



### [Iranians Protest in Front of Rajaei-Shahr Prison to Stop Executions](#)

Protests around Iran continue as dozens of people demonstrate in front of Rajaei-Shahr Prison in Karaj, Iran. These protests come amid reports that two more men could soon be executed for their links to the ongoing protests in Iran. The two men are 22-year-old Mohammad Ghobadlou and 19-year-old Mohammad Boroughani. Their families were among those protesting. Ghobadlou was arrested for allegedly killing a member of the Iranian security forces with a car. Boroughani was convicted of moharebeh, or “waging war against God”, for allegedly using a knife to kill a member of the security forces. Their convictions were confirmed by the country's supreme court and the men were moved to solitary confinement, causing concern among their family members that they would be executed imminently. Ghobadlou’s mother, who has previously said he has bipolar disorder, can be seen in a video of the protest speaking to the crowd. In her speech, she explains that 50 doctors have signed a petition calling for the judiciary chief to establish a committee to review her son’s mental health. Iran has so far executed four men in cases linked to protest, which are a result of the death of Mahsa Amini. Amini was a young Iranian who died while in custody of the country’s morality police. She was arrested for alleged non-compliance with a mandatory dress code for women. All 4 of the men were hung, one publicly from a crane in Mashhad.

Amnesty International has said that there are more than two dozen people who could be at risk of execution in cases related to protest. Three more men received preliminary execution sentences earlier this week. Many others have received jail sentences, with professional footballer Amir Nasr Azadani receiving 26 years in prison for his acts of defiance against the Iranian government. Iranians, including a number of celebrities, have condemned the executions, saying that justice cannot be achieved through execution. At least 519 people have also been killed while protesting according to the Human Rights Activists’ News Agency. The protests are not limited to Iran, as there have also been protests by many Iranians living in other countries. These protests are important because they keep the public’s attention on what is happening in Iran. Activists have declared that the protests have halted the executions “at least up to this moment.”

The weaponization of the police force along with excessively harsh punishment is a keystone of many authoritarian regimes. It is the Iranian government’s goal to send a chilling effect throughout the protestors. This method is often employed because it often carries significantly less risk for the government in power and is often attracts significantly less condemnation, as it is easier to censor the proceedings of a trial than a public protest. Because of this, it is ever more necessary that democratic governments along with NGOs like Amnesty International remain as vigilant as possible in order to ensure that these crimes are recorded. This makes the possibility of justice all the more likely, as too many times in the past have repressive regimes been able to operate without accountability.