

## Declaration against Death Penalty in Iran

According to the statistics given by International Human Rights Agencies, Iran had executed at least 94 people in 2005, 177 people in 2006, 317 people in 2007 and 346 in 2008. The sharp increase in the number of executions is alarming. Iran has the highest rate of executions of child offenders out of five countries left in the world to still execute children. The Islamic Republic of Iran has the second highest number of executions per capita in the world.

Recalling that;

- The death penalty violates the right to life, constitutes a cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment and may even amount to torture.
- The death penalty is irrevocable and discriminatory and is often used disproportionately against the poor and the powerless as well as against people whom repressive governments want to eliminate.
- The death penalty does not deter crime.

Opposition to the death penalty is not defined by regional or cultural borders, but is embedded within a global commitment to human rights and dignity. **We the undersigned call on the UN General Secretary to urge and invite the Islamic Republic of Iran:**

1. **To immediately stop the execution of children** and respect Article 37(a) of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and Article 6.5 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR).
2. Following on from the UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a universal moratorium on the death penalty, adopted in December 2007 and December 2008, **to introduce a moratorium on the death penalty with immediate effect.**
3. **To abolish the death penalty in general** and sign and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the UN International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

We call on organizations, institutions and individuals that share the objective of abolition – non-governmental organizations, bar associations, trade unions and local governments – and on members of the parliaments throughout the world, whose powers include that of voting for abolition, to sign this declaration.

First signatories: MAF-DAD – Association for Democracy and International Law (Germany); DEMLA – Democratic Lawyers Association (Finland); Danish Helsinki Committee (Denmark); Norwegian Bar Association; Norwegian Council for the Rights of Kurdish People (Norway)

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