Reducing the scope of the death penalty: Death Penalty for Economic Corruption in Iran
Iran Human Rights (IHR)

- Started by human rights defenders inside and outside Iran in 2005
- Broad network inside Iran
- Member of the Steering Committee of World Coalition against the Death penalty (WCADP)
- www.iranhr.net
- Twitter: @iranhr / @IHRights
Execution trends in Iran

Execution Trends in the Last 14 Years

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Executions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>177</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>317</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>402</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>546</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>676</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>580</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>687</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>753</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>972</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>530</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>517</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>273</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Death penalty based on charges

EXECUTIONS IN 2018 BASED ON CHARGES

- Murder (88.9%)
- Drug-related (8.8%)
- Rape (8.4%)
- Moharebeh and Corruption on earth (13.9%)
Executed for economic corruption in 2018

- Three people executed for economic corruption
- Several more sentenced to death

Vahid Mazloumin, Mohammad Esmail Ghasemi and Hamid Bagheri Dermani
Death Penalty for Economic Corruption in Iran

- Iran has ratified ICCPR
- ICCPR Art 6: *In countries which have not abolished the death penalty, sentence of death may be imposed only for the “most serious crimes”*
- In a recent General Comment on the Article 6 of the ICCPR, the United Nations Human Rights Committee stated that “The term “the most serious crimes” must be read restrictively [151] and appertain only to crimes of extreme gravity, [152] involving intentional killing. [153] Crimes not resulting directly and intentionally in death, [154] such as attempted murder, [155] corruption and other economic and political crimes, [156] armed robbery, [157] piracy, [158] abduction, [159] drug [160] and sexual offences, although serious in nature, can never serve as the basis, within the framework of article 6, for the imposition of the death penalty.
Domestic law: Corruption on Earth

- Article 286 of the Islamic Penal Code defines “corruption on earth” as “a person who commits a crime on an extensive level against the physical integrity of others, the domestic or external security, spreads lies, disrupts the national economic system, undertakes arson and destruction, disseminates poisonous, microbiological and dangerous substances, establishes corruption and prostitution centres or assists in establishing them.”
UN Secretary General September 2018 report: Economic crimes fall outside the category of the most serious crimes

Iranian authorities: Disrupting the national economic system is among the most serious crimes

Different interpretation of the international law?
Why death penalty for corruption and economic crimes?

- Is death penalty deterrent?
- What is the authorities’ main motive to issue death sentences for economic corruption?
Executed for economic corruption in 2018

- **January 2018**: massive protests against the authorities following economic crisis
- **Summer 2018**: Iranian authorities upscale the «fight against economic corruption»
- Dozens arrested, tried and some sentenced to death
- Three executed within a few months after their arrest
Reducing the scope of the death penalty in Iran

- How to reduce the scope of the death penalty in Iran?
- Lessons from stoning and the death penalty for drug offenses