Iran’s Continuous Human Rights Violations

Despite what it tells Western powers, Iran is one of the worst human rights abusers in the world.

Here are some of many examples:

- Iran executes more people per capita than any other country in the world.\(^1\) In just the first half of 2015, Iran executed on average more than three people every day.\(^2\)
- Homosexuality is a crime punishable by death in Iran and Iran has executed many members of the LGBTQ community for this “crime.”
- Iran persecutes Iranian-born Muslims who convert to Christianity. Many Christians must flee to safety.\(^3\)
- Iran is a dictatorship. Iran’s unelected Supreme Leader holds absolute power.
  - Although Iranians can vote for president, the president holds no real political power. Furthermore, the Supreme Leader dictates who is allowed to run for president.
- The government arrests journalists who negatively depict the state.\(^4\) Furthermore, Iran’s dictators have closed down more than 1,000 newspapers since 1979.
- “Morality police” arrest women whom officials deem immodestly dressed or in violation of Islamic law.\(^5\)
- Iran has persecuted members of the Baha’i faith for decades. Seven notable Baha’i leaders have been individually sentenced to 20 years in prison for non-existent crimes.
- Iran sentenced eight Facebook users to a collective 123 years in prison in 2014 for acts such as “propaganda against the state” and “insulting Iran’s Supreme Leader.”\(^6\)
- Iran is holding four Americans in prison for no crime and without trial.\(^7\)
- Though eventually released, the government arrested six civilians in 2014 for dancing to Pharrell’s popular song ‘Happy.’\(^8\)
Fox News, Iran Steps Up Pace of Executions as it Courts West, April 10, 2014
BBC News, Iran executions see 'unprecedented spike' – Amnesty, July 23, 2015
Iran News Update, PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS FLEE IRAN, FIND HOPE AND HOMES IN GERMANY, May 20, 2014
The Jerusalem Post, Iran's War on Women, May 25, 2014
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Mashable, Iran Sentences 8 Facebook Users to Combined 123 Years in Jail, May 28, 2014
Washington Post, 'Happy' video arrest highlights tensions in Iran, May 21, 2014
The Daily Beast, 'Happy' Dancers Arrested, Abused in Iran, May 21, 2014

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