

# Iran Real Press

Anniversary of 1988 massacre  
August 2019 (Part 1)

**The Organization of  
Iranian People Fadaee  
Guerrillas (OFPIG)**

**We are many. To end  
the despotic regime of  
religious supremacy, we  
organize and unite.**

## **1988 Massacre: We will not forget, We will not forgive**

*By Leila Jadidi*

*The most horrific crime in contemporary Iranian history ... Summer 2019 marks 31 years since Khomeini—the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Regime of Iran—carried out “death commissions,” massacring thousands of political prisoners.*

It was the summer of 1988 in Iran, when Ayatollah Khomeini ordered by “fatwa” (religious decree) the execution of thousands of political prisoners. The despotic Supreme Leader, in a secret meeting with several other Mullahs, gave the cruel, inhuman, and horrific order to eliminate whomever spoke against his despotic regime. A videotape was secretly taken when Khomeini ordered this massacre was released years later.

To speed up Khomeini’s order, “death commissions” were established throughout the country. These commissions held sentencing hearing that lasted only a few minutes.



Although the regime tried to block any attempts of investigation into this massacre, witnesses later reported how prisoners, “including women and teenagers, were loaded onto forklift trucks and hanged from cranes and beams in groups of five or six at half-hourly intervals all day long. Others were killed by firing squad. Those not executed were subjected to torture”. The victims were men, women, teenagers, and even pregnant women and children. They were intellectuals, students, socialists, activists, member of political groups. This includes members of organizations such as ours (OPFG) and members of People Mujahidin (MEK)—who were most of the victims.

In 1990, a report by Amnesty International noted victims included “other opposition parties and ethnic and religious minorities. Many had originally been sentenced for non-violent offences such as distributing newspapers and leaflets, taking part in demonstrations or collecting funds for prisoners' families”.

To hide and cover-up this crime, victims were immediately buried in secret mass graves.



*O soil! What became of my child?  
What became of the chained?  
Oh wind, where is his scent?  
What became of my beloved son?*

*-Moni, poet*

## Translation of an audio clip, recorded covertly, which exposes the 1988 Prison Massacre in Iran

The following is a translation remarks by the Grand Ayatollah Hossein-Ali Montazeri—at the time the heir apparent to Khomeini. The meeting was attended by members of the “death commission,” including: Hossein-Ali Nayyeri—then a *sharia* judge; Morteza Eshraqi—then prosecutor general; Ebrahim Raeesi—then deputy prosecutor general; and Mostafa Pourmohammadi—then a representative of the Ministry of Intelligence and Security (MOIS).

The four were among the most senior officials entrusted with the task of implementing a *fatwa* (religious decree) by Khomeini to massacre thousands of political prisoners beginning in July 1988. The victims were already prisoners, but none had been sentenced to death. These four officials currently hold different positions within the ruling regime.

Montazeri’s son, Ahmad, uploaded the audio recording of that meeting on his late father’s website on August 9, 2016. On the release, Ahmad stated, “the people have a right to know”. Shortly thereafter, however, the Ministry of Intelligence ordered him to remove the audio file. Ayatollah Montazeri also wrote two letters to Khomeini, protesting these executions, which resulted in his dismissal as Khomeini’s designated successor and his house arrest for 20 years. Montazeri died in December 2009 at the age of 87.

In the recording, Moontazeri says to the ‘Death Commission’ saying:

“In my opinion, the greatest crime committed during the Islamic Republic, for which history will condemn us, has been committed by you. Your (names) will, in the future, be etched in the annals of history as criminals.

“It is our misfortune, that at the top of our judicial system, we have such an individual, quite frankly. And this has become a reality. Do you hear me?”

“Ahmad Agha, Mr. Khomicini’s son, has been



Members of the ‘Death Commission’

saying for three or four years, ‘The Mojahedin, even the ones who read their newspaper, to the ones who read their magazine, to the ones who read their statements – all of them must be executed.’ ... So, now, without their [the prisoners] having carried out any new activities, we go and execute them. This means that all of us screwed-up, our entire judicial system... Isn’t that what it means?”

Montazeri continues:

“In Isfahan, a pregnant woman was among them [those massacred]. [In clerical jurisprudence], one must not execute a woman even if she is a *mohareb* [enemy of God]. I reminded [Khomeini] of this, but he said they must be executed. At least feel some shame before Imam Hussein. Cutting off all meetings and suddenly engaging in such butchery, dragging them out. And, bang! Bang!!! Does this happen anywhere in the world? ... Beware of 50 years from now, when people will pass judgment on the leader [Khomeini] and will say he was a bloodthirsty, brutal and murderous leader.... “. ““We will not be in power forever. In the future, history will judge us...”

“How do you justify executing someone who was sentenced to something less than execution? Now we have cut off all meetings and telephone calls. But tomorrow what answer can we give to their families?” .

### **Amnesty International: UN must speak openly and firmly against impunity over Iran’s 1988 massacre.**



On 30 July 2019, Amnesty International issued a statement following recent comments by the Mostafa Pourmohammadi, advisor to the head of the Iranian regime’s judiciary, defending the 1988 massacre. Pourmohammadi was a member of a mid-ranking clergy quartet who ordered the execution of thousands of political prisoners. The four, known as the "death quartet," had a blank check from Ayatollah Khomeini, to send thousands of innocent political prisoners to the gallows. Pourmohammadi, who served as Regime President Hassan Rouhani's Minister of Justice (2013-2017), recently defended the Death Quartet's decisions.

Speaking to the weekly Mossallass (Triangle), Pourmohammadi insisted that he should not be held accountable for the mass executions of summer of 1988. Instead, he blamed the Death Quartet's victims, asserting that all remaining members of the dissident group, Mujahedin Khalq Organization (MKO) should also be held responsible, tried, and punished.

Amnesty international responded to this shameless comment : “Recent statements by Mostafa Pour Mohammadi, advisor to Iran’s head of the judiciary and a former minister of justice, defending the mass extrajudicial executions of 1988 provide shocking confirmation of the authorities’ willful flouting of international human rights law both at the time and now and a stark reminder of the sense of impunity that senior officials linked to the killings enjoy”.



The majority of the inmates sent to the gallows were members of Mujahedin Khalq Organization (MKO).






South of Tehran, there is a cemetery where the family of this cruel massacre gather to mourn for their loved ones. No one know where their family or friends are buried, because victims were buried in mass graves across the country.



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## #1988Massacre: The movement seeking justice for victims



The families, friends and opponents of executions are hoping human rights defenders around the world to join them on the movement to bring justice for the victims of the 1988 Massacre.

The OIPFG, along with several other organizations, families of the victims, and thousands of other human rights defenders, are seeking to bring the perpetrators of this shameless crime to justice.

We salute the women and men who seek freedom and justice, those who lost their lives in the hands of a despotic regime, and to the families and friends working to bring the perpetrators of this crime to justice.

