in prison* (Index: MDE 13/0876/2019), 13 August 2019, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/0876/2019/en/>; See Section 13 “Right to reparation or effective remedy” for recommendations on accountability.

⁴⁴ Amnesty International, *In death’s waiting room* (previously cited), pp. 11-12; Amnesty International, *Health taken hostage: cruel denial of medical care in Iran’s prisons* (Index: MDE 13/4196/2016), 18 July 2016, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/4196/2016/en/>.

⁴⁵ Amnesty International, *Iran: Four Women Jailed For Attending May Day Rally: Anisha Assadolahi, Atefeh Rangriz, Neda Naji and Marzieh Amiri* (Index: MDE 13/0663/2019), 8 July 2019, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/0663/2019/en/>; Amnesty International, *Iran: Inhumane prison conditions need attention* (Index: MDE 13/5515/2017), 19 January 2017, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/5515/2017/en/>.

⁴⁶ Amnesty International, *Iran: Prisoners at risk of COVID-19 infection* (Index: MDE 13/2038/2020), 26 March 2020, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/2038/2020/en/>.

⁴⁷ Amnesty International, *In death’s waiting room* (previously cited), pp. 14-15, 45-50.

⁴⁸ Amnesty International, “Iran: Leaked official letters reveal state denial of COVID-19 crisis in prisons”, 31 July 2020, www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2020/07/iran-leaked-letters-reveal-state-denial-of-covid19-crisis-in-prisons/.

⁴⁹ See for example: Amnesty International, *Iran: Health of tortured Iranian defender at risk: Narges Mohammadi* (Index: MDE 13/5757/2022), 23 June 2022, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/5757/2022/en/>; Amnesty International, Twitter Post, 13 June 2019, <https://twitter.com/AmnestyIran/status/1139156546888306690?lang=en-GB>; Amnesty International, *Iran: Three human rights defenders on hunger strike: Golrokh Ebrahimi Iraee, Arash Sadeghi, Atena Daemi* (Index: MDE 13/7840/2018), 8 February 2018, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/7840/2018/en/>.

⁵⁰ 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/>.

- Ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and its Optional Protocol.
- Repeal all legislation, in particular provisions of the Islamic Penal Code, which sanction corporal punishments and move towards a criminal justice system that treats people humanely and focuses on rehabilitation.
- 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.
- Amend Iranian laws and regulations including Articles 8(h) and 137 of the Prisons Regulations to ensure that medical decisions pertaining to prisoners' healthcare or transfer to medical facilities outside prison are made independently by health care professionals, implemented by prison officials and security and intelligence bodies, and upheld by prosecutors and other judicial authorities.
- End the use of torture and other ill-treatment and treat detainees with dignity and humanity.
- Allow international monitors, including the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Iran, to conduct independent, unannounced inspections of prisons in line with international standards.

6. ARBITRARY DETENTION AND UNFAIR TRIALS (ARTICLES 9 & 14)

The judiciary lacks independence and oversees an apparatus replete with systematic due process violations.⁵¹

Amnesty International's long-term documentation reveal that detainees are routinely denied the rights to access effective assistance of an independent lawyer of their own choosing; to be promptly informed of charges against them; to remain silent and not to incriminate themselves; to challenge the lawfulness of detention before an independent, impartial tribunal; to have adequate time and facilities to prepare a defence; to obtain full access to relevant evidence; to call, examine and cross-examine witnesses; to challenge the authenticity of evidence; to receive a fair, public hearing before a competent, independent and impartial tribunal; to have a meaningful review of their convictions and sentences by a higher court.

The Note to Article 48 of the Code of Criminal Procedure requires those facing charges related to national security to select their legal counsel for the investigation phase from a list of lawyers approved by the head of the judiciary.⁵² In practice, detainees are generally not allowed to meet any lawyers until the completion of the investigation stage. Amnesty International has documented cases where individuals have been tried without any legal representation.⁵³

Trials, particularly those before Revolutionary Courts, remain closed and extremely brief, sometimes lasting just a few minutes.⁵⁴

According to Amnesty International's research, judges presiding over criminal and Revolutionary Courts show a lack of impartiality by openly supporting the accusations of intelligence and security officials.

Sentences are often upheld without hearings and many defendants are not provided with an opportunity to present the appeal court with written statements beyond the initial appeal request.⁵⁵

⁵¹ Amnesty International, *Amnesty International Report 2022/23* (previously cited), pp. 197-198; 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/>

⁵² Amnesty International, *Iran: Regressive amendment would deal crushing blow to right to assistance of a lawyer during investigation phase* (Index: MDE 13/0379/2019), 16 May 2019, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/0379/2019/en/>

⁵³ Amnesty International, *Trampling Humanity* (previously cited), pp. 50-52; Amnesty International, *Caught in a web of repression* (previously cited).

⁵⁴ Amnesty International, *Trampling Humanity* (previously cited), pp. 56-59; Amnesty International, *Caught in a web of repression* (previously cited).

⁵⁵ Amnesty International, *Trampling Humanity* (previously cited), p. 60.

Forced “confessions” obtained under torture and other ill-treatment are frequently broadcast on state television, including before trials or following executions to dehumanize victims,⁵⁶ and are systematically used by courts to issue convictions, even when defendants retract them in court.⁵⁷

Iran continues to arbitrarily detain foreign and dual nationals for leverage, in some cases constituting the crime of hostage taking.⁵⁸

Thousands remain on death row or serve lengthy prison terms following grave violations of the right to a fair trial, giving their detention an arbitrary character.

6.1 RECOMMENDATIONS

- Uphold international standards of fairness in all trials, 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.
- Repeal the Note to Article 48 of the Code of Criminal Procedure to ensure the right to access a lawyer of one's own choosing at all stages.
- Provide all people accused of a criminal offence adequate time and facilities to prepare a defence, including adequate facilities to communicate in confidence with their lawyer and timely access to all relevant information about the charges and court proceedings including the information on which the prosecution intends to rely.
- Ensure that all statements and other forms of evidence obtained as a result of torture and other ill-treatment are excluded from evidence in all proceedings, apart from cases against the alleged perpetrators.
- Ensure the independence of the judiciary and put in place effective safeguards to prevent undue interference by or pressure or improper influence from any branch of government, including intelligence bodies and security forces.

7. FREEDOM OF RELIGION OR BELIEF (ARTICLES 2, 18, 26 & 27)

The authorities systematically violate the right to freedom of religion or belief by imposing on people of all faiths as well as atheists, codes of conduct rooted in a strict interpretation of Shi'a Islam.⁵⁹ The right to change or renounce religious beliefs is violated, with those converting from Islam to other religions, or professing atheism, risking the death penalty.⁶⁰

⁵⁶ Amnesty International, *Iran: Swedish-Iranian at risk of retaliatory execution* (Index: MDE 13/5698/2022), 10 June 2022, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/5698/2022/en/>; Amnesty International, “Iran: Macabre propaganda videos feature forced ‘confessions’ of executed Sunni men”, 17 November 2016, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/press-release/2016/11/iran-macabre-propaganda-videos-feature-forced-confessions-of-executed-sunni-men/>

⁵⁷ 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/>; Amnesty International, *Trampling Humanity* (previously cited), pp. 53–56.

⁵⁸ 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/>; 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/>; 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/>, 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/>

⁵⁹ Amnesty International, *Amnesty International Report 2022/23* (previously cited), pp. 198–199; Amnesty International, *Amnesty International Report 2021/22* (previously cited), p. 200; 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. 194.

⁶⁰ Amnesty International, *Iran: Prisoner of conscience sentenced to death: Mohammad Ali Taheri* (Index: MDE 13/7024/2017), 31 August 2017, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/7024/2017/en/>; Amnesty International, *Iran: Death sentence for “insulting the prophet”* (Index: MDE 13/064/2014), 26 November 2014, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/064/2014/en/>

In May 2023, authorities executed two men for “apostasy” solely for the peaceful exercise of their right to freedom of religion through social media activities.⁶¹

Members of religious minorities, including Baha’is, Christians, Jews, Gonabadi Dervishes, and Yaresan (Ahl-e Haq), as well as Shi’a Muslims who convert to Sunni Islam, Christianity or other faith, face state-sanctioned human rights violations solely for professing or practicing their faith, including harassment; arbitrary arrest and detention; enforced disappearances; torture and other ill-treatment; prison sentences; confiscation of personal property; raids, destruction and desecration of their places of worship and cemeteries; and bans or restrictions on access to political office, education, employment and child adoption.⁶²

Widespread and systematic attacks continue against the persecuted Baha’i minority, including arbitrary arrest and detention, enforced disappearances, forcible closure of businesses, confiscation of property and land, bans on higher education, and desecration and demolition of Baha’i cemeteries.⁶³

In 2018, authorities violently arrested hundreds of Gonabadi Dervishes in relation to a peaceful protest and, subsequently, subjected over 200 people to torture and other ill-treatment and lengthy prison sentences solely for exercising their human rights.⁶⁴

7.1 RECOMMENDATIONS

- Immediately and unconditionally release all individuals deprived of liberty solely for the peaceful exercise of their rights to freedom of religion or belief and quash all convictions and sentences imposed on this basis.
- Halt the use of arbitrary detention, politically motivated prosecution and end impunity for human rights violations against religious minorities and those not adhering to state-sanctioned beliefs.
- Repeal all discriminatory laws and practices against religious minorities and take legislative, executive and other measures to guarantee their rights to freedom of religion or belief and equal access to education, employment, housing, political office, places of worship, child adoption, and private ownership, in full conformity with international law and standards.

8. PERSECUTION OF ETHNIC AND LINGUISTIC MINORITIES (ARTICLES 2, 6, 7, 9, 26 & 27)

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. Persian remains the sole language of instruction during primary and secondary education.⁶⁵

⁶¹ See Amnesty International, Twitter Post, 8 May 2023, <https://twitter.com/AmnestyIran/status/1655569792391061507?lang=en-GB>

⁶² Amnesty International, *Iran: Tortured Kurdish men at risk of execution* (Index: MDE 13/5281/2022), 1 March 2022, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/5281/2022/en/>; Amnesty International, *Iran: Christians sentenced for practising their faith* (Index: MDE 13/8981/2018), 24 August 2018, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/8981/2018/en/>; Amnesty International, *Amnesty International Report 2016/17: The state of the world’s human rights* (Index: POL 10/4800/2017), <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/pol10/4800/2017/en/>, p. 194.

⁶³ Amnesty International, “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/>; Amnesty International, “Iran: Stop destruction of mass grave site and allow dignified burials of persecuted Baha’is”, 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/>

⁶⁴ Amnesty International, “Iran’s ‘year of shame’: More than 7,000 arrested in chilling crackdown on dissent during 2018”, (previously cited); Amnesty International, *Iran: 11 women ill-treated and arbitrarily detained* (Index: MDE 13/8149/2018), 29 March 2018, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/8149/2018/en/>; Amnesty International, *Iran: Hunger strike to protest torture in detention* (Index: MDE 13/8150/2018), 29 March 2018, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/8150/2018/en/>

⁶⁵ Amnesty International, *Amnesty International Report 2022/23* (previously cited), p. 198.

Members of ethnic minorities who speak out against violations, seek a degree of autonomy or take part in peaceful gatherings or protests, face arbitrary detention, torture and other ill-treatment, grossly unfair trials, and the death penalty.⁶⁶

Ethnic minorities continue to be disproportionately impacted by unlawful killings in protests and the death penalty.⁶⁷

8.1 RECOMMENDATIONS

- Review all legislation, policies and practices with a view to removing all provisions that discriminate against or have a discriminatory impact on persons belonging to ethnic or national, religious and linguistic minorities; take measures to ensure that persons belonging to minorities 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.
- Immediately and unconditionally release anyone held solely on account of their ethnic identity or advocacy for minority rights.

9. LGBTI PEOPLE'S RIGHTS (ARTICLES 2, 7 & 26)

LGBTI people suffer systemic discrimination and violence. Consensual same-sex sexual conduct and gender non-conformity remain criminalized with punishments ranging from flogging to the death penalty. State-endorsed "conversion therapies" amounting to torture or other ill-treatment remain prevalent, including against children. Gender non-conforming individuals risk criminalization, unless they seek legal gender change, which requires gender affirmation surgery, hormone therapy and sterilization.⁶⁸

Such laws 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.⁶⁹

Authorities have subjected LGBTI people and rights defenders to arbitrary detention, prosecution and the death penalty due to their real or perceived sexual orientation and/or gender identity, as well as activism in support of LGBTI communities.⁷⁰

9.1 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 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.
- Adopt legislation expressly prohibiting hate crimes including those perpetrated on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity.

⁶⁶ Amnesty International, *Amnesty International Report 2020/21* (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/>; Amnesty International, "Iran: Hundreds arrested in vicious crackdown on Ahwazi Arabs", 2 November 2018, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/press-release/2018/11/iran-hundreds-arrested-in-vicious-crackdown-on-ahwazi-arabs/>; Amnesty International, *Iran: Release Azerbaijani Turkic minority rights activists detained for peaceful cultural gatherings* (Index: MDE 13/8889/2018), 11 August 2018, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/8889/2018/en/>

⁶⁷ See Section 2 "Death penalty" and Section 3 "Unlawful use of lethal force against protesters".

⁶⁸ 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.

⁶⁹ Amnesty International, *Iran: Murder of 20-year-old gay man highlights urgent need to protect LGBTI rights* (previously cited).

⁷⁰ 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/>

10. VIOLENCE AND DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS (ARTICLES 2, 3, 6, 7, 9, 17, 18, 19, 21, 22, 23, 24 & 26)

10.1 DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

Authorities treat women as second-class citizens, including in relation to marriage, divorce, child custody, employment, inheritance and political office.⁷¹

The legal age of marriage for girls is 13 and fathers can obtain judicial permission for their daughters to be married at a younger age.⁷²

The age of criminal responsibility is nine lunar years (8.7 solar years) for girls whereas it is 15 lunar years (14.6 solar years) for boys.⁷³

Discrimination against women in employment remains endemic in law and practice. Article 1117 of Iran's Civil Code entitles men to prevent their wives from taking employment if it is deemed "incompatible with the interests of the family or with his or his wife's dignity".⁷⁴

Under Iran's Civil Code, men can divorce their wives without reason (Article 1133). A woman who seeks divorce must prove that she is living in conditions of severe hardship that make the continuation of marital life intolerable. Examples of such hardship include addiction of the husband to substances or domestic violence (Article 1130). In practice, discriminatory attitudes in the legal system have often prevented women from obtaining divorce.⁷⁵

Authorities continue to prevent women from entering football stadiums for domestic games, arresting and prosecuting those who defy the ban.⁷⁶

10.1.1 RECOMMENDATIONS

- Revoke all laws that discriminate directly against women and girls or have a discriminatory impact on them.
- Ratify without reservation the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and its Optional Protocol.

10.2 DEGRADING PRACTICE OF COMPULSORY VEILING

Authorities continue to enforce degrading and discriminatory compulsory veiling laws and regulations that violate women's rights to equality, privacy, and freedoms of expression, belief or religion and lead to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, as well as arbitrary arrests and detention.⁷⁷

⁷¹ Amnesty International, *Amnesty International Report 2022/23* (previously cited), p. 199; 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/>

⁷² Amnesty International, *You shall procreate* (previously cited), p. 34.

⁷³ Amnesty International, *You shall procreate* (previously cited), pp. 33-34.

⁷⁴ Amnesty International, *You shall procreate* (previously cited), pp. 24-27.

⁷⁵ Amnesty International, *You shall procreate* (previously cited), pp. 27-28.

⁷⁶ Amnesty International, "Iran: Shocking death of football fan who set herself on fire exposes impact of contempt for women's rights", 10 September 2019, www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2019/09/iran-shocking-death-of-football-fan-who-set-herself-on-fire-exposes-impact-of-contempt-for-womens-rights/; Amnesty International, *You shall procreate* (previously cited), pp. 35-36.

⁷⁷ 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/>

Iranian women and girls are subjected to daily harassment and assault by law enforcement bodies policing women's dress in public. Women and girls perceived to not be complying with forced veiling laws are denied access to public transport and hospitals, expelled from schools and universities, and dismissed from employment.⁷⁸

From 2018, authorities intensified their crackdown against women's rights defenders protesting compulsory veiling laws, with authorities subjecting those campaigning against compulsory veiling to incommunicado detention, prolonged solitary confinement, threats aimed at extracting forced video "confessions", and lengthy prison terms.⁷⁹ In parallel, morality police and pro-government vigilantes intensified their violent attacks toward women for defying compulsory veiling.⁸⁰

In 2022, authorities applied a stricter enforcement of these laws, culminating in the death in custody of Mahsa/Zhina Amini in September, sparking a popular uprising across the country.⁸¹

Since April 2023, authorities doubled down on their oppressive methods of policing and severely repressing women and girls for defying compulsory veiling laws, with more than a million women receiving SMS warnings threatening that their vehicles will be confiscated if they are found travelling in a car while unveiled, and thousands of these threats having been executed. Hundreds of businesses have been forcibly closed for not enforcing compulsory veiling and countless women have been denied access to education, banking services and public transport.⁸² In May 2023, the authorities presented the "Bill to Support the Culture of Chastity and Hijab" to parliament. Under this proposed legislation, women and girls appearing without headscarves in public spaces and on social media will face a catalogue of penalties that will further severely violate their human rights.⁸³ In August 2023, parliamentarians voted for the revised bill, which consists of 70 articles and has not been made public, to be reviewed in a closed special internal committee, in order to expedite its passing, further evading transparency and public scrutiny.

10.2.1 RECOMMENDATIONS

- Immediately abolish compulsory veiling.
- Quash the convictions and sentences issued and drop all charges brought against women for defying compulsory veiling.
- Release anyone in detention for defying compulsory veiling unconditionally; and abandon any plans to further punish women and girls for exercising their rights to equality, privacy, and freedom of expression, religion or belief.
- Hold Iranian officials involved in violating women's rights through implementation of compulsory veiling accountable.

10.3 "HONOUR" KILLINGS AND OTHER GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Gender-based violence against women and girls, including domestic violence, marital rape and early and forced marriage, is committed with impunity.⁸⁴

⁷⁸ Amnesty International, *Iran: Compulsory veiling is abusive, discriminatory and humiliating; end the persecution of women for peacefully protesting against it* (Index: MDE 13/7783/2018), 24 January 2018, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/7783/2018/en/>

⁷⁹ Amnesty International, "Iran: Cruel campaign to extract propaganda 'confessions' from protesters against compulsory veiling", 15 July 2019, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/press-release/2019/07/iran-cruel-campaign-to-extract-propaganda-confessions-from-protesters-against-compulsory-veiling/>; Amnesty International, "Iran: Release women's rights defenders detained for peacefully protesting against forced veiling", 18 April 2019, www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2019/04/iran-release-womens-rights-defenders-detained-for-peacefully-protesting-against-forced-veiling/

⁸⁰ Amnesty International, "Iran: Pro-government vigilantes attack women for standing up against forced hijab laws", 12 March 2019, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/press-release/2019/03/iran-pro-government-vigilantes-attack-women-for-standing-up-against-forced-hijab-laws/>

⁸¹ 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/>

⁸² Amnesty International, *Iran: Authorities doubling down on punishments against women and girls* (previously cited).

⁸³ Amnesty International, *Iran: Authorities doubling down on punishments against women and girls* (previously cited), p. 8.

⁸⁴ Amnesty International, "Iran: Victim of domestic and sexual violence arrested as a child, is executed after unfair trial", 2 October 2018, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/press-release/2018/10/iran-victim-of-domestic-and-sexual-violence-arrested-as-a-child-is-executed-after-unfair-trial/>; Amnesty International, *You shall procreate* (previously cited).

Since November 2022, thousands of schoolgirls have been poisoned following gas attacks deliberately targeting schools.⁸⁵

In April 2023, the general principles of the “Preventing women from injury and improving their safety against abuse” bill was approved by parliament, while some of its provisions were referred for further examination by relevant parliamentary committees. The bill, introduced over a decade ago, was originally intended to protect women from violence but does not include the word “violence”. It fails to define domestic violence as an offence, criminalize marital rape and child marriage, or ensure men who murder their wives or daughters face proportionate punishments.

Multiple provisions in Iran’s 2013 Islamic Penal Code facilitate or contribute to the commission of so-called “honour” killings in Iran and, thereby, place girls and women and LGBTI persons at increased risk of violations of the right to life.⁸⁶

10.3.1 RECOMMENDATIONS

- Enact and, where necessary, amend domestic legislation to criminalize domestic violence, including marital rape, with appropriate and proportionate penalties.
- Immediately conduct independent, thorough and effective investigations into allegations of gender-based violence and bring to justice anyone found responsible in fair trials, without recourse to the death penalty. Demonstrated hostility or prejudice on the basis of protected characteristics such as gender, sexual orientation and gender identity must be considered when investigating crimes.
- Immediately reform laws facilitating or contributing to the commission of so-called “honour” killings to ensure that penalties are applied without discrimination and that they are proportionate to the severity of the crime, without resort to the death penalty.

10.4 SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS OF WOMEN AND GIRLS

Since 2012, Iran has eliminated funding for the Family and Population Planning Programme, a state programme that had provided vital sexual and reproductive health services for women in Iran. The move has left women unable to pay for quality modern contraception at increased risk of unwanted pregnancies or illegal, clandestine abortions, putting their lives and health in danger.⁸⁷

Women and girls have limited access to abortion and are at risk of criminalization for seeking abortion. Under Article 623 of the Islamic Penal Code, anyone who causes the miscarriage of a pregnant woman by giving her drugs or other means shall be sentenced to six months to one year of imprisonment, and if knowingly and deliberately guides a pregnant woman to use drugs or other means to abort the foetus shall be sentenced to three to six months’ imprisonment, unless it is proved that it was necessary to save the mother’s life. Article 624 provides for a more severe form of punishment, ranging from two to five years in prison, if abortion is provided by a medical professional.⁸⁸

In 2021, parliament further undermined the right to sexual and reproductive health by adopting the bill “Youthful population and protection of the family”, which, among other things, bans state-funded facilities from providing birth control free of charge; requires pharmacies to sell contraception only with a prescription; and bans vasectomy and tubectomy except when pregnancy would endanger a woman’s life or lead to serious physical harm or unbearable hardship during pregnancy or after labour.⁸⁹

⁸⁵ 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/>

⁸⁶ See Amnesty International, *Iran: Murder of 20-year-old gay man highlights urgent need to protect LGBTI rights* (previously cited), pp. 5-6; Amnesty International, Twitter Post, 27 May 2020, <https://twitter.com/amnesty/status/1265672312269033473>

⁸⁷ Amnesty International, *You shall procreate* (previously cited), pp. 9-11.

⁸⁸ See Amnesty International, *You shall procreate* (previously cited), pp. 14-16.

⁸⁹ Amnesty International, *Amnesty International Report 2021/22*, (previously cited), p. 199.

10.4.1 RECOMMENDATIONS

- Repeal laws that criminalize abortion, ensuring the elimination of punitive measures for women and girls seeking abortion, and for healthcare providers and others performing abortions or assisting in obtaining such services where consent is fully given.
- Fund comprehensive family planning policies and programmes to ensure that all women can access quality contraceptive goods, services and information, including the full range of modern contraceptive methods (pharmaceutical and surgical contraception as well as emergency contraception).

11. ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCE (ARTICLES 6, 7, 9, 14, 16 & 19)

Authorities routinely subject detainees to enforced disappearance, holding them in undisclosed locations and concealing their fate or whereabouts from their families.⁹⁰ During the period of enforced disappearance, many are subjected to torture and other ill-treatment to illicit forced “confessions”.

Intelligence and security bodies often forcibly disappear protesters, human rights defenders and others detained for politically motivated reasons in “security detention facilities” (*bazdashtgah-hayeh amniyati*) and unofficial secret detention places. In the successive protests since December 2017, thousands of people were subjected to enforced disappearance for days, weeks or months while security and intelligence bodies threatened victims’ families with arrest if they sought information about their loved ones or spoke out.⁹¹

The authorities continue the pattern of forcibly disappearing and executing members of ethnic minorities on death row in secret and concealing the whereabouts of their bodies and the full truth about their executions.⁹² By concealing the full truth about the execution of victims, hiding their bodies and failing to return them to their families, the authorities commit the ongoing crime of enforced disappearance.

11.1 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 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. If charged with a recognizable criminal offence, immediately disclose their fate and whereabouts to their families and lawyers and ensure they are tried in proceedings compliant with international fair trial standards.
- Impose, in law and practice, a prohibition on security detention facilities and secret unofficial detention places, ensuring that all persons deprived of their liberty are held in officially recognized places of detention and are registered in a centralized register of detainees accessible to their lawyers and families at all times.
- Promptly ratify or accede to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance without making any reservation and recognize the competence of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances to receive and consider communications from or on behalf of individuals or other states parties.

⁹⁰ See for example 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/>.

⁹¹ See Section 13 “Right to reparation or effective remedy” for recommendations on accountability; Amnesty International, *Iran: Harassment of families of victims unlawfully killed during protests must end* (previously cited); Amnesty International, *Trampling Humanity* (previously cited), pp. 29-33.

⁹² See for example: 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/>.

12. CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY

(ARTICLES 2, 6, 7, 9, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, 22 & 26)

12.1 MASS ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES RESULTING FROM PRISON MASSACRES OF 1988

The authorities continue to commit the crime against humanity of enforced disappearance by concealing the fate and whereabouts of several thousand political dissidents who were forcibly disappeared and extrajudicially executed in secret between July and September 1988.⁹³

These ongoing enforced disappearances, combined with relentless persecution of victims' families,⁹⁴ bans on commemorations, and concealment and destruction of mass gravesites,⁹⁵ continue to cause severe suffering and anguish to victims' families, amounting to torture or other inhumane treatment.⁹⁶

Despite repeated calls from the UN for an investigation into the enforced disappearances arising from the 1988 prison massacres,⁹⁷ the authorities refuse to ensure justice, truth or reparation.⁹⁸

Many officials who should be criminally investigated for involvement in these crimes against humanity,⁹⁹ including the current president, Ebrahim Raisi,¹⁰⁰ not only enjoy impunity, but also continue to hold positions of power, including in key judicial, prosecutorial and government bodies responsible for ensuring that victims receive justice.

12.1.1 RECOMMENDATIONS

- Establish a competent, independent and impartial truth commission, commission of inquiry or other appropriate mechanism to establish fully the truth regarding the mass enforced disappearances and extrajudicial executions of July-September 1988.
- Enact legislation making crimes against humanity, as defined in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, crimes in Iranian law.

⁹³ Amnesty International, "Iran: World turning blind eye to crisis of mass enforced disappearance", 28 August 2019, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2019/08/iran-world-turning-blind-eye-to-crisis-of-mass-enforced-disappearance/>; Amnesty International, *Blood-soaked secrets: Why Iran's 1988 prison massacres are ongoing crimes against humanity* (Index: MDE 13/9421/2018), December 2018, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/9421/2018/en/>.

⁹⁴ Amnesty International, *Ill-treated for seeking truth and justice: Maryam Akbari Monfared* (Index: MDE 13/4657/2021), 27 August 2021, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/4657/2021/en/>; Amnesty International, *Spurious charges for human rights defender: Mansoureh Behkish* (Index: MDE 13/5207/2016), 24 November 2016, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/5207/2016/en/>.

⁹⁵ Amnesty International, "Iran: Walls erected around graves of massacre victims show urgent need for international investigation", 13 September 2022, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2022/09/iran-walls-erected-around-graves-of-massacre-victims-show-urgent-need-for-international-investigation/>; Amnesty International, *Iran: Road to be built over individual and mass graves* (Index: MDE 13/8828/2018), 26 July 2018, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/8828/2018/en/>.

⁹⁶ Amnesty International, "Iran's 1988 massacres: Authorities violating torture prohibition through cruel treatment of victims' families", 26 June 2019, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2019/06/irans-1988-massacres-authorities-violating-torture-prohibition-through-cruel-treatment-of-victims-families/>.

⁹⁷ UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, Report: *Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances*, 4 August 2021, UN Doc. A/HRC/48/57, para. 84; Amnesty International, "Iran: UN calls for accountability on 1988 prison massacres marks turning point in three-decade struggle", 9 December 2020, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2020/12/iran-un-calls-for-accountability-on-1988-prison-massacres-marks-turning-point-in-three-decade-struggle-2/>.

⁹⁸ Amnesty International, *Involvement of Iran's former diplomats in covering up the 1988 prison massacres* (Index: MDE 13/6418/2023), 6 February 2023, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/6418/2023/en/>; Amnesty International, *Iran: Shocking statements by senior official highlight impunity for 1988 prison massacres* (Index: MDE 13/0815/2019), 30 July 2019, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/0815/2019/en/>; See Section 13 "Right to reparation or effective remedy" for recommendations on accountability.

⁹⁹ Amnesty International, *Blood-soaked secrets* (previously cited), pp. 127-128.

¹⁰⁰ Amnesty International, *Iran: Presidency of Ebrahim Raisi a grim reminder of the crisis of impunity* (Index: MDE 13/4314/2021), 19 June 2021, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/4314/2021/en/>.

12.2 DESTRUCTION OF GRAVE SITES

The Iranian authorities secretly buried the remains of most of the victims of the enforced disappearances and extrajudicial executions in July-September 1988 in unmarked mass graves.¹⁰¹ Amnesty International identified suspected or known mass grave sites in the vicinity of at least 18 cities across Iran. However, the authorities have never acknowledged these mass grave sites, which have been subjected to desecration and destruction by bulldozing, pouring concrete, and constructing new burial plots, buildings or roads over them.¹⁰²

Patterns of damaging and desecrating graves and grave sites continue today with impunity, with the destruction of gravestones, from 11 cities across the country, of those unlawfully killed by the security forces during or in connection to the nationwide protests between September and December 2022.¹⁰³

12.2.1 RECOMMENDATIONS

- Immediately stop the destruction and damaging of mass grave sites containing the bodies of the victims of the 1988 prison massacres and ensure that they are preserved and protected until proper, independent investigations can be carried out to determine the identity of the remains and the circumstances of what happened.
- Conduct investigations to identify the perpetrators behind the destruction of the graves and grave sites of those unlawfully killed in connection with the September to December 2022 protests and bring them to account and take measures to prevent the repeated destruction or damage to gravesites.

13. RIGHT TO REPARATION OR EFFECTIVE REMEDY (ARTICLE 2)

Since Iran's last review, no public official has been investigated or prosecuted in Iran for extrajudicial executions and other unlawful killings, torture, enforced disappearance or other crimes under international law or grave human rights violation.¹⁰⁴

Families seeking justice, truth and reparation in relation to the mass executions and enforced disappearances of the 1980s are subjected to reprisals including prosecution on vague national security-related charges for their peaceful efforts to learn the fate and whereabouts of their loved ones.¹⁰⁵

In July 2022, following a historic trial under the principle of universal jurisdiction, a Swedish court sentenced former Iranian official Hamid Nouri to life in prison over crimes relating to the 1988 prison massacres. However, consistent with long-standing patterns of denial and distortion, the Iranian authorities reacted to the trial by describing it as a "plot" concocted by "terrorists" that relied on "fake documentation and witnesses".¹⁰⁶ The authorities are seeking to swap Hamid Nouri with arbitrarily detained Swedish nationals, confirming concerns about the commission of the crime of hostage taking.

The authorities continue to cover up the real number of those unlawfully killed by security forces during the nationwide protests of September-December 2022,¹⁰⁷ November 2019¹⁰⁸ and previous protests, and deny and distort the truth about the circumstances surrounding the killings. Authorities also routinely pressure families to bury their loved ones immediately and without an independent autopsy.

¹⁰¹ Amnesty International, *Blood-soaked secrets* (previously cited), pp. 53-63.

¹⁰² Amnesty International, *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/>

¹⁰³ Amnesty International, *Iran: Harassment of families of victims unlawfully killed during protests must end* (previously cited), pp. 15-43.

¹⁰⁴ Amnesty International, *Amnesty International Report 2022/23* (previously cited), p. 200.

¹⁰⁵ Amnesty International, *Blood-soaked secrets* (previously cited), pp. 109-114, 124-127; Amnesty International, "Raheleh Rahemipour goes on trial amid intensified pressure to withdraw UN complaint", 4 May 2018, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2018/05/iran-raheleh-rahemipour-goes-on-trial/>

¹⁰⁶ Amnesty International, "Iran: Conviction of former Iranian official over involvement in 1988 prison massacres landmark step towards justice", 14 July 2022, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2022/07/iran-conviction-of-former-iranian-official-over-involvement-in-1988-prison-massacres-landmark-step-towards-justice/>

¹⁰⁷ Amnesty International, *Iran: Killings of children during youthful anti-establishment protests* (previously cited), pp. 7-8; Amnesty International, *Iran: Leaked official documents ordering deadly crackdown highlight need for international attention* (previously cited), pp. 3-6.

¹⁰⁸ Amnesty International, *Iran: Details of 321 deaths in crackdown on November 2019 protests* (previously cited), pp. 9-11; Amnesty International, *'They shot our children'* (previously cited), pp. 19-22.

Relatives of those who are unlawfully killed by security forces during protests or those who die in custody under suspicious circumstances are routinely subjected to arbitrary arrests and detention, prosecution, threats and other forms of harassment and intimidation by intelligence and security officers.¹⁰⁹

13.1 RECOMMENDATIONS

- Ensure that prompt, thorough, independent and impartial criminal investigations are conducted into the crimes against humanity relating to the prison massacres of 1988; the unlawful use of force in past protests; and all allegations of extrajudicial executions and other unlawful killings, enforced disappearance, torture and other ill-treatment; and where sufficient admissible evidence exists, prosecute those suspected of criminal responsibility, including command or superior responsibility, before civilian courts in fair trials and without resort to the death penalty.
- Establish a competent, independent and impartial reparation mechanism to ensure that the victims of the widespread acts of enforced disappearance, torture, and other ill-treatment and the families of victims of enforced disappearances, extrajudicial or arbitrary executions and other unlawful killings, are provided with full and effective reparation in accordance with international standards, including restitution, compensation, rehabilitation, satisfaction and guarantees of non-repetition.
- Protect survivors, victims' relatives and others seeking truth, justice and reparations against threats, harassment, intimidation, arbitrary arrests and detentions, and end all reprisals against them by state authorities or other actors.

¹⁰⁹ Amnesty International, *Iran: Urgent International action needed to ensure accountability for Mahsa Amini's death in custody* (previously cited), p. 4; Amnesty International, *In death's waiting room* (previously cited), p. 20.

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IRAN

SUBMISSION TO THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE

139TH SESSION, 9 OCTOBER – 3 NOVEMBER 2023

Amnesty International submits the following information to the UN Human Rights Committee ahead of the review of the fourth periodic report of the Islamic Republic of Iran (Iran) at its 139th session, setting out some of the organization's key concerns and recommendations related to the implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) by the Iranian government.

The submission highlights Iran's ongoing human rights and impunity crisis, characterized by widespread violations of its obligations under the ICCPR. It provides Amnesty International's findings since the review of the third periodic report of Iran at the 103rd session of the Human Rights Committee from 17 October to 4 November 2011 in relation to the use of the death penalty; the unlawful use of firearms and force; violations of the rights to privacy, freedoms of religion or belief, expression, association and peaceful assembly; torture and other ill-treatment; arbitrary detention and unfair trials; violence and discrimination against women and girls, ethnic, linguistic and religious minorities, and LGBTI people; enforced disappearance; ongoing crimes against humanity relating to the mass enforced disappearances and extrajudicial executions of 1988; and denials of the rights to reparation and effective remedy.