



# International Liberty Association Newsletter

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## EDITORIAL

Over the past four decades, the policy of the Iranian regime has rested on two main pillars: internal repression and the export of extremism and terrorism to neighbouring countries along with the advancement of its nuclear program.

These policies have not only pushed the region toward instability but have also turned the people of Iran into hostages of the regime's reckless decisions.

Appeasement strategies by foreign governments and the failure of international bodies to respond to gross human rights violations—under the illusion that such measures might lead to a change in the regime's behaviour—have instead emboldened repression, executions, the pursuit of weapons programs, and the expansion of proxy networks. This inaction has only encouraged human rights abusers and prolonged the humanitarian crises in Iran.

Since the outbreak of war, what has been most consistently neglected is the lives, safety, and dignity of ordinary people. The regime considers its primary enemy to be the Iranian people; thus, its absolute priority remains securitization and repression.

In recent days, as missile and drone attacks threaten civilian lives, the government has actively obstructed efforts to protect them. A few examples illustrate this alarming trend:

After a missile struck near Dizel Abad Prison in Kermanshah, prisoners who requested a ... *continued on p.2*

## “DON'T LEAVE US ALONE”

**Maryam Hassani**, daughter of political prisoner **Mehdi Hassani**, spoke in Berlin about her father's situation. Mehdi Hassani, 48, was sentenced to death in September 2024 by Branch 26 of the Tehran Revolutionary Court, presided over by Judge Iman Afshari. His charges include moharebeh (waging war against God), corruption on Earth and membership of the main opposition group. He was arrested in September 2022 and later transferred to Evin Prison.

Maryam, who has fled Iran for her safety, told Italy's Mediaset network that her father is at imminent risk of execution. She said their last conversation focused more on the people of Iran than on himself.

She stated: “Even in prison, my father has not surrendered. His voice, full of hope, continues to give me strength. We believe we can save him – but we need global support.



International pressure works, but silence destroys hope; don't leave us alone.”

Mehdi Hassani and his co-defendant, **Behrouz Ehsani**, are currently being held in Ghezel Hesar Prison, known for carrying out executions. In recent months, more than 1,000 executions have taken place in Iran, raising serious concerns about a renewed wave of political repression.

## OVER 500 GLOBAL FIGURES AND NGOS URGE UN ACTION TO STOP EXECUTIONS IN IRAN

A coalition of 514 global figures and NGOs have now signed the urgent appeal, calling on the United Nations to intervene to halt the imminent executions of political prisoners in Iran. The expanded list

of signatories underscores growing international concern over Tehran's escalating campaign of politically motivated executions.

In a collective appeal, Iran Human ... *continued on p.2*



**Editorial**

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safer location were met with gunfire (see page 7).

Across various cities, where no public shelters exist, state forces blocked people from entering subway stations to seek refuge and even shut the metro doors. At the same time, by setting up checkpoints and imposing exit tolls, they have hindered civilians fleeing target zones leading to massive traffic jams.

These actions reveal not just incompetence, but deep disregard for human life.

Amid this chaos, the regime has arrested human rights activists and cut off internet access, deliberately disrupting the public's access to vital information. This makes it impossible for people to take informed steps to protect themselves.

The Iranian people have repeatedly warned that continued repression and violations of human rights will not bring stability, but rather violence, poverty, and war. Their demands are clear: peace, dignity, security, and freedom.

The international community has a responsibility to recognize these demands and to make respect for human rights a prerequisite for any engagement with the Iranian government. Now more than ever, principles such as human dignity, freedom from fear, and the right to life must be at the heart of global decision-making.

The people of Iran deserve a future that is humane, free, and peaceful—and their voices must be heard, not merely as a political matter, but as a universal and moral imperative.

**Over 500 global figures and NGOs urge UN action to stop executions in Iran**

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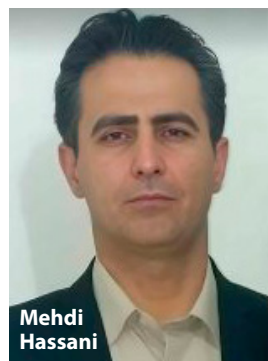
Rights Monitor joins 309 international figures – including UN experts, Nobel laureates, former diplomats, legal professionals, NGOs, and human rights organisations – to call on the United Nations to take immediate action to prevent a new wave of politically motivated executions in Iran. The signatories strongly condemned the Iranian regime's intensified campaign targeting political prisoners and urged urgent UN intervention to halt the state-sanctioned killings.

*The following is the full text of the statement:*

**Execution Spree in Iran and Confirmation of Death Sentences for Activists Behrouz Ehsani and Mehdi Hassani**

We, the undersigned international experts and NGOs, unequivocally condemn the Iranian authorities' escalating campaign of politically motivated executions. These acts represent a grave assault on human rights and a deliberate strategy to suppress dissent.

Behrouz Ehsani, 69, and Mehdi Hassani, 48, are in



Mehdi Hassani

imminent danger after the Supreme Court upheld their death sentences and turned

down their request for judicial review. Their charges include "membership of the PMOI/MEK", "propaganda" in support of the organisation, "preparing and sending videos to the organisation",

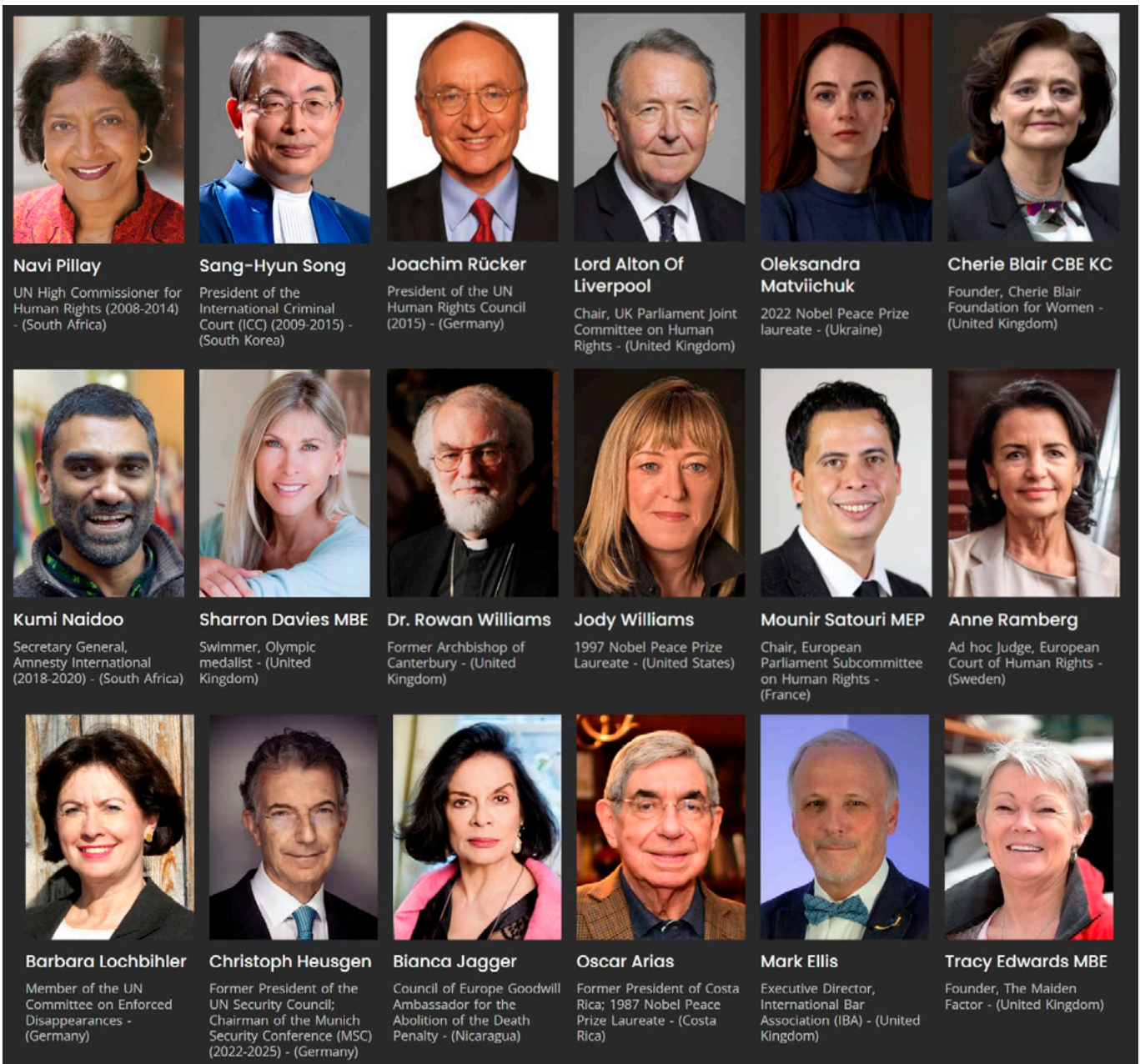
all of which are defined in the regime's legal system as "enmity against God," and "corruption on earth". Their kangaroo trial on 10 August 2024, lasting just five minutes, was a travesty of justice: they were denied legal counsel for nearly two years, tortured, and silenced during proceedings. Allegations of torture – including beatings, prolonged solitary confinement, and threats against their families – were ignored.

We demand an immediate halt to their execution. The international community must not remain silent.

Dozens of political prisoners, including **Abolhassan Montazer, Akbar Daneshvarkar, Babak Alipour, Mohammad Taghavi Sangdehi, Pouya Ghobadi, Vahid Bani Amerian, Pakhshan Azizi, Verisheh Moradi and Sharifeh Mohammadi**, face imminent execution following grossly unfair trials. Several have been forcibly transferred to Qezel Hesar Prison, a notorious execution site. Since President Masoud Pezeshkian assumed office in August 2024, over 1,000 executions have been carried out, targeting women, juvenile offenders, ethnic and religious minorities, and dissidents, in a calculated effort to prevent a renewed uprising and crush demands for democratic change.

The Iranian authorities' systematic targeting of political prisoners is rooted in a culture of impunity, fuelled by the failure to hold perpetrators accountable for past atrocities. This was documented in the July 2024 landmark Atrocity Crimes report by UN Special Rapporteur on Iran, **Prof. Javid Rehman**, which found that the 1981–82 mass killings and the 1988 massacre constituted

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Just some of the 514 signatories calling for an end to executions in Iran

### Over 500 global figures and NGOs urge UN action to stop executions in Iran

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crimes against humanity and genocide. No Iranian official has been held accountable for these atrocities; instead, the perpetrators have been promoted to the highest levels in the government, judiciary, and security apparatus.

Iran's crackdown on political prisoners flagrantly violates international human rights law, including the rights to a fair trial and freedom from torture. The courage of prisoners like Ehsani and Hassani, reflected in their participation in the

"No to Execution Tuesdays" hunger strikes, staged in more than 40 prisons in Iran every week since January 2024, underscores their defiance against such brutality.

We stand in solidarity with Iran's political prisoners and their families and are committed to amplifying their voices until justice is achieved.

We welcome the European Parliament's 3 April 2025 resolution, condemning the death sentences for Ehsani and Hassani, and the UN Special Rapporteur's 6 February 2025 letter to the Iranian authorities, warning against

the violation of their rights.

We urgently call upon the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, all relevant UN Special Procedures, the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Iran (FFMI), and all democratic governments to intervene to halt these executions.

We encourage the international community to identify and sanction Iranian officials responsible for human rights violations, and to make the abolition of the death penalty and the release of political prisoners a condition for improving relations with Iran.



## PREVENTION OF MEDICAL TREATMENT IN EVIN PRISON



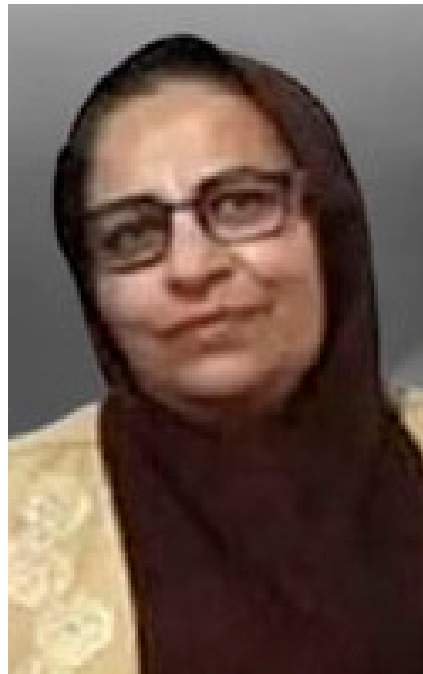
**Marzieh Farsi**, a political prisoner held in the women's ward of Evin Prison, is facing a deterioration of her physical condition due to cancer and the lack of adequate medical care. According to received reports, she suffers from severe and debilitating dizziness, and her treatment has been disrupted due to insufficient healthcare facilities inside the prison.

An informed source reported that the prison doctor had prescribed medications to control her symptoms, but prison authorities have refused to deliver these medications to her. This neglect has further exacerbated Marzieh Farsi's critical health condition.

Born in 1967 in Tehran and a mother of several children, Marzieh Farsi was first arrested in 2019 in Shahr-e Rey and sentenced to five years in prison. After serving three years, she was released in March 2023. However, she was re-arrested on August 21, 2023, coinciding with the anniversary of nationwide protests, and transferred to Ward 209 of Evin Prison.

Prior to her latest arrest, Marzieh Farsi was undergoing cancer treatment. According to sources, during her illness, she also developed heart problems and was diagnosed with a heart condition by physicians.

Reports indicate that Marzieh Farsi was subjected to pressure and interrogation during her previous detentions, leading to severe physical health issues. Despite her urgent need for treatment, necessary medical interventions have yet to be provided.



**Zahra Safaei**, born in 1962 in Tehran, is a former political prisoner from the 1980s who was imprisoned for eight years due to her sympathy for the opposition to the regime. Her father, **Hassan-Ali Safaei**, a respected merchant and political prisoner during both the Shah's regime and the Islamic Republic, was executed in Evin Prison in 1981.

Zahra Safaei remains a victim of the regime's brutal repression, having endured years of imprisonment, severe physical health crises, and systematic psychological torture.

On 13 September 2023, Zahra Safaei was arrested at her home in Tehran, along with her daughter **Parastoo Moeini** and her son **Mohammad-Masoud Moeini**. They were transferred to Ward 209 of Evin Prison – a notorious section known for solitary confinement and intense interrogations.

In a show trial held on 18 November 2023, all three were sentenced to five years in prison each on charges of “assembly and collusion against national security through connections with the PMOI”.

Zahra Safaei's health condition is critically deteriorating.

In June 2020, while imprisoned in Qarchak Prison, she suffered a heart attack. After months of obstruction by prison authorities, she was finally transferred to a hospital where two stents were placed in her arteries.

Despite her heart disease, high blood pressure, and frequent physical weaknesses, she continues to be held in inhumane prison conditions. Denial of proper medical treatment is a blatant violation of international human rights conventions.

Zahra Safaei's story is a stark testimony to the Iranian regime's ruthless violence and utter disregard for basic human rights. The suffering endured by her and her children is a heavy price paid for the cause of freedom in today's Iran.

We call on the United Nations and all human rights organisations to demand the immediate and unconditional release of Zahra Safaei and her children. Zahra Safaei's voice must not be silenced. Her courage must echo across the world.



## TIDE OF EXECUTIONS AND SYSTEMATIC SUPPRESSION OF BALUCH IN IRAN



Khodanur Lojei (pictured with his son), was killed during the 2022 Zahedan massacre. A picture of him with his hands tied to a flagpole with a bottle of water put in front him out of his reach became a symbol of protests in Iran.

The Baluch, a mainly Sunni Muslim ethnic and religious minority in Iran's Sistan and Baluchestan province, have faced systematic repression over the past three years, including mass arrests, executions, and enforced disappearances. UN reports and human rights organizations, such as OHCHR, have raised concerns about "enforced disappearance operations" targeting ethnic minorities like the Baluch, who

often endure arbitrary arrests, torture, unfair trials, transfers to unknown locations, and the risk of execution.

Executions of Baluch individuals have surged dramatically, despite their population being only about 5% of Iran's total. They account for 11–20% of all executions, with young protesters being especially targeted since 2022. In 2023, at least 184 Baluch prisoners were executed across

26 cities, including 54 in Zahedan Central Prison and 31 in Birjand Prison. Amnesty International reported Iran executed 853 people in 2023 – the highest in eight years – with 138 Baluch among them, highlighting disproportionate pressure on this minority.

Many executions followed unfair trials characterized by torture, prolonged solitary confinement, forced confessions, denial of legal counsel

and secret executions. Over a 120-day period in 2022, at least 81 Baluch prisoners were executed on fabricated charges.

Notable cases include 18-year-old protester **Shoaib Mirbalochzehi Rigi**, executed after torture and forced confession, and young protesters **Mansour** and **Nezamoldin Hout**. Four Baluch women were executed in Zahedan and Birjand prisons in 2023.

On 30 September 2022, security forces opened fire on worshippers during Friday prayers in Zahedan, killing dozens and injuring hundreds in the "Bloody Friday" incident, followed by internet blackouts and repression of religious leaders.

In Sistan and Baluchestan, many rely on cross-border porter work and fuel carrying, which often result in deaths due to indiscriminate shootings by military forces; at least nine fuel carriers were killed in 2024 with no accountability.

In 2024, at least one Baluch minor was executed, and many young protesters remain detained, tortured, and coerced into false confessions. Iran continues to execute minors, violating international standards.

The ongoing executions, torture, unfair trials, and repression reveal structural discrimination and state violence against the Baluch. The international community is urged to investigate the "Bloody Friday" killings, halt executions of Baluch protesters, and ensure prisoners have access to independent legal counsel and fair trials.





## PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITIES ACROSS EUROPE CONDEMN HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN IRAN

In one of the most significant international campaigns in support of human rights in Iran, parliamentary majorities and leading lawmakers from several European countries have issued coordinated statements denouncing the Iranian regime’s widespread repression and expressing strong support for the Iranian people’s democratic aspirations:

**United Kingdom:** 560 lawmakers, including 230 Members of Parliament (House of Commons) and 330 Members of the House of Lords.

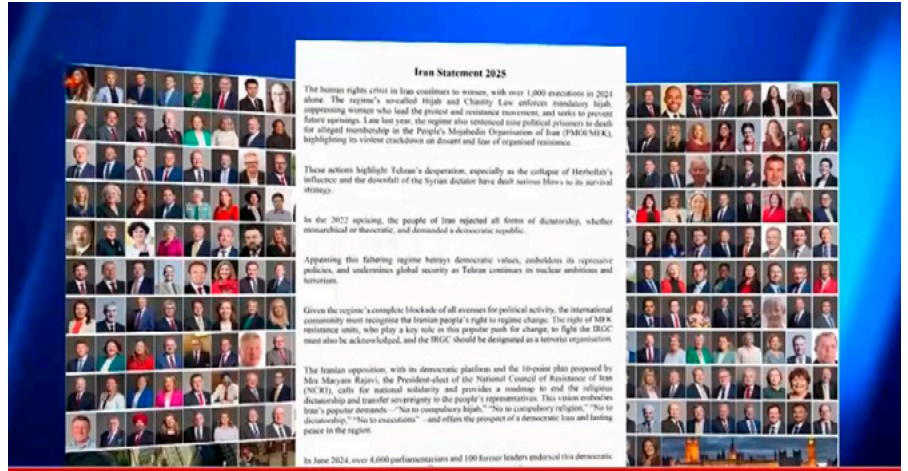
**Netherlands:** 38 senators out of 75 in the Dutch Senate, including 6 faction leaders and 8 committee chairs.

**Iceland:** 32 out of 63 members of parliament, including 3 committee chairs, 2 deputy speakers, and 6 former ministers.

**Italy:** A majority of members of the Italian Parliament.

**Geneva** (Switzerland): 51 out of 100 members of the Grand Council of Geneva.

Each of these statements centres around a shared concern: condemning the grave and systematic human rights



violations in Iran and calling for international support for the Iranian people’s pursuit of freedom and democracy.

The UK parliamentary statement describes the Iranian regime as being in a state of “desperation and fear”, portraying the declaration as a historic document and a call to the conscience of the international community to stand with the Iranian people.

The Dutch Senate’s statement highlights more than 1,000 executions in 2024 and condemns the regime’s repressive “Hijab and Chastity Law”, which it says enforces not only mandatory veiling but broader police-state control over society. The senators also express support for the

platform of Iran’s democratic opposition, which calls for “No to compulsory hijab, No to compulsory religion, and No to compulsory government” and backs the “No to Execution” campaign.

Lawmakers in Iceland and Italy also emphasized the urgency of ending state violence and executions, pledging their solidarity with civil and democratic movements in Iran.

In its powerful statement, the Grand Council of Geneva urges the Swiss government to adopt a courageous stance and abandon its policy of appeasement toward the Iranian regime – a policy that, they say, has only prolonged suffering and instability.

## DAY SIX OF ISRAELI STRIKES ON IRAN: AN OVERVIEW OF EVENTS

On the sixth day of military conflict between Iran and Israel, multiple locations across Iran came under attack. The hostilities, which began in the early hours of Friday, June 13, with Israeli airstrikes on Iranian territory, have since spread to 21 provinces. According to reports, at least 10 people were killed in yesterday’s attacks. As of

18 June, the total number of killed and injured over the past six days has risen to 1,968, including 639 fatalities and 1,329 wounded.

As Israeli military strikes on Iranian territory continued, various infrastructures and facilities were targeted yesterday in the provinces of Zanjan, Fars, Tehran, Isfahan, Hamedan, Alborz,

East Azerbaijan, Semnan, Kermanshah, Mazandaran, Khuzestan, Ilam, Qom, Bushehr, Gilan, and Qazvin. However the city of Tehran was the primary target of the attacks.

Yesterday, the spokesperson for the Iranian Red Crescent announced that 21 provinces have been affected since the onset of the Israeli attacks.



## NEWS IN BRIEF

### YOUNG WOMAN ABDUCTED AND KILLED IN IRAN



The body of 24-year-old Elaheh Hossein-Nejad was discovered on the outskirts of Tehran 11 days after she vanished on her way home from work. She was known as a kind and hardworking young woman. She lived in Islamshahr district, of Tehran where she also cared for her disabled brother. On Sunday, 25 May 2025, she called her family to say she was almost home; however she went missing after that phone call.

After nearly two weeks of searching by her family and friends, her body was found in a remote area near the airport. She had been stabbed multiple times in the chest. Police later announced they had arrested a suspect who had allegedly posed as a rideshare driver and murdered Elaheh during a robbery attempt. But contradictory state narratives raise fears of secret services' involvement in her murder.

### KERMANSHAH PRISON MASSACRE

In a shocking escalation of repression inside Iran, regime security forces opened fire on inmates in Dizel-Abad Prison in Kermanshah, killing at least 10 and wounding over 30 others, according to early reports from within the prison. The massacre unfolded after

panic erupted following an Israeli airstrike on a nearby missile site operated by the Iranian Ministry of Defence.

The explosion reportedly shattered glass and shook the walls of the prison, located adjacent to the targeted military facility. Amid fears of further blasts and possible damage to the prison structure, inmates protested and demanded to be moved to a safer location. Rather than de-escalate, prison authorities unleashed brutal force.

According to eyewitness accounts, the regime's anti-riot Special Units responded to the unrest not with negotiation or evacuation, but with live ammunition.

"The special forces opened fire directly at unarmed, defenceless inmates who were merely trying to flee a danger zone. It was a deliberate and cold-blooded act" said a preliminary report sourced from within the prison.

### POLITICAL PRISONER EXPOSES SYSTEMATIC PREPARATIONS BEHIND EXECUTIONS IN IRAN



In a powerful open letter addressed to **Dr Mai Sato**, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Iran, long-serving political prisoner **Saeed Masouri** reveals the concealed and systematic practices that paved the way for executions in Iran.

Masouri, who has endured 25 years of imprisonment under the Iranian regime, warns of an "unprecedented wave" of executions – more than 170 in May alone – and calls on international human rights institutions, including the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, to take immediate and decisive action.

His letter outlines how executions in Iran are preceded by a series of human rights violations, including psychological torture, denial of legal counsel, fabricated charges, coerced confessions, and sham trials – what he terms the "hidden preludes to the crime".

### NATIONWIDE STRIKE BY TRUCK DRIVERS



Iran's Truckers and Heavy Vehicle Drivers Union released a statement marking the sixth day of the strike, confirming that 11 drivers and truck owners had been detained in Kermanshah, western Iran.

The union called for their immediate and unconditional release, saying, "Repression, arrest, and threats are not a response to legitimate demands – they are a sign of desperation in the face of our growing call for justice."



## WIDESPREAD INTERNATIONAL PROTESTS AND EXHIBITIONS ACROSS EUROPE AND CANADA DEMAND AN END TO EXECUTIONS IN IRAN

Over the past month, a wave of protest actions and public exhibitions has swept across numerous cities in Europe and Canada, organized by Iranian communities and human rights activists to condemn the escalating number of executions in Iran and to demand an immediate halt to this brutal practice.

These events – ranging from symbolic exhibitions, silent protests, and street campaigns – have taken place in major cities such as London, Paris, Berlin, Oslo, Stockholm, Amsterdam, Brussels, Vienna, Zurich, Rome, Toronto, Vancouver, and Montreal.

In London, a prominent exhibition was held in Trafalgar Square, featuring images of those executed by the regime, testimonies from survivors of



political imprisonment, and powerful visual representations of the regime’s machinery of repression. Similar displays in Paris and Berlin drew large crowds and media attention, as participants called for international action to hold the Iranian authorities accountable for crimes against humanity.

Activists highlighted the alarming rate of executions in 2024 – over 1,000 cases, many of them political prisoners, ethnic minorities, or

young protestors. The protests called on governments, the UN, and international human rights organizations to cut ties with the regime, increase sanctions on key perpetrators, and support the Iranian people’s right to life, justice, and freedom.

These grassroots efforts are part of a broader global campaign aligning with the slogan: “No to Execution – No to Tyranny”.

The widespread and coordinated nature of these actions reflects the growing determination of the Iranian diaspora and human rights defenders to expose the atrocities of the Iranian regime and to stand in solidarity with those fighting for a democratic and humane future in Iran.



### 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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