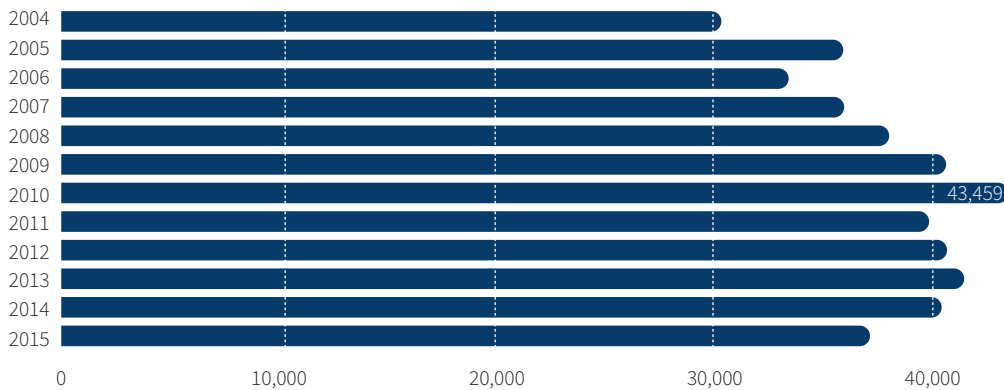


# Human Rights In Iran

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**.

## Children's Rights

Notwithstanding its ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Iran's laws permit **children to be prosecuted and punished as adults** and to enter into marriage in contravention of international law.



### Legal Adulthood Age

	Male	Female
PENAL CODE	15*	9*
CIVIL CODE	15	13

\*These ages represent lunar years

**Girls as young as 8 can get married if their parents consent and a court deems it to be prudent.**

### Reason for Concern

Although the overall numbers of child marriages are smaller compared to some of its neighbors, Iranian activists and civil society organizations have recently expressed alarm that the number of such marriages has remained high during the past ten years.

### Evidence of Impact

Since 2011 Iran has implemented several legal reforms in the area of child rights, including removing the death penalty for juvenile offenders convicted of drug crimes and establishing special prosecution divisions for children, in part because of criticism by the Special Rapporteur on human rights in Iran.

## Women's Rights

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

	Discrimination between husbands and wives	Restrict freedom of movement	Curb access to women's health and family planning	Limit protections for gender-based violence	Place undue limits on the right to work	Increase risk of under-aged marriage
Family Protection Bill (passed into law)	Yes					
Passport Bill (amended)	Yes	Yes				
Law for the Protection of Children & Adolescents without Guardians or with Bad Guardians (passed into law)						Yes
Comprehensive Population & Family Excellence Bill	Yes			Yes	Yes	Yes
Bill to Increase Fertility Rates & Prevent Population Decline			Yes			
Plan to Protect Hijab & Modesty					Yes	
Plan to Protect Promoters of Virtue & Prevention of Vice (passed into law)				Yes		
Plan to Reduce the Working Hours of Women with Special Conditions (passed into law)					Yes	

### Reason for Concern

These 8 laws and bills represent a serious impediment to the realization of women's rights. 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

Consistent focus on women's rights issues by the Special Rapporteur on human rights in Iran and the international community have provided breathing space for officials in the Rouhani administration, including the Vice President on Women and Family Affairs, to push through more progressive policies.

# Freedom Of Expression & Human Rights Defenders

National laws and practices continue to **severely restrict fundamental freedoms, especially the right to freedom of expression**. Journalists, social media activists, and human rights defenders continue to be harassed, arrested, detained and sentenced to harsh prison terms for criticizing or speaking out against the government.

At least **29**

Journalists and social media activists

**in detention or sentenced for their peaceful activities as of July 2016**



## Golrokh Iraei

Journalist and human rights defender

On 11 October 2016, Golrokh Iraei was arrested by security agents and brought to serve a **six-year sentence** for '**insulting Islamic sanctities**' and '**propaganda against the regime**'. The sentence was brought against her, in part, because of an unpublished story she had written about the practice of stoning in Iran, which was discovered during a **warrant-less search** of her home in 2014.



## Narges Mohammadi

Human rights defender

First arrested in 2009, Narges Mohammadi has been in and out of prison ever since. Her subsequent arrest in May 2015, ostensibly on the older charges of '**assembly and collusion against national security**' and '**propaganda against the state**', was related to Mohammadi's visit with Ashton and her continued peaceful activism. In September 2016 a further **16 years was added** to her initial 6-year sentence.

## Reason for Concern

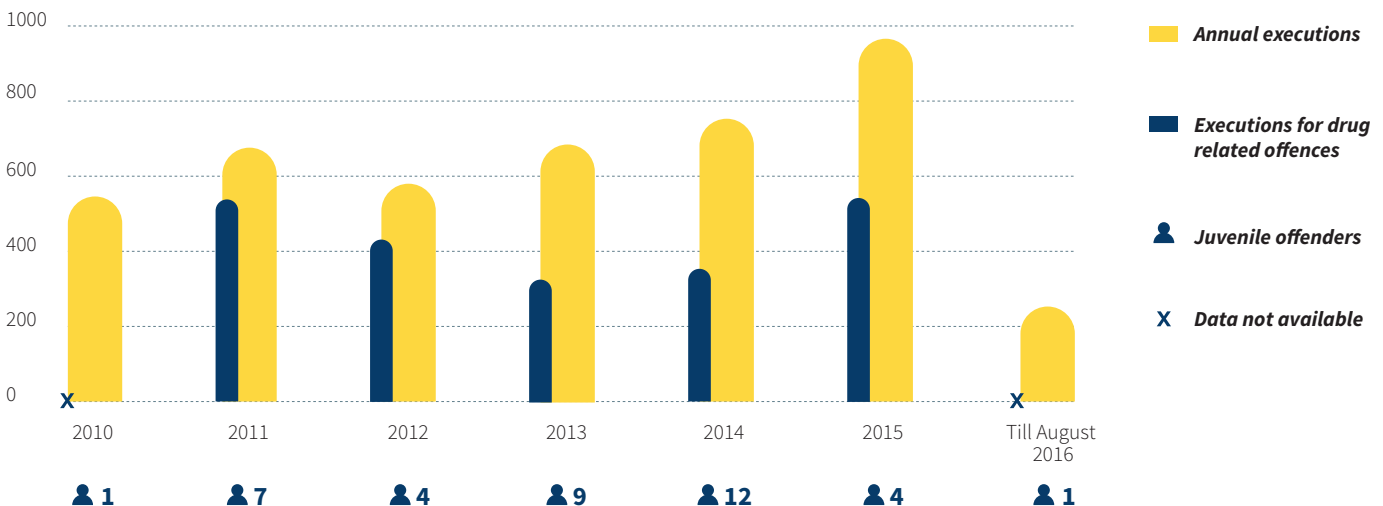
Iranian authorities granted early release to at least a dozen prisoners of conscience, including individuals who had been sentenced to death. These releases were granted, in part, because of concerns raised about these cases by the Special Rapporteur on human rights in Iran along with other UN mechanisms.

## Evidence of Impact

Iran's Judiciary continues to impose extremely harsh sentences, including prison and corporal punishment, for journalists and social media activists peacefully exercising their right to freedom of expression. Iran remains one of the largest prisons for journalists and social media activists in the world.

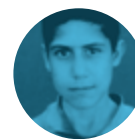
## Death Penalty

The execution rate **dropped significantly during the first half of 2016** in comparison to last year's record numbers. The Judiciary continued to sentence and execute juvenile offenders to death despite a strict prohibition on the practice in international law. Most executions were for **nonviolent drug-related offenses**, which is not permitted under international law.



## Rashid Kouhi

36 year old Rashid Kouhi was **executed** for a non-violent drug trafficking offense. He was **denied the right to appeal** his death sentence.



## Mohammad Reza Haddadi

Mohammad Reza Haddadi is at imminent risk of execution for a **crime allegedly committed at age 15**.

## Reason for Concern

Despite the apparent drop in executions during the first half of 2016, authorities have reportedly increased the rate of executions during the second half. Iran remains the world leader in executions per capita.

## Evidence of Impact

The Special Rapporteur on human rights in Iran has spoken out strongly against executions for drug-related offenses in Iran. 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.