URGENT ACTION

RISK OF IMMINENT PROTEST-RELATED EXECUTIONS AFTER UNFAIR TRIALS

Iranian authorities have arbitrarily executed at least 34 people in connection with the January 2026 uprising after torture-tainted unfair trials, amid fears of further protest-related executions as officials publicly vow to prioritize implementing death sentences against "coup plotters". Since April 2026, Iran's Supreme Court upheld the convictions and death sentences of at least 20 others in relation to offences linked to the January 2026 uprising, putting them at imminent risk of execution.

TAKE ACTION: WRITE AN APPEAL IN YOUR OWN WORDS OR USE THIS MODEL LETTER

Head of judiciary, Gholamhossein Mohseni Ejei
c/o Embassy of Iran to the European Union, Avenue Franklin Roosevelt No. 15, 1050 Bruxelles, Belgium

To Mr Gholamhossein Mohseni Ejei,

I am deeply concerned about the ongoing wave of arbitrary executions of individuals convicted of charges connected to the January 2026 uprising amid calls by senior officials for expedited proceedings and the imposition of the "harshest punishments". Since April 2026, the Supreme Court has upheld protest-related convictions and death sentences of at least 20 prisoners, putting them at imminent risk of execution, including at least two people who were children at the time of the alleged offences. Those at risk of execution were convicted in grossly unfair torture-tainted trials by Revolutionary Courts, including for vaguely worded charges of "waging war against God" and "corruption on earth". The authorities accused them of involvement in various non-violent and violent acts during protests, in some cases related to the deaths of security forces, and in other cases for conduct that does not meet the threshold of "most serious crimes" involving intentional killing. Some were prosecuted under the Espionage Law, which criminalizes protected activities such as peaceful protest. Given that the Iranian authorities confirmed arresting thousands of people in connection to the January 2026 protests and the well-founded fear of reprisals for speaking out, Amnesty International believes the true figure of those at imminent risk of execution to be significantly higher.

Amnesty International has documented severe violations of the right to a fair trial in capital cases linked to the January 2026 protests, including the right to a trial before an independent, competent and impartial tribunal; to not self-incriminate; to adequate defence and access to a lawyer; and to presumption of innocence. Amnesty International also documented the systematic use of torture and other ill-treatment in these cases including beatings, the use of electric shocks and prolonged solitary confinement. The organization reviewed multiple propaganda videos portraying defendants making forced "confessions", while they were forcibly disappeared and questioned without lawyers present. These were used as evidence to secure convictions. The imposition of the death penalty after unfair trials is a violation of the right to life.

At least 34 individuals arrested in connection with the January 2026 protests were arbitrarily executed, with at least two executions carried out in public. One man was executed even though the Supreme Court had granted his request for a retrial and sent the case back to a Revolutionary Court, which refused to retry case, according to information obtained by Amnesty International. According to reports, at least one of the people executed was denied a final family visit and his family learned of his execution by telephone.

I urge you to immediately halt all planned executions, quash all death sentences and establish an official moratorium on all executions with a view to fully abolishing the death penalty. Pending this, take steps to bring national legislation in line with international law and standards, including by removing the death penalty for vaguely-worded offences, drug related offences, other offences not involving intentional killing and repealing mandatory death sentences. I also urge you to allow international monitors, including UN Special Procedures and the International Fact-Finding Mission on Iran, access to detention facilities.
Yours sincerely,

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Since January 2026, Iranian authorities have arrested thousands of people, including protesters, dissidents, journalists, lawyers, human rights defenders, and members of ethnic and religious minorities. Authorities have labelled them as "traitors" or "enemy collaborators", and portrayed the January 2026 protests as an "American-Zionist terrorist conspiracy". On 11 October 2026, Esfahan province's head of the Justice Department, Assadollah Jafari, publicly vowed to prioritize the implementation of death sentences against protesters, he called "coup plotters".

Amnesty International was able to gather information about 20 individuals, who are at imminent risk of execution after their convictions and death sentences in connection with the January 2026 protests were upheld by the Supreme Court. The organization spoke to primary sources, human rights organizations and defenders, journalists based outside of Iran and others with access to information. The 20 men were all convicted by Revolutionary Courts of a range of offences linked to the January 2026 uprising, including vaguely worded charges such as "waging war against God" (*moharebeh*) and "corruption on earth" (*efsad-e fel arz*). Their trials were grossly unfair as the authorities denied them access to lawyers during the pre-trial stage and frequently severely delayed or denied defendants and their lawyers access to complete case files and verdicts. Forced "confessions" were used as evidence to secure convictions; and some were broadcast prior to the trial. At the time of writing, the 20 people were held in prisons across the country, including in Ghezel Hesar prison in Alborz province, Lordegan prison in Charmahal and Bakhtiari province, Dastgerd prison in Esfahan province, Adel Abad prison in Fars province, Vakilabad prison in Khorasan-e Razavi province, Choobindar prison in Qazvin province, as well as Greater Tehran Central Penitentiary and Khurin prison in Tehran.

Eight of the 20 individuals at imminent risk of execution were convicted in the "Alikhani Square" trial, namely: **Abolfazl Ebrahimi, Ali Dashti, Amirhossein Ebrahimi Analojeh, Amirhossein Maleki, Javad Talebpour, Mehdi Eskandari, Sepehr Hounjani** and **Shervin Bagherian Jebeli**. According to Mizan News Agency, the judiciary's media outlet, the authorities accused the defendants of various violent and non-violent acts during protests that took place in Esfahan on 8 January 2026, including blocking streets, destruction of property, arson, and involvement in the deaths of four security agents. The men were convicted and sentenced to death after a grossly unfair trial in which forced "confessions" were broadcast on state media prior to their trial. Seven other men convicted in this case were arbitrarily executed between July and October 2026. They include **Alireza Raisi** and **Alireza Sepahi,** who were executed in Esfahan on 5 October 2026. Amnesty International learned that agents subjected Alireza Sepahi to torture and other ill-treatment, including prolonged solitary confinement, beatings and electric shocks. Amnesty International also learned that even though the Supreme Court ordered for Alireza Sepahi to be retried, a Revolutionary Court branch refused without holding any hearings. On 28 July 2026, **Abolfaz Sepahi** and **Amirhossein Safari Hosseinabadi** were publicly arbitrarily executed in the Alikhani Square.

Of the 20 individual whose death sentences were upheld by the Supreme Court, four individuals were convicted in connection with a fire at a Basij base inside a mosque that led to death of two Basij agents in Pakdasht, Tehran province, on 8 January 2026: **Ahad Shokouhian, Ehsan Hosseinpour Hessarlou, Erfan Amiri** and **Matin Mohammadi**. Erfan Amiri and Matin Mohammadi were children at the time of the alleged offences. The imposition of the death penalty for those under 18 years of age is absolutely prohibited under international human rights law. A further eight individuals, whose death sentence were upheld by the Supreme Court, were prosecuted in separate cases**: Ali Rahimi Rigi**, **Ali Asghar Peyghambari, Benyamin Naghdi**, **Kaveh Arabian, Mehdi Zarif, Mehran Seyyed Zadeh, Omid Goudarzvand Chegini** and **Rasoul Rezaei.** In the case **Ali Asghar Peyghambari,** according to statements made to the media by his lawyer, a Revolutionary Court sentenced him to death under the Law on Intensifying Punishment of Espionage and Cooperation with the Zionist Regime (Espionage Law), which was enacted in the aftermath of the 12-day June 2025 war, after he attended a protest.

In the aftermath of nationwide protests that erupted on 28 December 2025 and the 8-9 January 2026 massacres of thousands of protesters and bystanders, Iranian authorities responded with a militarized crackdown, and the continued use of the death penalty as a tool of political repression. Following the unlawful US-Israeli attacks on Iran on 28 February 2026, Iranian authorities further intensified domestic repression under the pretext of "wartime conditions", executing at least 67 people, including protesters and dissidents, on politically motivated charges; while executions for drug-related and other offences continue unabated. Amnesty International opposes the death penalty in all cases without exception.

PREFERRED LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS TARGET: Persian, English
You can also write in your own language.

PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL: 31 January 2027
Please check with the Amnesty office in your country if you wish to send appeals after the deadline.

NAME AND PREFFERED PRONOUN: he/him