

# A Report on f Human Rights Violation in Iran in 2022 – The Prisoners’ Rights League in Iran

## Statistical report on human rights violations in Iran in theyear 1401 (March 20, 2022, to March 20, 2023)

### Introduction:

The year 1401 ended while the second half of it coincided with massive and nationwide uprisings against the Islamic Republic. During the uprisings, the repressive forces resorted to violent suppression and killed at least 700 protesters of whom at least 70 were children. According to the authorities of the Islamic Republic, at least 80,000 protesters were arrested during these 6 months of protests.

"The number of those who were pardoned, including those arrested for riots and non-riots, including those whose sentences were reduced, exceeds 80,000," said Mohseni Ajeei on March 14 – Khamenei’s website.

The authorities of the Islamic Republic never announced the number of people killed in the protests, nor the total number of arrested protesters.

In addition to the widespread repression and human rights violations, the Islamic Republic continued to execute prisoners. Even 4 of the protestors were executed without a fair trial and in the absence of any criminal evidence against them. The Islamic Republic has repeatedly proven that it uses execution as a tool to suppress and intimidate the people.

In addition, there is still no data on the number of protesters who were shot and wounded by the security forces. As the injured protesters were scared to go to medical centers as this would lead to them being arrested and tortured. So, they just were treated at their homes. This is a clear violation of the protesters’ right to access medical care and yet another example of the violation of human rights.

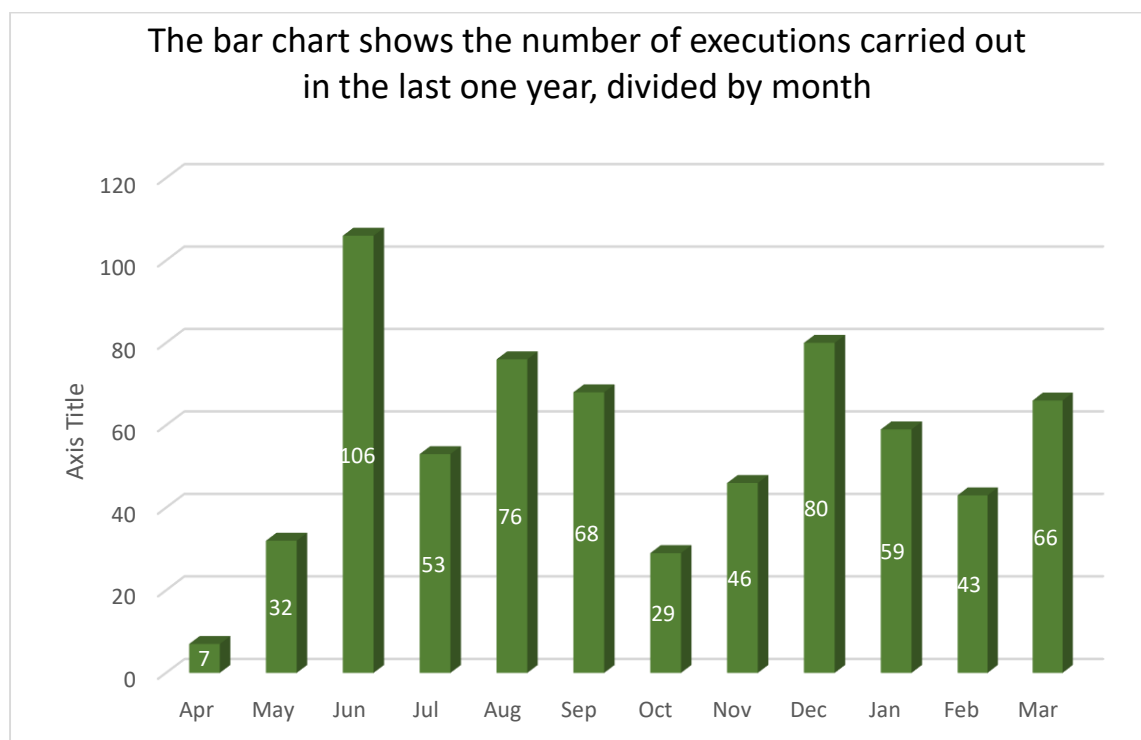
Shooting in the eyes of the protesters caused a large number of them to lose their sight. The New York Times reported that the eyes of at least 580 protesters were injured due to the use of bird-shot pellets by the security forces and that they deliberately and systematically shot the eyes of protesters. On November 22, 2022, in an open letter, some ophthalmologists warned about the use of bird-shot pellets by government agents against the protesters, leaving many of them blinded in one or both eyes.

In the last months of the year 1401 (November 2022 to March 2023), in a horrible criminal act, the government systematically, deliberately, and repeatedly poisoned the girls’ school students. The criminal act started in November and culminated in March. This caused the anger and protest of parents, families, and teachers. According to official sources, at least 6 thousand female poisoned students were hospitalized. The authorities of the Islamic

Republic, however, refused to accept the responsibility and attributed the poisonings to "mass hysteria".

The "Breathing in Confinement", the Statistics Center of the Prisoners' Rights League in Iran presents an annual report which emphasizes that after Ebrahim Raisi came to power, the human rights violations notably intensified especially the number of executions. It is worth mentioning that the state media report only a few cases of death sentences, arrests, and other human rights violations and that human rights activists inside the country face many risks and restrictions in collecting and reporting the relevant news. Therefore, acknowledging the shortcomings in providing accurate statistics, we present a statistical report on the widespread and systematic violation of human rights by the government of the Islamic Republic.

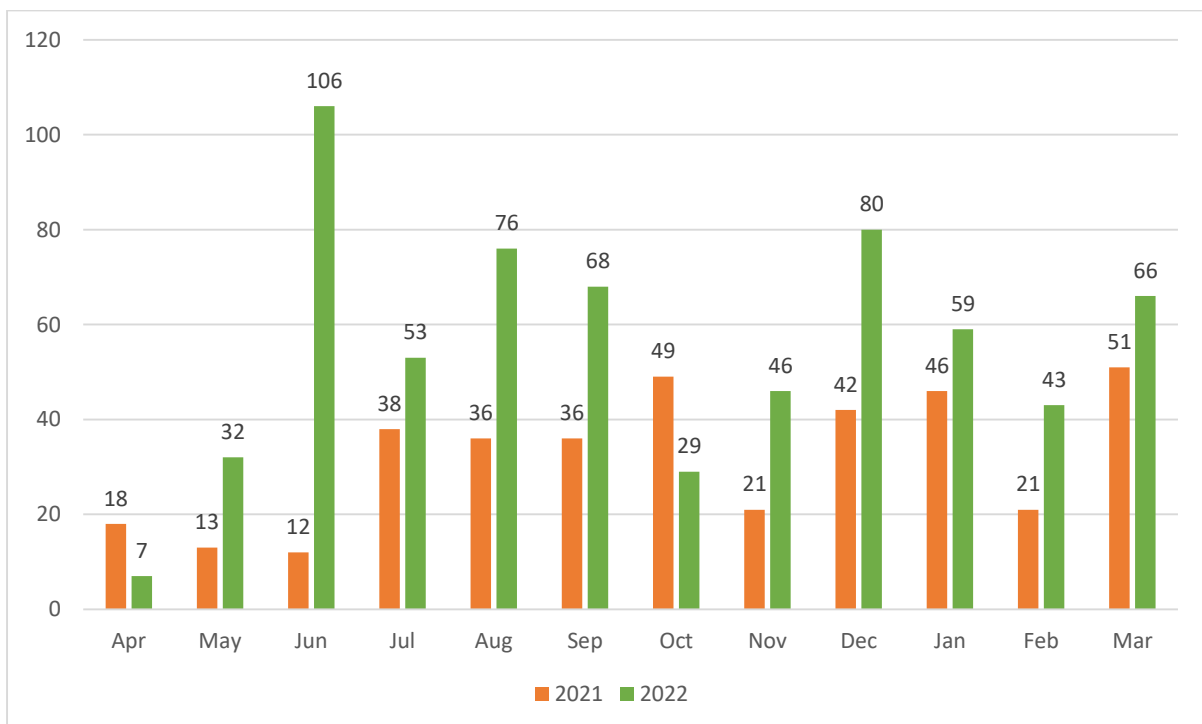
From March 21, 2022, to March 20, 2023, according to the registered statistics, at least 665 prisoners were executed.



Compared to the number of prisoners executed in 2021 (383 cases), the execution numbers show a 74% rise in 2022, an indicator of the violation of the right to life.



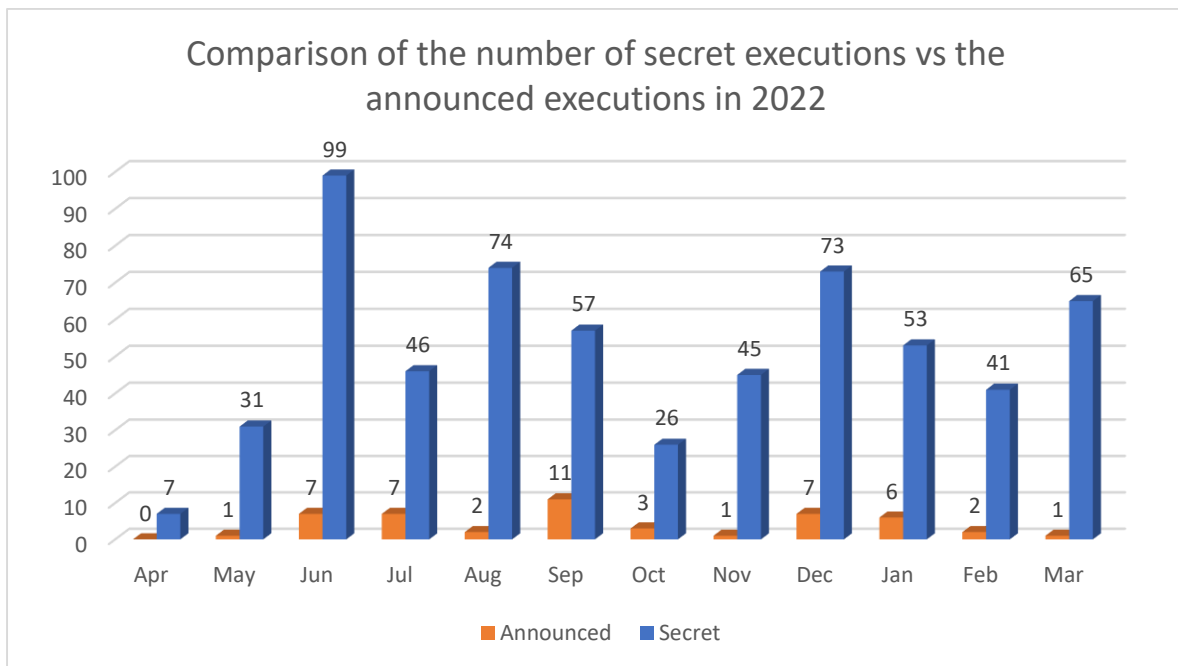
The bar chart below compares the number of executions in the last two years divided by month:



On one hand, the authorities of the Islamic Republic use execution as a lever of repression and intimidation, and on the other hand, under the international pressure, they refuse to accept the responsibility. That is why they do not announce the actual numbers of executions. In 2022, out of 665 executions, only 48 were announced in by the stat media.

The lack of transparency in regards to the executions, makes it impossible to investigate the executions in a fair trial.

The graph below compares the number of secret executions carried out in 2022 vs the executions announced by the authorities of the Islamic Republic divided by month:

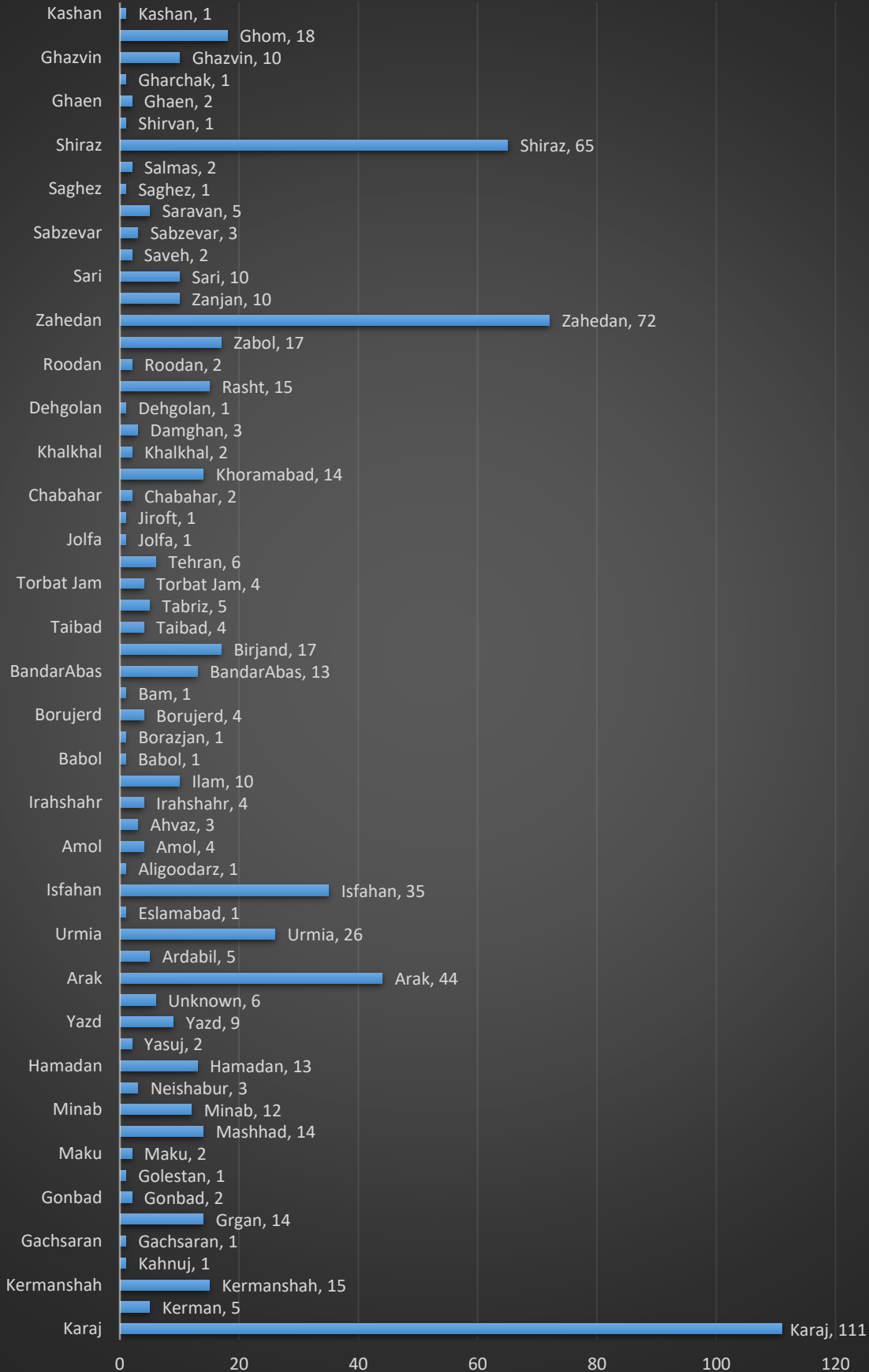


In the perspective of criminology, the intensification of wealth disparity, unjust laws, and disregard for social problems, along with unjust policies and excessive use of power by the ruling regime, are the causes of crime. The resumption of executions in public, the killing of protesters in the streets, massive arrests, rape and killing of prisoners under torture, the cruel and widespread suppression of protests, the execution of a number of protesters, extrajudicial killings, issuance and execution of inhuman sentences such as whipping a legalized type of torture, exiling political prisoners, and fines are examples of systematic repression and organized violation of human rights in Iran.

### Geographical spread of executions

The below pie chart shows the geographical spread of executions carried out in 2022. Accordingly, Rajae Shahr prison in Karaj has the highest number of executions. Shiraz, Arak and Isfahan prisons have the highest number of executions after Rajae Shahr respectively.

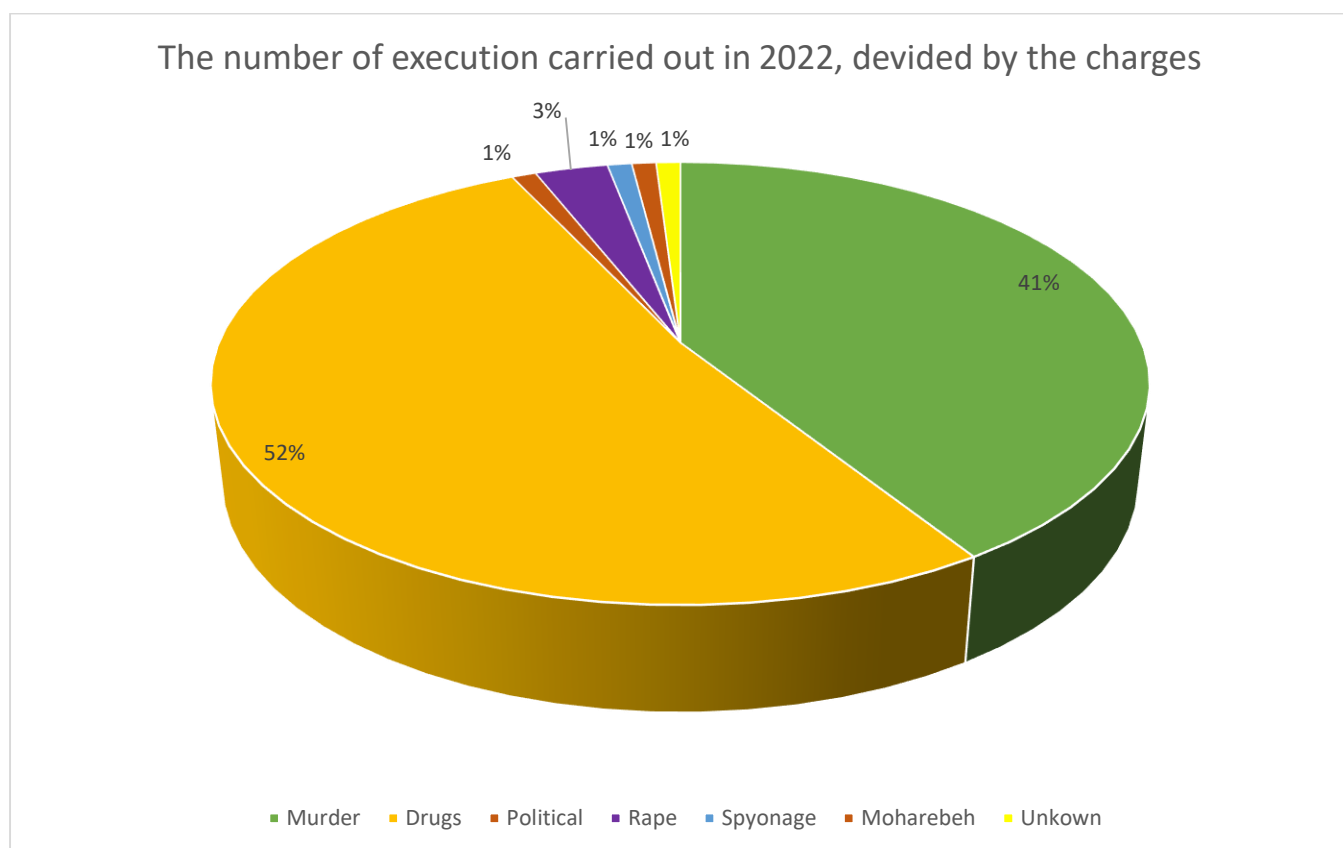
# Chart Title



## The number of executions carried divided by charges

The authorities of the Islamic Republic send the prisoners to the Gallows under various pretexts. Accusations such as drug, murder, rape, espionage, and political accusations without strong evidence and without giving the prisoners the right to defence lead to the issuing and executing death sentences.

The below pie chart shows the percentages of executions carried out in 2022, divided by charges:



## Execution of children

The Islamic Republic is one of the few countries in the world that disregarding international conventions, executes children. This is one of the main features of violation of children's rights in Iran. Decisive and deterrent measures by the international human rights organizations are required to stop theses inhuman sentences and punishments.

Among those executed in 2022, were at least 6 child-accused named Farshad Gomshadzehi, Mehrab Salehi, Ali Keikhah, Ghadir Naseri, Omid Ali Zehi, and Yusuf Mirzavand. The Islamic

Republic agents using inhumane and criminal tortures, obtain forced confessions from these prisoners, and based on these confessions, their cases are investigated. These children are kept in very inhumane situations in prisons awaiting their day of execution.



### Execution of women

In 2022, at least 17 female prisoners were executed in various prisons. In one case, the executed prisoner was a mother of two children who was in prison under the death sentence for six years.

### Public executions

Among the executed prisoners, 2 political prisoners named Iman Sabzikar and Majid Reza Rahnavard were executed in public.

**Iman Sabzikar Junaqani** was arrested on January 21, 2021, on the charge of murdering a policeman in Bidzard, Shiraz. The initial verdict of Qisas was issued to him by the first branch

of the Criminal Court in Fars province. Iman was severely tortured in custody and suffered serious injuries, including broken arm, legs, teeth and jaw. He was denied access to his lawyer as well as his family. Therefore he was executed while his lawyer was not given the opportunity to meet him or to access his file. Iman Sabzikar was executed in public on July 23, 2022, in Bidzard, Shiraz.

In addition, on February 20, 2022, 34-year-old Amin Sabzikar, Iman's brother, who was also in custody for 10 days, attempted suicide and unfortunately died after learning about the issuance of the death sentence for his brother.

**Majid Reza Rahnavard** was one of the detainees of the recent uprising in Mashhad. He was executed in public without having a fair trial. Majid Reza was denied the right to appoint his own lawyer, and was severely tortured and had one of his arms broken when executed.



### The execution of political prisoners

Majed Mamouri, Firooz Musalu, Mohsen Shekari, Majid Reza Rahnavard, Sarkut Ahmadi, Ayoub Rigi, Mohammad Mehdi Karmi, Seyed Mohammad Hosseini, and Mohyeddin Ebrahimi Alkaabadi, were among the political prisoners who were executed in 2022. The investigation of their cases was transparency and they were all denied the right to appoint their own lawyers. It shows the willing of the regime to revenge and to intimidate people in order to prevent the spread and continuation of the nationwide uprising.



In the past one year, 156 death sentences including 7 death sentences in public were issued or upheld by the Supreme Court. As was previously mentioned, the authorities of the Islamic Republic use execution as a tool to suppress the protesters and to create and spread terror among them. A number of the prisoners of the nationwide uprising were among those who received death sentence. Four of these prisoners were executed and some of the death sentences are still under process and some were revoked by the Supreme Court.

In the month of February, 2022, Ali Mojadam, Mohammad Reza Moghadam, Moin Khanfari, Habib Deriss, Adnan Ghadir Shawi, Salem Mousavi received death sentence. In month of March also, Jamshid Sharmahd was sentenced to death, and the execution sentence of Habib Kaabi (Osaivad) was upheld by the Supreme Court. In addition, Seyyed Mohammad Ramez Rashidi and Naeem Hashem Qatali were sentenced to execution in public on charges of attacking and shooting in Shahcheragh.

## Arrests

In addition to the prisoners identified by the Statistics Center of the Prisoners' Rights League in Iran (Breathing in Confinement), according to some independent sources, only in a few months during the nationwide uprising after the murder of Mahsa Amini on September 16, 2022, more than 30,000 protesters were arrested. According to the document from Fars news agency as well as the confidential bulletins of this news agency for the Headquarters of Commanders of the IRGC, hacked and published by Black Reward hacking group, the number of prisoners arrested since the beginning of the national uprising in September 16, until December 1, 2022 has been 29,400. Considering the ongoing of arrests afterward, the real number of the arrested protesters is definitely more than the number mentioned above.

## Killing of prisoners under torture

With ongoing violation of the rights of detainees, the agents of the Islamic republic torture them, by beating and other inhumane treatment. Several of the detainees whose identities have been revealed so far were killed under torture, including Mohammad Abdullahi in Ilam, Hamed Baji Zehi (Brahui) in Zahedan, Amirreza Naderzadeh, 19, in Nowshahr, Emad Heydari in Ahvaz, Ali Bani Asadi in Ahvaz Intelligence Detention Center, Mehdi Rostampour in Tehran, Saman Ghadirpour in Oshnavieh, Omid Hosni, 22, in Sanandaj, Shahriar Adeli in Sardasht, Muhammad Haji Rasulpour, Sepideh (Bigard) Qalandari in Tehran, Haider Azimi Ghirbashi in Tabriz, Ahmad Salehi in Sanandaj, Korosh Gojani, 19, in Yazdanshahr, Ibrahim Rigi in Zahedan, Sadegh Fooladvand in Gachsaran, Shirzad Ahmadi in Urmia, in addition to a prisoner accused of drug possession, named Mohsen Abbasi.

In a report on March 14, 2023, Amnesty International announced that the intelligence and security agents of the Iranian regime have used horrible tortures, including beatings, whippings, electric shocks, rape, and other sexual violence, to suppress the protesters

detained in the nationwide protests. They used these especially against the detained children even as young as 12 years old.

A number of prisoners also lost their lives due to the poor medical care and treatment conditions in prisons and the delay in transferring them to the hospital. The political prisoner, Mahdi Qaleh Shahrokhi, as well as a number of prisoners accused of ordinary crimes including Sawad Eliasi, Mohammad PARvaz known as Mohammad Jugi, Gul Agha Narui, Mirdoost Farazi, Farhad Naghizadeh, Saeed Kavousipour, Azam Pakdel, the Sunni cleric Musa Rahimi, Javad Amirkhani Tusi, Farzad Eskandari, Abdolreza Khani, Ahmad Kurd (Sohrab Zehi), Mehdi (Zia) Soleimani, Ebrahim Isazehi, Siavash Rasouli, Saeed Salimi, Seyedah Ameneh Ahmadi, and a female prisoner named Mozghan in Mashhad prison were among these prisoners.

During the past one year, the sentences of the total of 8,828 lashes were issued for prisoners. Issuance the inhuman sentence of flogging shows a significant rise for the political and ethnic prisoners. In previous year, however, flagging sentences reached to the total of 4,255 lashes. In February 2023, the flogging sentence was executed in public for a prisoner in Delgan city.

In the 43-year rule of the Islamic Republic, the protests last year were unprecedentedly intensified. After the killing of Mahsa Amini on September 16, 2022, a widespread and continued uprising took place, in almost all parts of the country which is still ongoing in various forms. Protest movements and chanting anti- regime slogans at nights are ongoing in all parts of the country. In particular, big demonstrations after every Friday prayers in Zahedan have been ongoing until the last Friday of the year. According to the statistics recorded last year, there were a total of more than 6,980 protest movements have been recorded in various forms, including demonstrations, street battles, sit-ins, and strikes, etc.

The Prisoners' Rights League in Iran warns about the dire situation of human rights in Iran and emphasizes the words of the United Nations special rapporteur on human rights situation Iran, who referred to the gross violation of human rights in Iran as an example of a crime against humanity. We demand taking legal and deterrent measures against the authorities of the Islamic Republic to save the society of thousands of innocent prisoners.