

Iran executed five Iranian Kurds, including a female juvenile offender

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Iranian authorities executed on Tuesday five Kurdish citizens on charges of murder, Hangaw Organisation for Human Rights, a monitoring group on human rights issues involving Kurds in Iran said.

The executions were carried out in the central prison of Urmiah, Western Azerbaijan province, said Hangaw.

"The Iranian authorities must urgently halt their plans to execute Zeinab Sekaanvand. She was arrested when she was just 17 years old and sentenced to death for the murder of her husband, whom she married at the age of 15. Not only was she a child at the time of the crime, she was subjected to a grossly unfair legal process," Philip Luther, Amnesty International's Research and Advocacy Director for the Middle East and North Africa said.

Along with Sekaanvand, four other Kurds were also executed in Urmia Prison according to Hengaw, a group writing on human rights issues involving Kurds in Iran.

According to Amnesty International, among the 23 countries that carried out death sentences in 2017, “Iran executed at least 507 people.” At least 31 of those executions were public, and five of those executed were under 18 years old. These numbers account for more than half of all recorded executions in 2017.

From March through September, Iran has hanged over 40 Iranian Kurds and sentenced just under a dozen other activists to death, Hengaw added.

Other recent cases that garnered international attention were that of Ramin Hussein Panahi and two cousins Loghman and Zaniar Moradi who were executed on September 8.