



**World Day against  
Death Penalty:  
257 Executions in the  
Past Year in Iran**

Prisoners' Rights League in Iran

## World Day against Death Penalty: Execution of 257 Prisoners in the Past Year in Iran

Statistical Report of Implemented Death Penalties in Iran from 10 October 2017 –  
10 October 2018

Prisoners' Rights League in Iran

October 2018

Prisoners' Rights League in Iran (PRLI) is an independent non-governmental organization that is actively focusing on the human rights of Iranians all over the country. The main body of the organization is in Iran but because of restrictions imposed by the Islamic Republic of Iran its news website and spokesperson are abroad.

PRLI's news and reports are based on reliable sources inside Iran and abroad with the focus on the human rights violations in Iran.

PRLI is an abolitionist organization and opposes death penalty under any circumstances.

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<http://bciran.org/wplocationen/>

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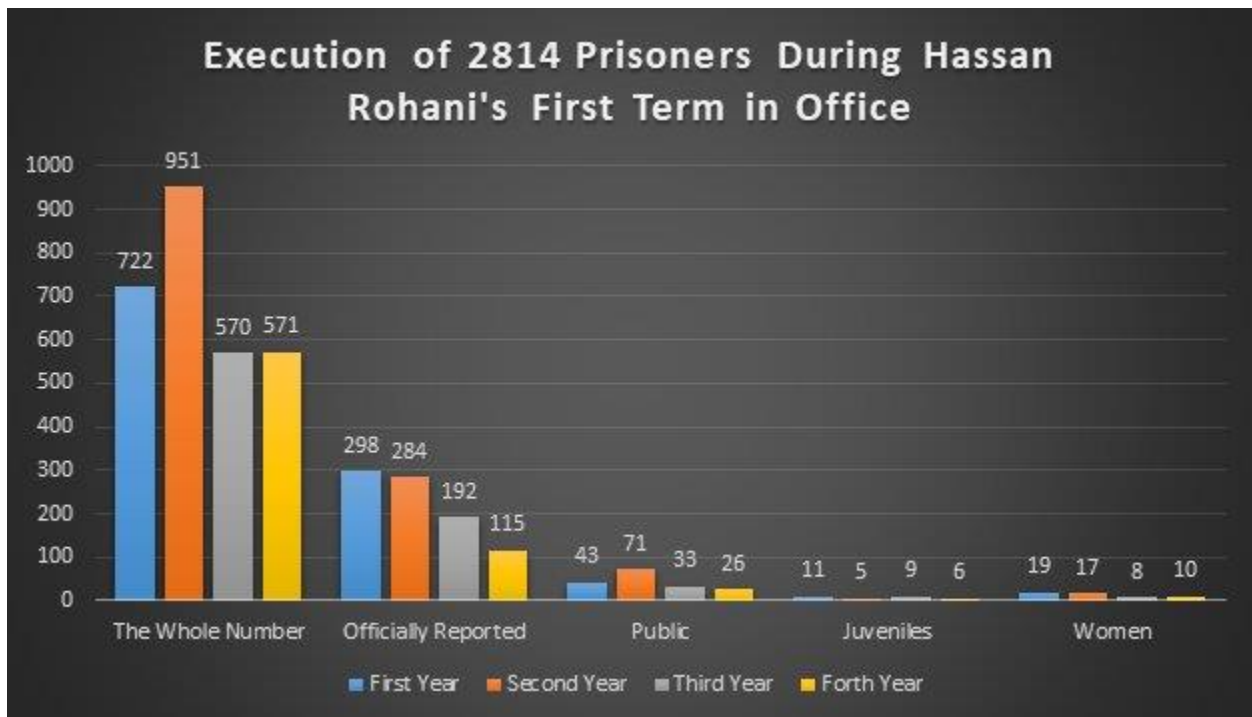


Prisoners' Rights League in Iran

The Islamic Republic of Iran has always been criticized by the International Community and human rights organizations for the high number of executions in Iran.

Since 2012 that Hassan Rouhani has taken the office by promises such as respecting the civil rights, the situation of the human rights in Iran has deteriorated in many aspects.

Prisoners' Rights League in Iran (PRLI) had previously published a report about 2814 executions during Hassan Rouhani's first term in office.



2814 people were executed during Hassan Rohani's first term in office: PRLI

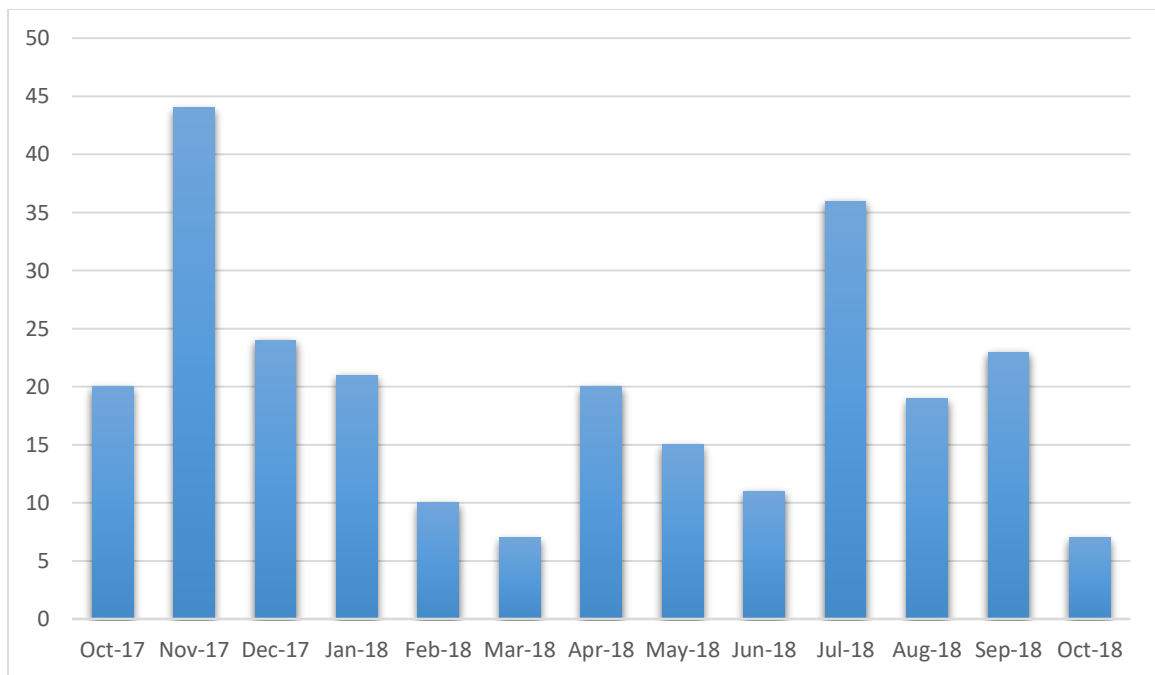
Whereas there had been 1095 executions in Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's first period of presidency and 2236 execution during his second term.

Because of international pressures and the efforts of human rights organizations and defenders in Iran, the Islamic Parliament of Iran finally passed the bill of the new Law of Combating Drugs on October 4, 2017. The bill was enforced on November 14, 2017 which reduced the number of executions on drug offences which used to be the highest portion of executions in Iran.

Despite being a significant victory for human rights defenders in Iran, this was a first step in abolishing death penalty in the country.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has continued to execute dozens of prisoners across the country in the past one year.

According to the statistics of PRLI at least 257 prisoners have been executed in Iran from 10 October 2017 to 10 October 2018.



Total Number of Execution Every Month: PRLI

Despite on-going criticism, Iran continues to carry out death penalties in public. During the past year, at least 15 people have been executed in public in different cities.

The prisoners have been executed in public regardless of the presence of the children at the scene and after a governmental campaign of calling on the people to watch the execution. The public execution is in fact a mass-punishment for all of those who see the scene and carries a whole different level of violence in carrying out death penalties.



PHOTO: Mohammad Hasan Salavati

Photoshahr.com



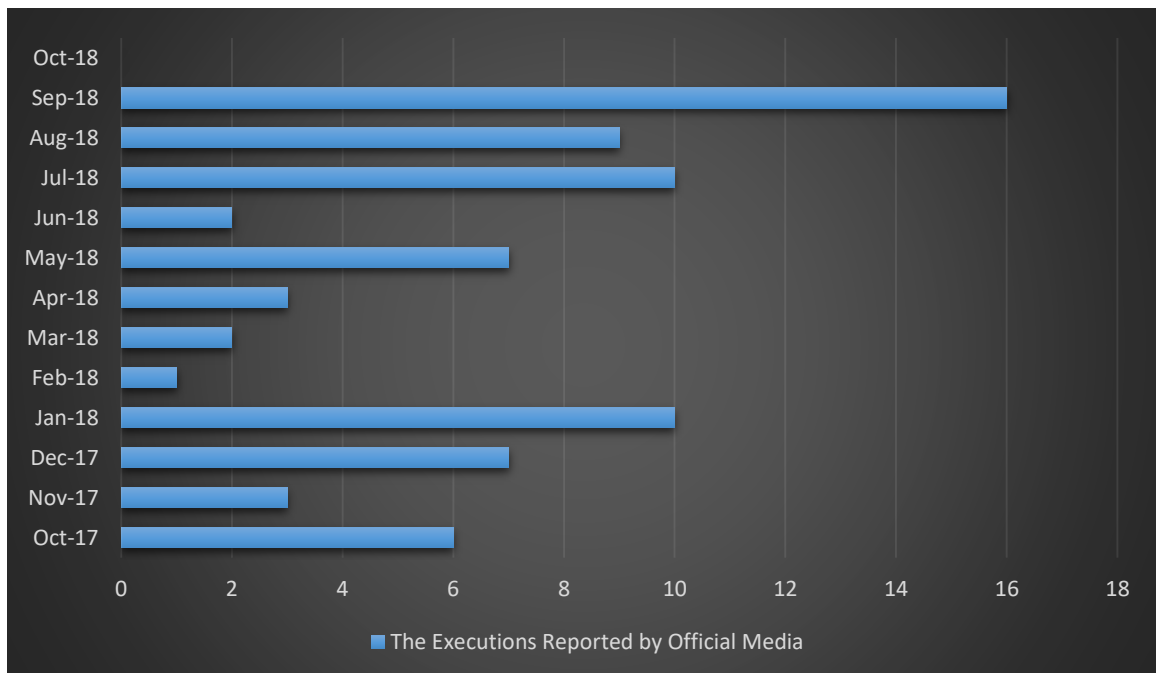
Public Execution of Two Inmates in Mashhad, 15 May 2018: Mashhad Aks Website

## Prisoners' Rights League in Iran

One of the main concerns about the executions in Iran is that many of them are being carried out secretly or remain undisclosed by the government. This indicates the importance of independent reporting by the human rights organizations and defenders.

The state-run media have only reported 69 executions during the past year and the rest have been reported by independent human rights defenders. This shows a strong tendency among the Iranian authorities to hide the executions.

This raises the concerns about the possibility of more hidden executions in Iran and a much higher number of executed prisoners in this period as well.



The Executions Reported by Official Media in Iran: PRLI

Despite strong criticism by the international organizations, the Islamic Republic of Iran executes inmates who were juveniles at the time of committing the crime. Iran is one of the few countries in the world which execute juvenile offenders and at least 5 juvenile offenders have been executed since 10 October 2017.



Zeinab Sokavand, Arrested When She Was 17 and Executed on 2 October 2018 in Central Prison of Urmia: Social Media

Amir Hossein Pourjafar, Mahboubeh Mofidi, Ali Kazemi, Abolfazl Chezani and Zeinab Sokavand are the 5 prisoners who were executed for the crimes they had allegedly committed when they were under 18.

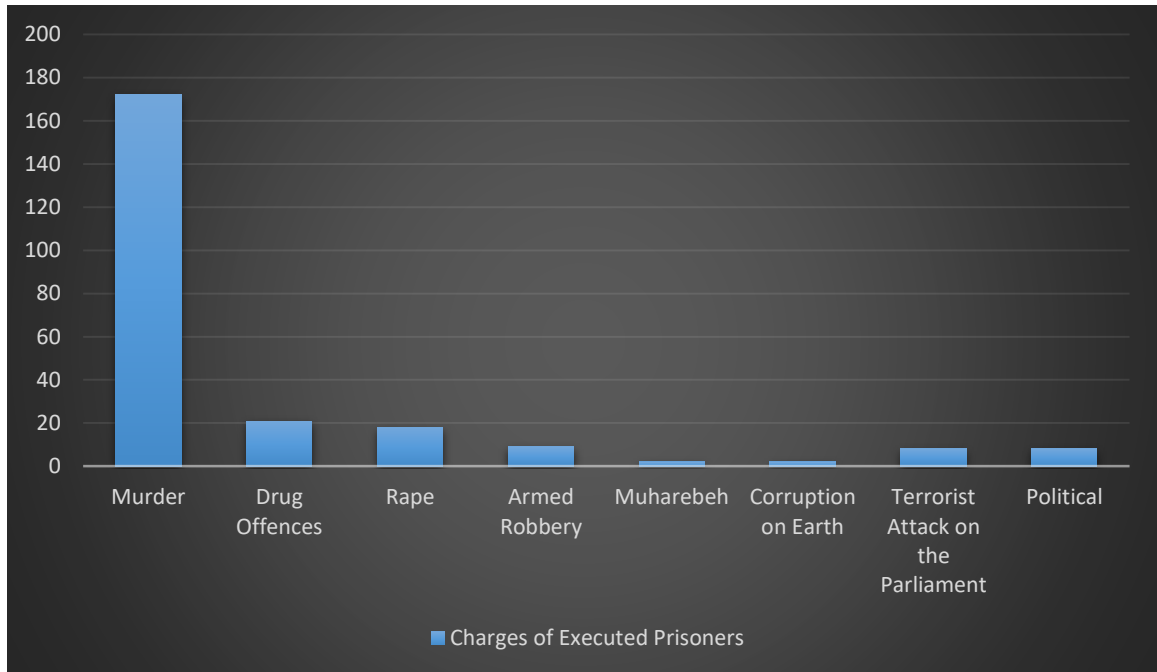
| Date of Execution | Name                   | Age at the Time of Arrest | Prison                      | Charge |
|-------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|--------|
| 6 January 2018    | Amir Hossein Pourjafar | 16                        | Rajai Shahr Prison of Karaj | Murder |
| 30 January 2018   | Mahboubeh Mofidi       | 17                        | Noshahr Prison              | Muder  |
| 30 January 2018   | Ali Kazemi             | 15                        | Boushehr Prison             | Murder |
| 27 June 2018      | Abolfazl Chezani       | 15                        | Central Prison of Qom       | Murder |
| 2 October 2018    | Zeinab Sokavand        | 17                        | Central Prison of Urmia     | Muder  |

Juvenile Offenders Executed in the Past Year: PRLI

89% of the prisoners were executed on charge of murder and based on the Rule of Retaliation which points out the vital need of reform in the Iranian penal code.



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Charges of Executed Prisoners: PRLI

The death penalty in Iran is not just being used for cruel crimes or drug offences but it has been a tool of repressing the dissenters and political opponents.

During the past one year, Mohammad Salsa, one of the Gonabadi Dervishes who had been arrested during security forces' raid to the house of their Qutb in 7<sup>th</sup> Golestan Street of Tehran, was executed in Rajai Shahr Prison of Karaj.

Mohammad Salas was criticized strongly by the international human rights organizations. His death sentence was issued and implemented in an unfair and ambiguous due process while he insisted on his innocence many times.

After that 3 Baluch political prisoners with the names of Dor Mohammad Shahbakhsh, Esmail Shahbakhsh and Hayatollah Nootizehi were executed in Zahedan Central Prison.

During the past year Zaniar Moradi, Loghman Moradi and Ramin Hossein Panahi, 3 Kurdish political prisoners were also executed in Rajai Shahr Prison of Karaj.

These executions faced wide criticism across the country and the whole world. The Kurdish cities went on a one-day-long strike to protest against these executions and dozens of Kurdish activists were arrested.

International organizations such as Amnesty International and United Nations' Special Rapporteurs also condemned the execution of these 3 political prisoners.