



*Mission Permanente  
de la République Islamique d'Iran  
auprès des Nations Unies  
et des autres Organisations Internationales à Genève*

*In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

Ref. 2050/1211380

The Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and with reference to the latter's Communication No. AL IRN 5/2022 dated 13 April 2022 concerning **allegations on execution of 52 individuals on the basis of drug related charges in Shiraz Central prison**, has the honor to transmit, herewith, the comment of the High Council for Human Rights of the Islamic Republic of Iran in that regard.

The Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest considerations.

Geneva, 13 June 2022



Office of the United Nations  
High Commissioner for Human Rights  
Palais des Nations  
CH-1211 Geneva 10

**In the Name of God, the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful**

**Comment**

**By**

**The High Council for Human Rights**

**Of the Islamic Republic of Iran**

**Concerning allegations on the execution of 52 individuals on the basis of drug-related charges in Shiraz Central Prison**

**(Joint Communication AL IRN 5/2022, dated 13 April 2022)**

1. First of all, according to investigations, available documents and records of sentences executed from 20 February 2022 to 20 April 2022, be advised that allegations suggesting the transfer of 52 drug-related convicts to Shiraz Central Prison for execution of verdicts pronounced thereagainst are unsubstantiated. During the aforesaid period, only four individuals convicted of drug-related offenses have been executed.
2. Allegations suggesting the sentencing of 52 individuals to death prior to the holy month of Ramadan are devoid of any standing. Investigations point to the fact that no order had been issued by the judicial authorities to enforce such verdicts before the commencement of Ramadan. Be advised that no execution or *qisas* verdicts have been enforced during the said month.
3. With regards to claims suggesting the alleged presence of a woman among those against whom execution verdicts have been enforced, be advised that during the said period, there was no female prisoner among those convicted of drug-related charges.
4. One of the individuals found guilty of drug-related offenses for aiding and abetting the manufacturing and stashing of 4 kilograms and 525 grams of heroin, 350 grams of crack and 103 grams of meth during the mentioned period, against whom judgment has been pronounced, is confirmed to be of an Afghan national.

Therefore, allegations suggesting that two Afghan nationals were among the executed are untrue.

5. During the period mentioned by the Special Procedures Mandate Holders, there was no under-age offender among the executed. Therefore, allegations suggesting that a 17-year-old prisoner was among the executed are groundless.
6. The correspondence claims that charges attributed to convicts have changed during the trial. This is while files and records prove that no change of charge has ever been made for those whose sentences have been executed; and, verdicts pronounced thereagainst have been issued based upon the indictment and corroborative evidence.
7. Allegations suggesting that the defendants were detained for a long time before trial are completely untrue. The examination of the cases shows that the legal detention period has been observed and neither of them has ever been left unattended or detained outside the boundaries of the law.
8. Allegations suggesting the absence of access to legal representation are totally unsubstantiated. On the strength of Article 35 of the Constitution and Articles 190, 384 and 346 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, and according to the merits of the case, all convicts including those whose sentences have been executed, have benefitted from the power of attorney, assistance and legal advice of public defenders. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] all represented the convicts.
9. The correspondence alleges that the Court has ignored corroborative evidence for the acquittal of the accused. This is while based upon the merits of the cases, the convicts have all confessed to crimes attributed thereto during the investigation and before the Court, and lawyers thereof have also defended them in detail. However, due to the arrest of the accused during the commission of *actus reus*, the existence of corroborative evidence and express confessions, there is no reason to justify innocence thereof. Before pronouncing any judgments, the case goes through all the stages including investigation, trial and appeal. Some cases have even been raised in the Amnesty and Pardon Commission, which has not been accepted by the Judiciary's Amnesty Commission.

10. Other allegations, such as “requests for bribes to reduce the sentencing and disregard of exonerating evidence”, putting “prison staff on security alert and that staff and prisoners were controlled to prevent information about the executions from reaching the public”, or “drugs circulate freely in the prison” are completely false.
11. It deserves to be mentioned that the Islamic Republic of Iran is at the forefront of the fight against narcotics, as a result of which 4,000 have hitherto been martyred and 12,000 veterans left partially wounded. The Government has spent billions of dollars on the fight against, prevention and treatment of narcotics. More than 75% of the world’s opium and 35% of heroin are seized by the Islamic Republic of Iran alone. More than 4,000 people die each year as a result of drug abuse. Hence, strict regulations have been imposed on drug-related offense in the Country. However, a significant number of death penalties have come to a halt owing to new amendments made to the Anti-Narcotics Law. It should be noted that there is no plan or policy to reverse the aforesaid Law and reinstate life-threatening punishments.