



IRAN:

Maximum Impunity

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Justice
for Iran
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Justice for Iran

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Established in 2011, Justice for Iran (JFI) is a London-based non-governmental human rights organization and a member of the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH).

JFI aims to address and eradicate the practice of impunity that empowers officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran to perpetrate widespread human rights violations against their citizens, and to hold them accountable for their actions.

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Summary

- Justice for Iran (JFI)'s submission highlights the failure of the Islamic Republic of Iran (IRI) to implement the recommendations from the first and second cycles of Iran's UPR concerning the duty to investigate and prosecute serious human rights violations which fully or partially enjoyed its support. This submission focuses on some examples of serious human rights violations which have occurred over the past four years as showcases to demonstrate that the IRI has no intention of fulfilling its duty to investigate these abuses and punish the perpetrators, fostering a culture of impunity. The abuses include extrajudicial killings of protesters and unlawful deaths in custody in relation to the events of late December 2017-early 2018. They also include the continued denial of the rights to truth and justice of families of forcibly disappeared persons and concealment of the fates and whereabouts of forcibly disappeared persons by deliberate attempts, such as destruction of mass graves from the 1988 massacre of political prisoners.
- JFI also notes that the IRI's authorities continue exercising the practice of using torture and ill-treatment to obtain forced confessions from political prisoners and their families, and broadcast them through state media outlets in violation of multiple human rights.
- JFI submits that those who seek truth and justice for recent or past human rights violations face intimidation, harassment and prosecution. Moreover, the high-ranking officials who are responsible for providing truth and justice, such as the Head of the Judiciary and Ministers of Justice, have themselves been involved in the most serious human rights violations which amounted to crimes against humanity.

Introduction

1. JFI regrets that the IRI has failed to implement any of the UPR recommendations they fully or partially supported in the previous UPR cycles, concerning their duty to investigate human rights abuses and prosecute the officials responsible, including, but not limited to, the following:
 - 90. 105. Ensure that competent bodies investigate allegations of torture, enforced disappearance and secret detention, that those responsible are punished and that programmes providing reparation for victims are established (Chile);
 - 90. 104. Investigate and prosecute all those, including Government officials and paramilitary members, suspected of having mistreated, tortured or killed anyone, including demonstrators, political activists, human rights defenders and journalists (Canada);
 - 90. 116. Take measures to ensure that Government and security officials implicated in human rights abuses relating to extrajudicial and arbitrary detention and the possible use of torture are investigated, prosecuted and punished (Netherlands);
 - 138.214. Take the necessary measures to enhance international legal cooperation in cases of serious violations of human rights and ensure the right to truth and justice (Argentina).
2. Detailing some examples, this submission demonstrates how the IRI's authorities not only deny victims, their families and the entire society the right to know the truth and the right to justice, but also silence the victims and their families through systematic intimidation, harassment and prosecution while refusing to hold the perpetrators accountable. As confirmed by the UNSR on Iran, the 'lack of Government investigation'¹ of the claims of rights violations has cultivated 'the existence of widespread impunity.'²

¹ Human Rights Council, Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, 28 February 2013, A/HRC/22/56, Para 1, Available at: <https://undocs.org/A/HRC/22/56>, [accessed 26 March 2019].

² General Assembly, Situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights, Ahmed Shaheed, in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 16/9, 13 September 2012, A/67/369, Para 74, Available at: <https://undocs.org/A/67/369>, [accessed 26 March 2019].

1. Late December 2017-Early 2018 Events

3. In December 2017 and January 2018, Iran witnessed nationwide protests which started in the city of Mashhad and quickly spread across the country. Demonstrators marched on the streets, angry and frustrated about state corruption, mismanagement, and the government economic policies which resulted in an increasing inflation rate and unemployment. Although protests mainly remained peaceful, the protesters soon became more radical in their demands.
4. According to various reports, it is estimated that over 4,000 people, including protesters, student activists and those who took and shared the photos and videos of demonstrations on online platforms, were detained.³ Many of them were subsequently charged with national security-related offences and sentenced to imprisonment. At least three detainees were confirmed to have died in custody.

1.1. Extrajudicial Killing of Protesters

5. The authorities confirmed the killing of at least eight protesters, while the actual number is much higher, according to other sources.⁴
6. On 31 December 2017, the state broadcasting agency confirmed that two protesters had been killed in the city of **Dorud**. A local MP stated, “There was no way for the police other than confronting and firing on those who broke the norms and took to the streets.”⁵
7. On 1 January 2018, six people were also killed when police forces opened fire at protesters in **Qahderijan** in the province of Isfahan. The district’s governor asserted that police fired at protesters after they launched an “armed assault.”⁶ Several videos of the incident, reviewed and verified by JFI, including the footage broadcast by the state media outlets, show no evidence of the protesters being armed with weapons. It only appears that protesters were throwing stones and crude incendiary devices.⁷
8. Both cases confirm that authorities responded with grossly disproportionate force to alleged isolated incidents of violence, which amount to extrajudicial killing.

³ Iran: Free People Jailed for Peaceful Protests, Human Rights Watch, 31 August 2018, Available at: <https://www.hrw.org/news/2018/08/31/iran-free-people-jailed-peaceful-protests>, [accessed 26 March 2019].

⁴ Iran’s ‘year of shame’: More than 7,000 arrested in chilling crackdown on dissent during 2018, Amnesty International, 24 January 2019, Available at: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2019/01/irans-year-of-shame-more-than-7000-arrested-in-chilling-crackdown-on-dissent-during-2018/>, [accessed 26 March 2019].

⁵ Human Rights Violator: Mohammad Malekshahi, Justice for Iran, 12 March 2018, Available at: <https://justice4iran.org/human-rights-violators-bank/human-rights-violator-mohammad-malekshahi>, [accessed 26 March 2019].

⁶ Human Rights Violator: Hassan Nikbakht, Justice for Iran, 12 March 2018, Available at: <https://justice4iran.org/human-rights-violators-bank/human-rights-violator-hassan-nikbakht>, [accessed 26 March 2019].

⁷ *Ibid.*

1.2. The Deaths of Protesters in Detention Centres

9. There are at least three cases of the protesters' deaths in detention. In two cases, the authorities announced that the deaths were the result of suicide while in the third case, they denied that the deceased was a protester, at all—claims which family members strongly disputed.
10. 22-year-old **Sina Ghanbari** was arrested by the police forces during the protests of 31 December 2017 and transferred to Evin Prison. Six days later, the authorities claimed that Mr. Ghanbari had hanged himself in a prison toilet. Refusing to further explain the circumstances of his death, the officials asserted that he was “a drug addict” and defamed his character. His family was forced to cancel their arrangements for a public memorial ceremony.⁸
11. 23-year-old **Vahid Heydari** was arrested on 31 December 2017 by the police forces during protests in the city of Arak. He was then transferred to Police Station 12, where he later died under suspicious circumstances. Six days later, authorities informed Mr. Heydari's family that their son had killed himself in custody, and that his family should collect his body. On 10 January 2018, the Provincial General Prosecutor referred to Vahid Heydari as a drug smuggler, adding that the relevant footage showing the moment he committed suicide was available. However, no footage has been released. Mr. Heydari's family has denied claims that he was a drug smuggler. The authorities and security forces harassed his family and forced them to remain silent and bury his body in a location they specified.⁹
12. 24-year-old **Saru Ghahremani** was another protester who was arrested and detained by the Ministry of Intelligence on 1 January 2018 during a protest in the city of Sanandaj. Authorities handed his body over to his family 11 days later, claiming that he was shot during the course of an armed confrontation with security forces. Despite being subjected to constant harassment and intimidation by judicial and security forces, his family disputed the official claim, saying that he died in a Ministry of Intelligence detention centre in Sanandaj.¹⁰
13. However, on January 14, the authorities broadcast a programme on state media outlets, in which Saru Ghahremani's father appeared to deny his earlier statement and confirmed the official account. His family later retracted the video statement, revealing that it was made under coercion.¹¹

⁸ Human Rights Violator: Ali Cheharmahali, Justice for Iran, 12 March 2018, Available at: <https://justice4iran.org/human-rights-violators-bank/human-rights-violator-ali-cheharmahali>, [accessed 26 March 2019].

⁹ Human Rights Violator: Kiumars Azizi, Justice for Iran, 12 March 2018, Available at: <https://justice4iran.org/human-rights-violators-bank/human-rights-violator-kiumars-azizi>, [accessed 26 March 2019].

¹⁰ Human Rights Violator: Mohammad Ebrahim Zarei, Justice for Iran, 12 March 2018, Available at: <https://justice4iran.org/human-rights-violators-bank/human-rights-violator-mohammad-ebrahim-zarei>, [accessed 26 March 2019].

¹¹ Human Rights Violator: Abdolali Asgari, Justice for Iran, 12 March 2018, Available at: <https://justice4iran.org/issues/impunity-issues/human-rights-violator-abdolali-asgari>, [accessed 26 March 2019].

1.3. Other Cases of Deaths in Custody

14. There were other cases of death in custody related to other developments in early 2018 which remain uninvestigated to date. **Mohammad Raji**, a member of Iran's persecuted Gonabadi Dervishes (a Sufi community,) was arrested on February 20, following the violent dispersal of a protest by the community members in Tehran. His family was informed by the police, 15 days later, that he had died from injuries caused by repeated blows to his head. Authorities coerced Mohammad Raji's family into burying his body at 2 A.M. on March 6, with police forces present at the cemetery.¹²
15. In January, the IRGC arrested several members of the NGO Persian Wildlife Heritage Foundation (PWHF), including the prominent environmentalist, **Kavous Seyed Emami**.¹³ His family was kept in the dark about his fate and whereabouts for two weeks following his arrest on January 24. On February 9, the Office of the Tehran Prosecutor informed them that he had committed suicide in his cell in Evin prison.¹⁴
16. On February 13, a few days after the alleged "suicide" of Kavous Seyed Emami, state television claimed that he was a spy. His family vehemently denied the allegation and filed a defamation lawsuit against the media organisation. The program featured a video-recorded statement by Kavous's brother confirming the official account. The family have said that authorities coerced the brother into recording the video when they raided his house a few days earlier.¹⁵

17. To date, no independent and transparent investigation has been conducted into these cases, which amount to extrajudicial killing and unlawful deaths in custody. The pattern emerging from all these cases shows that Iran's judicial and security authorities routinely threaten the bereaved families to refrain from registering a legal complaint and speaking to the media and human rights groups, in a bid to silence their pleas for truth and justice. They also engage in what can be described as orchestrated campaigns to cover up any evidence of torture, ill-treatment and unlawful deaths while publicly defaming the deceased.

¹² Iran: End persecution of families seeking truth and justice for detainees who have died in detention (Joint Public Statement), Justice for Iran, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch & Center for Human Rights in Iran, 13 March 2018, Available at: <https://www.amnesty.org/download/Documents/MDE1380492018ENGLISH.PDF>, [accessed 26 March 2019].

¹³ Iran: Spying charges against wildlife activists "hard to fathom", UN experts, Mr. John H. Knox, Special Rapporteur on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment; Mr. David Kaye, Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, Mr. Michel Forst, Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, Mr. José Antonio Guevara Bermúdez, Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention are part of what is known as the Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council, 23 February 2018, Available at <https://www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=22697&LangID=E>, [accessed 26 March 2019].

¹⁴ *Ibid.*

¹⁵ Iran: Activists' families facing harassment (Joint Statement), Human Rights Watch, Justice for Iran & Center for Human Rights in Iran, 9 August 2018, Available at: <https://justice4iran.org/publication/call-for-action/iran-activists-families-facing-harassment>, [accessed 26 March 2019].

2. Enforced Disappearances and Mass Graves

18. As extensively documented, including by the UNSRs on Iran, the first decade following the 1979 Revolution was marked with mass executions and enforced disappearances.¹⁶ Most significantly, over the course of two months in the summer of 1988, more than 5,000 political prisoners were forcibly disappeared, summarily executed in secret and buried in unmarked and mass graves across the country—a massacre that has been described as a crime against humanity by international lawyers¹⁷ and NGOs.¹⁸
19. The UNSR on the Situation of Human Rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran has called on the IRI to “undertake thorough and independent investigation into the 1988 massacres,”¹⁹ Not only have the IRI’s authorities refused to do so, those involved in extrajudicial killings in the 1980s are now holding the highest positions in government.
20. Undeniable evidence²⁰ proves the key roles played in the 1988 massacre by, among others, the current and former Ministers of Justice, **Alireza Avaei** and **Mostafa Pour-Mohammadi**, as well as **Ebrahim Raesi**, the newly appointed Head of the Judiciary. The evidence includes the memoirs of Hossein Ali Montazeri, who was in line to lead the country after Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, then supreme leader, in which Montazeri implicated them as responsible for the mass execution of political prisoners.²¹
21. Released by the office of Montazeri in 2016, an audio recording captured at a meeting in 1988, in which senior officials including Pour Mohammadi and Raesi are heard discussing and defending the details of their plans to carry out the 1988 mass executions, brought into foreground their role in the mass killings and prompted the

¹⁶ For example, see: Commission on Human Rights, Final Report on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran by the Special Representative of the Commission on Human Rights, Mr. Reynaldo Galindo Pohl, pursuant to Commission resolution 1992/67 of 4 March 1992, 28 January 1993, E/CN.4/1993/41, available at: <http://impactiran.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/UN-GP-Jan1993.pdf>, [accessed 26 March 2019] & Commission on Human Rights, Final report on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran prepared by the Special Representative of the Commission on Human Rights, Mr. Reynaldo Galindo Pohl, pursuant to Commission resolution 1993/62 of 10 March 1993 and Economic and Social Council decision 1993/273, 2 February 1994, E/CN.4/1994/50, available at: <http://impactiran.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/UN-GP-Feb1994.pdf>, [accessed 26 March 2019]

¹⁷ Robertson, Geoffrey, QC. "The Massacre of Political Prisoners in Iran, 1988." *The Massacre of Political Prisoners in Iran, 1988*. April 18, 2011. P. 97-101, Available at: https://www.iranrights.org/attachments/library/doc_118.pdf, "Judgement." Iran Tribunal. February 5, 2013: 52, [accessed 26 March 2019].

¹⁸ BLOOD-SOAKED SECRETS WHY IRAN’S 1988 PRISON MASSACRES ARE ONGOING CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY, Amnesty International, 4 December 2018, Index number: MDE 13/9421/2018, available at: <https://www.amnesty.org/download/Documents/MDE1394212018ENGLISH.PDF>, [accessed 26 March 2019].

¹⁹ Human Rights Council, Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, 5 March 2018, Available at: http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/RegularSessions/Session37/Documents/A_HRC_37_68.DOCX, [accessed 26 March 2019].

²⁰ For more information, see: BLOOD-SOAKED SECRETS WHY IRAN’S 1988 PRISON MASSACRES ARE ONGOING CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY, *Ibid*, Amnesty International, 4 December 2018, Index number: MDE 13/9421/2018, Available at: <https://www.amnesty.org/download/Documents/MDE1394212018ENGLISH.PDF>, [accessed 26 March 2019].

²¹ *Ibid*.

authorities to admit, for the first time, that the mass killings of 1988 were planned at the highest levels of government.²²

2.1 Continued Denial of Truth and Justice for Forcibly Disappeared Persons

22. Over the past few years, the UN Working Group on Involuntary and Enforced Disappearances recognised the victims of the 1980s extrajudicial executions as forcibly disappeared in a number of cases, including those of father and daughter, **Hossein and Golrou Rahemipour**²³, and siblings **Roghieh and Abdolreza Akbari-Monfared**²⁴, acknowledging the continued suffering of the families and their human rights to know the truth, to justice and to reparations.
23. Nevertheless, the families of the victims who have sought information about the fates of their loved ones and circumstances of their disappearances and demanded accountability for the perpetrators have received nothing but harassment, intimidation and prosecution.
24. Charged with “spreading propaganda against the system”, **Raheleh Rahemipour** was arrested and sentenced to one year’s imprisonment in reprisal for a complaint filed with the UN about her brother Hossein, who was summarily executed in 1984, and his baby daughter Golrou, who was forcibly disappeared 15 days after she was born in Evin prison.²⁵ The prison authorities took the baby away, ostensibly for medical tests, but never returned her.²⁶
25. Maryam Akbari-Monfared, being a political prisoner herself for the past ten years, has faced reprisals since October 2016 when she filed a formal complaint from inside prison, requesting an official investigation into the mass executions of political prisoners in the 1980s, including those of her brother and sister Roghieh and Abdolreza. She also demanded information about the location of their burial sites and

²² Iran: Repression of those seeking truth and justice for 1980s killings needs to stop, Joint Statement of 20 NGO, 8 March 2017, Available at: <https://justice4iran.org/publication/call-for-action/iran-repression-of-those-seeking-truth-and-justice-for-1980s-killings-needs-to-stop>, [accessed 26 March 2019].

²³ UN experts condemn charges against Iranian woman seeking missing relatives, The experts: the Working Group on enforced or involuntary disappearances; the UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, David Kaye; the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, Mr. Michel Forst; the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, Mr. Maina Kiai; and the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ms. Asma Jahangir, 24 November 2014, Available at: <https://ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=20928&LangID=E>, [accessed 26 March 2019].

²⁴ UN body calls on Iran to shed light on fate of disappeared victims of 1988 massacre, Justice for Iran, 13 November 2017, available at: <https://justice4iran.org/4iran-activities/un-body-calls-on-iran-to-shed-light-on-fate-of-disappeared-victims-of-1988-massacre>, [accessed 26 March 2019].

²⁵ Situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, Report of the Secretary-General, A/HRC/37/24, 26 February 2018, Available at: https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/RegularSessions/Session37/Documents/A_HRC_37_24.docx, [accessed 26 March 2019].

²⁶ Revolutionary Court: baby disappeared in Evin prison is imaginary, Justice for Iran, 3 February 2017, Available at: <https://justice4iran.org/news/revolutionary-court-baby-disappeared-in-evin-prison-is-imaginary>, [accessed 26 March 2019].

the identities of the perpetrators involved.²⁷ In retaliation, officials cancelled her medical care arrangements and restricted visits from her family, including her three children. The prosecution authorities have also threatened her with new charges.²⁸

2.2. Destruction of Mass Graves of the 1988 Massacre of Political Prisoners

26. JFI and Amnesty International obtained and analysed evidence including satellite imagery, photos and videos of suspected or confirmed mass grave sites across Iran associated with the 1988 massacre, which showed that in recent years, the IRI's authorities have been deliberately destroying such sites²⁹ in spite of the UNSR on Iran urging the government to "ensure that locations believed to be the site of mass graves are persevered and protected."³⁰
27. JFI identified over 70 locations which are believed to be sites of mass graves. At least five suspected or confirmed mass grave sites have faced destruction between 2016 and 2019. The IRI's authorities are knowingly and deliberately bulldozing these sites and constructing buildings and roads, which effectively erase all traces of their mass extrajudicial killings.
28. The mass graves of the city of **Ahwaz** are situated three kilometres east of Behesht Abad Cemetery. The families of some 1988 massacre victims believe that at least 44 bodies are buried at this site. In July 2018, the Ahwaz Municipality bulldozed the mass grave site in a 24-hours operation under the pretence of a plan to build more roads and green spaces. The news, photos and videos received by JFI show the entirety of mass grave sites being transformed into plain ground.³¹
29. Near the city of **Qorveh**, close to the Baha'i cemetery, there is a dirt field believed to be the burial place of a number of political prisoners executed in Kurdistan in 1988. Authorities have repeatedly damaged and removed tombstones and markers put in place by the victims' families. On 14 July 2016, the IRI's officials razed the entire site in accordance with an order issued by the judicial authorities entitled "Change of Utilization." After the destruction, the families installed new tombstones on the graves which were again destroyed and removed by the authorities in 2017.³²
30. Families of political prisoners executed during the 1988 massacres in the city of **Rudsar** in northern Iran believe that their mass graves are located near the coast on Shohada

²⁷ UN body calls on Iran to shed light on fate of disappeared victims of 1988 massacre, *ibid*.

²⁸ Iran: Repression of those seeking truth and justice for 1980s killings needs to stop, *ibid*.

²⁹ Criminal cover-up: Iran destroying mass graves of victims of 1988, Justice for Iran and Amnesty International, 30 April 2018, Available at: <https://justice4iran.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Mass-Graves-Report-ENGLISH-FINAL.pdf>, [accessed 26 March 2019].

³⁰ Human Rights Council, Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, 5 March 2018, Available at: http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/RegularSessions/Session37/Documents/A_HRC_37_68.DOCX. [accessed 26 March 2019].

³¹ A crime buried: demolition of the mass graves of the 1988 massacre by the Ahvaz Municipality, Justice for Iran. 27 July 2018, Available at: <https://justice4iran.org/news/a-crime-buried-demolition-of-the-mass-graves-of-the-1988-massacre-by-the-ahvaz-municipality>, [accessed 26 March 2019].

³² Criminal cover-up: Iran destroying mass graves of victims of 1988, *ibid*, P 22-24.

Boulevard. A few years ago, construction work started on the site to apparently build a trade centre and continues to date.³³

31. At the entrance to the Vadi-e Rahmat Cemetery in the city of **Tabriz**, there is a field the authorities named “The Children’s Section.” This area contains the graves of the political prisoners executed in the 1980s and mass graves of some of those executed in 1988. In June 2017, the Cemeteries Organization of Tabriz Municipality launched a project to “assimilate the Children’s Section into the Hall of Ceremonies.” The remains of the graves of the political prisoners were hence covered by concrete.³⁴
32. It is believed that up to 170 political prisoners were buried in mass graves in Behesht-e Reza Cemetery near the city of **Mashhad**. Bereaved families who visited the site on the occasion of the Iranian New Year in March 2017, discovered that the previously flat area had been covered with soil to create a raised mound over the grave.³⁵

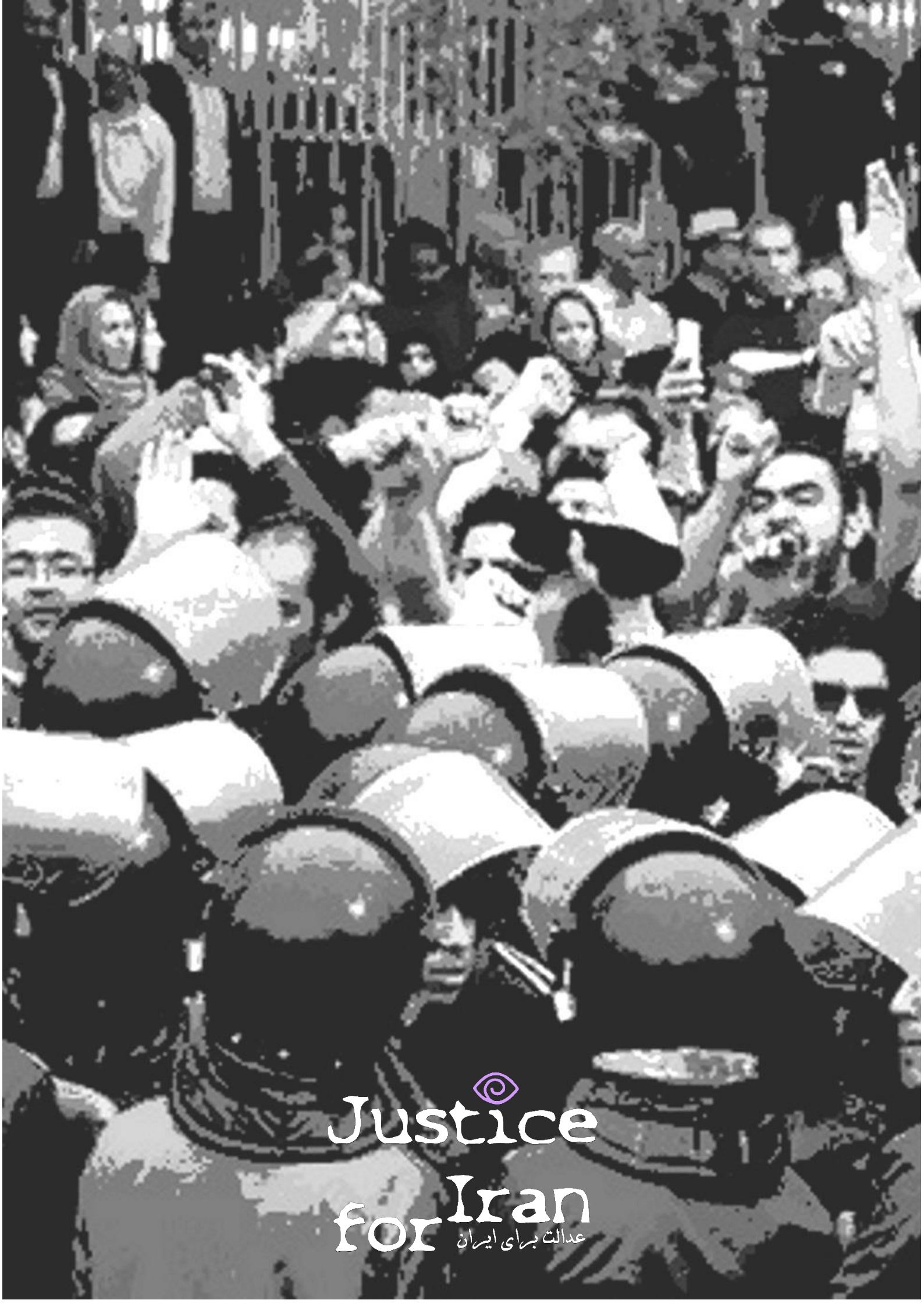
³³ Urgent Action: Don’t Allow the Destruction of Mass Grave Site in Rudsar, Justice for Iran, PainScapes, 17 August 2018, Available at: <https://painscapes.com/en/cities/512>, [accessed 26 March 2019].

³⁴ Criminal cover-up: Iran destroying mass graves of victims of 1988, *ibid*, P 15-18.

³⁵ Iran: Desecrating mass grave site would destroy crucial forensic evidence, Amnesty International and Justice for Iran, 1 June 2017, Available at: <https://justice4iran.org/publication/call-for-action/iran-desecrating-mass-grave-site-would-destroy-crucial-forensic-evidence>, [accessed 26 March 2019].

Recommendations

- Conduct impartial, transparent and independent investigations concerning the events of late December 2017-early 2018, in particular for the extrajudicial killings of the protesters and unlawful deaths in custody.
- Outlaw and put an end to the practices of using torture and ill-treatment in order to obtain forced confessions and broadcasting them as defamatory videos.
- End intimidation, harassment and prosecution of the relatives of the victims of enforced disappearances, extrajudicial killings and other grave human rights violations.
- Provide society and the relatives of the victims of enforced disappearance, extrajudicial killings and unlawful deaths with the truth about the details of the events surrounding their fates, and bring those who were responsible to justice.
- Remove from their positions and put on trial the perpetrators of the 1988 massacre, including the current and previous Ministers of Justice and the Head of the Judiciary.
- Immediately cease all ongoing destruction operations on the sites of the mass graves of the 1988 massacres' political prisoners and ensure the locations believed to be the sites of mass graves are preserved and protected.



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