

HUMAN RIGHTS IN IRAN: A BALANCED VIEW OF CONTINUAL DECLINE

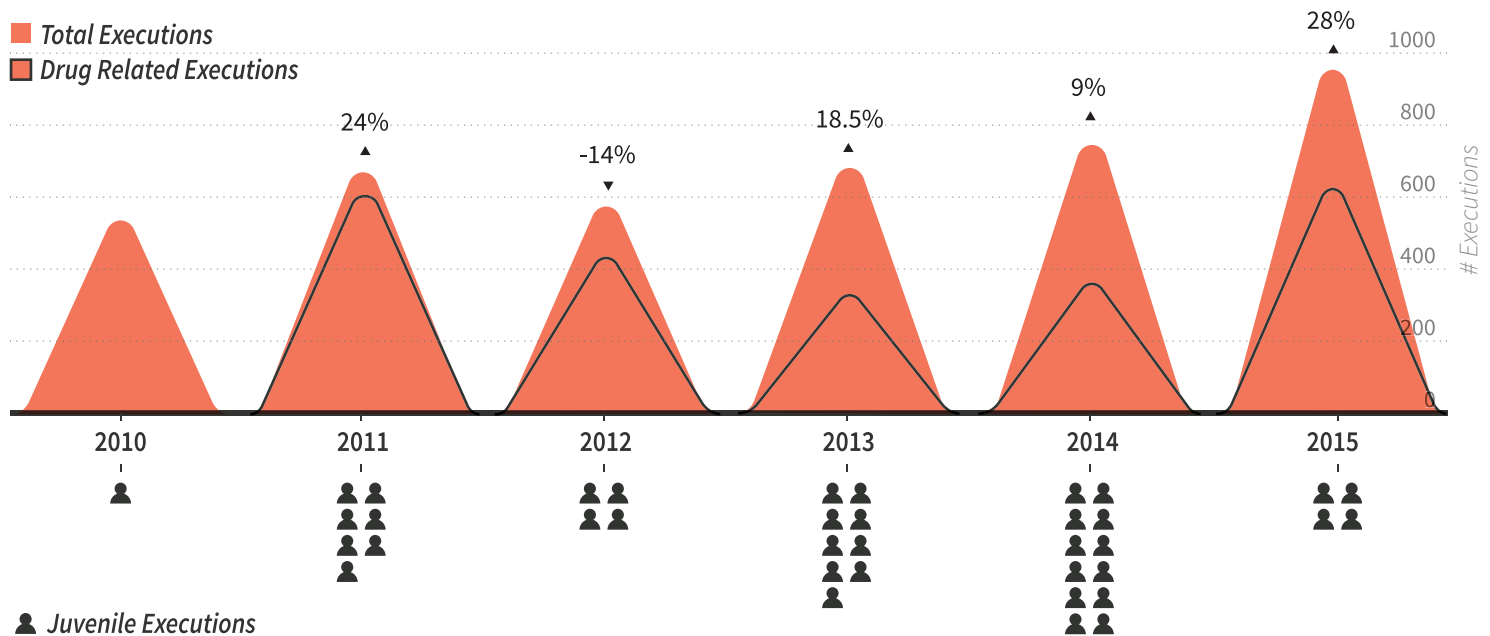
The **sustained attention** of United Nations human rights mechanisms has provided **opportunities for improvement in Iran**, but the human rights situation in the country **remains dire**.

DEATH PENALTY

SOURCES: UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of Human Rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, Amnesty International

The **execution rate** in Iran is **steadily increasing** and **juvenile offenders** are still being sentenced and put to death. Most executions are for **drug-related offenses**, which is not permitted under international law.

This is one of the clearest indicators of the **gravity** of Iran's human rights situation.



Reason for Concern

At least 966 people were executed in Iran in 2015. The last time this many people were executed in one year was 28 years ago. Nearly twice as many people were executed in 2015 as were executed in 2010.

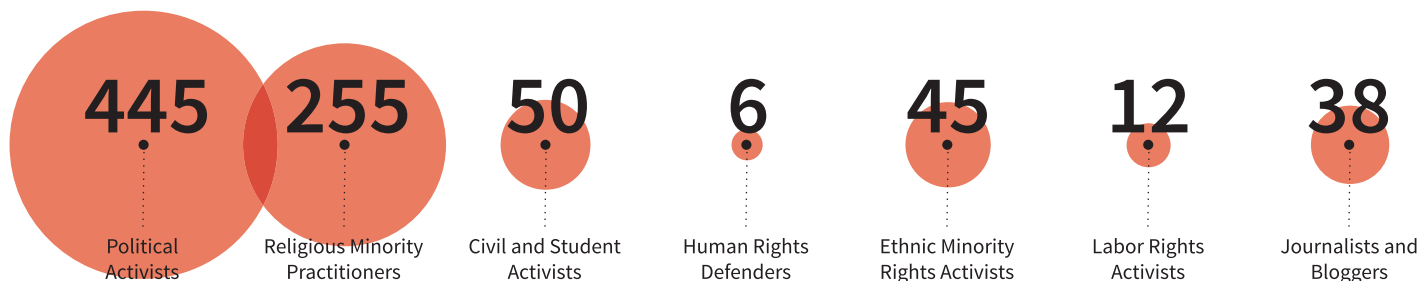
Evidence of Impact

The Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in Iran has spoken out strongly against executions for drug-related offenses in Iran. As a result, Iran's parliament has introduced an amendment to the drug law which, if passed and implemented, would prohibit the death penalty for most drug-related offenses.

PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE & POLITICAL PRISONERS

SOURCES: United for Iran

The continuously **high number of prisoners** of conscience and political prisoners in Iran is the best metric by which to measure **restrictions** on **freedom of expression, association, assembly, and religion**.



Reason for Concern

Over the past two years we have witnessed a worrying trend. Prisoners of conscience and political prisoners have been receiving increasingly long prison sentences, as high as 17 years, for simple acts of peaceful activism.

There are currently at least 850 political prisoners and prisoners of conscience currently detained in Iran.

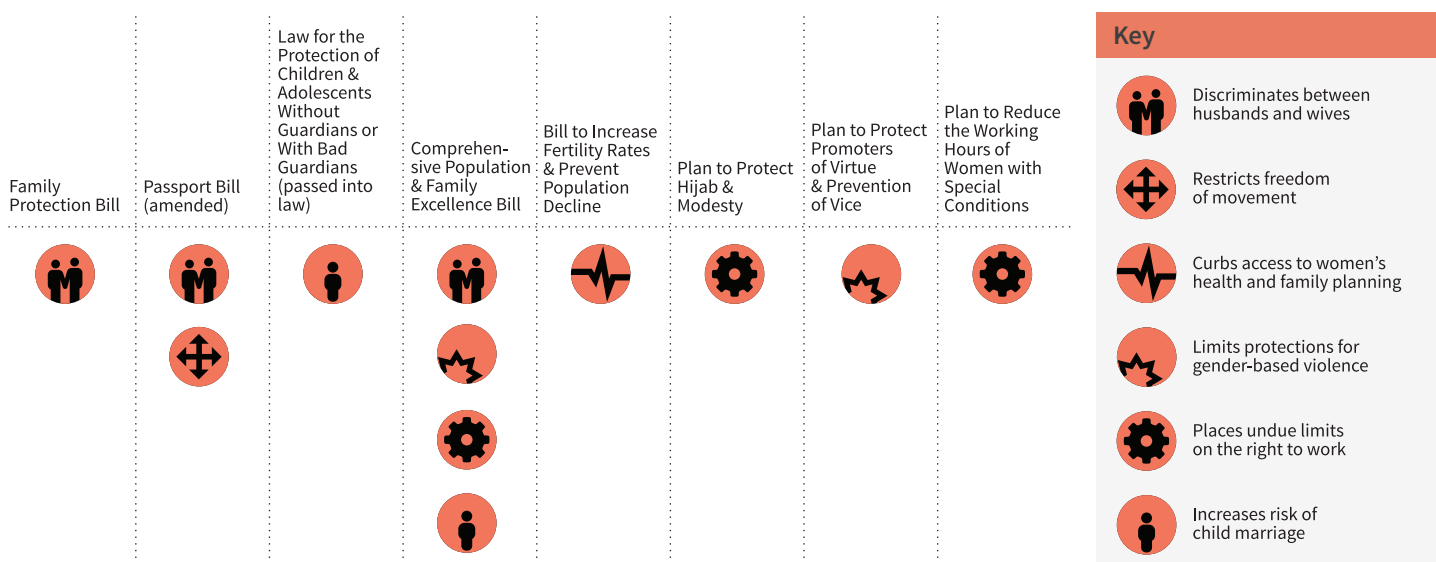
Evidence of Impact

Iranian authorities have granted early release to at least a dozen prisoners of conscience, including one who had been sentenced to death. These releases were granted in part because of concerns raised about these cases by the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in Iran along with other UN mechanisms.

WOMEN'S RIGHTS

SOURCES: Amnesty International, UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran

From 2009 until now, Iranian lawmakers have debated **at least 8 draft laws** that, if passed, would **violate the rights of women** and further **codify gender discrimination**.



Reason for Concern

Together, eight laws and bills represent the largest assault on Iranian women's rights in decades. Many of them reverse policies, specifically family planning programs, that had once been celebrated for bringing much needed improvements to the human rights landscape in Iran.

Evidence of Impact

After the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in Iran raised concerns in March 2012, Iran's Parliament withheld a vote on the Family Protection Bill, which would have allowed husbands to take on additional temporary wives without the permission of their current spouse.