



# Punishments in the Islamic Republic of Iran in Violation of the ICCPR

## Imprisonment for Debt and Use of Amputation

20 November 2024



# *Debtor Imprisonment by the Numbers*

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**12,565**

currently imprisoned  
as of July 2024

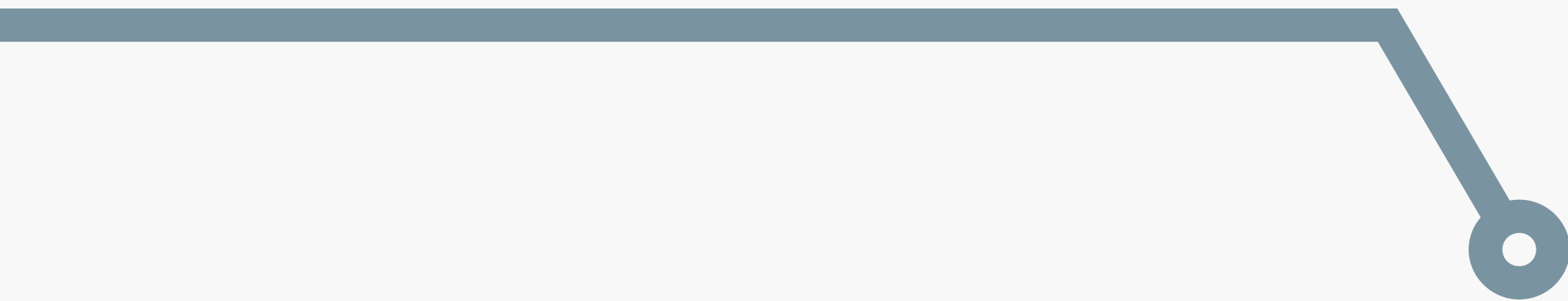
**170,000**

entered the Iranian  
prison system for  
failure to pay a debt  
in the last 30 years



## Diya

Blood money



# *Current Causes of Imprisonment for Debt*

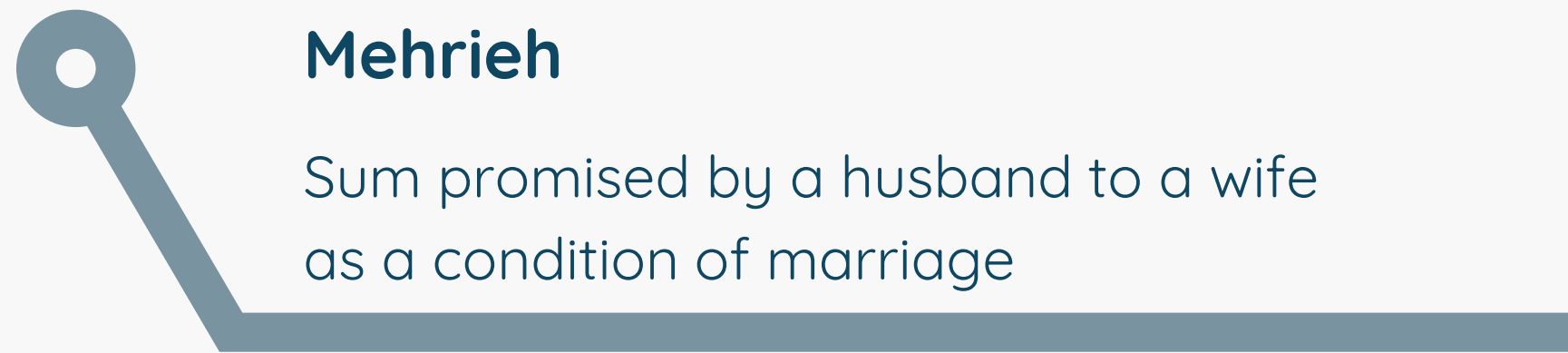
## Commercial Debts

Debts incurred for commercial transactions



## Mehrieh

Sum promised by a husband to a wife as a condition of marriage



# *Recommendations*



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**Ensure the immediate release** of all prisoners detained for failure to meet a contractual obligation or repay a debt to bring practice in line with Article 11 of the ICCPR.

**Amend** the 2015 Law on Enforcement of Financial Judgments and the accompanying 2020 Regulatory Code on Enforcement of Financial Judgments to eliminate all provisions which allow for imprisonment for debt.



# *Amputation of Fingers*

Amputation of four fingers is provided for under Article 278 of the Islamic Penal Code of 2013 for individuals convicted of theft.

**This practice has seen continued use. On October 29, 2024, two individuals convicted of theft were subjected to the amputation of their fingers.**



# *Recommendations*



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**Repeal Article 278** of the Islamic Penal Code of 2013 and replace the punishment of amputation with other forms of punishment that would facilitate rehabilitation of individuals convicted of theft.

**Impose an immediate moratorium** on the issuing and implementation of amputations until the repeal of Article 278 of the Islamic Penal Code.





*Thank you*

