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chairmanship of Ibrahim Raisi in judiciary system**

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Prisoners' Rights League In Iran

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A report of the execution sentences in the first half of the Shamsi year from March 20 to September 20, 2019 since Ibrahim Raisi has been appointed as the chief justice in Iran.

Prisoners' Rights League in Iran September 2019

Prisoners' Rights League in Iran (PRLI) is a non-governmental, independent organization whose activity is focused on the human rights of Iranian prisoners throughout the country. Its core members are in located Iran. Due to restrictions imposed by the Islamic Republic of Iran however, its website and spokesperson are outside the country.

PRLI's news and reports are based on reliable sources in and outside Iran and focuses on violations of human rights in Iran.

PRLI is an organization that is totally opposed to the death penalty for any reason.

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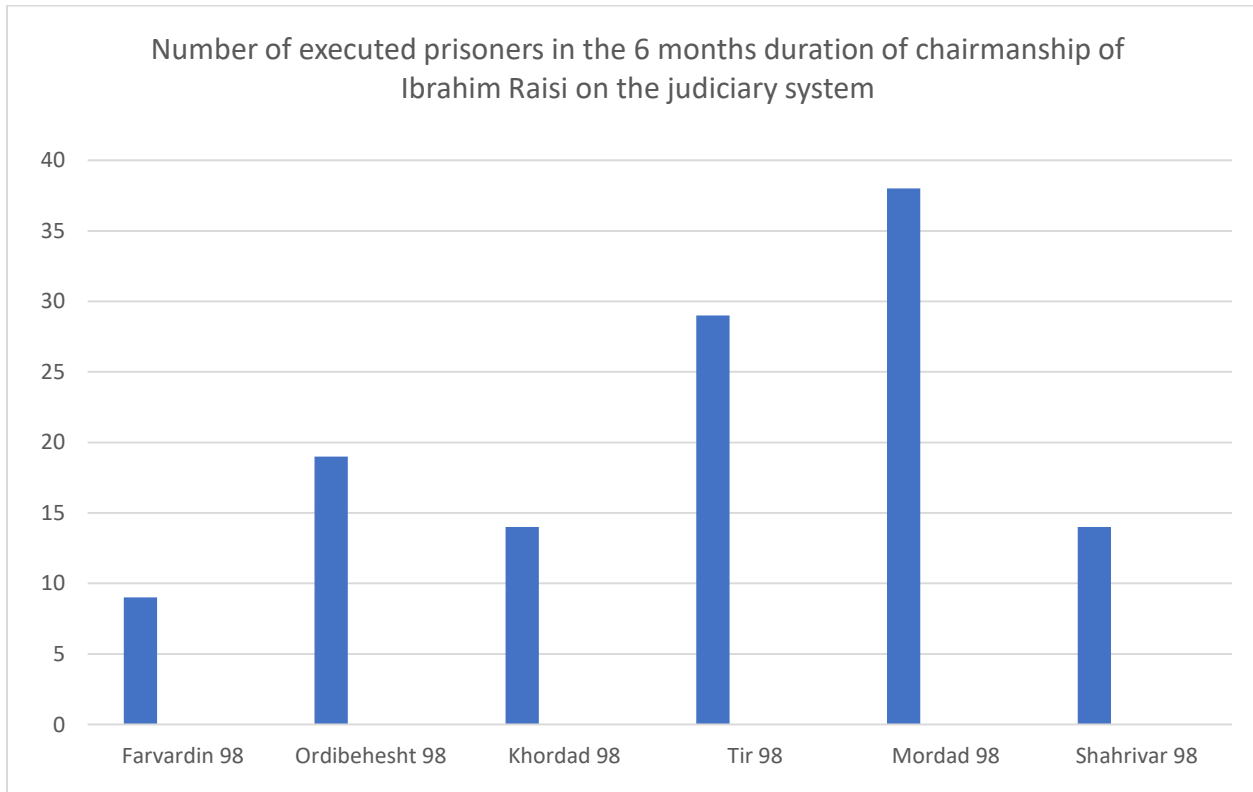
Report of the executions in Iran's prisons in the first six months of the Shamsi year 1398 (March 20 to October20, 2019)

The most important event in the context of human rights in Iran was the appointment of Ibrahim Raisi as a chief justice in the last days of the Shamsi year 1397. This event represents the decision of the Islamic Republic authorities to continue the process of human rights violations in Iran.

Ebrahim Raisi was one of the key members of the "Death Committee" in 1988, responsible for the mass execution of a large number of political prisoners. That is why this appointment provoked a widespread protest by human rights activists.

Mr. Montazeri (then Khomeini's deputy) in his meeting with the members of the "death committee", Said: "Your name will be mentioned to as the criminals in the history". An audio file of this meeting was uploaded on his official website. Now, the presence of such a criminal as the highest judicial authority has heightened the concerns about the human rights violations in Iran. High rate of executions have always been one of the cases in which the Islamic Republic of Iran has been heavily criticized by the international organizations and human rights associations.

In the first six months of Shamsi year 1398 (March- October 2019), concurrent with the first six-months of chairmanship of Ibrahim Raisi on the judiciary system, the Islamic Republic has continued to execute a large number of prisoners on various charges. Prisoners 'Rights League in Iran has recorded 123 executions in these six months. While the Islamic Republic is trying a lot to prevent the public disclosure of the number of executions, and most executions are not announced in the governmental media.



Prisoners' Rights League in Iran

Although human rights activists' efforts have resulted in the documentation of the abovementioned number of executions in Iran, the actual statistics may be much higher. As on Tuesday, June 18, 2019, the deputy chief justice, Mohseni Ejei, confirmed the approval of 350 death sentences in the first quarter of Shamsi year 1398 (April – July 2019). "After Farvardin holidays (March 20- April 4), more than 350 execution orders or as he said (Ezn- the clerical permission for the execution) have been issued by the chief justice and nearly 250 cases are also ready to be presented to him. In addition, considering the workload of the chief justice, he has received a permission from Mr. Khamenei for another person to be authorized for this purpose."

Ejei, speaking at a news conference on the occasion of the Judiciary Week, announced 250 death sentences pending for permission!

Given that there usually is not a long interval between issuance of the death penalty and its implementation, his remarks could imply that a large number of secret executions have been performed secretly in prisons in the last three months.

Execution of children

Disregarding the human rights conventions, Iran is one of the few countries in the world which executes juvenile prisoners.

Three people, who were under 18 at the time of the alleged crime, were among 123 executed prisoners. These executions were criticized by the Amnesty International and the United Nation's Special Reporter on the situation of Human Rights in Iran.



Mehdi Sohrabi and Amin Sedaghat: Amnesty International

On May 2, 2019, the Amnesty International announced the execution of Mehdi Sohrabi and Amin Sadaqat at Adelabad Prison in Shiraz (the center Fars province), calling these secret executions "an extreme disregard for the international human

rights law and a cruel violation of children's rights." According to this statement, Mehdi Sohrabi and Amin Sedaghat were executed at Adelabad Prison, on Thursday, April 25, 2019. They were arrested at the age of 15 and later in an unfair trial received a death sentence. Hiding these executions by the authorities of the Islamic Republic, not only deprived their families of the last visit, but also according to Amnesty International, these juveniles were not even aware of their death sentences. Amnesty International also has mentioned the medieval act of flogging these teenagers before their execution: "The effects of flogging injuries on their bodies indicate that they were flogged before execution."



Toraj Azizi: Social media

Toraj Azizi is another juvenile prisoner who was executed at Noor Prison on July 28, 2019.

According to the Prisoners 'Rights League in Iran, when executed, he was only 23 years old. Toraj Azizi Accused to murder, was arrested 6 years ago at the age of 17 and later received a death sentence.

Execution in public

Iran may be the only country that performs death penalties in public. It seems that the Islamic Republic authorities, disregarding the international condemnations, utilize hanging in public as a tool of terror and intimidation to suppress social freedom demands.

In the past six months, 5 prisoners were executed in public in the cities of Khondab (in Markazi province), Hamedan, Babol and Kazeroon.

As an example in Kazeroon, Hamid Reza Derakhshandeh, a prisoner who was arrested for murdering the Friday prayer Imam in Kazeroon, was hanged in public on August 28, 2019.

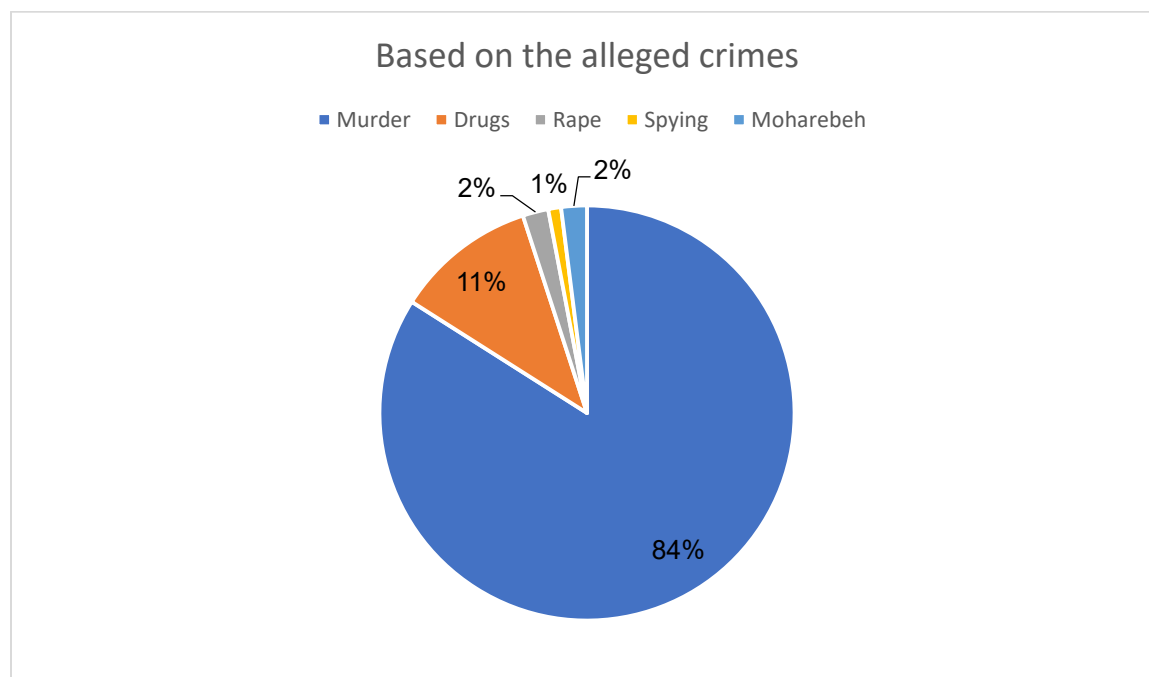


Public hanging of Hamidreza Derakhshandeh, accused of killing Friday prayer Imam in Kazeroon: Young Journalists Club

Execution of women

During the six-months period under Raisi as the chief justice, six female prisoners were executed in different prisons in Iran, including the prisons in Mashhad, Urmia and Rajai Shahr. These prisoners were mainly charged with murder. The misogynistic laws of the Islamic Republic depriving women of their basic and fundamental rights, such as the right to divorce or travel, has made the women the victims of social violence.

Distribution of executions according to the alleged charges



Statistics of executions based on attributed crimes: Prisoners' Rights League in Iran

According to the statistics released by Prisoners 'Rights League in Iran, 84% of the executed prisoners have been charged with murder. Using the Shari'a law of

retribution to justify the executions is one of the main instances of human rights violations in the Islamic Republic which warrants a thorough reconsideration.

Despite the enactment and enforcement of the anti-narcotics law in November 2017, which abolishes the death penalty for drug charges, the Islamic Republic authorities continue to use the death penalty for drug offenders.

During the past six months, 11% of the executed prisoners were arrested and tried on drug charges and ultimately faced the death penalty.

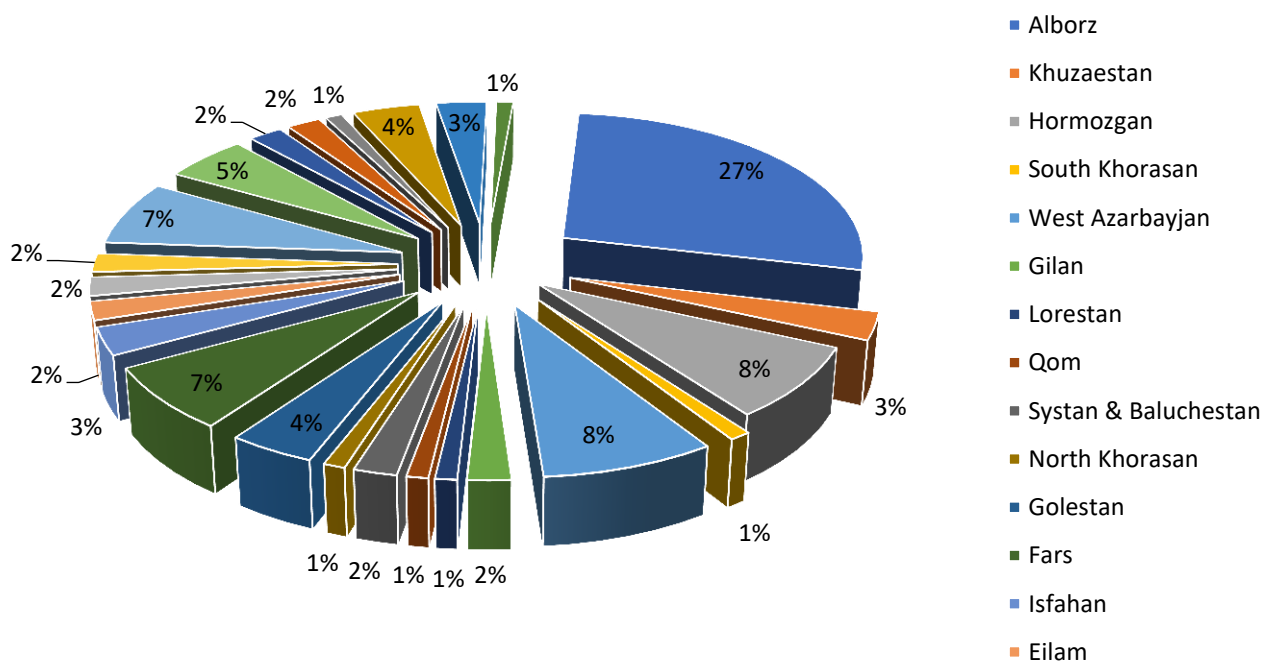
As mentioned previously, execution is utilized by the rulers of the Islamic Republic of Iran as a tool of suppressing its dissidents. In this context, the execution of political prisoners, on charge of "moharebeh", is one of the Iranian authorities' efforts to restrict the social space. During the past six months, two Ahwazi Arab citizens, Qassim Beit Abdullah and Abdullah Karamlachab, were hanged in Dezful prison on August 4, 2019. Amnesty International had previously released a statement on their forced confession under the tortures such as electric shock, hanging from the ceiling by their feet for eleven days and fabricated executions. A local source in an interview with Prisoners' Rights League in Iran said that they had been arrested for converting from Shia Islam to Sunni prior to the attack on the mourning ceremony in Dezful.

Geographical distribution of executions

In the past six months, 27% of executions took place in Alborz province, especially in Rajaii Shahr Prison.

Hormozgan and East Azerbaijan provinces are in the second place. Based on the testimony of witnesses, Rajaii Shahr is one of the prisons where 8-10 prisoners are being executed every week. There isn't though any published statistics about these executions on the governmental media. Of note, the data obtained by the statistics center of the Iranian Prisoners' Human Rights League represent just a very small percentage of the actual death penalties happening in Iran's prisons. As the efforts of the Islamic Republic's authorities have always been to keep the executions secret.

Distribution of Executions in Different Iranian Prisons



Geographical Distribution of Executions in Different Iranian Prisons: Prisoners' Rights League in Iran