

HUMAN RIGHTS IN IRAN

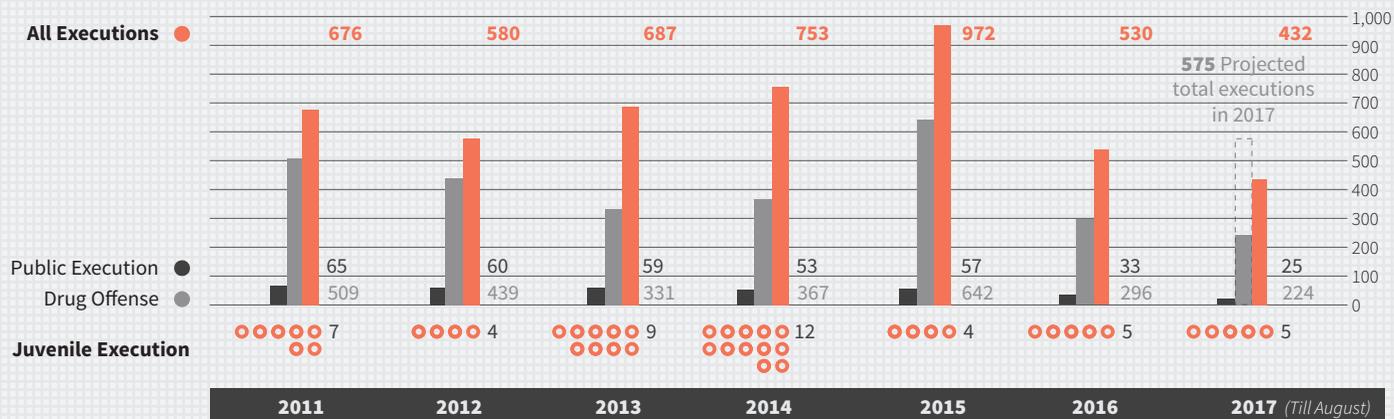
IMPACT IRAN

The sustained attention of United Nations has provided opportunities for human rights improvement in Iran, *but the situation in the country remains dire.*

THE DEATH PENALTY

Iran remains the **world leader in executions per capita**. Capital offense trials consistently **fail to meet fair trial standards**. Some executions are carried out

in public. Most executions are for nonviolent drug-related offenses, which is not permitted under international law. Authorities also **continue to execute juveniles** yearly.



SOURCE: IRAN HUMAN RIGHTS

Evidence of International Impact

United Nations human rights bodies have spoken out strongly against the death penalty for drug-related offenses in Iran, which account for approximately **60%** of executions in the country. In July 2017, Iran's parliament passed an amendment to the drug law which, if approved and implemented, would eliminate the death penalty for a large number of drug-related offenses. The amendment must now be approved by Iran's Guardian Council.

FREE EXPRESSION, RELIGION, AND ARBITRARY DETENTIONS

National laws and practices continue to severely **restrict fundamental freedoms**, especially the right to freedoms of expression and religion. Journalists, social media activists, human rights defenders, and religious practitioners continue to be harassed, detained, and sentenced to harsh prison terms for criticizing the government or their expressing options and beliefs.

Cases of Note



On 14 September 2016, an appeals court upheld a death sentence against **Sina Dehghan** for allegedly "insulting the Prophet" of Islam on a messaging application. Dehghan claimed his confession and expressions of remorse were spurred by interrogators telling him these actions would lead to a pardon



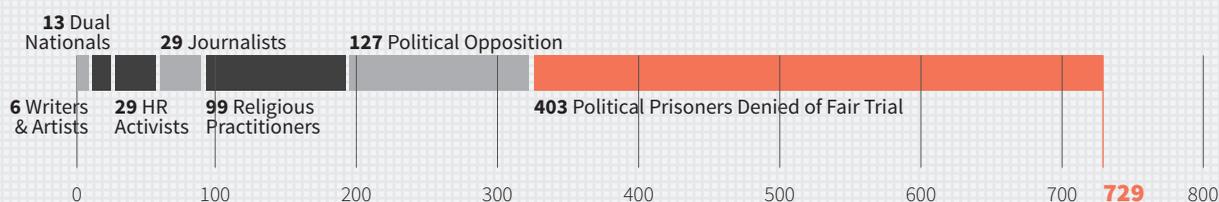
On 10 August 2017 authorities executed **Alireza Tajiki** for a homicide and rape he reportedly committed when he was 15 years old. His trial was grossly unfair, relying on confessions allegedly coerced through severe beatings and suspension torture.



On 18 October 2016, an appeals court upheld a six-year sentence for **Esmail Abdi** for his work as the head of the Iranian Teachers Union. Abdi helped organize several strikes to protest low teachers' wages.

Evidence of International Impact

On 10 July 2017, after the UN Special Rapporteur on human rights in Iran raised concern, authorities provided emergency medical care for human rights defender **Arash Sadeghi**. Sadeghi was in critical condition after a more than month long hunger strike protesting the arbitrary detention of his wife. Authorities had previously blocked Sadeghi's medical care



SOURCE: IRAN PRISON ATLAS

WOMEN'S RIGHTS

As a result of laws and state police, **women in Iran continue to experience discrimination in most aspects of public and private life.**

Women in Government

17
/289

Seats held by women in Parliament

► **EXECUTIVE BRANCH** The Guardian Council blocked all women candidates from running in the 2017 presidential election. Rouhani appointed no women to his cabinet.

► **JUDICIARY** Women are not legally allowed to be judges in Iran

► **CITY COUNCILS** During the 2017 elections, women made up 18,000 of 269,000 candidates for city or village office. Results were mixed:

415

Women elected to office in Sistan-Balochistan

▼ **34%**

Decrease in the number of women elected to city councils compared to the 2013 elections

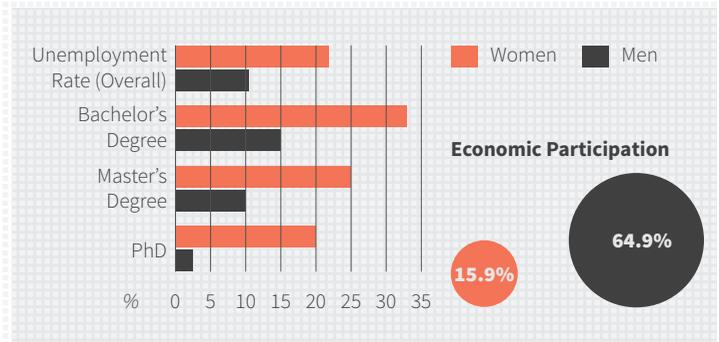
▼ **16**

Number of women elected to public office decreased in 16 provincial capitals. It increased in 11, including Tehran.

▲ **11**

Women's rights within the education system and marriage are not equal to men. Women continue to have dramatically low levels of economic and political participation.

Women and Unemployment



SOURCE: HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH

World Economic Forum Gender Gap Index in Iran 2016

The Global Gender Gap Index is an index designed to measure gender equality in 144 major and emerging economies.

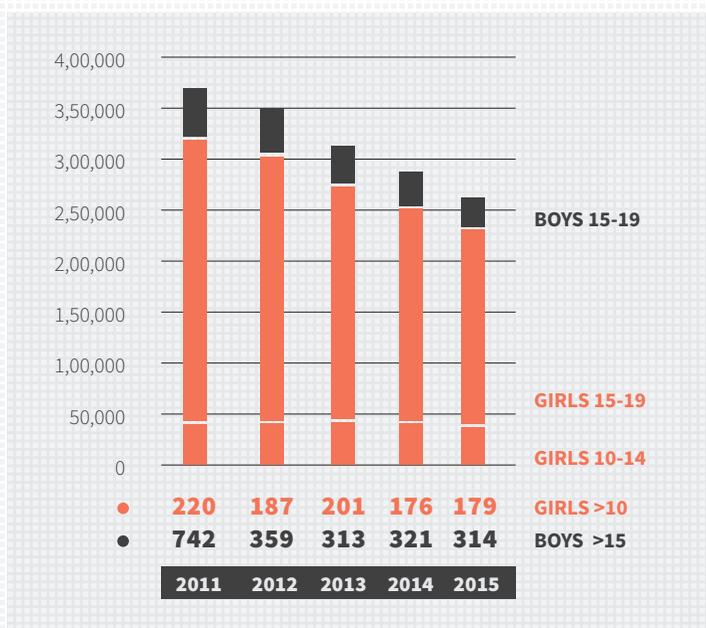
98/144
Health and Survival

94/144
Educational Attainment

140/144
Economic Participation

136/144
Political Empowerment

CHILD MARRIAGE



SOURCE: IRANIAN STATISTICS ORGANIZATION

Child Marriage Records

IN 2015-16, UNICEF ESTIMATES

17%
Iranian girls were married before the age of 18

3%
Iranian girls were married by 15

36,938
Recorded marriages involved girls under the age of 15

196,592
recorded marriages involved girls under the aged 15-19

Evidence of International Impact

The international community at Iran's Universal Periodic Review and the Special Rapporteur on Iran has repeatedly raised alarm at Iran's child marriage rate. As a result, several members of Parliament have begun drafting a law that would raise the minimum age of marriage in Iran.