

Stop Child Executions

Submission to the UN Universal Periodic Review of the Islamic Republic of Iran
Seventh session of the UPR Working Group of the Human Rights Council



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In this submission, Stop Child Executions provides information and recommendations on the status of juvenile executions as carried out in violation of major international treaties by the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In Section 1, Stop Child Executions raises serious concerns about Iran's violation of international treaties which prohibit the execution of juveniles.

In Section 2, Stop Child Executions highlights the critical situation regarding the current practices of juvenile executions and imprisonment, including torture, forced confessions, abuse and rape taking place inside Iran's prisons.

In Section 3, Stop Child Executions makes a number of recommendations for action by the Iranian authorities that will enable them to take meaningful steps to address this crisis.

In addition, Appendix A contains the 2009 report "From Cradle to Coffin: A Report on Child Executions in Iran", which provides a more comprehensive and detailed report on the issue of juvenile executions in Iran and Appendix B provides a full list of the 160 minors currently on death row in Iran.

- Executive summary -

The Islamic Republic of Iran is one of the few remaining countries in the world that continues to execute children.

- Since 2000, Iran has executed more children than any other country in the world.
- In the last five years alone there have been 33 child executions in Iran.
- As of June 2009, at least 160¹ juveniles wait on death row for a wide range of "offences" including homosexuality, acts incompatible with chastity, apostasy, drug trafficking and involvement in school or street fights that result in a murder.
- Lack of transparency and accountability means that it is impossible to estimate the actual number of juveniles who have faced the death penalty in Iran since the 1979 revolution.

This is in clear breach of several international legally binding treaties

- Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- Article 6 of the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights.
- Article 37 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Stop Child Executions believes that these violations are the result of deliberate state policies to retain the juvenile death penalty, combined with criminal justice systems that fail to provide children with fundamental protections against unfair trials². Since 47% of Iran's population is below the age of 18, this is an important and justified area of concern³.

Please see page 5 of this document for recommendations by Stop Child Executions addressing the necessary action by the Islamic Republic of Iran.

About Stop Child Executions – www.stopchildexecutions.com

Stop Child Executions is a leading source of information on minors on death row in Iran. SCE is a nonprofit 501c3 organization. SCE is an independent, non-political human rights group whose aim is to put a permanent end to child executions. It was co-founded by the international human rights activist Nazanin Afshin-Jam and is run entirely by volunteers. As well as lobbying governments and encouraging politicians and private citizens to put pressure on offending countries to commute and ban executions of juveniles, SCE acts as a liaison between families and human rights lawyers, as well as channels information from Iran to the United Nations and international human rights groups, including Amnesty International. SCE has initiated major petitions, organized rallies, produced documentaries, participated in major human rights conferences, conducted speeches in various parliaments and is cited in major newspapers, magazines, television and radio news programs worldwide. In June 2009, SCE launched a comprehensive and detailed report on the issue of juvenile executions in Iran - "From Cradle to Coffin: A Report on Child Executions in Iran" available at <http://fpc.org.uk/fsblob/1063.pdf>, and attached as Appendix B to this submission.

Since 2000, Iran has executed more children who were under 18 when they committed the crime than any other country in the world⁴. As of June 2009, at least 160 juveniles wait on death row for a wide range of ‘offences’ including homosexuality, acts incompatible with chastity, apostasy, drug trafficking and involvement in school or street fights that result in a murder. Since 1990, 43 minors have faced execution in Iran. Among them, 11 were hanged before their 18th birthday⁵. In the last five years alone there have been 33 executions in Iran. Most minors are not executed until after they reach their 18th birthday; however 25% of those executed since 1990 have been under this age.⁶

Violations of International Treaties

The prohibition on the juvenile death penalty is absolute in international and customary law. The fact that the Islamic Republic of Iran is one of the few countries in the world that continues to execute children is in clear breach of several international legally binding treaties:

1. Iran has signed and ratified Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) in 1994⁷, Article 37(a) of which provides that: “Neither capital punishment nor life imprisonment without possibility of release shall be imposed for offences committed by persons below eighteen years of age”⁸.
2. Iran has also ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) in 1976⁹, Article 6.5 of which declares: “Sentence of death shall not be imposed for crimes committed by persons below eighteen years of age”
3. Article 9 of Iran’s Civil Code confirms Iran’s obligation to respect these treaties, stating: “Treaties and conventions which have been ratified in accordance with the constitution between the governments of Iran and other governments are defined as laws.”¹⁰
4. In 1994, the UN Human Rights Committee stated that it considered the prohibition against executing children to be part of international customary law, and thus not open to reservations¹¹.
5. Furthermore, a basic principle of international law is *pacta sunt servanda*¹². This principle is codified in Article 26 of the Vienna Convention, which states: “Every treaty in force is binding upon the parties to it and must be performed by them in good faith.”

Iran has been and remains a party to the above-mentioned instruments, and therefore, must respect its international obligations and bring its domestic laws in line with them.

International Condemnation

The UN Human Rights Committee has stated that “making apostasy, illicit sex [. . .] an homosexual act [. . .] punishable by death is incompatible with Article 6 of the ICCPR which restricts the application of the death penalty to the most serious of crimes.”¹³

Further, the UN Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions considers that “the death penalty should be eliminated for crimes such as economic crimes and drug related offences”¹⁴, offences for which the death penalty is still enforced.

In addition to international condemnation by the United Nations, European Union and non-governmental organisations, in 2003 the head of Iranian judiciary sent a circular calling for judges to refrain from sentencing juveniles to death¹⁵.

Background to the Iranian Penal Code Obligations

Under the Islamic Penal Code of Iran¹⁶ based on an interpretation of Shari’a law, the death penalty is available for an extremely wide range of offences. The Code identifies 5 types of crime: *hodoud* (crimes against divine will, for which the penalty is prescribed by Islamic law); *qesas* (private disputes which allow retribution in kind); *diyeh* (compensation), *ta’zir* (crimes that incur discretionary punishments applied by the state that are not derived from Islamic law); and deterrent punishments, which include penalties such as fines and cancellation of relevant licences. The death penalty is provided for certain *hodoud* and *ta’zir* crimes and to *qesas* for murder¹⁷. For a more extensive background, please refer to pages 24-37 of the report in Appendix A.

Why Iran's arguments for child executions do not work

1. Argument: Iranian officials have justified some executions on the grounds that the child was over 18 at the time of the execution.

Fact: There have been numerous cases where the execution has occurred before the victim reached 18 years of age (see table opposite¹⁸)

2. Argument: Executions in murder cases were not executions, but rather an act of retribution, where the murder victim's heirs have the private right to enforce retribution (qesas) since this is allowed under Shari'a law and is seen as a matter of private, not state, law.¹⁹

Fact: In Iranian law, murder is treated as a private dispute between two civil parties – the state's role is to facilitate the resolution of the dispute through the judicial process. In this sense, the death penalty, as in hokm-e 'adam, is regarded as being imposed by the state, whereas qesas is imposed by the family of the victim. As a result, sentences of qesas are not open to pardon or amnesty by the Supreme Leader. Under international law, Iran remains fully responsible for respecting and protecting the rights of those under its jurisdiction, irrespective of the role that private parties may play in the administration of justice. In a case of qesas, Iran must respect the rights of any child offender by ensuring that the process it facilitates does not allow for the offender's execution and protects the child offender from any acts by private parties that would lead to an execution.²⁰

Argument: Ending executions of minors violates Islamic Shari'a law.

Fact: "The demand to end juvenile executions does not contradict Islamic Shari'a law [. . .] top Iranian clerics some 80 years ago banned juvenile execution in the country²¹." (Shirin Ebadi, Nobel Laureate)

Argument: According to Shari'a law, derived in part from the Qur'an, girls over the ages of 9 lunar years (8 years and 8 months) and boys over the age of 15 lunar years (14 and a half) should be held to be criminally responsible and can be sentenced to death.

Fact: Not only does this interpretation institutionalise a gender-based discrimination²², but many Iranian religious scholars and leading figures argue that this has not been referenced anywhere in the Qur'an, and that it cannot be used to determine the age at which a person is subjected to the death penalty.²³ The Qur'an identifies the age of maturity, and not that of puberty, as the criterion for giving punishment. Confirming this viewpoint, one of the most influential figures and a drafter of the Iranian constitution, Ayatollah Makarem Shirazi, stipulates that "for the sentencing of the underage adolescents, the maturity level has to be considered, in the case of any suspicion and if such sentencing would deface Islam throughout the world, per the judge's discretion, there can be reductions in the severity of the sentence."²⁴ If a person is not mature enough to accept responsibility to hold a driving license, vote or open a bank account until he or she has reached 18 years of age, how can the same person be held responsible to fully comprehend the consequences of their criminal decisions or action to the point of facing execution?

Despite its global ranking as the top executioner of juvenile offenders²⁵, the Iranian judicial representatives often deny juvenile executions²⁶, ignore their international commitments and contradict national laws and practices.²⁷ As recently as 28 October 2008, in a statement issued to the UN, once again Iran denied executing juveniles.²⁸ The day after, Iranian authorities executed the seventh juvenile offender in 2008.²⁹

Signs of Potential Change in Iranian Legislation which should be encouraged

1. In 2001, legislation in the form of the Juvenile Crimes Investigation Act, prohibiting the use of death penalty for offences committed by people under the age of 18 was put before Iran's legislature, with an initial reading given in 2006. This legislation purported to bring the Iranian Penal Code closer to meeting Iran's international obligations, however it has yet to be fully passed into law, some eight years after its first proposal. This delay has been attributed to the Guardian Council, which must issue final authorisation to parliamentary legislation³⁰.

2. In October 2008, a judicial ban on juvenile executions was introduced at the 63rd annual UN General Assembly, however, an interview with Hussein Zebhi, the Deputy for Judicial Affairs to Iran's Prosecutor General, states that the

Juveniles below the age of 18 executed in Iran since 1990

NAME	AGE OF EXECUTION	DATE OF EXECUTION
Kasem Shirfekan	17	1990
Name unknown	16	September 29, 1992
Name unknown	17	September 29, 1992
Name unknown	17	September 29, 1992
Ebrahim Qorbanzadeh	17	October 24, 1999
Jasem Abrahami	17	January 14, 2000
Atefeh Rajabi	16	August 15, 2004
Iman Farokhi	17	January 19, 2005
Name unknown	17	August 23, 2005
Majid Segound	17	May 13, 2006
Saeed Kamberzai	17	May 28, 2007
Mohammad Hassanzadeh	16 or 17	June 10, 2008

judicial directive only applied to narcotics cases and that judges would not reduce sentences in murder cases, contrary to a previous announcement that it would apply to all offenders below the age of 18, "no matter what."³¹ While this can be regarded as a move in the right direction in terms of implementing laws that encourage the judiciary to respect Iran's international obligations in relation to juvenile executions, no clarification was given as to whether the decree would still allow minors who are found guilty of committing the relevant crime when below the age of 18 but over the age of 18 at the time of execution, to be executed for narcotics offences.

3. Even the head of the Iranian judiciary Ayatollah Hashemi Shahroudi, along with a number of high ranking Islamic clerics and scholars, has publicly stated on several occasions that he is against the death penalty for adolescents and has sent circulars calling for judges to refrain from sentencing juveniles to death. In addition, the civil society, including high profile lawyers, activists, sociologists, and doctors, have pushed for an end to such brutality through petitions, joint letters, rallies and conferences. At the same time, there has been an increase in workshops, training and coordination of the nationwide judiciary, so that decisions by the central authorities are implemented throughout the country.³²

These moves must be encouraged and urged by the international community in order to bring child executions to an end.

Section 2 : Concerns regarding the current practices of juvenile sentencing, imprisonment and executions

Improper adjudication and violations of human rights in detention

While death sentences are often approved by the country's highest judicial authorities, they are frequently the result of improper adjudication³³; lack or limited access to legal representation throughout the entire process of investigation³⁴; and contradictory sentences by different branches of the judiciary³⁵.

An example is the case of Delara Darabi, where, in addition to numerous international legal violations³⁶, Iran's own domestic law was violated: On April 19 2009, Iran's head of judiciary issued a two-month stay of execution in order for the families involved to negotiate a pardon for Delara. This was disregarded by Rasht prison officials, who executed Delara Darabi on May 1st 2009, just 12 days after the stay of execution was issued. Furthermore, while Iranian authorities are required to issue a 48-hour notice prior to the implementation of the verdict, Delara's parents came to know of her execution just minutes before she was hanged. Since her execution, at least five other juveniles have come close to facing the same fate and, in the last 3 years, at least 5 juveniles have been executed without prior notification.³⁷

Abuse of juvenile offenders, especially women, in prison

Since the early days of the Islamic Republic, some juveniles have been physically or sexually tortured³⁸.

An example is the case of Reza Hejazi, executed on 19 August 2008 for fatally stabbing a man in a group fight at the age of 15. His brother talked of the torture his brother suffered in prison in a news interview: "I, my mother and my father are all witnesses of what they have done to my brother in prison. They beat him so much that he could not walk because the bottoms of his feet were so badly bruised. Under the force that was used against him, my brother confessed to the crime that he had not really committed, so that they would stop torturing him."³⁹

Reports indicate that some faced such treatments in order to obtain forced confessions from other prisoners, including family members. In an interview, former German prisoner in Iran, Helmut Szimkus, reported witnessing as prison officials rape a nine year old girl to obtain a confession from her father⁴⁰.

Although the head of the judiciary has called for special judicial branches for children and juveniles, inmates are not necessarily allocated to dedicated facilities. Some are placed in juvenile detention centres or wards of state prisons, while many are confined to cells occupied by adult offenders charged with a wide range of crimes.

In violation of Article 5 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, reports indicate incidents of abuse and rape by cellmates and prison officials, especially in notorious facilities such as Rajaie Shahr Prison.

Example: testimony by former child prisoner Nazanin Mahabad Fatehi⁴¹, saved from execution through international and domestic pressure on the authorities: "One terrible night, some of my fellow inmates were making noise and fooling around at night. The prison officials rounded up ten of them and threw them in one cell. They gave them so many pills that they went crazy and started turning on each other. They ended up ganging up on a girl named Hani. They kicked her so much that her bones were shattered. They strangled her with headscarf and hung her from the showerhead. In the morning when they woke from the daze from all the pills and realized they had killed this girl they knocked to get the attention of the guards. Many of them fainted right then and there."⁴²

Death Sentences are carried out inhumanely with short drop and suspension style executions.

- Suspension hanging method is frequently used, where the victim is hoisted up by a winch turned by two executioners or guards; Another is short drop hanging, where the victim is made to stand on a simple crate, which is then kicked away from under the victim's feet⁴³.
- In addition to its terrorising effects on those who witness the dying minor struggle for air, it causes the victim to suffer a slow and agonising death for up to fifteen minutes before asphyxiation takes total effect. Iran is among a few countries that still use this inhumane method.⁴⁴

Section 3: Recommendations

Stop Child Executions calls on the Islamic Republic of Iran to:

1. Stop all executions of those minors convicted of crimes committed before they were 18 years old until legislation is passed that bans such executions.
2. Urgently ensure that the Juvenile Crimes Investigation Act, which was approved in 2003 by parliament, is also approved by the Council of Guardians for implementation into law once it:
 - a) Has been amended to be inclusive of all juveniles facing the death penalty, without exception, including qesas crimes which account for 90% of current child execution cases.
 - b) Clearly distinguishes the age of majority for criminal responsibility. This would bring the law into line with Iran's obligations under the ICCPR and the CRC not to execute children.
3. Enable as a matter of priority unannounced visits by the UN Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions to inspect Iran's prisons holding juvenile offenders.
4. Revise Iranian legislation to ensure that anyone facing judicial execution by the state can seek pardon or commutation of their sentence, in line with Iran's obligations under Article 6(4) of the ICCPR.
5. Uphold Iran's international obligations under the ICCPR and CRC by ensuring that the death penalty is only imposed for the most serious of crimes and is not imposed for offences committed by those under the age of 18.
6. Train and educate judges and lawyers throughout Iran to comply with directives and rulings issued by the central authorities.
7. As a preventative measure, facilitate educational campaigns for youth about the dangers and consequences of using weapons, including knives, and offer alternative options to self-defence by means of non-lethal instruments of protection e.g. pepper spray.
8. Consider rehabilitation and socialisation mechanisms as in other Islamic countries such as Egypt, which also has a low age of criminal responsibility but allows juveniles to remain under the protection of juvenile court systems at least until 18 years of age.
9. Consider criminal procedure models offered by other Islamic countries, such as Indonesia, where protection and guidance are the watchwords of the juvenile justice system.
10. Implement the recommendations in the detailed report published by the Iranian Embassy in Greece on the latest judicial developments concerning juvenile rights and amendments to the relevant laws.⁴⁵



Notes

¹ For a full list, please see Appendix B

² Human Rights Watch (2008), *The Last Holdouts: Ending the Juvenile Death Penalty in Iran, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Pakistan, and Yemen*, pp 1-2, <http://www.hrw.org/reports/2008/crd0908/crd0908webwcover.pdf> [accessed on 23 August 2009]

³ Iranian Central Statistic Bureau (2006) See chart on p.32 of the 2006 census. Available from: http://www.sci.org.ir/content/userfiles/_sci/sci/SEL/baravord/75-89n.xls [Accessed 10 June 2009].

⁴ Human Rights Watch (2008) *The last holdouts ending the juvenile death penalty in Iran, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Pakistan, and Yemen*. September 2008, p.1. Available from: <<http://www.hrw.org/reports/2008/crd0908/crd0908web.pdf>> [Accessed 23 June 2009].

Amnesty International (2007) *The Last Executioner of Children*. p.4. <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/asset/MDE13/059/2007/en/b758ea94-d38d-11dd-a3292f46302a8cc6/mde130592007en.pdf> [Accessed 23 June 2009].

⁵ For a full list of names, please see Afshin-Jam, N and Danesh, T (2009) *From Cradle to Coffin: A report on Child Executions in Iran*, p.27, attached as an Appendix A to this submission.

⁶ For a full list of names, please see the table on page 3 of this document.

⁷ When acceding to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on July 13, 1994, Iran stated it “reserves the right not to apply any provisions or articles of the Convention that are incompatible with Islamic Laws and the international legislation in effect.” At its 2000 review of Iran’s implementation of the convention, the Committee on the Rights of the Child, which monitors the convention’s implementation, expressed concern that the “broad and imprecise nature of the State party’s general reservation potentially negates many of the Convention’s provisions and raises concern as to its compatibility with the object and purpose of the Convention.” Concluding Observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child: Iran, CRC/C/15/Add.123, 28 June 2000, para 7.

⁸ Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), adopted November 20, 1989, G.A. Res. 44/25, annex, 44 U.N. GAOR Supp. (No. 49) at 167, U.N. Doc. A/44/49 (1989), entered into force September 2, 1990, art. 37(a)

⁹ International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), adopted December 16, 1966, G.A. Res. 2200A (XXI), 21 U.N. GAOR Supp. (No. 16) at 52, U.N. Doc. A/6316 (1966), 999 U.N.T.S. 171, entered into force March 23, 1976, art. 6(5).

¹⁰ The Civil Code of the Islamic Republic of Iran, <http://www.alaviandassociates.com/documents/civilcode.pdf>, [accessed on 23 August 2009]

¹¹ Human Rights Committee General Comment 24, on issues relating to reservations made upon ratification or accession to the Covenant or the Optional Protocols thereto, or in relation to declarations under article 41 of the Covenant, UN Doc. CCPR/C/21/Rev.1/Add.6, para.8.

¹² Literally meaning agreement to be kept. This is one of the most ancient religious and moral principles of law and refers to the sanctity of a contract and the obligation of the parties to uphold their responsibilities.

¹³ Concluding observations of the HRC Sudan, UN-Doc. CCPR/C/79/Add.85, 19 November 1997, para.13.

¹⁴ Report of the UN Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, UN-Doc. E/CN.4/1996/4, para.556.

¹⁵ Afshin-Jam, N and Danesh, T (2009) *From Cradle to Coffin: A report on Child Executions in Iran*, p. 57

¹⁶ The penal code based on Shari’a law, based on the conviction that such a combination would prevent crime, was passed by the Iranian Parliament. Please see: Mohammadi, M. (s.d.) *Judicial Reform and Reorganization in 20th Century Iran: State-building, modernization and Islamisation*. p.136.

¹⁷ See Amnesty International’s report ‘Iran: The last executioner of children’, 27 June 2007, p.6-8; and also see Introduction to the Iranian legal system and the protection of human rights in Iran, by Adineh Abghari, British Institute of International and Comparative Law, 2008, p.107.

¹⁸ Afshin-Jam, N and Danesh, T (2009) *From Cradle to Coffin: A report on Child Executions in Iran*, p. 27

¹⁹ See Amnesty International’s report ‘Iran: The last executioner of children’, 27 June 2007, p.14.

²⁰ Amnesty International’s report ‘Iran: The last executioner of children’, 27 June 2007, p. 7-8

²¹ Afshin-Jam, N and Danesh, T (2009) *From Cradle to Coffin: A report on Child Executions in Iran*, p. 31

²² This is in addition to the fact that the diyeh for a female is half of that of a male, among other forms of gender-based discrimination. For a study of women and their struggle for equal rights, please see: FPC report by Cameron, G. and Danesh, T. (2008) *A Revolution without rights? Women, Kurds and Baha’is searching for equality in Iran* available from: <<http://fpc.org.uk/fsblob/1013.pdf>> [Accessed 31st August 2009].

²³ Baghi, E. (2007) *The issue of executions of under-18 in Iran*. p.7. Available from: <<http://www.emadbaghi.com/en/archives/000924.php>> [Accessed 10 June 2009].

²⁴ Mostafaei, M. (2007) Letter of attorney Mostafaei to Iran’s head of judiciary. Available from: <<http://www.iran-75.emrooz.net/index.php?hright/more/14018/>> English translation: <<http://scenews.blog.com/2056375/>> [Accessed 23 June 2009].

²⁵ Goldberg, M. L. (2008) UN Urges Iran to Cease Execution of Minors. UN Dispatch. 3 September 2008. Available from: http://www.undispatch.com/archives/2008/09/un_urges_iran_t.php [Accessed 21 August 2009]

²⁶ NYTimes (2009) An Interview With President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. The New York Times, 26 September 2008. Available from: <<http://www.nytimes.com/2008/09/26/world/middleeast/26irantranscript.html?pagewanted=2&ref=middleeast>> [Accessed 10 June 2009]

²⁷ In addition to ignoring Iran's commitments to ICCPR and CRC, in numerous cases authorities have acted against orders issued by Iran's own central judicial authorities or disregarded codes pertaining to victim's rights, including in Delara Darabi's case.

²⁸ Human Rights Watch (2008) Iran: move to end juvenile executions, 20 October 2008. Available from: <http://www.hrw.org/en/news/2008/10/20/iran-move-end-juvenile-executions> [Accessed 10 June 2009].

²⁹ Human Rights Watch (2008) Iran hangs seventh juvenile offender this Year, 4 November 2008. Available from: <http://www.hrw.org/en/news/2008/11/04/iran-hangs-seventh-juvenile-offender-year> [Accessed 10 June 2009].

³⁰ Afshin-Jam, N and Danesh, T (2009) From Cradle to Coffin: A report on Child Executions in Iran, p.28

³¹ Announcement on 15 October 2008, please see: Human Rights Watch (2008) Iran: move to end juvenile executions, 20 October 2008. Available from: <http://www.hrw.org/en/news/2008/10/20/iran-move-end-juvenile-executions> [Accessed 10 June 2009].

³² Afshin-Jam, N and Danesh, T (2009) From Cradle to Coffin: A report on Child Executions in Iran, p.56

³³ In many cases, including Delara Darabi's, executions take place despite stay of execution issued by the head of the judiciary.

³⁴ An example is the case of Mohammad Fadaee where "His initial death sentence was issued after only one hearing and while inadequately being represented. His first lawyer was not licensed and his two subsequent lawyers only submitted one written defense statement to the court during his trial." in the Afshin-Jam, N and Danesh, T, From Cradle to Coffin: Child Executions in Iran (2009), p.43 in the Appendix A . Amnesty International (2008) Imminent execution/legal concern, Iran Mohammad Feda'i (m) aged 21, juvenile offender. 30 May 2008. Available from: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/asset/MDE13/074/2008/en/84c5023f-2e5e-11dd-a024-1d23853b0ef1/mde130742008eng.pdf> [Accessed 23 June 2009].

³⁵ During Nazanin Mahabad Fatehi's initial trial in 2005 without a lawyer's presence, she was convicted of murder and sentenced to death. Her death sentence was confirmed in a trial on 3 January 2006. Due to international and internal pressure, Fatehi was granted a new trial on 10 January 2007 where the five presiding judges unanimously exonerated her of murder charges, recognizing that she had indeed defended herself against three would-be rapists. Please see: <http://save.nazanin.googlepages.com/> Original report on first trial was published on: <http://www.etemaad.com/>; English translation is available from: <http://save.nazanin.googlepages.com/original> [Accessed 23 June 2009].

³⁶ Please see a detailed case study in Afshin-Jam, N and Danesh, T (2009) From Cradle to Coffin: A report on Child Executions in Iran, p. 39-40, Appendix A

³⁷ Ibid.

³⁸ Many former inmates or accounts of juveniles point to extreme torture at the hands of prison authorities, please see the case studies section on torture and intimidations in Afshin-Jam, N and Danesh, T, From Cradle to Coffin: Child Executions in Iran (2009), p.43 in the Appendix A attached. Amnesty International (2008)

³⁹ Hejazi, H. (2008) Interview with Rahai-Zan.tv. August 2008. Available from: http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=6924745492100376133&ei=aNsIspHF4GyqAOuhu3_CA&q=rez+hejazi++rahai+zan [Accessed 10 June 2009]. Translation available from: <http://scenews.blog.com/3774093/> [Accessed 10 June 2009].

⁴⁰ published in Focus on 11 July 1994 and Neue Zürcher Zeitung ('Bonns intensive Beziehungen zu Iran'), August 7, 1994, p.3

⁴¹ For details regarding the case of Nazanin Marhabad Fatehi, please go to <http://save.nazanin.googlepages.com/home> [Accessed 28 August 2009]

⁴² Afshin-Jam, N and Danesh, T (2009) From Cradle to Coffin: A report on Child Executions in Iran, p. 44

⁴³ Secondary source (s.d.) The Tehran case. Original internet source by Dr Hamiz and Saleha Darani doesn't exist anymore. Available from: <http://www.petertatchell.net/international/iranstatemurder.htm> [Accessed 23 June 2009].

⁴⁴ This is one of the most painful methods of execution as it does not cause a sudden fracture to the neck, but pushes the tongue against the air passage while the victim feels the gradual decline in his organs trying to function in the absence of oxygen.

⁴⁵ Detailed report on the latest judicial developments concerning women, children and juveniles' rights and amendments to the relevant laws may be accessed here: <http://www.iranembassy.gr/eng/files/TheLatestJudicialDevelopments.pdf>