



## **Iran's Compliance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child**

### **Suggested List of Issues Relating to: The Death Penalty**

#### **Submitted by The Advocates for Human Rights**

a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with ECOSOC since 1996

#### **Iran Human Rights**

#### **ECPM**

and

#### **The World Coalition Against the Death Penalty**

for the Pre-Sessional Working Group for the 103rd Session of the Committee on the Rights of the Child

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**The Advocates for Human Rights** (The Advocates) is a volunteer-based non-governmental organization committed to the impartial promotion and protection of international human rights standards and the rule of law since its founding in 1983. The Advocates conducts a range of programs to promote human rights in the United States and around the world, including monitoring and fact finding, direct legal representation, education and training, and publication. The Advocates is the primary provider of legal services to low-income asylum seekers in the Upper Midwest region of the United States. The Advocates is committed to ensuring human rights protection for women around the world. The Advocates has published more than 25 reports on violence against women as a human rights issue, provided consultation and commentary of draft laws on domestic violence, and trained lawyers, police, prosecutors, judges, and other law enforcement personnel to effectively implement new and existing laws on domestic violence. In 1991, The Advocates adopted a formal commitment to oppose the death penalty worldwide and organized a death penalty project to provide pro bono assistance on post-conviction appeals, as well as education and advocacy to end capital punishment. The Advocates currently holds a seat on the Steering Committee of the World Coalition against the Death Penalty.

**Iran Human Rights (IHRNGO)** is a non-profit NGO established in 2005 with its base in Oslo, Norway. IHRNGO has active and supporting members in Iran, North America, and several European countries. IHRNGO is committed to promote human rights in Iran, through reporting, monitoring, and advocacy. Reporting about the death penalty in Iran has been the main focus of IHRNGO in the past 10 years. Because of its sources inside Iran, IHRNGO is able to produce accurate reports about the death penalty in Iran. Besides the death penalty, promoting due process and rule of law, and defending the human rights defenders constitute the core activities of

IHRNGO. IHRNGO is an elected member of the Steering Committee of the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty and a member of Impact Iran.

**ECPM** (*Ensemble Contre la Peine de Mort / Together Against the Death Penalty*) is a French non-governmental organization that fights against the death penalty worldwide and in all circumstances by uniting and rallying abolitionist forces across the world. The organization advocates with international bodies and encourages universal abolition through education, information, local partnerships and public awareness campaigns. ECPM earned its legitimacy as a unifying group of the abolitionist movement because of its strong sense of ethics and values. ECPM is the organizer of the World Congresses against the death penalty and a founding member of the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty.

**The World Coalition Against the Death Penalty** is a membership-based global network committed to strengthening the international dimension of the fight against the death penalty. Established in 2002, its ultimate objective is to obtain the universal abolition of the death penalty. To achieve its goal, the World Coalition advocates for a definitive end to death sentences and executions in those countries where the death penalty is in force. In some countries, it is seeking to obtain a reduction in the use of capital punishment as a first step towards abolition.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This report addresses Iran’s failure to comply with its obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Since the Committee on the Rights of the Child last reviewed Iran in 2016, Iran has not abolished the death penalty for juvenile offenders, continues to execute juvenile offenders who commit *hudud* (fixed in measure, degree, and method) or *qisas* (retribution-in-kind for murder) crimes, and has not commuted existing death sentences for juvenile offenders. As Iran Human Rights (IHRNGO) has documented, Iran is the “only country to [have executed] juvenile offenders every single year for the last 10 years.”<sup>1</sup> Iranian authorities also continue to execute people in public, including in the presence of children.
2. Iranian authorities are executing people at an escalating rate. In 2024, they executed the largest number of people in more than 20 years.<sup>2</sup> Iranian authorities executed at least 975 people, a 17% increase over the 834 executions recorded in 2023.<sup>3</sup> Iran executed one confirmed juvenile offender in 2024, and civil society organizations are investigating three more possible executions of juvenile offenders in that year.<sup>4</sup> To date in 2025, IHRNGO has documented 1,342 executions,<sup>5</sup> and is investigating additional cases in which Iranian authorities executed a person who may have been under age 18 at the time of the offense.<sup>6</sup>
3. The co-authors compiled this report using information from both official and unofficial sources.<sup>7</sup> Official executions are those announced by the Iranian judiciary, police, National Broadcasting Network, or news agencies.<sup>8</sup> In 2025, official sources have announced just 7% of all executions, marking a decline in transparency, as that figure was 10% in 2024,<sup>9</sup> and 15% in 2023.<sup>10</sup> Unofficial reports come from eyewitnesses, family members, lawyers, and others in the Iranian judiciary and prison system.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Iran Human Rights and ECPM, *Annual Report on the Death Penalty in Iran 2024* (2025), 103, available at [https://iranhr.net/media/files/Rapport\\_iran\\_2024-WEB.pdf](https://iranhr.net/media/files/Rapport_iran_2024-WEB.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> Iran Human Rights, *At Least 217 Executions in October; One Execution Every 3 Hours*, available at <https://iranhr.net/en/articles/8308/>.

<sup>3</sup> Iran Human Rights and ECPM, *Annual Report on the Death Penalty in Iran 2024* (2025), 12, available at [https://iranhr.net/media/files/Rapport\\_iran\\_2024-WEB.pdf](https://iranhr.net/media/files/Rapport_iran_2024-WEB.pdf).

<sup>4</sup> Iran Human Rights and ECPM, *Annual Report on the Death Penalty in Iran 2024* (2025), 13–14, available at [https://iranhr.net/media/files/Rapport\\_iran\\_2024-WEB.pdf](https://iranhr.net/media/files/Rapport_iran_2024-WEB.pdf).

<sup>5</sup> Iran Human Rights, <https://iranhr.net/en/>, last visited Nov. 14, 2025.

<sup>6</sup> Iran Human Rights, *110 Executions Recorded in July; At Least 67 Protesters, Prisoners of Conscience and Espionage Defendants on Death Row*, 5 Aug. 2025, <https://iranhr.net/en/articles/7842/> (referencing the July execution of a Baluch prisoner of conscience who was reportedly under the age of 18 at the time of arrest).

<sup>7</sup> Iran Human Rights and ECPM, *Annual Report on the Death Penalty in Iran 2024* (2025), 16, available at [https://iranhr.net/media/files/Rapport\\_iran\\_2024-WEB.pdf](https://iranhr.net/media/files/Rapport_iran_2024-WEB.pdf).

<sup>8</sup> Iran Human Rights and ECPM, *Annual Report on the Death Penalty in Iran 2024* (2025), 16, available at [https://iranhr.net/media/files/Rapport\\_iran\\_2024-WEB.pdf](https://iranhr.net/media/files/Rapport_iran_2024-WEB.pdf).

<sup>9</sup> Iran Human Rights and ECPM, *Annual Report on the Death Penalty in Iran 2024* (2025), 16, available at [https://iranhr.net/media/files/Rapport\\_iran\\_2024-WEB.pdf](https://iranhr.net/media/files/Rapport_iran_2024-WEB.pdf).

<sup>10</sup> Iran Human Rights and ECPM, *Annual Report on the Death Penalty in Iran 2024* (2025), 16, available at [https://iranhr.net/media/files/Rapport\\_iran\\_2024-WEB.pdf](https://iranhr.net/media/files/Rapport_iran_2024-WEB.pdf).

<sup>11</sup> Iran Human Rights and ECPM, *Annual Report on the Death Penalty in Iran 2024* (2025), 16, available at [https://iranhr.net/media/files/Rapport\\_iran\\_2024-WEB.pdf](https://iranhr.net/media/files/Rapport_iran_2024-WEB.pdf).

## Iran fails to uphold its obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child

4. Article 37(a) of the Convention on the Rights of the Child states that “[n]o child shall be subjected to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. Neither capital punishment nor life imprisonment without possibility of release shall be imposed for offences committed by persons below 18 years of age.”<sup>12</sup>
5. The Committee on the Rights of the Child last considered periodic reports from the Islamic Republic of Iran in 2016.<sup>13</sup> The Committee strongly urged Iran to “(a) end the execution of children and persons who committed a crime while under the age of 18; (b) take legislative measures to abolish the death sentence for person who committed a *hudud* or *qisas* crime while under the age of 18 years . . . ; [and] (c) commute all existing sentences for offenders on death row who committed a crime while under the age of 18 years.”<sup>14</sup> As set forth below, Iran has failed to implement these recommendations.<sup>15</sup>

### I. The 2013 Islamic Penal Code of Iran (IPC) violates the Convention (Concluding Observations para. 36(b)).

6. The Committee urged Iran to “take legislative measures to abolish the death sentence for person who committed a *hudud* or *qisas* crime while under the age of 18 years . . . .”<sup>16</sup> Iran has not done so.
7. The Islamic Republic of Iran uses the IPC, which authorities have expanded and amended periodically, despite its technical expiration in 2018.<sup>17</sup> The IPC authorizes the death penalty for a large number of offenses, varying widely in severity.<sup>18</sup> The IPC authorizes the death penalty under three punishment schemes: *hudud* (fixed in measure, degree, and method), *qisas* (retribution-in-kind, applicable for offenses involving killings), and *ta’zir* (at the discretion of the judge).<sup>19</sup>
8. The IPC has codified *qisas*—which the State considers a private right beyond its control—because of its basis in Islamic law (*Shari’a*).<sup>20</sup> *Qisas* refers to retribution-in-kind for murder;

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<sup>12</sup> Iran Human Rights and ECPM, *Annual Report on the Death Penalty in Iran 2024* (2025), 21, available at [https://iranhr.net/media/files/Rapport\\_iran\\_2024-WEB.pdf](https://iranhr.net/media/files/Rapport_iran_2024-WEB.pdf).

<sup>13</sup> See generally United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Concluding Observations on the Combined Third and Fourth Periodic Reports of the Islamic Reports of Iran*, (14 March 2016), U.N. Doc. CRC/C/IRN/CO/3-4.

<sup>14</sup> United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Concluding Observations on the Combined Third and Fourth Periodic Reports of the Islamic Reports of Iran*, (14 March 2016), U.N. Doc. CRC/C/IRN/CO/3-4, ¶ 36.

<sup>15</sup> Iran Human Rights and ECPM, *Annual Report on the Death Penalty in Iran 2024* (2025), 103, available at [https://iranhr.net/media/files/Rapport\\_iran\\_2024-WEB.pdf](https://iranhr.net/media/files/Rapport_iran_2024-WEB.pdf).

<sup>16</sup> United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Concluding Observations on the Combined Third and Fourth Periodic Reports of the Islamic Reports of Iran*, (14 March 2016), U.N. Doc. CRC/C/IRN/CO/3-4, at 36.

<sup>17</sup> The Advocates for Human Rights et al., *Stakeholder Report for the United Nations Universal Periodic Review: The Death Penalty*, (16 July 2024), ¶ 7-10; The Advocates for Human Rights et al., *Iran’s Compliance with Article 37(a) of the Convention on the Rights of the Child*, (June 2015), ¶ 6-8.

<sup>18</sup> The Advocates for Human Rights et al., *Stakeholder Report for the United Nations Universal Periodic Review: The Death Penalty*, (16 July 2024), ¶ 7-10.

<sup>19</sup> The Advocates for Human Rights et al., *Stakeholder Report for the United Nations Universal Periodic Review: The Death Penalty*, (16 July 2024), ¶ 7-10.

<sup>20</sup> The Advocates for Human Rights et al., *Islamic Republic of Iran’s Compliance with International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights Treaty: Suggested List of Issues Prior to Reporting*, (June 2020), ¶¶ 45-51.

the victim's family decides the defendant's fate.<sup>21</sup> *Qisas* includes both intentional and unintentional killings.<sup>22</sup> When authorities charge people with the umbrella term of "intentional murder," they sentence them to *qisas* (retribution-in-kind) regardless of intent (*mens rea*) or circumstances, because the law lacks grading of different types of killings.<sup>23</sup>

9. *Qisas* also permits the victim's family to demand *diya* (blood money), rather than a retributive death sentence.<sup>24</sup> The judiciary sets an indicative amount of *diya* each year but does not set a cap or upper limit.<sup>25</sup> Nor does the State subsidize *diya* for people who have been convicted but who do not have an ability to pay.<sup>26</sup>
10. Courts may sentence juvenile offenders to *qisas* if they have reached the age of criminal responsibility.<sup>27</sup> The IPC provides that individuals who are not mature are not criminally responsible.<sup>28</sup> Nonetheless, Iranian authorities continue to sentence to death and execute juvenile offenders.<sup>29</sup>
11. *Hudud* refers to crimes with "fixed punishments for which Sharia or Islamic law has fixed the measure, degree and method."<sup>30</sup> There are 3 general categories of *hudud*: (1) sexual offenses, (2) offenses against the state and religion; and (3) repeat offenses on the fourth occasion.<sup>31</sup> *Hudud* crimes may result in the death penalty.<sup>32</sup>
12. Article 91 of the IPC makes clear that courts may sentence people to death for offenses punishable by *hudud* or *qisas*.<sup>33</sup> As the State Party Report acknowledges,<sup>34</sup> the IPC sets the age of maturity for girls at nine lunar years (8.7 years), and for boys at 15 lunar years (14.6 years),

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<sup>21</sup> Iran Human Rights and ECPM, *Annual Report on the Death Penalty in Iran 2023* (2024), 30, available at [https://iranhr.net/media/files/Iran\\_Human\\_Rights-Annual\\_Report\\_2023.pdf](https://iranhr.net/media/files/Iran_Human_Rights-Annual_Report_2023.pdf).

<sup>22</sup> Iran Human Rights and ECPM, *Annual Report on the Death Penalty in Iran 2023* (2024), at 27, available at [https://iranhr.net/media/files/Iran\\_Human\\_Rights-Annual\\_Report\\_2023.pdf](https://iranhr.net/media/files/Iran_Human_Rights-Annual_Report_2023.pdf).

<sup>23</sup> Iran Human Rights and ECPM, *Annual Report on the Death Penalty in Iran 2024* (2025), 105, available at [https://iranhr.net/media/files/Rapport\\_iran\\_2024-WEB.pdf](https://iranhr.net/media/files/Rapport_iran_2024-WEB.pdf).

<sup>24</sup> Iran Human Rights and ECPM, *Annual Report on the Death Penalty in Iran 2024* (2025), 105, available at [https://iranhr.net/media/files/Rapport\\_iran\\_2024-WEB.pdf](https://iranhr.net/media/files/Rapport_iran_2024-WEB.pdf).

<sup>25</sup> Iran Human Rights and ECPM, *Annual Report on the Death Penalty in Iran 2024* (2025), 105, available at [https://iranhr.net/media/files/Rapport\\_iran\\_2024-WEB.pdf](https://iranhr.net/media/files/Rapport_iran_2024-WEB.pdf).

<sup>26</sup> Iran Human Rights and ECPM, *Annual Report on the Death Penalty in Iran 2024* (2025), 105, available at [https://iranhr.net/media/files/Rapport\\_iran\\_2024-WEB.pdf](https://iranhr.net/media/files/Rapport_iran_2024-WEB.pdf).

<sup>27</sup> Iran Human Rights and ECPM, *Annual Report on the Death Penalty in Iran 2024* (2025), 64, available at [https://iranhr.net/media/files/Rapport\\_iran\\_2024-WEB.pdf](https://iranhr.net/media/files/Rapport_iran_2024-WEB.pdf).

<sup>28</sup> Iran Human Rights and ECPM, *Annual Report on the Death Penalty in Iran 2022* (2023), 77, available at [https://www.iranhr.net/media/files/Rapport\\_iran\\_2022\\_PirQr2V.pdf](https://www.iranhr.net/media/files/Rapport_iran_2022_PirQr2V.pdf).

<sup>29</sup> The Advocates for Human Rights et al., *Islamic Republic of Iran's Compliance with International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights Treaty: Suggested List of Issues Prior to Reporting* (12 September 2023), ¶¶ 16-19.

<sup>30</sup> Iran Human Rights and ECPM, *Annual Report on the Death Penalty in Iran 2024* (2025), 32, available at [https://iranhr.net/media/files/Rapport\\_iran\\_2024-WEB.pdf](https://iranhr.net/media/files/Rapport_iran_2024-WEB.pdf).

<sup>31</sup> Iran Human Rights and ECPM, *Annual Report on the Death Penalty in Iran 2024* (2025), 32, available at [https://iranhr.net/media/files/Rapport\\_iran\\_2024-WEB.pdf](https://iranhr.net/media/files/Rapport_iran_2024-WEB.pdf).

<sup>32</sup> Iran Human Rights and ECPM, *Annual Report on the Death Penalty in Iran 2024* (2025), 32, available at [https://iranhr.net/media/files/Rapport\\_iran\\_2024-WEB.pdf](https://iranhr.net/media/files/Rapport_iran_2024-WEB.pdf).

<sup>33</sup> Iran Human Rights and ECPM, *Annual Report on the Death Penalty in Iran 2024* (2025), 83, available at [https://iranhr.net/media/files/Rapport\\_iran\\_2024-WEB.pdf](https://iranhr.net/media/files/Rapport_iran_2024-WEB.pdf).

<sup>34</sup> Islamic Republic of Iran Ministry of Justice National Body of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, *Fifth and Sixth Periodic Report on the Convention on the Rights of the Child*, (October 2023), U.N. Doc. CRC/C/IRN/5-6, ¶ 418.

meaning a court may sentence to death any child over these ages.<sup>35</sup> The State Party Report contends that people under the age of 18 who do not understand the “nature of the crime” committed are not eligible for *hudud* or *qisas* punishments. IHRNGO notes, however, that between 2013 and 2024, “almost all child offenders executed . . . were sentenced to death based on *qisas* or *hudud* laws.”<sup>36</sup>

13. The Islamic Republic of Iran’s Fifth and Sixth Periodic Report states that the Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs submitted a bill to amend the IPC to remove capital punishment for juveniles.<sup>37</sup> The current IPC, however, retains the death penalty for child offenders and excludes *hudud* and *qisas* crimes from provisions authorizing alternative punishments and corrective measures for child offenders.<sup>38</sup>
14. Courts may also sentence people to death for drug-related crimes, adultery, consensual same-sex conduct, extramarital sex with a blood relative, and other vaguely defined offenses such as *moharebeh* (enmity against God), *efsad-fil-arz* (corruption on earth), *baghy* (armed rebellion), *sabol-nabi* (insulting the prophet), and *ertedad* (apostasy).<sup>39</sup>
15. Iran adopted amendments to its Code of Criminal Procedure to establish juvenile courts, but has not changed or implemented the majority of the Committee’s 2016 recommendations.<sup>40</sup>
16. Additionally, the Committee in 2016 expressed concern about the discriminatory nature of the IPC regarding punishment of girls, religious and ethnic minorities, and children perceived to be associated with or a part of the LGBTQI+ community.<sup>41</sup> Iran has not taken any steps to amend these discriminatory provisions.

## II. Iran continues to execute juvenile offenders (Concluding Observations para. 36(a)).

17. The Committee strongly urged Iran to “(a) end the execution of children and persons who committed a crime while under the age of 18 . . . .”<sup>42</sup> According to IHRNGO, however, between 2010 and 2024, Iranian authorities executed—at minimum—71 juvenile offenders.<sup>43</sup>

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<sup>35</sup> Iran Human Rights and ECPM, *Annual Report on the Death Penalty in Iran 2024* (2025), 83, available at [https://iranhr.net/media/files/Rapport\\_iran\\_2024-WEB.pdf](https://iranhr.net/media/files/Rapport_iran_2024-WEB.pdf).

<sup>36</sup> Iran Human Rights and ECPM, *Annual Report on the Death Penalty in Iran 2024* (2025), 83, available at [https://iranhr.net/media/files/Rapport\\_iran\\_2024-WEB.pdf](https://iranhr.net/media/files/Rapport_iran_2024-WEB.pdf).

<sup>37</sup> Islamic Republic of Iran Ministry of Justice National Body of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, *Fifth and Sixth Periodic Report on the Convention on the Rights of the Child*, (October 2023), U.N. Doc. CRC/C/IRN/5-6, ¶ 420.

<sup>38</sup> Iran Human Rights and ECPM, *Annual Report on the Death Penalty in Iran 2024* (2025), 84, available at [https://iranhr.net/media/files/Rapport\\_iran\\_2024-WEB.pdf](https://iranhr.net/media/files/Rapport_iran_2024-WEB.pdf).

<sup>39</sup> The Advocates for Human Rights et al., *Stakeholder Report for the United Nations Universal Periodic Review: The Death Penalty*, (16 July 2024), submitted for the 48th Session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, January–February 2025, ¶ 8.

<sup>40</sup> United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Concluding observations on the combined third and fourth periodic report of the Islamic Republic of Iran*, UN Doc. CRC/C/IRN/CO/3-4 (14 March 2016), ¶ 14.

<sup>41</sup> United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Concluding observations on the combined third and fourth periodic report of the Islamic Republic of Iran*, UN Doc. CRC/C/IRN/CO/3-4 (14 March 2016), ¶ 11, 12, 31.

<sup>42</sup> United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Concluding Observations on the Combined Third and Fourth Periodic Reports of the Islamic Reports of Iran*, (14 March 2016), U.N. Doc. CRC/C/IRN/CO/3-4, ¶ 36.

<sup>43</sup> Iran Human Rights and ECPM, *Annual Report on the Death Penalty in Iran 2024* (2025), 84, available at [https://iranhr.net/media/files/Rapport\\_iran\\_2024-WEB.pdf](https://iranhr.net/media/files/Rapport_iran_2024-WEB.pdf).

18. The Government of Iran sentences people to death for a wide range of crimes, many of which do not meet the threshold of the most serious crimes. The number of crimes punishable by death in the country is among the highest in the world.<sup>44</sup>
19. In the first 10 months of 2025, Iranian authorities executed at least 1,271 people—almost double compared to the same period in 2024, when they executed at least 685 people.<sup>45</sup> Of the at least 1,342 people Iran has executed to date in 2025,<sup>46</sup> official sources announced only 7% of the executions.
20. The dramatic increase in executions in 2025 reflects a longer-term trend. IHRNGO documented that Iranian authorities executed at least 975 people in 2024,<sup>47</sup> the highest annual figure since 2015,<sup>48</sup> including at least 1 and perhaps up to 4 juvenile offenders.<sup>49</sup> More than half of the people authorities executed in 2024 had been convicted of drug-related offenses.<sup>50</sup> IHRNGO documented that Iranian authorities executed at least 834 people in 2023, including at least 2 and perhaps up to 5 juvenile offenders.<sup>51</sup> In 2022, IHRNGO documented that Iranian authorities executed at least 582 people, a 75% increase over 2021, including at least 3 juvenile offenders.<sup>52</sup>
21. IHRNGO reports that Iranian authorities executed at least 1 juvenile offender in 2024, with investigations of 3 other potential juvenile executions still ongoing.<sup>53</sup> A court sentenced M.J., 16 years old at the time of his alleged murder charge, to *qisas*, and authorities subsequently detained him at Shiraz (Adel Abad) Central Prison until he was nearly 22 years old and then executed him on 16 September 2024.<sup>54</sup> A court sentenced S.A. to *qisas* for murder after he had defended himself during an attempted rape.<sup>55</sup> IHRNGO has been unable to confirm allegations that he was under the age of 18 at the time of the alleged offense. Authorities at Zanjan Central

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<sup>44</sup> Iran Human Rights and ECPM, *Annual Report on the Death Penalty in Iran 2021* (2022), 27, available at [https://iranhr.net/media/files/Annual\\_Report\\_on\\_the\\_Death\\_Penalty\\_in\\_Iran\\_2021.pdf](https://iranhr.net/media/files/Annual_Report_on_the_Death_Penalty_in_Iran_2021.pdf).

<sup>45</sup> Iran Human Rights, “Intensification of Execution Crisis in Iran: At Least 152 Executed in May,” June 2, 2025, available at <https://www.iranhr.net/en/articles/7625/>.

<sup>46</sup> Iran Human Rights, <https://iranhr.net/en/>, last visited Nov. 14, 2025.

<sup>47</sup> Iran Human Rights and ECPM, *Annual Report on the Death Penalty in Iran 2024* (2025), 12, available at [https://iranhr.net/media/files/Rapport\\_iran\\_2024-WEB.pdf](https://iranhr.net/media/files/Rapport_iran_2024-WEB.pdf).

<sup>48</sup> Amnesty International, *Death Sentences and Executions 2024* (2025), 29, available at <https://www.amnesty.org/fr/documents/act50/8976/2025/en/>.

<sup>49</sup> Iran Human Rights and ECPM, *Annual Report on the Death Penalty in Iran 2024* (2025), 13–14, available at [https://iranhr.net/media/files/Rapport\\_iran\\_2024-WEB.pdf](https://iranhr.net/media/files/Rapport_iran_2024-WEB.pdf).

<sup>50</sup> Amnesty International, *Death Sentences and Executions 2024* (2025), 31, available at <https://www.amnesty.org/fr/documents/act50/8976/2025/en/>.

<sup>51</sup> Iran Human Rights and ECPM, *Annual Report on the Death Penalty in Iran 2023* (2024), available at <https://iranhr.net/en/reports/37/>.

<sup>52</sup> Iran Human Rights and ECPM, *Annual Report on the Death Penalty in Iran 2022* (2023), at 12, [https://iranhr.net/media/files/Rapport\\_iran\\_2022\\_PirQr2V.pdf](https://iranhr.net/media/files/Rapport_iran_2022_PirQr2V.pdf).

<sup>53</sup> Iran Human Rights and ECPM, *Annual Report on the Death Penalty in Iran 2024* (2025), 11, available at [https://iranhr.net/media/files/Rapport\\_iran\\_2024-WEB.pdf](https://iranhr.net/media/files/Rapport_iran_2024-WEB.pdf).

<sup>54</sup> Iran Human Rights and ECPM, *Annual Report on the Death Penalty in Iran 2024* (2025), 86, available at [https://iranhr.net/media/files/Rapport\\_iran\\_2024-WEB.pdf](https://iranhr.net/media/files/Rapport_iran_2024-WEB.pdf).

<sup>55</sup> Iran Human Rights and ECPM, *Annual Report on the Death Penalty in Iran 2024* (2025), 87, available at [https://iranhr.net/media/files/Rapport\\_iran\\_2024-WEB.pdf](https://iranhr.net/media/files/Rapport_iran_2024-WEB.pdf).

Prison detained him until he reached the age of 21 and then executed him on 2 November 2024.<sup>56</sup>

22. Iranian authorities executed at least 2 juvenile offenders in 2023.<sup>57</sup> A.N. was 17 years old when authorities charged him with murder and a court then sentenced him to *qisas*, despite his father offering the victim's family the equivalent of \$US2.25 million in *diya* (blood money).<sup>58</sup> A.N. insisted the death was an accident. Authorities at Khorramabad Central Prison paraded him to the gallows nine times, and finally executed him on 27 September 2023.<sup>59</sup> Authorities charged H.A. with murder at the age of 16, but officials publicly asserted he was 18 years old.<sup>60</sup> Authorities at Sabzevar Prison executed him on 23 November 2023, when he was 17 years old.<sup>61</sup>
23. Since the coauthors' previous report to the Committee in 2022, IHRNGO has documented that Iranian authorities executed at least 3 juvenile offenders in 2022.<sup>62</sup> Authorities arrested M.H.A. when he was 17 years old, accusing him of unintentionally committing murder when he defended his cousin against a street group attack. Authorities executed him on 10 August 2022.<sup>63</sup> Authorities arrested O.A. when he was 17 years old for an alleged murder committed during a street fight. Although the court eventually acquitted O.A. of the murder, "according to sources, the victim's family had the money to spend on changing his sentence."<sup>64</sup> Authorities executed him on 20 August 2022.<sup>65</sup> Authorities arrested 16-year-old Y.M. on charges of "initiating an armed robbery, carrying hunting weapons without a license, committing intentional assault with a weapon, murder, being accessory to murder and conspiracy to escape trial," and executed him on 26 December 2022.<sup>66</sup>
24. In 2021, IHRNGO documented the executions of 2 juvenile offenders—both sentenced to *qisas* for murder.<sup>67</sup> Authorities charged 15-year-old S.S. with murder, which his family insisted was

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<sup>56</sup> Iran Human Rights and ECPM, *Annual Report on the Death Penalty in Iran 2024* (2025), 86, available at [https://iranhr.net/media/files/Rapport\\_iran\\_2024-WEB.pdf](https://iranhr.net/media/files/Rapport_iran_2024-WEB.pdf).

<sup>57</sup> Iran Human Rights and ECPM, *Annual Report on the Death Penalty in Iran 2023* (2024), 83, available at [https://iranhr.net/media/files/Iran\\_Human\\_Rights-Annual\\_Report\\_2023.pdf](https://iranhr.net/media/files/Iran_Human_Rights-Annual_Report_2023.pdf).

<sup>58</sup> Iran Human Rights and ECPM, *Annual Report on the Death Penalty in Iran 2023* (2024), 83-84, available at [https://iranhr.net/media/files/Iran\\_Human\\_Rights-Annual\\_Report\\_2023.pdf](https://iranhr.net/media/files/Iran_Human_Rights-Annual_Report_2023.pdf).

<sup>59</sup> Iran Human Rights and ECPM, *Annual Report on the Death Penalty in Iran 2023* (2024), 83-84, available at [https://iranhr.net/media/files/Iran\\_Human\\_Rights-Annual\\_Report\\_2023.pdf](https://iranhr.net/media/files/Iran_Human_Rights-Annual_Report_2023.pdf).

<sup>60</sup> Iran Human Rights and ECPM, *Annual Report on the Death Penalty in Iran 2023* (2024), 84, available at [https://iranhr.net/media/files/Iran\\_Human\\_Rights-Annual\\_Report\\_2023.pdf](https://iranhr.net/media/files/Iran_Human_Rights-Annual_Report_2023.pdf).

<sup>61</sup> Iran Human Rights and ECPM, *Annual Report on the Death Penalty in Iran 2023* (2024), 84, available at [https://iranhr.net/media/files/Iran\\_Human\\_Rights-Annual\\_Report\\_2023.pdf](https://iranhr.net/media/files/Iran_Human_Rights-Annual_Report_2023.pdf).

<sup>62</sup> Iran Human Rights and ECPM, *Annual Report on the Death Penalty in Iran 2022* (2023), 79, available at [https://www.iranhr.net/media/files/Rapport\\_iran\\_2022\\_PirQr2V.pdf](https://www.iranhr.net/media/files/Rapport_iran_2022_PirQr2V.pdf).

<sup>63</sup> Iran Human Rights and ECPM, *Annual Report on the Death Penalty in Iran 2022* (2023), 79, available at [https://www.iranhr.net/media/files/Rapport\\_iran\\_2022\\_PirQr2V.pdf](https://www.iranhr.net/media/files/Rapport_iran_2022_PirQr2V.pdf).

<sup>64</sup> Iran Human Rights and ECPM, *Annual Report on the Death Penalty in Iran 2022* (2023), 79, available at [https://www.iranhr.net/media/files/Rapport\\_iran\\_2022\\_PirQr2V.pdf](https://www.iranhr.net/media/files/Rapport_iran_2022_PirQr2V.pdf).

<sup>65</sup> Iran Human Rights and ECPM, *Annual Report on the Death Penalty in Iran 2022* (2023), 79, available at [https://www.iranhr.net/media/files/Rapport\\_iran\\_2022\\_PirQr2V.pdf](https://www.iranhr.net/media/files/Rapport_iran_2022_PirQr2V.pdf).

<sup>66</sup> Iran Human Rights and ECPM, *Annual Report on the Death Penalty in Iran 2021* (2022), 72, available at [https://iranhr.net/media/files/Annual\\_Report\\_on\\_the\\_Death\\_Penalty\\_in\\_Iran\\_2021\\_BwW7LPR.pdf](https://iranhr.net/media/files/Annual_Report_on_the_Death_Penalty_in_Iran_2021_BwW7LPR.pdf).

<sup>67</sup> Iran Human Rights and ECPM, *Annual Report on the Death Penalty in Iran 2021* (2022), 73, available at [https://iranhr.net/media/files/Annual\\_Report\\_on\\_the\\_Death\\_Penalty\\_in\\_Iran\\_2021\\_BwW7LPR.pdf](https://iranhr.net/media/files/Annual_Report_on_the_Death_Penalty_in_Iran_2021_BwW7LPR.pdf).

in self-defense against rape.<sup>68</sup> A forensic medical examiner examined the development of S.S.'s pubic hair and deemed he had reached the age of maturity.<sup>69</sup> Authorities executed S.S. on 2 August 2021, and they did not notify his family of the execution until they called them to collect his body.<sup>70</sup> Authorities charged 17-year-old A.A. with murder<sup>71</sup> and then held him "in solitary confinement for 74 days, where he was forced to confess under torture."<sup>72</sup> A court sentenced A.A. to *qisas* despite the lack of a body or any other evidence beyond his confession.<sup>73</sup> Authorities six times transferred him to and from solitary confinement in preparation for his execution before executing him on 24 November 2021.<sup>74</sup>

### III. Iran's criminal legal system does not respect the fair trial and due process rights of child offenders (Concluding Observations paras. 54, 92).

25. In its 2016 Concluding Observations, the Committee urged Iran "to immediately repeal all provisions which authorize or condone cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment of children,"<sup>75</sup> and "to bring its juvenile justice system fully into line with the Convention and other relevant standards."<sup>76</sup> The Committee recommended that Iran "[i]ncrease the age of criminal responsibility for girls, and ensure that girls and boys are treated on equal terms under the whole criminal justice system," establish specialized juvenile courts and procedures "with adequate human, technical and financial resources for all cases involving children, including those charged with the most serious crimes, designate specialized judges for children and ensure that such specialized judges receive appropriate education and training," and ensure that children in conflict with the law have "qualified and independent legal aid . . . at an early stage of the procedure and throughout the legal proceedings."<sup>77</sup>
26. The executive branch has direct influence over the judiciary, which does not enjoy independence. The Judiciary of the Islamic Republic of Iran has a direct role in the implementation of death sentences through court proceedings, sentencing, and execution

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<sup>68</sup> Iran Human Rights and ECPM, *Annual Report on the Death Penalty in Iran 2021* (2022), 73, available at [https://iranhr.net/media/files/Annual\\_Report\\_on\\_the\\_Death\\_Penalty\\_in\\_Iran\\_2021\\_BwW7LPR.pdf](https://iranhr.net/media/files/Annual_Report_on_the_Death_Penalty_in_Iran_2021_BwW7LPR.pdf).

<sup>69</sup> Iran Human Rights and ECPM, *Annual Report on the Death Penalty in Iran 2021* (2022), 73-74, available at [https://iranhr.net/media/files/Annual\\_Report\\_on\\_the\\_Death\\_Penalty\\_in\\_Iran\\_2021\\_BwW7LPR.pdf](https://iranhr.net/media/files/Annual_Report_on_the_Death_Penalty_in_Iran_2021_BwW7LPR.pdf).

<sup>70</sup> Iran Human Rights and ECPM, *Annual Report on the Death Penalty in Iran 2021* (2022), 74, available at [https://iranhr.net/media/files/Annual\\_Report\\_on\\_the\\_Death\\_Penalty\\_in\\_Iran\\_2021\\_BwW7LPR.pdf](https://iranhr.net/media/files/Annual_Report_on_the_Death_Penalty_in_Iran_2021_BwW7LPR.pdf).

<sup>71</sup> Iran Human Rights and ECPM, *Annual Report on the Death Penalty in Iran 2021* (2022), 74, available at [https://iranhr.net/media/files/Annual\\_Report\\_on\\_the\\_Death\\_Penalty\\_in\\_Iran\\_2021\\_BwW7LPR.pdf](https://iranhr.net/media/files/Annual_Report_on_the_Death_Penalty_in_Iran_2021_BwW7LPR.pdf).

<sup>72</sup> Iran Human Rights and ECPM, *Annual Report on the Death Penalty in Iran 2021* (2022), 74, available at [https://iranhr.net/media/files/Annual\\_Report\\_on\\_the\\_Death\\_Penalty\\_in\\_Iran\\_2021\\_BwW7LPR.pdf](https://iranhr.net/media/files/Annual_Report_on_the_Death_Penalty_in_Iran_2021_BwW7LPR.pdf).

<sup>73</sup> Iran Human Rights and ECPM, *Annual Report on the Death Penalty in Iran 2021* (2022), 74, available at [https://iranhr.net/media/files/Annual\\_Report\\_on\\_the\\_Death\\_Penalty\\_in\\_Iran\\_2021\\_BwW7LPR.pdf](https://iranhr.net/media/files/Annual_Report_on_the_Death_Penalty_in_Iran_2021_BwW7LPR.pdf).

<sup>74</sup> Iran Human Rights and ECPM, *Annual Report on the Death Penalty in Iran 2021* (2022), 74-75, available at [https://iranhr.net/media/files/Annual\\_Report\\_on\\_the\\_Death\\_Penalty\\_in\\_Iran\\_2021\\_BwW7LPR.pdf](https://iranhr.net/media/files/Annual_Report_on_the_Death_Penalty_in_Iran_2021_BwW7LPR.pdf).

<sup>75</sup> United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Concluding Observations on the Combined Third and Fourth Periodic Reports of the Islamic Reports of Iran*, (14 March 2016), U.N. Doc. CRC/C/IRN/CO/3-4, ¶ 54.

<sup>76</sup> United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Concluding Observations on the Combined Third and Fourth Periodic Reports of the Islamic Reports of Iran*, (14 March 2016), U.N. Doc. CRC/C/IRN/CO/3-4, ¶ 92.

<sup>77</sup> United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Concluding Observations on the Combined Third and Fourth Periodic Reports of the Islamic Reports of Iran*, (14 March 2016), U.N. Doc. CRC/C/IRN/CO/3-4, ¶ 92(a)-(c).

enforcement.<sup>78</sup> The Supreme Leader appoints the Head of the Judiciary and supervises all branches of government in Iran.<sup>79</sup> The Supreme Leader has the power to grant pardons, commute sentences, and issue *fatwas* to justify or mandate executions.<sup>80</sup> The Head of the Judiciary and the Supreme Court Chief Justice select judges based on their ideological affiliation and political background.<sup>81</sup>

27. Article 91 of the IPC theoretically allows judges to exempt minors from the death penalty if they determine the offender lacked sufficient mental maturity at the time of the offense.<sup>82</sup> In practice, however, Article 91 provides limited protection. Article 91 does not require judges to consult forensic psychological experts, and judges often base their decisions on subjective impressions rather than standardized assessments.<sup>83</sup> As a result, courts apply Article 91 arbitrarily and inconsistently, with similar cases yielding vastly different outcomes.<sup>84</sup> Article 91 has not resulted in any measurable decrease in the number of juvenile executions.<sup>85</sup>
28. Even when courts consult purported experts, those assessments lack credibility and can be based on a single question. For example, court documents show that in implementing Article 91, “the Specialized Psychiatric Committee at the Shiraz Forensic Medical Organization only asked [M.A.] his name and surname to determine his mental maturity and capacity per Article 91.”<sup>86</sup> IHRNGO has verified that M.A. was 17 years and 27 days old at the time of his arrest for murder.<sup>87</sup> He was at imminent risk of execution as of October 2024.<sup>88</sup> In 2020, Iranian authorities executed S.S., who was under the age of 18 at the time he allegedly killed a person during a street fight.<sup>89</sup> A source close to S.S.’s family told IHRNGO: “around two years after his arrest, the court sent [S.S.] to forensics to find out whether he was mature enough to realize

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<sup>78</sup> Iran Human Rights and ECPM, *Annual Report on the Death Penalty in Iran 2024* (2025), 21, available at [https://iranhr.net/media/files/Rapport\\_iran\\_2024-WEB.pdf](https://iranhr.net/media/files/Rapport_iran_2024-WEB.pdf).

<sup>79</sup> Iran Human Rights and ECPM, *Annual Report on the Death Penalty in Iran 2024* (2025), 19, available at [https://iranhr.net/media/files/Rapport\\_iran\\_2024-WEB.pdf](https://iranhr.net/media/files/Rapport_iran_2024-WEB.pdf).

<sup>80</sup> Iran Human Rights and ECPM, *Annual Report on the Death Penalty in Iran 2024* (2025), 21, available at [https://iranhr.net/media/files/Rapport\\_iran\\_2024-WEB.pdf](https://iranhr.net/media/files/Rapport_iran_2024-WEB.pdf).

<sup>81</sup> Iran Human Rights and ECPM, *Annual Report on the Death Penalty in Iran 2024* (2025), 21, available at [https://iranhr.net/media/files/Rapport\\_iran\\_2024-WEB.pdf](https://iranhr.net/media/files/Rapport_iran_2024-WEB.pdf).

<sup>82</sup> United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Concluding observations on the combined third and fourth periodic reports of the Islamic Republic of Iran*, (14 March 2016), U.N. Doc. CRC/C/IRN/CO/3-4, ¶ 35.

<sup>83</sup> The Advocates for Human Rights et al., *Stakeholder Report for the United Nations Universal Periodic Review: The Death Penalty*, (16 July 2024), submitted for the 48th Session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, January–February 2025, ¶ 12.

<sup>84</sup> The Advocates for Human Rights et al., *Response to the Call for Inputs for the Report of the Secretary-General to the Human Rights Council on the Question of the Death Penalty: The Death Penalty in Iran – Appendix*, (4 April 2025), submitted for the 60th Session of the Human Rights Council, ¶ 40.

<sup>85</sup> Iran Human Rights and ECPM, *Annual Report on the Death Penalty in Iran 2023* (2024), at 82, available at [https://iranhr.net/media/files/Iran\\_Human\\_Rights-Annual\\_Report\\_2023.pdf](https://iranhr.net/media/files/Iran_Human_Rights-Annual_Report_2023.pdf).

<sup>86</sup> *Child Offender Mohammadreza Azizi at Imminent Risk of Execution in Shiraz*, Iran Human Rights, 15 Oct. 2024, <https://iranhr.net/en/articles/7008/>.

<sup>87</sup> *Child Offender Mohammadreza Azizi at Imminent Risk of Execution in Shiraz*, Iran Human Rights, 15 Oct. 2024, <https://iranhr.net/en/articles/7008/>.

<sup>88</sup> *Child Offender Mohammadreza Azizi at Imminent Risk of Execution in Shiraz*, Iran Human Rights, 15 Oct. 2024, <https://iranhr.net/en/articles/7008/>.

<sup>89</sup> *Iran: Juvenile Offender Executed This Morning*, Iran Human Rights, 21 Apr. 2020, <https://iranhr.net/en/articles/4204/>.

the nature of crime or not. Forensic experts asked him just one question and concluded that he realized the nature of the crime.”<sup>90</sup>

29. As noted in paragraph 12 above, Iranian law sets the age of criminal responsibility at 9 lunar years (8.7 years) for girls and 15 lunar years (14.6 years) for boys, placing children significantly younger than 18 at risk of capital punishment.<sup>91</sup> Moreover, the law’s gender-based distinction disproportionately endangers girls who come into conflict with the law.
30. Juvenile defendants, like many others in Iran, often face serious violations of their right to a fair trial. Although Article 38 of the Iranian Constitution explicitly prohibits torture for the purpose of extracting confessions, authorities routinely ignore this safeguard.<sup>92</sup> Confessions are the State’s most common means of proving guilt in capital cases, and authorities use “televised confessions,” extracted through torture and other ill-treatment (including sexual assault), as a propaganda tool to create fear and justify extreme sentences for political and social activists.<sup>93</sup> Police interrogate many juvenile suspects without providing them with legal or parental support, and detention personnel do not inform children of their rights during detention. Courts sentence juvenile offenders to death on the basis of confessions obtained under torture or duress, authorities deny juvenile defendants timely and adequate access to legal counsel, and courts do not provide juvenile defendants with a fair hearing.
31. After the investigation phase, defendants charged with security-related offenses must choose from a list of government-approved lawyers. For other defendants who are unable to afford their own lawyer, the court appoints a lawyer from a rota. In practice, restrictions on access to legal counsel before trial are nearly universal. According to IHRNGO, none of the individuals sentenced to death for whom information is available had access to a lawyer during the initial (pre-trial) phase.<sup>94</sup>
32. The Iranian government also weaponizes the death penalty to suppress dissent, particularly targeting human rights defenders who challenge gender-based discrimination and systemic injustice. Abolitionist activists face harassment, arrest, and imprisonment for peaceful advocacy. Lawyers representing clients in politically sensitive or capital cases have themselves been arrested, charged, and even convicted for fulfilling their professional duties.<sup>95</sup>

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<sup>90</sup> *Iran: Juvenile Offender Executed This Morning*, Iran Human Rights, 21 Apr. 2020, <https://iranhr.net/en/articles/4204/>.

<sup>91</sup> United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Concluding observations on the combined third and fourth periodic reports of the Islamic Republic of Iran*, (14 March 2016), U.N. Doc. CRC/C/IRN/CO/3-4, ¶ 53.

<sup>92</sup> The Advocates for Human Rights et al., *Stakeholder Report for the United Nations Universal Periodic Review: The Death Penalty*, (16 July 2024), submitted for the 48th Session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, January–February 2025, ¶ 11.

<sup>93</sup> The Advocates for Human Rights et al., *Stakeholder Report for the United Nations Universal Periodic Review: The Death Penalty*, (16 July 2024), submitted for the 48th Session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, January–February 2025, ¶ 10.

<sup>94</sup> The Advocates for Human Rights et al., *Stakeholder Report for the United Nations Universal Periodic Review: The Death Penalty*, (16 July 2024), submitted for the 48th Session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, January–February 2025, ¶ 11.

<sup>95</sup> The Advocates for Human Rights et al., *Stakeholder Report for the United Nations Universal Periodic Review: The Death Penalty*, (16 July 2024), submitted for the 48th Session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, January–February 2025, ¶ 6.

#### **IV. Iranian authorities carry out public executions in the presence of children (Concluding Observations para. 54).**

33. In its 2016 Concluding Observations, the Committee recommended that Iran “put an end to public executions, which have an irreversible negative effect on the mental health of children, by implementing the [Supreme Leader’s] decree [not to have children witness public executions].”<sup>96</sup>
34. Public executions, occasionally witnessed by children, and typically carried out in residential areas, compound trauma and further violate Article 37 of the Convention.<sup>97</sup> The Supreme Leader has issued a decree prohibiting children from attending executions, but authorities do not consistently enforce this restriction.<sup>98</sup> Authorities have carried out at least seven public hangings so far in 2025, and IHRNGO has documented “a significant number of children” attending two of them.<sup>99</sup> On 19 August 2025, for example, state media reported a public hanging in the small city of Beyrom. Footage shows many children among the spectators.<sup>100</sup> Children who witness these traumatic events can experience long-term mental health consequences. The Iranian government has failed to provide systematic psychological support for affected children and has not acknowledged the harm of public executions on children.<sup>101</sup>

#### **V. Iran continues to hold juvenile offenders on death row (Concluding Observations para. 36(c)).**

35. The Committee urged Iran to “commute all existing sentences for offenders on death row who committed a crime while under the age of 18 years.”<sup>102</sup> Due to a lack of transparency, “there is no information about the number of juvenile offenders on death row in Iranian prisons.”<sup>103</sup> A 2021 report estimated that at least 85 juvenile offenders were awaiting execution.<sup>104</sup>

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<sup>96</sup> United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Concluding Observations on the Combined Third and Fourth Periodic Reports of the Islamic Republic of Iran*, (14 March 2016), U.N. Doc. CRC/C/IRN/CO/3-4, ¶ 54.

<sup>97</sup> The Advocates for Human Rights et al., *Stakeholder Report for the United Nations Universal Periodic Review: The Death Penalty*, (16 July 2024), submitted for the 48th Session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, January–February 2025, ¶ 20.

<sup>98</sup> United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Concluding observations on the combined third and fourth periodic reports of the Islamic Republic of Iran*, (14 March 2016), U.N. Doc. CRC/C/IRN/CO/3-4, ¶ 53.

<sup>99</sup> Iran Human Rights, *IHRNGO Condemns Sajad Molayi Hakani’s Public Hanging with Children Present*, 19 Aug. 2025, <https://iranhr.net/en/articles/7884/>.

<sup>100</sup> Iran Human Rights, *IHRNGO Condemns Sajad Molayi Hakani’s Public Hanging with Children Present*, 19 Aug. 2025, <https://iranhr.net/en/articles/7884/>.

<sup>101</sup> United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Concluding observations on the combined third and fourth periodic reports of the Islamic Republic of Iran*, (14 March 2016), U.N. Doc. CRC/C/IRN/CO/3-4, ¶ 54.m n

<sup>102</sup> United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Concluding Observations on the Combined Third and Fourth Periodic Reports of the Islamic Republic of Iran*, (14 March 2016), U.N. Doc. CRC/C/IRN/CO/3-4, 36.

<sup>103</sup> Iran Human Rights and ECPM, *Annual Report on the Death Penalty in Iran 2023* (2024), 81, available at [https://iranhr.net/media/files/Iran\\_Human\\_Rights-Annual\\_Report\\_2023.pdf](https://iranhr.net/media/files/Iran_Human_Rights-Annual_Report_2023.pdf).

<sup>104</sup> “Iran: UN experts say executions of child offenders must stop,” November 25, 2021, available at <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2021/12/iran-un-experts-say-executions-child-offenders-must-stop>.

**VI. Many women—including child brides—experience protracted intimate partner violence, which can prompt them to come into conflict with the law and face death sentences (Concluding Observations paras. 28, 60(b)).**

36. In its 2016 Concluding Observations, the Committee expressed deep concern about “the age of marriage in the State party, which is set at 13 years for girls and 15 years for boys,” and recommended that Iran “increase the minimum age of marriage for both girls and boys to 18 years, and to take all necessary measures to eliminate child marriages.”<sup>105</sup> The Committee also strongly urged Iran to “[i]ntroduce and enforce national laws prohibiting all forms of child marriage and ensure that children who have been married can file a complaint on family matters such as divorce and custody of their children, and for financial compensation.”<sup>106</sup>
37. Iran executes more women than any other country.<sup>107</sup> Official sources have reported only 12% of the executions of women that IHRNGO has documented.<sup>108</sup> IHRNGO reports that Iranian authorities executed at least 31 women in 2024—the highest number since 2010.<sup>109</sup> Of the women executed in 2024, at least 2 had been child brides.<sup>110</sup> Of the 241 or more women who have been executed between 2010 and 2024,<sup>111</sup> at least 9 had been child brides, and 3 faced the death penalty for offenses they committed when under the age of 18.<sup>112</sup>
38. Women in Iran may seek divorce only under Sections 1119, 1129, and 1130 of the Civil Code of the Islamic Republic.<sup>113</sup> Section 1119 requires a breach of specific conditions established prior to the marriage; Section 1129 requires the husband to either refuse or be incapable of paying living expenses; and Section 1130 allows divorces where continuation of the marriage causes the wife hardship.<sup>114</sup> To invoke either Section 1129 or Section 1130, however, a judge must still compel the husband to divorce.<sup>115</sup> Iran’s legal system “fail[s] to recognize domestic violence or marital rape.”<sup>116</sup>

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<sup>105</sup> United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Concluding Observations on the Combined Third and Fourth Periodic Reports of the Islamic Reports of Iran*, (14 March 2016), U.N. Doc. CRC/C/IRN/CO/3-4, ¶¶ 27-28.

<sup>106</sup> United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Concluding Observations on the Combined Third and Fourth Periodic Reports of the Islamic Reports of Iran*, (14 March 2016), U.N. Doc. CRC/C/IRN/CO/3-4, ¶ 60(b).

<sup>107</sup> Iran Human Rights and ECPM, *Annual Report on the Death Penalty in Iran 2024* (2025), 88, available at [https://iranhr.net/media/files/Rapport\\_iran\\_2024-WEB.pdf](https://iranhr.net/media/files/Rapport_iran_2024-WEB.pdf);

<sup>108</sup> Iran Human Rights, *Women and the Death Penalty In Iran: A Gendered Perspective* (2025), 4, available at [https://www.iranhr.net/media/files/En\\_Gender\\_Perspective\\_of\\_the\\_Death\\_Penalty\\_in\\_Iran\\_EN.pdf](https://www.iranhr.net/media/files/En_Gender_Perspective_of_the_Death_Penalty_in_Iran_EN.pdf).

<sup>109</sup> Iran Human Rights and ECPM, *Annual Report on the Death Penalty in Iran 2024* (2025), 88, available at [https://iranhr.net/media/files/Rapport\\_iran\\_2024-WEB.pdf](https://iranhr.net/media/files/Rapport_iran_2024-WEB.pdf).

<sup>110</sup> Iran Human Rights and ECPM, *Annual Report on the Death Penalty in Iran 2024* (2025), 88, available at [https://iranhr.net/media/files/Rapport\\_iran\\_2024-WEB.pdf](https://iranhr.net/media/files/Rapport_iran_2024-WEB.pdf).

<sup>111</sup> Iran Human Rights, *Women and the Death Penalty In Iran: A Gendered Perspective* (2025), 4, available at [https://www.iranhr.net/media/files/En\\_Gender\\_Perspective\\_of\\_the\\_Death\\_Penalty\\_in\\_Iran\\_EN.pdf](https://www.iranhr.net/media/files/En_Gender_Perspective_of_the_Death_Penalty_in_Iran_EN.pdf).

<sup>112</sup> Iran Human Rights, *Women and the Death Penalty In Iran: A Gendered Perspective* (2025), 9, available at [https://www.iranhr.net/media/files/En\\_Gender\\_Perspective\\_of\\_the\\_Death\\_Penalty\\_in\\_Iran\\_EN.pdf](https://www.iranhr.net/media/files/En_Gender_Perspective_of_the_Death_Penalty_in_Iran_EN.pdf).

<sup>113</sup> Iran Human Rights, *Women and the Death Penalty In Iran: A Gendered Perspective* (2025), 6, available at [https://www.iranhr.net/media/files/En\\_Gender\\_Perspective\\_of\\_the\\_Death\\_Penalty\\_in\\_Iran\\_EN.pdf](https://www.iranhr.net/media/files/En_Gender_Perspective_of_the_Death_Penalty_in_Iran_EN.pdf).

<sup>114</sup> Iran Human Rights, *Women and the Death Penalty In Iran: A Gendered Perspective* (2025), 6, available at [https://www.iranhr.net/media/files/En\\_Gender\\_Perspective\\_of\\_the\\_Death\\_Penalty\\_in\\_Iran\\_EN.pdf](https://www.iranhr.net/media/files/En_Gender_Perspective_of_the_Death_Penalty_in_Iran_EN.pdf).

<sup>115</sup> Iran Human Rights, *Women and the Death Penalty In Iran: A Gendered Perspective* (2025), 8, available at [https://www.iranhr.net/media/files/En\\_Gender\\_Perspective\\_of\\_the\\_Death\\_Penalty\\_in\\_Iran\\_EN.pdf](https://www.iranhr.net/media/files/En_Gender_Perspective_of_the_Death_Penalty_in_Iran_EN.pdf).

<sup>116</sup> Iran Human Rights, *Women and the Death Penalty In Iran: A Gendered Perspective* (2025), 4, available at [https://www.iranhr.net/media/files/En\\_Gender\\_Perspective\\_of\\_the\\_Death\\_Penalty\\_in\\_Iran\\_EN.pdf](https://www.iranhr.net/media/files/En_Gender_Perspective_of_the_Death_Penalty_in_Iran_EN.pdf).

39. IHRNGO reports that “[m]any women remain trapped in abusive marriages, leading to desperate acts that result in death sentences.”<sup>117</sup> IHRNGO reports that “[a]bout 70% of women sentenced to death for murder are charged for murdering their male partner.”<sup>118</sup> Women convicted of murder are sentenced to *qisas*.<sup>119</sup> After authorities charge and arrest a woman or girl for killing her abusive spouse, the family often abandons her, depriving her of outside legal and emotional support.<sup>120</sup>
40. In 2024, 19 of the 31 women Iranian authorities executed had been sentenced to *qisas*, with authorities executing 9 women for killing their husbands.<sup>121</sup> In 2023, 15 of the 22 women Iranian authorities executed had been sentenced to *qisas*, with authorities executing 6 women for killing their husbands.<sup>122</sup> In 2022, 13 of the 16 women Iranian authorities executed had been sentenced to *qisas*, with authorities executing 5 women for killing their husbands.<sup>123</sup> Additionally, “[a]t least one woman was a child bride and one was in a forced marriage.”<sup>124</sup> In 2021, 12 of the 17 women Iranian authorities executed had been sentenced to *qisas*, with authorities executing 8 women for killing their husbands.<sup>125</sup> At least 5 of the *qisas* sentences arose in a context of domestic violence.<sup>126</sup>
41. S.S. was a child bride sentenced to *qisas* after killing her husband.<sup>127</sup> In an attempt to gain forgiveness, S.S. did not visit her children for a decade; nonetheless, authorities in Ghezelhesar Prison executed her on 20 December 2023.<sup>128</sup> S.A. was 15 years old when she married.<sup>129</sup> Fifteen years later, a court sentenced her to *qisas* after she killed her husband “due to ‘family disputes,’ a cultural code for domestic violence, according to court documents.”<sup>130</sup>

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<sup>117</sup> Iran Human Rights, *Women and the Death Penalty In Iran: A Gendered Perspective* (2025), 6, available at [https://www.iranhr.net/media/files/En\\_Gender\\_Perspective\\_of\\_the\\_Death\\_Penalty\\_in\\_Iran\\_EN.pdf](https://www.iranhr.net/media/files/En_Gender_Perspective_of_the_Death_Penalty_in_Iran_EN.pdf).

<sup>118</sup> Iran Human Rights, *Women and the Death Penalty In Iran: A Gendered Perspective* (2025), 4, available at [https://www.iranhr.net/media/files/En\\_Gender\\_Perspective\\_of\\_the\\_Death\\_Penalty\\_in\\_Iran\\_EN.pdf](https://www.iranhr.net/media/files/En_Gender_Perspective_of_the_Death_Penalty_in_Iran_EN.pdf).

<sup>119</sup> Iran Human Rights, *Women and the Death Penalty In Iran: A Gendered Perspective* (2025), 4, available at [https://www.iranhr.net/media/files/En\\_Gender\\_Perspective\\_of\\_the\\_Death\\_Penalty\\_in\\_Iran\\_EN.pdf](https://www.iranhr.net/media/files/En_Gender_Perspective_of_the_Death_Penalty_in_Iran_EN.pdf).

<sup>120</sup> Iran Human Rights, *Women and the Death Penalty In Iran: A Gendered Perspective* (2025), 6, available at [https://www.iranhr.net/media/files/En\\_Gender\\_Perspective\\_of\\_the\\_Death\\_Penalty\\_in\\_Iran\\_EN.pdf](https://www.iranhr.net/media/files/En_Gender_Perspective_of_the_Death_Penalty_in_Iran_EN.pdf).

<sup>121</sup> Iran Human Rights and ECPM, *Annual Report on the Death Penalty in Iran 2024* (2024), 88, available at [https://iranhr.net/media/files/Rapport\\_iran\\_2024-WEB.pdf](https://iranhr.net/media/files/Rapport_iran_2024-WEB.pdf).

<sup>122</sup> Iran Human Rights and ECPM, *Annual Report on the Death Penalty in Iran 2022* (2023), 85, available at [https://www.iranhr.net/media/files/Rapport\\_iran\\_2022\\_PirQr2V.pdf](https://www.iranhr.net/media/files/Rapport_iran_2022_PirQr2V.pdf).

<sup>123</sup> Iran Human Rights and ECPM, *Annual Report on the Death Penalty in Iran 2022* (2023), 81, available at [https://www.iranhr.net/media/files/Rapport\\_iran\\_2022\\_PirQr2V.pdf](https://www.iranhr.net/media/files/Rapport_iran_2022_PirQr2V.pdf).

<sup>124</sup> Iran Human Rights and ECPM, *Annual Report on the Death Penalty in Iran 2022* (2023), 81, available at [https://www.iranhr.net/media/files/Rapport\\_iran\\_2022\\_PirQr2V.pdf](https://www.iranhr.net/media/files/Rapport_iran_2022_PirQr2V.pdf).

<sup>125</sup> Iran Human Rights and ECPM, *Annual Report on the Death Penalty in Iran 2021* (2022), 76, available at [https://iranhr.net/media/files/Annual\\_Report\\_on\\_the\\_Death\\_Penalty\\_in\\_Iran\\_2021.pdf](https://iranhr.net/media/files/Annual_Report_on_the_Death_Penalty_in_Iran_2021.pdf).

<sup>126</sup> Iran Human Rights and ECPM, *Annual Report on the Death Penalty in Iran 2021* (2022), 76, available at [https://iranhr.net/media/files/Annual\\_Report\\_on\\_the\\_Death\\_Penalty\\_in\\_Iran\\_2021.pdf](https://iranhr.net/media/files/Annual_Report_on_the_Death_Penalty_in_Iran_2021.pdf).

<sup>127</sup> Iran Human Rights and ECPM, *Annual Report on the Death Penalty in Iran 2023* (2024), 86, available at [https://iranhr.net/media/files/Iran\\_Human\\_Rights-Annual\\_Report\\_2023.pdf](https://iranhr.net/media/files/Iran_Human_Rights-Annual_Report_2023.pdf).

<sup>128</sup> Iran Human Rights and ECPM, *Annual Report on the Death Penalty in Iran 2023* (2024), 86, available at [https://iranhr.net/media/files/Iran\\_Human\\_Rights-Annual\\_Report\\_2023.pdf](https://iranhr.net/media/files/Iran_Human_Rights-Annual_Report_2023.pdf).

<sup>129</sup> Iran Human Rights and ECPM, *Annual Report on the Death Penalty in Iran 2022* (2023), 82, available at [https://www.iranhr.net/media/files/Rapport\\_iran\\_2022\\_PirQr2V.pdf](https://www.iranhr.net/media/files/Rapport_iran_2022_PirQr2V.pdf).

<sup>130</sup> Iran Human Rights and ECPM, *Annual Report on the Death Penalty in Iran 2022* (2023), 82, available at [https://www.iranhr.net/media/files/Rapport\\_iran\\_2022\\_PirQr2V.pdf](https://www.iranhr.net/media/files/Rapport_iran_2022_PirQr2V.pdf).

42. IHRNGO has documented the case of G.K., an undocumented Baluch woman who had been forced to marry her cousin at the age of 12 and who is at imminent risk of execution in December 2025. One year later, she gave birth at home, without medical care. While she was pregnant, her husband forced her to do heavy farm work and consistently subjected her to physical violence. He also cut off her contact with family and friends. On one occasion she escaped to her parents' home, where her father said, "I gave my daughter away in a white dress, you will return in a shroud." Authorities arrested her in 2018, when she was 18 years old, for killing her husband. On the day of the killing, her husband had been beating G.K. and her five-year-old child. Desperate and helpless, she called another cousin for help, and when he arrived a fight broke out and her husband was killed.<sup>131</sup>
43. After her arrest, authorities interrogated G.K. without a lawyer, threatening her and subjecting her to psychological pressure. Unaware of her rights, she accepted full responsibility for the killing, and her "confession" resulted in death sentences for her and her cousin. The court failed to conduct a proper inquiry into the context of domestic violence or the other circumstances involving the killing. Her family has abandoned her.<sup>132</sup>
44. Seven years after the killing, the family of G.K.'s husband has agreed to forgo execution if she pays 10 billion tomans (approximately \$135,000 US) in *diya* and agrees to leave their town forever.<sup>133</sup> It is unclear whether she will be able to raise these funds.
45. On 1 October 2024, authorities in Ahar Prison executed A.G., who had been sentenced to *qisas* for killing her husband. When she was 17 years old, her family forced her to marry a wealthy man who was 18 years her senior. A court found her guilty of killing him with pills.<sup>134</sup>
46. Women charged with killing their husbands, including women who experienced child marriage, are particularly at risk of having unfair trials. One Iranian lawyer told the Cornell Center on the Death Penalty Worldwide that "courts trying women capital defendants judge their whole lives, and not just the offense with which they are charged (particularly in cases where the defendant is accused of killing her spouse)."<sup>135</sup>
47. Coercive control relationships may also influence women who were child brides to come into conflict with the law. For example, on 20 August 2025, authorities in Shiraz (Adel Abad) Central Prison executed M.A., who had been sentenced to *qisas* for killing a mother and her three daughters. M.A. had married at the age of 16, and her husband (who was also sentenced to *qisas* and executed) had forced her into participating in the robbery that resulted in the killings.<sup>136</sup>

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<sup>131</sup> Iran Human Rights, *IHRNGO Calls for Action to Save Baluch Child Bride Goli Kouhkan from Hanging*, 4 Nov. 2025, <https://iranhr.net/en/articles/8293/>.

<sup>132</sup> Iran Human Rights, *IHRNGO Calls for Action to Save Baluch Child Bride Goli Kouhkan from Hanging*, 4 Nov. 2025, <https://iranhr.net/en/articles/8293/>.

<sup>133</sup> Iran Human Rights, *IHRNGO Calls for Action to Save Baluch Child Bride Goli Kouhkan from Hanging*, 4 Nov. 2025, <https://iranhr.net/en/articles/8293/>.

<sup>134</sup> Iran Human Rights, *Child Bride Akhtar Ghorbanlu Executed in Ahar Prison*, 6 Oct. 2024, <https://iranhr.net/en/articles/6977/>.

<sup>135</sup> The Cornell Center on the Death Penalty Worldwide (The Alice Project), *Judged for More Than Her Crime: A Global Overview of Women Facing the Death Penalty* (Sep. 2018), at 7, available at <https://www.deathpenaltyworldwide.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Judged-More-Than-Her-Crime.pdf>.

<sup>136</sup> Iran Human Rights, *Child Bride Mahsa Akbari 21<sup>st</sup> Woman Executed in 2025*, 20 Aug. 2025, <https://iranhr.net/en/articles/7887/>.

## VII. Authorities have injured and killed children participating in the Women, Life, Freedom protests (Concluding Observations para. 48).

48. In its 2016 Concluding Observations, the Committee recommended that Iran “take the necessary measures to ensure full respect for the right of children to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly.”<sup>137</sup>
49. In the wake of the state-murder of Jina (Mahsa) Amini on 16 September 2022, people took to the streets and launched the “Women, Life, Freedom” protests.<sup>138</sup> IHRNGO has verified that authorities have killed 551 protestors, including 68 children.<sup>139</sup> Security forces killed or injured children as young as 7 years old who actively participated in protests or who were bystanders.<sup>140</sup> Over 60% of the children killed during protests were from Baluch and Kurdish ethnic religious minorities.<sup>141</sup>
50. Victims, witnesses, and family members recount that security forces used unnecessary and disproportionate lethal force at the protests, killing and injuring child protestors.<sup>142</sup> Security forces killed children by firing at close range with weapons loaded with ammunition containing metal pellets. Security forces killed and injured other children who had injuries consistent with severe beatings and/or multiple blows with batons to the head, resulting in skull fractures and brain bleeding.<sup>143</sup>
51. During the first year of protests, at least 4 child protestors purportedly died by “suicide” or under suspicious circumstances.<sup>144</sup> In many cases in which child protestors died, Iranian authorities promoted false narratives of “suicide” or asserted that the children had been victims of “terrorist groups,” “unknown armed individuals,” or “rioters,” concealing the actual circumstances surrounding the deaths.<sup>145</sup> Authorities consistently threatened families of the children for sharing their own accounts on social media.<sup>146</sup>

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<sup>137</sup> United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Concluding Observations on the Combined Third and Fourth Periodic Reports of the Islamic Republic of Iran*, (14 March 2016), U.N. Doc. CRC/C/IRN/CO/3-4, ¶ 48.

<sup>138</sup> Iran Human Rights, “One Year Protest Report: At Least 551 Killed and 22 Suspicious Deaths,” Sep. 15, 2023, available at <https://iranhr.net/en/articles/6200/>.

<sup>139</sup> Iran Human Rights, “One Year Protest Report: At Least 551 Killed and 22 Suspicious Deaths,” Sep. 15, 2023, available at <https://iranhr.net/en/articles/6200/>.

<sup>140</sup> United Nations Human Rights Council, *Consolidated findings of the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on the Islamic Republic of Iran*, (18 March 2025), U.N. Doc A/HRC/58/CRP.1, ¶ 421.

<sup>141</sup> United Nations Human Rights Council, *Consolidated findings of the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on the Islamic Republic of Iran*, (18 March 2025), U.N. Doc A/HRC/58/CRP.1, ¶ 419.

<sup>142</sup> United Nations Human Rights Council, *Consolidated findings of the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on the Islamic Republic of Iran*, (18 March 2025), U.N. Doc A/HRC/58/CRP.1, ¶ 420.

<sup>143</sup> United Nations Human Rights Council, *Consolidated findings of the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on the Islamic Republic of Iran*, (18 March 2025), U.N. Doc A/HRC/58/CRP.1, ¶ 422.

<sup>144</sup> Iran Human Rights, “One Year Protest Report: At Least 551 Killed and 22 Suspicious Deaths,” Sep. 15, 2023, available at <https://iranhr.net/en/articles/6200/>.

<sup>145</sup> United Nations Human Rights Council, *Consolidated findings of the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on the Islamic Republic of Iran*, (18 March 2025), U.N. Doc A/HRC/58/CRP.1, ¶ 445.

<sup>146</sup> United Nations Human Rights Council, *Consolidated findings of the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on the Islamic Republic of Iran*, (18 March 2025), U.N. Doc A/HRC/58/CRP.1, ¶ 445.

## VIII. Suggested questions for the Government of Iran

52. The coauthors suggest that the Committee pose the following questions to, or request the following data from, the Government of Iran:

- What is the status of the “bill amending regulations on child and juvenile criminal responsibility in the 2013 IPC” discussed in paragraph 420 of the Islamic Republic of Iran’s 2023 State Party Response?
- Describe the process by which authorities determine the age of a person in conflict with the law who cannot produce a birth certificate or other documentary evidence of their date of birth. Who bears the burden of proving the person’s age? What happens when that burden is not met?
- Please provide data about all people Iranian authorities have executed during the reporting period, disaggregated by age at time of arrest, sex/gender, nationality, crime of conviction, date of conviction, date of execution (if applicable), age when executed, relationship to any co-defendants or victims, and occupation at the time of arrest.
- Please provide data about offenders currently sentenced to death and in detention who are under the age of 25, disaggregated by sex/gender, nationality, crime of conviction, date of arrest, age at arrest, occupation at time of arrest, and status of any appeals or requests for pardon or clemency.
- Please provide data about all pardons or other forms of clemency granted from 2016-2025, disaggregated by age at the time of arrest, sex/gender, nationality, crime of conviction, date of conviction, occupation at time of arrest, and the pardon or other form of clemency that was granted.
- Describe the training and guidance judges receive for implementing Article 91 of the Islamic Penal Code, which gives judges discretion to impose the death penalty or an alternative punishment on a minor defendant. Are there any offenses for which judges may not impose a punishment other than death? When does the court conduct the Article 91 assessment to determine mental maturity? Under what circumstances must the court seek an expert opinion for this assessment?
- Describe the training and guidance that forensic experts receive for conducting an Article 91 assessment of a defendant’s mental maturity. How do they conduct such assessments? Do such experts receive any training with respect to Iran’s obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child? At what point in proceedings do authorities share the assessments and the underlying factual findings with defense counsel?
- In cases involving a defendant’s involvement in a killing, under what circumstances do authorities consider the defendant’s intent in determining guilt?
- Describe measures taken to ensure that the death penalty is not available as a potential punishment for any offense that does not include an intentional killing by the defendant.
- Please describe the protections afforded to children who are accused of committing a capital crime, including parental notification, access to legal counsel, and other supports.

- What steps have authorities taken to reduce the prevalence of child and forced marriage?
- Describe the safeguards in place to ensure that sentencing authorities take into account a woman's experiences with child marriage and other forms of gender-based violence, particularly at the hands of her spouse, in determining whether to sentence her to death.
- What measures are in place to protect women and girls from intimate partner violence, particularly in light of the barriers to divorce?
- Describe measures taken to ensure that children do not attend public executions.
- Describe any steps Iran has taken to build support for abolition of the death penalty among lawmakers and the public and, in the interim, to institute a de jure moratorium on executions.
- What steps have authorities taken to create an enabling environment for children seeking to exercise their right to freedom of assembly and freedom of expression?
- What efforts have authorities undertaken to investigate the injuries and killings of children involved in the "Women, Life, Freedom" protests and to hold perpetrators accountable?