

International Liberty Association Newsletter

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EDITORIAL

In these dark days as the Iranian regime intensifies repression, threatens mass killings, and tramples upon human rights, it seeks to strangle every voice of freedom and protest at its inception.

Even prisoners who have served their full sentences are re-tried and condemned to further years of imprisonment and torture.

This relentless crackdown takes place while the people of Iran, deprived even of the most basic necessities such as water and electricity, take to the streets in various cities every day in protest.

Yet, as history attests, the regime has always resorted to the same tool to confront the people's rightful demands: execution and intimidation. By sacrificing prisoners of conscience and creating an atmosphere of terror, it seeks to keep people from taking to the streets and pursuing their legitimate demands.

In such circumstances, our presence and activities around the world—bolstered by your support—are more vital than ever.

The conferences held in the Italian Parliament and Senate, along with the "Free Iran" gathering attended by prominent political and civic figures, demonstrated that the voice of the Iranian people has not been silenced; rather, it is now heard louder and more powerfully ... continued on p.3

CONFERENCE IN ROME IN SUPPORT OF THE IRANIAN PEOPLE



Amid the intensifying human rights violations in Iran, prominent political figures from across Europe and the United States gathered in Rome to express their concern. The conference, held on 31 July 2025, focused on the escalating crisis within the clerical regime and the international community's role in supporting

the Iranian people. The event took place just days after the Iranian regime executed political prisoners Mehdi Hassani and Behrouz Ehsani, supporters of the Iranian resistance movement. Despite pressure and threats, they remained steadfast and unyielding.

The theme ... continued on p.2

ITALIAN PARLIAMENT BACKS IRANIAN PEOPLE'S STRUGGLE FOR A DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC



At a significant session in the Italian Parliament on 30 July 2025, a broad coalition of parliamentarians, senators, and international figures

came together to address the escalating crisis in Iran and to explore the real path toward a free and democratic future. This ... continued on p.4



Conference in Rome in support of the Iranian people *continued from p.1*

of torture and death was repeatedly raised throughout the discussions.

In her keynote address, **Maryam Rajavi**, the President-elect of the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI), presented a comprehensive vision for a future democratic republic. She began by paying tribute to **Mehdi Hassani** and **Behrouz Ehsani**, describing them as heroes. She emphasised that these executions were not a sign of the regime's strength, but rather of its desperation in the face of widespread public dissent and organised resistance.

Charles Michel, former Prime Minister of Belgium and President of the European Council (2019–2024), delivered an emotional tribute to the movement, calling its courage an inspiration to democrats worldwide. "Your courage, your energy, your resilience inspires all of us," he said, noting that decades of oppression have failed to silence the Iranian people.

James Cleverly, former UK Foreign Secretary, stressed that sustainable leadership for Iran must come from its own people: "Leadership imposed from abroad cannot provide a lasting solution. It must come from the people and be accountable to them."

He praised the courage of Iranian women and students demanding freedom, saying: "I

have deep admiration for the young women and men of Iran who ask for nothing more than what others take for granted: a voice, respect, and equal rights."

The former UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in Iran sent a video message to the summit. **Dr Javaid Rehman** issued a chilling warning that Tehran is preparing another mass killing of political prisoners: "On July 7, a state-affiliated outlet openly called for repeating the 1988 massacre. There are real fears of mass executions today."

He recalled his 2024 findings documenting "summary, arbitrary, extrajudicial executions amounting to crimes against humanity and genocide" and said: "The regime has weaponised the death penalty to eliminate dissent. The international community failed to act in 1988. It must not fail again." He urged UN member states to establish an international investigative mechanism to hold perpetrators accountable and prevent "another silent and unreported massacre like 1988."

Stephen Rapp, former U.S. Ambassador-at-Large for Global Criminal Justice, delivered a stark message on the scale of repression in Iran: "The regime is weaponising executions to terrorise its own citizens, and we fear a repeat of the 1988 massacre."

Rapp called for a coordinated global effort

to ensure accountability for Tehran's atrocities: "We must gather evidence, identify perpetrators, and ensure they face justice wherever they set foot. The world cannot again turn a blind eye as it did in 1988, nor trade away justice for hollow promises on nuclear talks."

He assured Iranian victims and their families: "The day of justice will come for Iran. Just as tribunals brought war criminals in Rwanda and Bosnia to account, the architects of mass killings in Tehran will one day face their victims in court."

Matteo Renzi, former Prime Minister of Italy, expressed pride in hosting the Free Iran Summit in Rome and paid tribute to resistance martyrs Mehdi and Behrouz: "They died for your freedom and ours. We will not forget their names."

He concluded his remarks by saying: "Iran is not the land of massacres but of a great civilization, with a democracy that existed even before Greece. Now is the time for democracy, for justice, for peace. This is the time for a Free Iran."

Young voices also shared their pain and defiance. **Nazli Afshar**, a young Iranian raised in Italy, spoke of her personal connection to the regime's brutality.

There were many other speakers at the event. Unfortunately space does not allow covering them all.





IN A PUBLIC STATEMENT, GERMAN COMMITTEE FOR SOLIDARITY WITH A FREE IRAN EXPRESSES DEEP CONCERN ABOUT THE SECRET TRANSFER OF POLITICAL PRISONERS



The translation of the statement follows:

*According to reliable information, **Vahid Bani-Amarian, Pouya Ghobadi, Shahrokh Daneshvarkar, Mohammad Taghavi and Babak Alipour** – who had previously been sentenced to death in an opaque trial on charges of membership in the Iranian resistance and “rebellion against the government” – were violently separated from other prisoners on Friday 8 August and taken to an undisclosed location. Reports indicate that they may have been transferred to Ghezel Hesar Prison in Karaj, which is the site of executions.*

We are deeply concerned that this transfer may be a prelude to the immediate implementation of the death sentences.

These sentences were issued following judicial proceedings that lacked international standards of fair trial. Political charges, coerced confessions and the denial of independent defence render these rulings invalid and unacceptable from a human rights perspective.

We call on the Federal Government of Germany, the European Union, and all responsible human rights bodies within the United Nations – including the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Iran and the Human Rights Council – to take immediate action to clarify the situation of these five political prisoners and to prevent their executions.

Any silence or indifference in the face of such human rights violations sends the wrong signal to the Iranian government and endangers the lives of innocent citizens.

We demand the immediate halt of these death sentences, the release of all political prisoners, and the guarantee of respect for human rights in Iran.

Signatories:

Prof. Rita Süsmuth, former President of the German Federal Parliament (Bundestag)

Prof. Wolfgang Huber, former Head of the Protestant Church in Germany

Dr Franz Josef Jung, former Federal Minister of Defence

Leo Dautzenberg, former Member of the Bundestag, Chairman of the German Committee for Solidarity with a Free Iran

Martin Patzelt, former Member of the Bundestag

Prof. Horst Teltschik, former Adviser to the Chancellor and Chairman of the Munich Security Conference (1999–2008)

Prof. Christoph Degenhart, University of Leipzig – Faculty of Law, Distinguished Professor of Constitutional Law

Hermann Josef Scharf, Member of the State Parliament of Saarland

Diana Stöcker, former Member of the Bundestag

Thomas Lutze, former Member of the Bundestag

Marion Buckner, Director of the Counselling Centre for Human Rights and Gender Issues

Kathrin Bornmüller, Honorary President of the International Society for Human Rights

Wolfgang Holzzapfel, Chairman of the Human Rights Association called “17 June 1953”.

Editorial

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than ever on the international stage. These events proved that the Iranian nation’s call for justice knows no borders and that awakened consciences across the globe are ready to stand in solidarity.

Meanwhile, behind towering walls and iron bars, prisoners of conscience—despite immense pressure, deprivation, and brutal torture—continue the “Tuesdays Against Execution” campaign with unparalleled courage.

This action has not only resonated powerfully among the Iranian people but has also shaken the world’s conscience. Through their steadfastness, they send a clear and profound message to the Iranian people and the world: We are standing for freedom—stand with us.

Today, our duty is clear: wherever we are—whether in the streets of Iranian cities, in the avenues of exile, or in the halls of parliaments—we must, through exposure, solidarity, and collective effort, amplify and strengthen this voice. The road is difficult, but the vision is bright: a day when there is no more execution, no more dictatorship; a day when freedom and human dignity are the undeniable rights of all Iranians, as they should be for all human beings.



Italian parliament backs Iranian people's struggle for a democratic republic *continued from p.1*

conference, held at the heart of Italy's democratic institutions, focused on the regime's catastrophic human rights record, its destabilising role in the region, and the democratic alternative offered by the Iranian resistance movement.

Senator Giulio Terzi described the regime as one that “uses the death penalty on a daily basis to suppress any form of dissent”. He expressed deep outrage over the recent executions of Ehsani and Hassani, and referred to the 1988 massacre of 30,000 political prisoners as “a very dark chapter in world history that has so far remained without justice”. Terzi also sharply criticised analysts portraying the regime's new president as a “moderate”, calling it “shameful” to present such an individual as a “negotiating partner.”

Senator Lucio Malan, head of the majority caucus, emphasised Iran's grim record on executions and said: “Unfortunately, Iran has the highest number of executions; certainly compared to its population and perhaps even in the world.”

The conference reached consensus on the “Third Option” as the only viable policy towards Iran.

Charles Michel rejected both appeasement and foreign military intervention saying: “Appeasement does not work. Silence means complicity.”

A central theme of the conference was the call to place the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) on the list of terrorist organisations. The announcement of the Italian Senate majority's support for this measure was seen as a pivotal moment.



Senator Terzi described Iran under the mullahs as “a terrorist state.”

In her keynote speech, **Maryam Rajavi** thanked Italian lawmakers for their attention to “the urgent and critical situation in Iran.” Paying tribute to Behrouz Ehsani and Mehdi Hassani, supporters of the resistance movement recently executed, she stressed that these executions are not a sign of the regime's strength, but of its desperation in the face of the growing support of Iran's youth for the movement.

She emphasised that the spirit of uprising is surging across Iran and has even turned prisons into bastions of resistance.

She described this moment as a historic turning point, declaring: “This regime in its entirety now stands on the brink of collapse. A decisive moment has come that can transform Iran and reshape the region.”

Rajavi presented the “Third Option” – neither foreign military intervention nor appeasement, but change brought about by the Iranian people and their organised resistance movement – as the clear path forward.

She stated: “The people of Iran and the resistance movement do not want money or weapons to overthrow this regime. Their only demand is that no one stands with the regime.”

She described this solution as a definitive break from Iran's long history of dictatorship.

One after another, speakers condemned the regime's systematic use of the death penalty to silence dissent. Charles Michel, former President of the European Council, again underlined that these repressive measures are not signs of strength but proof of the regime's weakness and of the power of the Iranian people's resistance.



BEHROUZ EHSANI AND MEHDI HASSANI – BRAVE PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE EXECUTED BY THE FALLING REGIME



Two brave prisoners who had spent the past three years in dungeons of the mullahs' regime, were executed on 27 July 2025 without being granted a last visit from their families.

After the regime's final judicial verdict was issued, **Behrouz Ehsani** (right in the above photo) wrote in a message to the Iranian people: "Finally, after 22 months of uncertainty, they have now issued me a death sentence without any documentation. This execution system cannot do anything else. As I said during the interrogation, in the words of martyr **Khosrow Golsorkhi**, 'I will not bargain with anyone for my life', even at the age of 70 and I am not at all worried about the remaining 10% of my life. I am ready to let my insignificant life be the ransom for the liberation of the Iranian people."

In his message from prison on 5 June of this year, Behrouz said, "We will absolutely, absolutely not surrender to this bloody and criminal regime under any circumstances."

Mehdi Hassani also wrote in

a message from prison in April of this year: "Today, the regime is in the weakest stage of its shameful survival in the midst of internal and external crises. The state of society is at its most explosive and government news outlets admit that millions of people are in absolute poverty, to the point where they go to bed hungry at night and parents are ashamed that they cannot provide the minimum necessities of life for their children. At this critical historical moment, the responsibility of all of us is to draw a firm and clear line with the dictatorship. This responsibility has been placed on the shoulders of all freedom-loving members of the resistance movement, both abroad and at home."

After the news of their execution was published Mehdi's daughter **Maryam Hassani** said this about her father:

"My father was executed solely because he was a member of the opposition and for that reason alone. I am seeking justice for my father. Justice for a father who was executed without

guilt, without reason, without evidence or proof. The Islamic Republic must be held accountable for this crime.

Because of the oppression in his country, my father was forced away from a normal life and his family and entered a struggle in which he gave his life.

"My father never accepted to bow his head before the regime of the Islamic Republic.

My father's story is not the end – it is the beginning of a struggle in which I now stand alongside other justice-seekers, to say No to executions, to achieve justice and freedom and to fight for a free Iran of tomorrow. Until the day this regime is gone, I will never stop struggling."

In a poem handwritten by Mehdi Hassani on 8 November 2024 (pictured here) he wrote:

... continued on p.6





IRAN REGIME'S INEFFICIENCY AND WIDESPREAD PROTESTS

The regime's handling of water and electricity supplies reveals deep structural flaws. Decades of corruption, mismanagement and short-term political projects have destroyed natural resources and infrastructure. Instead of investing in modernisation or sustainable technologies, the state has prioritised military and ideological goals. Billions of dollars were diverted to nuclear and missile programs while public utilities collapsed.

The IRGC also used dam construction and energy projects as tools for patronage, enrichment and political control, disregarding scientific and environmental warnings.

Decision-making remains opaque, concentrated in the hands of unelected clerics and military elites, leaving no accountability for disastrous policies.

State media blame foreign enemies and climate change



but people see corruption and incompetence as the true causes.

The failure to provide the most basic services – water, electricity, clean air – has become symbolic of the regime's broader inability to govern.

This has led to escalating waves of protests across the country. While initial protests focus on water or power, the

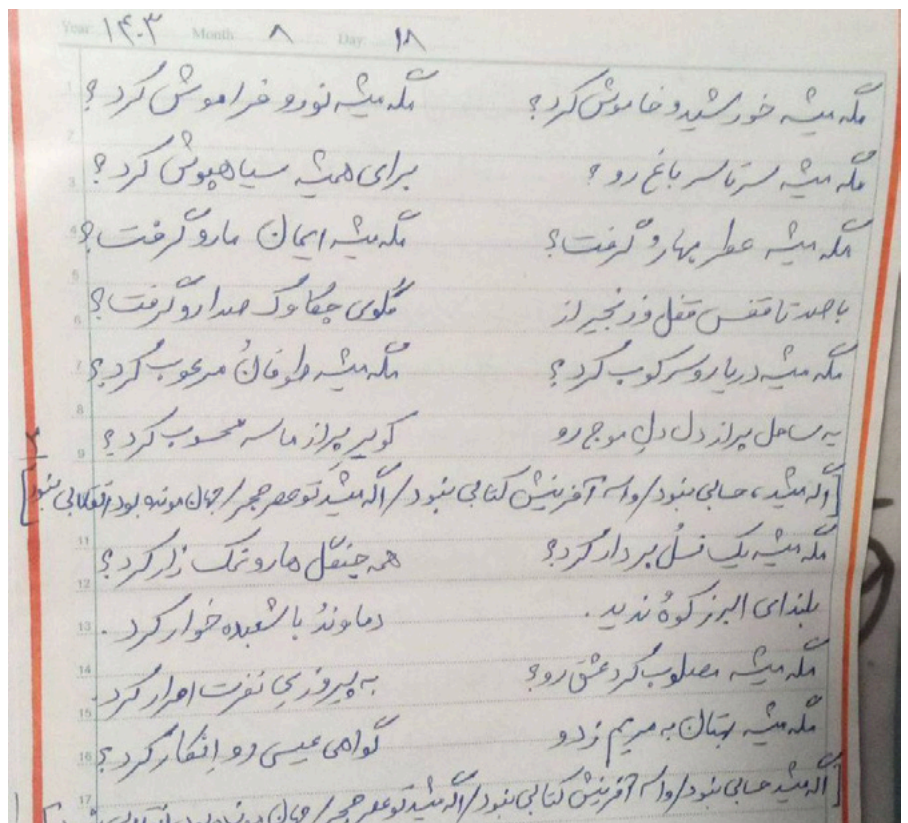
anger quickly transforms into political demands. Slogans shift from "We want water" to "Down with dictatorship".

The regime responds with repression, arrests, and internet blackouts, further fuelling public outrage.

Public protests have moved beyond environmental or economic grievances, evolving into a nationwide struggle for political change.

Behrouz Ehsani and Mehdi Hassani brave prisoners of conscience executed by the falling regime *continued from p.5*

*Can one ever turn off the sun?
Or make the light be forgotten?
Can the whole garden
Be draped in endless shadow?
Can the scent of spring be stolen?
Or the faith within us taken away?
Can the sea be tamed,
Or the storm made afraid?
If that were possible,
Creation would have no book,
The world would still dwell
In the Stone Age, with no revolutions.
Can a whole generation be hanged,
Or all forests turned to salt?
Can love be crucified,
And hatred crowned victorious?
Can Mary be slandered,
And Jesus' testimony denied?
If that were possible,
Creation would have no book,
The world would still dwell.*





NEWS IN BRIEF

POLITICAL PRISONERS TRANSFERRED TO FACILITY KNOWN FOR EXECUTIONS



The regime ruling Iran is preparing for another massacre of political prisoners. On Friday, 8 August 2025, authorities transferred five political prisoners, sentenced to death for opposition to the regime, to a notorious execution site. The destination, Qezel Hesar Prison, is particularly frightening because it was the site of the brutal state murder of two other opposition figures just two weeks before, making the threat to the five men immediate and undeniable. The five prisoners are:

Vahid Bani Amerian, 33, who has a master's degree in management.

Babak Alipour, 34, is a law graduate who has previously been sentenced to four years in prison for his activism.

Shahrokh Daneshvarkar, 58, is a civil engineer.

Pouya Ghobadi, 33, is an electrical engineer who has been arrested twice before.

Mohammad Taghavi, 59, is a veteran political prisoner from the 1980s and 1990s.

80TH WEEK OF "NO TO EXECUTION TUESDAYS" MARKED INSIDE 48 PRISONS ACROSS IRAN



In the 80th week of "No to Execution Tuesdays" campaign, prisoners in 48 prisons and citizens in dozens of cities across Iran protested against the death penalty.

On Tuesday, 5 August 2025, the 80th week

of the nationwide campaign "No to Execution Tuesdays" was marked by coordinated protests inside 48 prisons across Iran, with parallel demonstrations in dozens of cities. This ongoing campaign has become a powerful symbol of resistance against the Iranian regime's machinery of repression and capital punishment.

Inside the prisons, inmates staged hunger strikes to protest several alarming developments: the sharp rise in death sentences and executions, the amputation of fingers of three prisoners in Urmia Prison, and the continued lack of information about dozens of political prisoners held in Ward 4 of Ghezel Hesar Prison following a brutal crackdown.

FIVE FEMALE TEACHERS IN KERMAN SENTENCED TO PRISON



Five female teachers and three other union activists in Kerman have been sentenced to a combined 8½ years in prison on national security and anti-state propaganda charges.

Eight teachers' union activists in Iran's southeastern province of Kerman – including five female teachers – have been sentenced to prison by Branch 1 of the Kerman Revolutionary Court on charges related to "national security".

The women sentenced are **Fatemeh Yazdani**, **Mitra Nikpour**, **Zahra Azizi**, **Leila Afshar** and **Shahnaz Rezaei Sharifabadi**. According to the verdict, each has received six months in prison for "membership in a hostile group with the intent to disrupt national security" and an additional four months for "propaganda against the state".

The remaining defendants – **Majid Naderi**, **Hossein Rashidi Zarandi** and **Mohammadreza Behzadpour** – received similar sentences, bringing the total combined prison term for the group to 8 years and 6 months.

These activists had previously been summoned to the Kerman Public and Revolutionary Prosecutor's Office on 9 June 2025.



TESTIMONY OF POLITICAL PRISONERS SURVIVING THE “BLOODY SATURDAY OF GHEZEL HESAR”



*Excerpt from a report by
Gobrokh Iraei*

We, twenty political prisoners of Ward 20/3, Unit 4 of Ghezel Hesar Prison, testify that on this day [26 July 2025], all our fundamental rights – from the right to life to dignity, health, and fair trial – were openly and violently violated. This event culminated in the wrongful execution of our two cellmates, **Behrouz Ehsani** and **Mehdi Hassani**, without a lawyer or a fair judicial process. According to the former head of Prosecutor’s Office, Branch 33, this deprivation was deliberate.

At 7:45 am, several plainclothes officers entered the hall under the pretext of a “water outage.” Minutes later, over 50 masked officers and several unmasked ones stormed in, led by Esmail Farajnejad (Deputy for Health at the prison), with Ghasem Sahraei (Deputy Officer, Unit 3) playing the main role in the assault. Others present: Kamarei (Head of Intelligence Protection), Ashraf-Abadi (Intelligence Protection official), Mohammadi Sahraei

(Deputy for Finance) incited the forces with sexual slurs and death threats against prisoners: “We’ll kill every single one of you, you whores!”

Officers beat prisoners with fists, kicks, and batons. Those taken included:

Khosro Rahnama, Ali Moezi, Mohammad Shafiei, Reza Salmansadeh (slammed into a wall despite previous internal surgeries), **Mostafa Ramazani, Reza Mohammadi Tameh, Arsham Rezaei** (kicked in the back causing blood in urine for several days), **Mehdi Hassani, Behrouz Ehsani, Abolhassan Montazer, Akbar Bagheri** (meniscus injury), **Asadollah Hadi** (68 years old, heart patient, head injury), **Zartosht Ahmadi Ragheb.**

Saeed Masouri was dragged out by Farajnejad. **Ahmadreza Haeri**, protesting “What kind of savagery is this?”, was then beaten along with **Loghman Aminpour, Hamzeh Sourai** (broken, infected toenail), **Meysam Dehbahnzadeh** (boot marks), and **Sepehr Emamjomeh** (broken glasses).

All 20 of us, barefoot and with torn, bloodied clothes, were marched past the Unit Chief’s office. Plainclothes agents (likely from the Ministry of Intelligence) were present. Ali Moezi boarded the minibus first, followed by others,

including Behrouz Ehsani, who told Sahraei: “You’re the ones who will be gone soon ...” – for which he was repeatedly struck in the head and neck.

When Ehsani was taken towards a van, Mehdi Hassani stepped forward from the back of the bus and, loudly and repeatedly, shouted: “I am Mehdi Hassani” – just like Spartacus declaring, “I am Spartacus.”

A masked officer took him off the bus as well. Saeed Masouri had already been separated earlier.

That next day, Ehsani and Hassani were executed in the special ward of Unit 1. We received news of their execution five days later. We believe this was retaliation for the “No to execution Tuesdays” campaign and resistance to Masouri’s transfer.

Some prisoners’ Qurans had been torn and thrown to the cell floor. We hold senior intelligence and judicial officials directly responsible for this crime and warn that silence will pave the way for larger-scale executions.

We, the survivors of the Bloody Saturday of Ghezel Hesar, will go on hunger strike on Tuesday, 12 August 2025 (Week 81 of “Tuesdays Against Execution”), in memory of Hassani and Ehsani.

**Join ILA’s Mehregan (Autumn) Celebration
Saturday 13 September from 14:00 to 19:00**

**ILEC Conference Centre, 47 Lillie Road, London SW6 1UD
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