

# Rise Up against Executions in Iran

In the past ten days, more than ten people have been hanged or stoned to death by the Islamic regime in Iran. At least two, Hamzah Ghaderi who had been imprisoned for five years and Khaled Shoghi, a well known political opponent, were political prisoners executed on 7 October 2002 in Orumieh. Shoghi was executed under the guise of 'distributing narcotics'. Yunes Asadi and Goli Nikkhoo, a man and woman, were stoned to death in the city of Naghadeh at the end of September 2002. Nikkhoo was stoned to death after spending 11 years in prison. Also, on September 29, five young men by the names of Amir Fakhri, Farhad Aghlarian, Majid Ghasemi, Payam Amini and Mehdi Karbalaee Haidar were hanged in public. Reports have been received that there are others awaiting execution, including 19-year-old Salar Kerdari for activities against the regime, Ghader Makhmal for taking part in the recent prison protests in the city of Mahabad, and Saeed Maasoori for opposition to the regime.

Executions have always been one of the main tools of the Islamic regime to maintain power; the regime has executed over one hundred thousand people during its reign. In recent years, though, public hangings, stonings to death and floggings have been used by the Islamic regime to intimidate and terrify the people who have risen to overthrow this regime. This is what they have said themselves; according to one of the regime's officials, Mokhtarpour, 'The sentences must be carried out in such a way that their effects on society can be seen.' Though the regime is its final days, it continues to torture and kill. This is its trade. With or without Khatami, with or without Khamanei, any day in the life of the regime just means more suppression and more killed.

These recent executions and the arrests of 288 youth for attending parties and gatherings during the past two weeks in Tehran are the last attempts of a vulnerable regime. We, advocates of freedom, have brought this regime to its knees; we have refused to submit to it and defeated its policies one after the other. We can and must put an end to executions and arrests as well. We must not allow it to take any more victims from us in its final days. Any further execution and arrest must be turned into a scene of protest against the regime of Islamic criminals, both in Iran and internationally. Join the WPI's campaign to end executions in Iran once and for all.

Worker-communist Party of Iran  
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