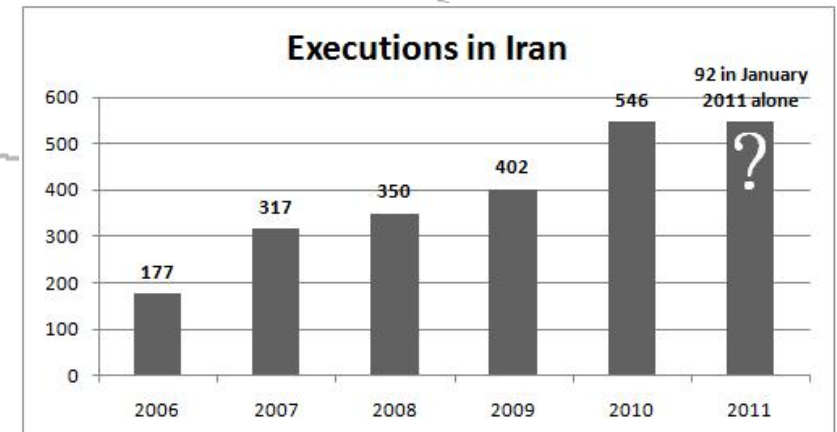


IRAN

- Iran currently leads the world for executions, with the highest number of executions per capita of any country. The chart to the right shows minimum estimates; the many undocumented executions are not included in statistics. Most worrying is that the government does not appear to feel any desire to lose the #1 ranking; since mid-December 2010 the political unrest in North Africa and the Middle East has spurred the Iranian government to an appalling execution binge to ensure that the wave of democratic revolution does not reach Iran.
- The thousands of political prisoners in Iranian jails comprise human rights campaigners, journalists, lawyers, protestors, and political opponents of the government. As well as lengthy imprisonment, they face torture in various forms, including beating, sleep deprivation, rape, and amputation. As per above, eventual execution is also a very real possibility.
- Iran currently ranks at #158 of 167 on the 'Democracy Index'* , below, for example, Libya, Sudan and Zimbabwe, and #175 of 178 on the 'Press Freedom Index'.*
- The UKBA August 2010 guidance notes on Iran, quoting from the Foreign Office's Annual Report on Human Rights: '... the [Iranian] government's brutal response to widespread protests after the disputed presidential elections in June. Freedom of assembly was curtailed, and peaceful protestors and political activists were subjected to repeated, well-documented abuses.'
- Foreign Secretary William Hague: '... we want the human rights record of the Iranian Government to be seen for what it is throughout the world, because it is utterly unacceptable to anyone who cares about basic human rights anywhere on earth ...'
- However, this country, even in light of recent developments in Iran, continues with the deportation of Iranians back to grave danger.



RAPAR's position on Iran and Iranian refugees

RAPAR stands in solidarity with all those persecuted and oppressed in Iran, and with all who have fled to survive. To live in freedom from persecution, torture and execution is a basic human right. To fight for and promote this freedom is to assert our humanity.

RAPAR joins with all those—everywhere—who are urging the UK government to immediately halt all deportations to Iran being carried out by the UKBA.

RAPAR asks for connection with all groupings who are working for this purpose, so that we can be a part of developing a determined and UK-wide network that stops the deportations and makes its contributions towards the creation of democracy in Iran.

* Economist Assessment Unit 'Democracy Index'
*Reporters Without Borders' 'Press Freedom Index'