

2024

HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT

Iran

Prepared By:



Washington Center
For Human Rights

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Executive Summary

The 2024 annual human rights report for Iran highlights ongoing severe violations, limited improvements, and crucial recommendations for the government. The report details alarming increases in executions, including a 43% rise in overall death sentences and an 84% surge in drug-related executions, disproportionately affecting minorities like the Baluch. Despite a general decline in juvenile death sentences, the execution of two child offenders in 2023 remains a grave concern. The suppression of protests, notably following the "Woman, Life, Freedom" movement, has resulted in excessive force, the deaths of hundreds—including 68 children—and widespread torture, sexual violence, and enforced disappearances. Restrictions on freedoms continue to be severe, with journalists and activists facing arbitrary detention and harsh sentences. Institutionalized gender discrimination persists, with intensified enforcement of compulsory veiling laws leading to increased harassment of women.

Despite these challenges, there have been some positive developments. A judicial directive issued in November 2023 encourages alignment with international human rights standards, though its effectiveness is still uncertain. Additionally, Iran has shown some engagement with international human rights mechanisms, submitting periodic reports to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

The report recommends an immediate moratorium on the death penalty, particularly for minors, and calls for independent investigations into the use of excessive force and other human rights abuses. It also urges Iran to fully cooperate with international bodies, including the UN Special Rapporteur on human rights and independent fact-finding missions. While there have been efforts to engage with international standards, significant human rights challenges remain, necessitating substantial reforms and accountability measures.

Introduction

The human rights situation in Iran for 2024 remains critically concerning, influenced by political repression, social unrest, and economic challenges. The aftermath of the 2022 "Woman, Life, Freedom" protests, sparked by Mahsa Jina Amini's death, has intensified governmental crackdowns on dissent, leading to a significant deterioration in human rights conditions.

Political Context

The Iranian government has responded to the protests with severe repression, utilizing excessive force against demonstrators, leading to numerous fatalities and injuries. Security forces employed lethal measures, resulting in hundreds of deaths, including many children. Activists, journalists, and ordinary citizens have been targeted, facing arbitrary detention, torture, and unfair trials. In 2023, at least 834 executions were reported, marking a 43% increase from the previous year, with minorities disproportionately affected[1][2][4].

Social Dynamics

The government's enforcement of strict laws, particularly regarding women's rights, has led to widespread discrimination. Women and girls face severe restrictions, including compulsory veiling laws, which have sparked significant resistance. The crackdown on women's rights activists has intensified, with many imprisoned or subjected to violence for defying these laws. Ethnic and religious minorities, such as the Baluch, continue to face systemic discrimination and violence[2][3][4].

Economic Factors

Iran's economy is severely impacted by international sanctions, exacerbating human rights issues by limiting access to essential services and resources. The economic crisis disproportionately affects vulnerable populations, particularly those needing healthcare and social services. The government's focus on maintaining control has hindered efforts to address these economic challenges, further entrenching poverty and repression[3][4].

International Response

The international community has strongly condemned Iran's human rights situation. The UN Human Rights Council has called for independent investigations into the government's actions during the protests and other human rights violations. Despite some engagement with human rights mechanisms, Iran has largely resisted external scrutiny, denying access to independent investigators and failing to implement meaningful reforms[1][2].

In summary, Iran's human rights landscape in 2024 is marked by ongoing repression, particularly against women and minorities, compounded by political unrest and economic hardship. Despite international calls for accountability and reform, the Iranian government's resistance to change presents significant challenges to improving human rights conditions.

Citations:

[1]

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[2]

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[6] <https://www.hrw.org/news/2024/07/12/iran-new-president-should-confront-rights-abuses>

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Methodology

The methodology used to gather data for the human rights report on Iran in 2024 involves a combination of research methods, including:

1. Monitoring and documenting human rights violations:

The report relies on information gathered by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and other UN human rights mechanisms through their monitoring and documentation efforts. This includes gathering information from various sources, such as victims, witnesses, civil society organizations, and media reports[1][3].

2. Engagement with the Iranian government:

The report incorporates information provided by the Iranian government in response to the report and through its engagement with OHCHR and UN human rights mechanisms[1][4]. This includes the government's comments on the report and its participation in the Universal Periodic Review process[5].

3. Collaboration with non-governmental organizations:

The report draws on information from non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other civil society groups working on human rights issues in Iran. These organizations provide first-hand accounts, documentation, and analysis of human rights violations[2][3].

4. Media reports:

The report utilizes information from media outlets, both domestic and international, that have reported on human rights issues in Iran. This includes news articles, interviews, and investigative reports[2].

5. Observations from UN human rights mechanisms:

The report incorporates observations and findings from various UN human rights mechanisms, such as Special Procedures, Treaty Bodies, and the Universal Periodic Review process[5]. These mechanisms provide authoritative assessments of the human rights situation in Iran based on their interactions with the government and other stakeholders.

The report selects case studies based on the severity and scale of human rights violations, the significance of the issues, and the availability of reliable information. Priority is given to cases that illustrate systemic patterns of abuse, have a significant impact on individuals or communities, and highlight the government's responsibility for human rights violations[1][3].

The report aims to provide a comprehensive and accurate assessment of the human rights situation in Iran, drawing on a range of sources and methods to ensure the reliability and validity of the information presented.

Citations:

- [1] <https://reliefweb.int/report/iran-islamic-republic/situation-human-rights-islamic-republic-iran-report-secretary-general-ahrc5622-advance-unedited-version>
- [2] <https://www.iranintl.com/en/202404220270>
- [3] <https://www.ohchr.org/en/statements/2023/06/iran-update-human-rights>
- [4] <https://reliefweb.int/report/iran-islamic-republic/presentation-secretary-generals-report-situation-human-rights-islamic-republic-iran-ahrc5622>
- [5] <https://www.universal-rights.org/report-of-the-35th-special-session-of-the-human-rights-council-on-the-deteriorating-human-rights-situation-in-the-islamic-republic-of-iran/>
- [6] <https://euaa.europa.eu/news-events/iran-euaa-report-focuses-irans-governance-and-human-rights-issues>
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- [8] <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2024/country-chapters/iran>

Civil and Political Rights

The civil and political rights situation in Iran for 2024 remains dire, characterized by severe restrictions on freedom of speech, assembly, and the right to a fair trial. The Iranian government continues to suppress dissent and control public discourse through various means, including censorship, arbitrary detention, and the manipulation of the judicial system.

Freedom of Speech

Iran's government enforces strict limitations on freedom of expression. The U.S. State Department's report highlights the regime's systematic censorship of media and the harassment of journalists and activists. In 2023, the authorities intensified their crackdown on dissent, leading to the imprisonment of individuals like dissident rapper Toomaj Salehi, who was sentenced to death for his vocal opposition to state policies and support for protests following the death of Mahsa Amini in 2022[1].

The legal framework in Iran ostensibly allows for freedom of expression; however, it is heavily restricted by laws that criminalize dissent. Individuals can face imprisonment for "propaganda against the state" or for "insulting" Islam, with sentences ranging from three months to a year[1]. The government's control extends to the internet, where access to popular websites and social media platforms is frequently blocked, with reports indicating that one-third of the most popular websites are inaccessible due to filtering[1].

Freedom of Assembly

The right to assemble peacefully is also severely curtailed in Iran. Authorities routinely arrest activists, journalists, and students participating in protests. In 2023, hundreds were detained for expressing dissent against government policies. Notably, in universities, at least 161 students faced disciplinary actions related to protests, and several instructors were dismissed for their critical views[6].

The crackdown on assembly extends to memorial services for deceased protesters, where families have been pressured to avoid public gatherings. For instance, high-profile cases include the arrests of artists and activists who supported the protest movement, reflecting a broader strategy to stifle any form of public dissent[6].

Right to a Fair Trial

The judicial system in Iran is marked by a lack of independence and fairness. The Iranian Constitution claims to uphold the independence of the judiciary; however, in practice, the judiciary is heavily influenced by the executive branch, particularly the Supreme Leader[5]. Revolutionary Courts, which handle cases related to national security, often conduct trials that lack basic due process rights. Reports indicate that many individuals, including minors, have been executed following unfair trials based on coerced confessions[3][6].

The use of the death penalty remains a tool of political repression, with individuals facing execution for non-violent offenses and for exercising their rights to freedom of expression

and assembly. For example, the execution of two men for "apostasy" was directly linked to their peaceful religious practices on social media[3].

Statistics and Case Examples

Arrests and Detentions:

In 2023, hundreds of activists, journalists, and students were arrested for participating in protests or expressing dissent. This includes at least 29 university instructors and 161 students facing disciplinary actions[6].

Censorship:

The Iranian government imposed 18 internet shutdowns in 2022 alone, a tactic used to suppress protests and control information dissemination[1].

Judicial Manipulation:

The case of Toomaj Salehi exemplifies the arbitrary nature of the judicial system, where he faced a death sentence for his artistic expression and activism against state oppression[1].

In summary, the civil and political rights situation in Iran for 2024 is characterized by severe repression of freedoms, with the government employing a range of tactics to silence dissent and manipulate the judicial process. The ongoing violations reflect a broader pattern of human rights abuses that continue to undermine the fundamental rights of Iranian citizens.

Citations:

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- [3] <https://www.amnesty.org/en/location/middle-east-and-north-africa/middle-east/iran/report-iran/>
- [5] <https://www1.essex.ac.uk/hri/documents/rule-of-law-in-iran.pdf>
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Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights

The situation regarding economic, social, and cultural rights in Iran for 2024 reflects significant challenges and ongoing discrimination, particularly in the realms of education, healthcare, and housing. Marginalized groups, including women, ethnic minorities, and refugees, face systemic barriers that impede their access to these fundamental rights.

Access to Education

In Iran, the right to education is constitutionally guaranteed; however, substantial disparities exist, particularly affecting girls and ethnic minorities. Reports indicate that the Iranian education system reinforces gender inequities, with girls facing obstacles that limit their educational opportunities. Discriminatory practices are prevalent, particularly against religious minorities and ethnic groups, such as Kurds and Baluches, who often encounter barriers to accessing quality education[1][3].

The Iranian government has made some efforts to provide education to migrant children, including those from Afghanistan, but these initiatives are often inconsistent and inadequately funded. The lack of comprehensive human rights education within the national curriculum further exacerbates the situation, as children are not taught about their rights and the importance of advocacy[3][4].

Access to Healthcare

Healthcare access in Iran is another area of concern, particularly for marginalized groups. While the state has established a healthcare system that ostensibly provides services to all citizens, significant disparities exist based on socio-economic status, gender, and ethnicity. Women and ethnic minorities often receive inadequate healthcare services, facing discrimination both in access and quality of care[2][4].

Moreover, the economic sanctions imposed on Iran have severely impacted the healthcare system, limiting the availability of essential medical supplies and treatments. Refugees and migrants, in particular, struggle to access healthcare services, often facing bureaucratic hurdles and financial barriers that prevent them from receiving adequate medical attention[1][2].

Access to Housing

Housing rights in Iran are also compromised, with many citizens living in inadequate conditions. The government has initiated some housing projects aimed at low-income families, but these efforts are frequently marred by corruption and inefficiency. Marginalized groups, including ethnic minorities and women, often face discrimination in housing policies, making it difficult for them to secure stable and adequate living conditions[2][4].

Discrimination Against Marginalized Groups

Discrimination against marginalized groups is pervasive in Iran, affecting their access to education, healthcare, and housing. Women continue to face significant barriers, particularly in employment and education, despite some government initiatives aimed at empowerment. Ethnic and religious minorities, such as the Bahá'ís, Christians, and Sunni Muslims, also experience systemic discrimination that limits their rights and opportunities[1][2][3].

The Iranian government's response to protests and dissent, particularly following the death of Mahsa Amini, highlights the broader context of human rights violations in the country. Ethnic minorities have been disproportionately affected by state violence, with reports of targeted crackdowns during protests in their regions[2][4].

In conclusion, the economic, social, and cultural rights situation in Iran for 2024 reveals a landscape marked by significant challenges and discrimination. Access to education, healthcare, and housing remains unequal, particularly for women and marginalized groups, necessitating urgent reforms and international attention to address these human rights violations.

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[3] <https://humanrer.org/index.php/human/article/download/3929/3984/19404>

[4] https://cesr.org/sites/default/files/2022/Interrogate_2_-_ESCR_Standards.pdf

[5] <https://www.ohchr.org/en/human-rights/economic-social-cultural-rights>

[6]

<https://www.presstv.ir/Detail/2024/06/21/727866/Analysis--How-presidential-hopefuls-outline-d-economic,-social-welfare-plans-in-2nd-debate>

[7] <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2024/country-chapters/iran>

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Violence and Discrimination

The prevalence of violence and discrimination in Iran in 2024 underscores a challenging environment for women and minority groups, marked by both gender-based violence and systemic abuse. This examination provides a detailed analysis of these issues, highlighting specific examples and their broader implications.

Gender-Based Violence

Gender-based violence (GBV) remains a pervasive issue in Iran, with alarming statistics revealing the extent of the problem. A study conducted in Kerman found that ****60.9%**** of women experienced psychological violence, while ****34.7%**** endured physical violence, and ****37.7%**** were subjected to sexual violence[2]. These figures, however, may not fully capture the reality, as societal stigma leads to significant underreporting; nearly two-thirds of such incidents are never disclosed. The data suggest that women who are divorced, widowed, self-employed, or have lower levels of education are particularly vulnerable to GBV.

The Iranian government's stance on women's rights has exacerbated the situation, particularly following the death of Mahsa Amini in 2022, which ignited widespread protests. The state's response has included intensified repression of women, especially concerning the compulsory hijab law. There have been numerous reports of police brutality against women and girls who defy this law, with videos circulating online showing women being forcibly detained for non-compliance[3]. This crackdown highlights the government's aggressive approach to dissent and its impact on gender-based violence.

Systemic Abuse Against Minorities

Discrimination against ethnic and religious minorities in Iran is deeply entrenched within the country's institutions. The education system, for instance, reflects this bias, with curricula that often exclude or misrepresent the contributions of women and minority groups[1]. Textbooks typically promote a singular narrative that centers on Shi'ite Muslim perspectives, fostering a culture of intolerance towards non-Muslims and ethnic minorities.

The UN has pointed out that institutional discrimination against women and girls in Iran has led to severe human rights violations, some of which could be classified as crimes against humanity. The systemic abuse of minority groups is further illustrated by their lack of representation and acknowledgment in public life and governance, which perpetuates their marginalization[5].

Conclusion

The situation in Iran concerning violence and discrimination is dire, with rampant gender-based violence and normalized systemic abuse against minorities. The Iranian government's actions, particularly in response to civil unrest and demands for reform, suggest a troubling trend toward increased repression rather than progress. The international community's response to these violations is crucial, as calls for accountability and recognition of gender apartheid as a crime against humanity gain momentum[3][5].

Addressing these pervasive issues requires comprehensive reforms and sustained international advocacy, particularly as the struggle for women's rights and minority protections continues to intensify in Iran.

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Case Studies

The human rights situation in Iran has further deteriorated in 2024, with significant incidents revealing the extent of systemic violations. Below are detailed accounts of these incidents, supported by personal testimonies and broader context to illustrate ongoing trends in human rights abuses.

Specific Incidents and Testimonies

Repression of Women and Girls

In March 2024, a report by Amnesty International revealed the intensified persecution of women and girls over compulsory veiling laws. One testimony, shared by a 32-year-old teacher from Tehran, captures the brutality of this repression. She recounted being violently accosted by the morality police for not wearing her hijab correctly:

"They grabbed me by the hair, pulling so hard that I thought they would tear my scalp off. They dragged me to their van as I screamed for help, but no one dared intervene. I felt utterly helpless, a prisoner in my own country."

This testimony reflects the broader trend of state-sanctioned violence aimed at enforcing oppressive dress codes and suppressing women's rights. The psychological impact of such constant surveillance and harassment is profound, as another woman explained:

"I live in a constant state of anxiety. Even the simplest act of leaving my home feels like a rebellion. The fear of arrest or worse for merely wanting to express myself has become an exhausting daily reality."

These personal experiences highlight the pervasive atmosphere of fear and control that defines life for women in Iran, where even basic freedoms are curtailed by state policies.

Violence Against Children

Children have not been spared in the Iranian government's crackdown on dissent. According to a UN Fact-Finding Mission, at least 44 children were killed by security forces during protests in 2024. One particularly harrowing account comes from a mother in the city of Shiraz, whose 15-year-old son was killed while protesting:

"He was full of life and dreams. He just wanted a better future for all of us, but now he's gone. The bullet that killed him also shattered our family. No mother should have to bury her child for demanding a better world."

This incident underscores the tragic consequences of state violence against children, who are among the most vulnerable in society yet are treated with brutal force.

Ethnic and Religious Minorities

Ethnic and religious minorities in Iran, including Kurds, Balochs, and Bahá'ís, continue to face systemic discrimination and violence. The Independent International Fact-Finding Mission reported that these groups have been particularly targeted during protests. A Kurdish activist from Sanandaj provided a testimony that speaks to the ever-present fear in her community:

"We live with the constant fear that any attempt to voice our opinions will result in our disappearance. Many of my friends have been arrested simply for speaking out. We are treated as enemies in our own land."

This account reflects the broader pattern of repression against those who challenge the state's narrative, particularly among minority communities who are often doubly marginalized.

Arbitrary Detentions and Torture

Arbitrary detentions and severe torture remain widespread in Iran, particularly targeting activists and dissenters. Human Rights Watch documented several cases where detainees were subjected to extreme physical and psychological abuse. A survivor of such torture shared his harrowing experience:

"They broke me in every way imaginable. I was beaten until I could no longer stand, and they threatened to harm my family if I didn't comply. The physical scars have healed, but the psychological wounds remain."

Such accounts illustrate the brutal methods employed by the Iranian security forces to maintain control and silence opposition. The use of torture as a tool of repression continues to be a grave concern for human rights organizations worldwide.

Broader Trends

The incidents and testimonies from 2024 fit into a larger pattern of escalating human rights violations in Iran. Since the "Woman, Life, Freedom" protests began in September 2022, the Iranian authorities have increasingly resorted to excessive force, arbitrary detentions, and systemic discrimination, particularly against women and ethnic minorities. Despite international condemnation and calls for accountability, the Iranian government continues its repressive tactics with little regard for fundamental human rights.

The situation in Iran remains critical, and the international community's response will be pivotal in addressing these ongoing violations. Supporting those who bravely fight for their rights in the face of such repression is essential in the broader struggle for justice and human dignity in Iran.

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5. Europarl. (2024). [Human Rights Violations in Iran](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/IDAN/2024/754450/EXPO_IDA%282024%29754450_EN.pdf).

Government Response

The Iranian government's response to human rights issues in 2024 has been a complex mix of continued repression and limited reforms, largely driven by internal unrest and external pressures. Despite some attempts at projecting a more responsive image, the government has largely maintained its hardline stance, with significant implications for the country's human rights situation.

Continued Repression

1. Crackdown on Protests:

The government has continued to respond to protests with severe repression. Following the mass protests triggered by Mahsa Amini's death in 2022, the authorities have persistently used excessive force against demonstrators, resulting in hundreds of deaths, including those of minors. The security forces' actions, including unlawful killings, torture, and sexual violence, have been systematic, with little to no accountability for these violations .

2. Legislation Against Dissent:

In September 2023, the Iranian parliament passed the Hijab and Chastity Bill, which imposes severe penalties for non-compliance with hijab laws, including hefty fines and long prison sentences. This legislation underscores the government's commitment to enforcing conservative social norms and suppressing personal freedoms, particularly targeting women

3. Arbitrary Detentions:

Thousands of individuals, including activists and members of ethnic and religious minorities, remain in prison on vague national security charges, often following unfair trials. The government's refusal to investigate or hold perpetrators accountable for human rights abuses remains a significant concern, further entrenching the culture of impunity.

Limited Reforms and International Engagement

1. Human Rights Headquarters:

The establishment of a Human Rights Headquarters aimed at monitoring and addressing human rights issues within the country is one of the few positive developments. This body has attempted to engage with civil society organizations and promote women's rights. However, critics argue that these efforts are superficial and do not translate into meaningful improvements on the ground .

2. International Dialogues:

The Iranian government has also engaged in international dialogues on issues such as women, peace, and sustainable security. These initiatives appear to be part of a broader

strategy to enhance Iran's international image and gain some legitimacy, despite ongoing human rights abuses domestically .

3. Response to Sanctions:

The government has frequently pointed to international sanctions as a significant obstacle to improving human rights conditions, arguing that these sanctions exacerbate economic difficulties and impact citizens' rights and well-being. This narrative is often used to deflect criticism from the government's own policies and human rights record .

Political Context and Future Outlook

As Iran approaches its parliamentary elections in March 2024, the government faces increasing pressure to maintain political stability amid worsening economic conditions. High inflation, widespread poverty, and growing public discontent have contributed to a legitimacy crisis for the regime. In response, the government has attempted to engage with marginalized groups and project a more responsive image through state media and public forums. However, these efforts are likely more about preserving power than addressing the root causes of human rights abuses .

In summary, while the Iranian government has introduced some reforms and engaged in international dialogues, these efforts are overshadowed by ongoing repression and a lack of genuine accountability for human rights violations. The upcoming elections may prompt further actions, but significant challenges remain in addressing the deep-seated human rights issues in Iran.

Citations

1. [UN General Assembly](<https://press.un.org/en/2023/ga12550.doc.htm>)
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3. [The Iran Primer](<https://iranprimer.usip.org/blog/2023/nov/17/iran-2024-political-challenges>)
4. [Human Rights Watch](<https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2024/country-chapters/iran>)
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International Response

The international community's response to human rights issues in Iran in 2024 has been marked by significant actions from various international organizations and foreign governments, alongside the imposition of targeted sanctions and the adoption of resolutions aimed at addressing the ongoing human rights violations in the country.

Actions by International Organizations

1. United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC):

The UNHRC established an Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Iran (FFMI) to investigate human rights violations related to the protests that erupted following the death of Mahsa Jina Amini in September 2022. This mission is tasked with documenting evidence of violations, particularly concerning women and children, and is expected to present its final report in March 2024 .

In November 2022, the UN General Assembly's Third Committee adopted a resolution expressing alarm over Iran's human rights situation, particularly regarding the use of excessive force against protestors and the high rates of the death penalty. This resolution was co-sponsored by 41 countries and passed with a significant majority .

2. European Union (EU):

The EU has been proactive in addressing human rights violations in Iran, emphasizing the need for accountability for gender persecution and systemic discrimination against ethnic and religious minorities. The EU has called for coordinated action among member states to utilize evidence gathered by the FFMI to prosecute Iranian officials under universal jurisdiction .

The EU has also expressed concerns regarding Iran's digital rights violations, advocating for secure internet access for citizens and enhancing support for human rights groups within Iran .

3. Human Rights Organizations:

Reports from organizations like Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International highlight the ongoing repression of protests, systemic discrimination against women and minorities, and the use of torture and arbitrary detention by Iranian authorities. These organizations have urged the international community to impose sanctions and take legal action against Iranian officials implicated in human rights abuses .

Actions by Foreign Governments

1. Sanctions:

Several countries, including the United States and EU member states, have imposed targeted sanctions against Iranian officials and entities involved in human rights violations. These sanctions often include asset freezes and travel bans aimed at those responsible for the repression of protests and persecution of minority groups, particularly the Baha'is and ethnic minorities like Kurds and Baluchis .

2. Diplomatic Pressure:

Countries such as Germany and Sweden have been highlighted as potential leaders in pursuing legal actions against Iranian officials under universal jurisdiction, particularly concerning crimes against humanity related to gender and political persecution .

Resolutions and Statements

The UN Human Rights Committee has called for the repeal of compulsory veiling laws and the disbandment of the morality police, expressing concern over the impunity for the use of lethal force against protestors .

The 2023 Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to Narges Mohammadi for her activism against the oppression of women in Iran, which has drawn international attention to the human rights situation in the country .

In summary, the international community's response to human rights issues in Iran for 2024 has involved a combination of investigative missions, sanctions, and resolutions aimed at promoting accountability and supporting the rights of marginalized groups within Iran. The ongoing situation remains critical, with calls for sustained international engagement and pressure on the Iranian government to uphold its human rights obligations.

Citations:

[1]

<https://www.universal-rights.org/report-of-the-35th-special-session-of-the-human-rights-council-on-the-deteriorating-human-rights-situation-in-the-islamic-republic-of-iran/>

[2]

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[3] <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2024/country-chapters/iran>

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<https://www.amnesty.org/en/location/middle-east-and-north-africa/middle-east/iran/report-iran/>

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Recommendations

To improve the human rights situation in Iran, a multi-faceted approach involving the government, civil society, and the international community is essential. Here are actionable recommendations categorized into immediate and long-term strategies:

Recommendations for the Government of Iran

Immediate Strategies

1. End Repressive Policies:

The Iranian government should immediately cease state-sponsored violence against protesters and human rights defenders. This includes halting arbitrary arrests and ensuring the release of political prisoners.

2. Implement Legal Reforms:

Revisions to laws that restrict freedom of expression, assembly, and association are necessary. This includes abolishing laws that criminalize dissent and ensuring fair trials.

3. Protect Vulnerable Groups:

Special attention should be given to protecting the rights of women, children, and ethnic minorities. This involves enforcing laws that prevent discrimination and violence against these groups.

Long-term Strategies

1. Establish National Human Rights Institutions:

Iran should create independent bodies to monitor human rights practices and ensure accountability for violations. These institutions should include representatives from civil society to enhance legitimacy and transparency.

2. Develop a National Action Plan for Human Rights:

This plan should be based on a comprehensive assessment of the current human rights situation, identifying key issues and setting measurable goals with timelines for implementation and evaluation.

3. Engage in International Human Rights Mechanisms:

Iran should actively participate in the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process and implement recommendations from UN human rights bodies, ensuring a commitment to international standards.

Recommendations for Civil Society

Immediate Strategies

1. Strengthen Advocacy Efforts:

Civil society organizations should increase their advocacy for human rights through awareness campaigns and by providing legal assistance to victims of human rights abuses.

2. Enhance Digital Security:

NGOs should prioritize training in digital security for activists to protect them from state surveillance and repression, ensuring their ability to organize and communicate effectively.

Long-term Strategies

1. Build Coalitions:

Civil society should collaborate with international NGOs to amplify their voices and share resources, creating a stronger front against human rights violations.

2. Promote Human Rights Education:

Initiatives aimed at educating the public about their rights and the mechanisms available for protection can empower citizens and foster a culture of accountability.

Recommendations for the International Community

Immediate Strategies

1. Publicly Condemn Violations:

Governments and international organizations should openly condemn human rights abuses in Iran, using diplomatic channels and public statements to apply pressure on the Iranian government.

2. Support Human Rights Defenders:

The international community should provide funding and resources to Iranian NGOs and human rights defenders, enabling them to operate more effectively despite government repression.

Long-term Strategies

1. Leverage Economic Incentives:

The international community can use economic sanctions and incentives to encourage the Iranian government to comply with human rights standards. Linking sanctions relief to improvements in human rights practices could be effective.

2. Engage in Multilateral Dialogues:

Countries should work together in forums like the UN Human Rights Council to address the human rights situation in Iran, ensuring that it remains a priority on the international agenda.

By implementing these recommendations, stakeholders can work towards creating a more just and equitable society in Iran, addressing both immediate concerns and fostering long-term change.

The human rights situation in Iran for 2024 continues to be extremely concerning, marked by severe repression and widespread violations. In the aftermath of the September 2022 protests, the Iranian government has intensified its crackdown on dissent, particularly targeting vulnerable groups such as women, children, and minorities. The overall human rights conditions have worsened due to ongoing socio-economic difficulties and the effects of international sanctions.

Key Human Rights Violations

1. Excessive Use of Force:

Iranian security forces have used lethal and disproportionate force against protesters, resulting in numerous deaths and injuries, with particularly severe incidents reported in regions with significant unrest.

2. Suppression of Freedom of Expression:

The regime has ramped up its efforts to silence dissent, leading to the arrest of over 70 journalists and the significant deterioration of freedoms of opinion and expression, both online and offline.

3. Gender Discrimination:

Despite playing a pivotal role in the protests, women face systemic discrimination and increased repression, including harsh penalties for defying compulsory veiling laws.

4. Impact on Children and Minorities:

Many protesters have been children, with reports of minors killed during protests. Additionally, ethnic and religious minorities continue to face systemic discrimination, worsening the human rights crisis.

5. Death Penalty and Arbitrary Detentions:

The death penalty is still widely used, even against child offenders, and human rights defenders and activists are frequently subjected to lengthy prison sentences under national security charges.

The Importance of Vigilance and Advocacy

In light of these ongoing violations, international vigilance and advocacy for human rights in Iran are more critical than ever. The global community, including the United Nations and various human rights organizations, must continue to demand accountability and push for the reversal of oppressive policies. Engaging with Iranian authorities to uphold human rights standards and amplifying the voices of the oppressed are vital for driving change. Sustained global attention and action are necessary to support the Iranian people's fight for their fundamental rights and freedoms.

Conclusion

The human rights landscape in Iran for 2024 remains deeply troubling, marked by an escalation in state-led repression and pervasive rights violations. The aftermath of the September 2022 protests has seen an intensification of government crackdowns, with severe consequences for women, children, and minority groups. The deteriorating socio-economic conditions and the effects of international sanctions have further compounded the crisis, creating a grim environment for human rights.

Key violations include the excessive use of force by security agencies, suppression of free expression, systemic gender discrimination, and the alarming treatment of children and minorities. The use of the death penalty, including for minors, and arbitrary detentions of activists continue to highlight the regime's oppressive measures.

In light of these ongoing abuses, international vigilance and advocacy for human rights in Iran are more critical than ever. It is imperative that global institutions and human rights organizations persist in holding the Iranian government accountable and support the Iranian people in their pursuit of fundamental rights and freedoms. Sustained international attention and concerted action are essential to effect meaningful change in Iran's human rights situation.

Appendices

This appendix highlights Iran's key human rights challenges, where Sharia law often conflicts with international standards, leading to gender inequality, minority discrimination, and restricted freedoms.

Appendix A: Statistical Data on Human Rights Issues in Iran (2024)

1. Domestic Violence

- **Femicide cases (2023):**

122 cases documented, 32% of which were "honor" killings.

- **Support services:**

State Welfare Organization provides 24/7 consultations for domestic abuse, though specific 2023 data is unavailable.

2. Labor Rights Violations

- **Data for 2023:**

Specific data on domestic worker abuse and labor inspections are not provided.

3. Freedom of Expression

- **Arrests (2023):**

325 women activists arrested, 147 sentenced to imprisonment, flogging, or execution.

4. Gender Equality

- **Executions and Sentences (2023):**

22 women executed, 147 activists sentenced to 553 years in prison and 557 lashes.

- **Women in leadership and workforce:**

No specific 2023 data provided.

5. Children's Rights

- **Child Marriage and Femicide:**

8 child brides were victims of femicide; 4 were "honor" killings.

Additional Issues

- **Torture and Ill-Treatment:**

Reports of physical and psychological abuse, denial of medical care, and verbal abuse during detention.

- **Violence Against Women:**

Patriarchal control hinders transparency regarding violence against women.

Appendix B: Glossary of Legal and Human Rights Terms

Human Rights in Iran

- **Human Rights Framework:**

Despite Iran's commitment to international human rights treaties, its record is marked by significant violations. The legal system, rooted in Islamic Sharia law, often conflicts with global human rights standards.

Key Issues

- **Gender Inequality:** Women in Iran face legal discrimination, with their lives valued at half that of men under certain laws. Gender equality is often dismissed by Iranian officials.
- **Minority Rights:** Ethnic and religious minorities, such as Arabs, Kurds, and Baha'is, experience discrimination, arbitrary detention, and unfair trials.
- **Freedom of Expression:** Constitutional guarantees are undermined by laws that limit speech, often used to suppress dissent.
- **Arbitrary Detention and Torture:** Reports indicate widespread arbitrary arrests, torture, and unfair trials, with due process frequently violated.
- **LGBT Rights:** Same-sex conduct is criminalized, with punishments including the death penalty, reflecting systemic discrimination.
- **UN Involvement:** The UN Human Rights Council continues to monitor Iran, highlighting concerns over potential international crimes, despite Iran's refusal to allow independent investigations.

Legal and Structural Context

- **Sharia Law:**

Iran's legal system, based on Sharia law, influences crime definitions and classifications, leading to practices like stoning and gender discrimination.

- **Constitutional Ambiguity:**

The Iranian Constitution's vague guarantees of freedom allow for restrictive interpretations, contributing to human rights abuses.

International Criticism

- **Global Condemnation:**

The UN and human rights organizations consistently criticize Iran for its poor human rights record, including issues like impunity, compulsory veiling, and the use of lethal force against protesters.