



# IRAN LIBERATION

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## Political executions rise as anniversary of nationwide uprising approaches 40 prisoners executed in one month

### Five political prisoners including a woman executed



From left: Shirin Alam-Houli, Farzad Kamangar, Mehdi Eslamian, Farhad Vakili and Ali Heydarian

### People of the Iranian Kurdistan and Western Azerbaijan stage protests and strikes and clash with suppressive forces

#### Maryam Rajavi:

*“The executions signal the regime’s vulnerability and fear of spreading uprising to bring down the clerical rule”*

#### European Union:

*“Strongly condemns the executions on 9 May and is profoundly concerned by the repeated sentencing to death in Iran of people belonging to minorities, as well as of those who were involved in the post-election protests”*

#### Amnesty International:

*“We condemn these executions that appear to be a blatant attempt to intimidate members of the Kurdish minority and other critics and opponents of the government in the run up to the first anniversary of last year’s disputed presidential election”*

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### Death sentences for six Ashraf residents’ family members and supporters of PMOI reaffirmed



From left: Mohammad Ali Saremi, Mohsen and Ahmad Daneshpour-Moghadam, Mohammad Ali Haj-Aqai, Jaafar Kazemi, Abdulreza Qanbari

### Iranians stage protests in 14 cities across Europe and North America including London, Paris, Cologne, Stockholm, Oslo, Copenhagen, The Hague, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Ottawa, Toronto, Vancouver and Montreal

#### Maryam Rajavi:

*“Endorsement of death sentences of families of Ashraf residents points to mullahs’ helplessness in face of nationwide uprising and massive support for Ashraf”*

#### Vice President of European Parliament:

*“We call on European Union, the United Nations Secretary General, Security Council, High Commissioner for Human Rights to adopt urgent measures to prevent executions of political prisoners in Iran”*

#### Lord Corbett of Castle Vale:

*“The new British government and others should condemn the regime for these barbaric sentences. The UK and EU should impose comprehensive sanctions on the regime until it halts all political executions”*

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## HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

### “End stoning in Iran,” Amnesty International

In an appeal on April 30, Amnesty International called for action to end stoning to death as a method of execution in Iran. “The Iranian authorities continue to sentence people to death by stoning. Currently there are at least 11 individuals at risk of execution by stoning. According to Iran’s Penal Code, execution by stoning is prescribed for ‘adultery while being married.’”

“The Penal Code specifies the manner of execution and types of stones that should be used. Article 102 states that men will be buried up to their waists and women up to their breasts for the purpose of execution by stoning,” added AI.

### Six prisoners hanged on May 8

A group of six prisoners were hanged in Qezel Hesar of Karaj, west of Tehran, on May 8. They were alleged to have been involved in drug trafficking. Over the years many political prisoners have been executed as drug smugglers or ordinary criminals in order to cover up dissent and the regime’s ploy to eliminate its opponents.



#### Lawyers under pressure

On Saturday, May 1, on International Workers’ Day, the Iranian regime’s intelligence agents summoned Mr. Mohammad Olyaeifard, a jurist and a lawyer to the regime’s Revolutionary

Court falsely claiming that they sought to review his client’s case. After Mr. Olyaeifard appeared at the location, he was arrested instead and taken in chains to prison. He represents detained workers’ activists, children’s rights advocates and a number of imprisoned minors on death row.

He has been charged with “propaganda against the establishment” and “disseminating lies” in order to impose pressure on him. He has also been sentenced to a year in prison.

### Amnesty International calls for a lawyer’s release



In a statement on May 6, Amnesty International expressed concern over the arrest of Mohammad Olyaeifard as a human rights lawyer in Iran and the threats posed on lawyers by the regime. The report said: “Mohammad Olyaeifard was detained on 1 May and to begin serving a one-year jail term. His lawyers have not been informed of his sentence, in violation of Iranian law.”

Before his arrest, AI added, Olyaeifard said that he had been convicted because of an interview he gave to Voice of America’s Persian Service shortly after his client, juvenile offender Behnoud Shojaee, was hanged for a murder he committed when he was 17 years old.

“The arrest of Mohammad Olyaeifard sends a chilling message to lawyers in Iran that if they dare to denounce abuses or miscarriages of justice they will face reprisals,” said Hassiba Hadj Sahraoui, Amnesty International’s Middle East and North Africa Deputy Director.

“This latest move of the Iranian authorities is an indication of the expanding realm of repression in Iran. It shows that no group is immune. The authorities are seeking to silence anyone who is criticizing them. Human rights organizations and their members, journalists, opposition figures, students and women’s rights defenders have been targeted. It is now the turn of lawyers”, Hassiba Hadj Sahraoui said.



### Amnesty International condemns execution of 5 political prisoners

“We condemn these executions which were carried out without any prior warning. Despite the serious accusations against them, the five were denied fair trials. Three of the defendants were tortured and two forced to ‘confess’ under duress,” said Malcolm Smart, Amnesty International’s Director for the Middle East and North Africa.

“They were then executed in violation of Iranian law, which requires the authorities to notify prisoners’ lawyers in advance before carrying out executions.”

“These latest executions appear to be a blatant attempt to intimidate members of the Kurdish minority and other critics and opponents of the government in the run up to the first anniversary, on 12 June, of last year’s disputed presidential election,” said Malcolm Smart. According to a letter he wrote, circulated on the internet in April 2008, he was repeatedly tortured following his arrest in May 2006.

In a letter from prison, Shirin Alam-Holi said she had had nightmares because of what her interrogators did to her.

She was repeatedly beaten, including on the soles of her feet, kicked in the stomach, causing internal bleeding, and when she went on hunger strike, force fed through nasal tubes which she ripped out in protest, damaging her nose. She said she had made a videotaped «confession» after she was hospitalized and given an injection.



### Education International express outrage at Kamangar’s execution

Education International is deeply troubled to hear reports that Iranian teacher trade unionist Farzad Kamangar was among five people who were summarily executed on 9 May.

Farzad Kamangar, a 35-year-old member of the Teachers’ Union of Kurdistan, was accused of “endangering national security” and “enmity against God.” He had lived with the threat of the death penalty since February 2008, when it was imposed upon him after a sham trial that lasted less than five minutes.

EI General Secretary, Fred van Leeuwen, said: “We are all deeply shocked and saddened to hear that Farzad has been executed. His case was particularly troubling to our 30 million members because of the opaque and secretive manner in which his trial was conducted, the lack of basic rights he had access to whilst in prison, and the fact that neither his family nor legal representatives were informed of his execution. This is a terrible day for teachers, union activists and human rights. EI expresses our solidarity with Farzad’s family, colleagues and students.”

### Relatives of Kurds Executed in Iran are Denied the Remains

#### The New York Times

May 11 - The authorities in Iran have refused to allow the families of five Kurdish activists hanged on Sunday to bury them, and have arrested the sister and mother of the only woman among the executed, one of the activists’ lawyers said Tuesday.

The government’s refusal to hand over the bodies to the families appears to stem from a fear of antigovernment demonstrations during burial ceremonies in Kurdish areas.

## Maryam Rajavi described executions as a sign of the regime's weakness

Mrs. Maryam Rajavi, President-elect of the Iranian Resistance, described the executions as a sign of the regime's vulnerability in face of the Iranian people's anger and its fear of spreading of uprising in the country to overthrow the faltering clerical regime.

She added: The clerical regime, following the courageous uprising of the Iranian workers on May Day and on the brink of the anniversary of the beginning of uprising in June, is trying to intensify the atmosphere of intimidation and terror in the country by increasing the number of executions and suppressive schemes.

These outrageous crimes will not, however, save the ruling religious dictatorship in Iran, instead, it will amplify the cries of the Iranian people for freedom and make them even more resolute in their uprising to establish freedom and democracy in Iran, she reiterated.

## EU strongly condemns execution of five political prisoners



The European Union strongly condemns the executions on 9 May 2010 in the Evin prison of Iran of Shirin Alamhouli, Farzad Kamangar, Ali Haydarian, Farhad Vakili and Mehdi Eslamian.

The European Union is profoundly concerned by the repeated sentencing to death in Iran of people belonging to minorities, as well as of those who were involved in the post-election protests. The EU is opposed to the death penalty in all circumstances.

## Five political prisoners executed ...

From page 1

Five political prisoners were executed in Tehran and Shiraz on May 9 prompting protests in the country and international outrage.

Shirin Alam-Houli, 29, was executed after three years of imprisonment; Farzad Kamangar, 35, a teacher with 12 years of experience and a member of Kurdish Teachers Association, was executed after spending four years in prison; Ali Heydarian and Farhad Vakili, were executed after four years of imprisonment. All victims were accused of connections with PEJAK and acting against the security of the clerical rule in Iran.

Mehdi Eslamian was executed in Shiraz for providing funds to his younger brother Mohsen and was accused of taking part in 2008 bombing in that city. Mohsen was hanged in Shiraz on April 10, 2009 at the age of 19.

## Widespread protests and strikes against executions

Following the announcement of Farzad Kamangar's execution, residents of Kamyaran, his birthplace, poured out in streets to express their anger.

Addressing the crowd who had gathered to express their sympathy and condolences, Farzad's mother said: **"Farzad is not dead, he has just come to life, each of Farzad's student and people of Kurdistan are one Farzad now."**

Farzad was a member of Teachers' Trade Association in the Iranian Kurdistan. His family was not informed of the decision to execute him and in response to enquiries by his lawyer the authorities told him that his file had been lost.

The Guardian, May 10, and the Los Angeles Times, May 11, quoted opposition sources saying that protests were planned at Tehran University as well as in Piranshahr and Kamyaran in north-west Iran. Martial law was reportedly declared in the predominantly Kurdish cities of Mahabad and Sanandaj.

People of Iranian Kurdistan and Western Azerbaijan in cities of Sanandaj, Boukan, Saqez, Marivan, Mahabad, Piranshahr, Bijar, Maku, Shenou and Divandareh went on strike on May 13 in protest against the executions on Sunday.

In Piranshahr, people poured out in streets and clashed with suppressive forces. They set fire to suppressive forces' vehicles and beat up the local governor and parliament deputy. In Kamyaran and Marivan, most shops were closed and only few students went to schools. In Sanandaj, shops were closed in major high streets and shopping centers.



Above and right: Protests by Farzad's students and local Kurdish residents



Below: Shops and bazaar closed in Sanandaj, provincial capital of Kurdistan



# 2,000 Female students protest, reject strict forced veiling

On May 5, more than 2,000 girl students of Tehran University protested against a decision forcing girl students to wear a black cover over their faces. The protest started when the suppressive forces of the university prevented the students wearing headscarves from entering the university. The offensive measure provoked anger among students and they tore down the so-called Disciplinary Council Directive, which were posted on the university's walls and doors by the regime's agents. Students chanted anti-regime slogans at the Arts College and staged a demonstration.



## “Down with Ahmadinejad” students chanted in Tehran’s Melli University

Hundreds of students protested against a visit to Melli University in Tehran by mullahs' president Ahmadinejad this morning.

Students expressed their anger against the clerical regime by chanting, “Down with Ahmadinejad,” “student will die by will not give in to humiliation,” and “shame on dictator, leave the university.”

## Death sentences for six Ashraf residents' family ...

From page 1

Tehran's Prosecutor General announced on May 15 that the death sentences for six political prisoners who are family members of Camp Ashraf residents and supporters of the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran (PMOI) have been reaffirmed. Mohammad Ali Saremi, Jaafar Kazemi, Mohsen Daneshpour-Moghadam and his son Ahmad, and Mohammad Ali Haj-Aqai have been sentenced to death because they had visited Camp Ashraf and they have relatives there. According to the prosecutor, the sixth person named Abdulreza Qanbari has been sentenced to death because “on the day of Ashura [uprising] he sent reports to PMOI directly.”

Mrs. Maryam Rajavi, President-elect of the Iranian Resistance, described the death sentences on supporters of PMOI and families of Ashraf residents as a sign of the Iranian regime's helplessness in face of the Iranian people's uprising and the nationwide and growing support for the Iranian Resistance and the freedom-seeking residents of Ashraf. Mrs. Rajavi called on international bodies and authorities for action and said: The international community is facing a crucial test today. The clerical dictatorship, which is a great shame for the humanity in the 21st Century, must be dealt with firmness and rejected by the international community. Economic and political ties with the regime must only continue under one condition and that is when executions and torture are stopped and human rights situation in Iran has improved.

## Iran confirms death sentence for opposition activists



May 15 - The death sentence for six opposition activists arrested in protests after last year's disputed presidential election in Iran have been confirmed, Tehran prosecutor Abbas Jafari Dolatabadi said Saturday. The six were accused of belonging to the exiled and outlawed

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### Maryam Rajavi: Death sentences of families of Ashraf residents points to mullahs' helplessness

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Maryam Rajavi: Death sentences of families of Ashraf residents points to mullahs' helplessness  
Saturday, 15 May 2010

People's Mujahedeen.

Three were arrested after opposition protests during the Shiite mourning holiday of Ashura last December, Dolatabadi said, naming them as «Ahmad Daneshpour Moghadam, Mohsen Daneshpour Moghadam and Alireza Ghanbari.»

It quoted the prosecutor as saying the death penalty for the other three, Mohammad Ali Saremi, Jafar Kazemi and Mohammad-Ali Haj-Aghai who were arrested in September last year, had also been confirmed. Dolatabadi had announced in January that 10 people arrested during opposition protests that followed the re-election last June of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad had been sentenced to hang.