

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Background note

16 August 2010

Stoning: global summary

Judicial executions by stoning

Judicial executions by stoning have been reported only in Iran in recent years. At least 6 people have been stoned to death in Iran since 2006, despite a 2002 moratorium. Amnesty International knows of at least eight women and three men currently sentenced to death by stoning in Iran. The 2008 report *End Executions by Stoning* gives a full account of Iranian law and implementation of stoning.

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE13/001/2008/en>

Here are Amnesty International's most recent statements on stoning in Iran, on the Sakineh case: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE13/070/2010/en>
<http://www.amnesty.org/en/news-and-updates/iran-must-not-execute-woman-spared-stoning-death-any-means-2010-07-09>

This method of execution remains a legal punishment in several countries or areas of countries, including Iran, Nigeria, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Yemen, and the United Arab Emirates. In Aceh province of Indonesia the possibility of execution by stoning was introduced in 2009: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/news-and-updates/news/indonesia-must-repeal-cruel-new-stoning-caning-law-20090917>

Stoning executions by non-state actors

Amnesty International does not keep systematic records of unlawful killings by stoning carried out by non-state actors, but does receive reports of these, most frequently from Somalia: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/for-media/press-releases/somalia-girl-stoned-was-child-13-20081031>)

Reports of executions by stoning in Afghanistan have been very rare since the fall of the Taliban in 2001, but Amnesty International has confirmed that a couple was stoned to death on 15 August 2010 in northern Afghanistan, on the orders of a Taliban council in control of the area. (Press release forthcoming today)

One unconfirmed report of a stoning for adultery in Afghanistan in 2005 allegedly took place on the orders of local religious leaders, not the Taliban.
<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/asset/ASA11/005/2005/en/cdd82d25-d4f7-11dd-8a23-d58a49c0d652/asa110052005en.html>

A group allied with the Pakistani Taliban, Lashkar e-Islam, has been reportedly responsible for carrying out a public execution by stoning in northwestern Pakistan in 2007 while in control of the area. <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/ASA33/004/2010/en>

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