**UK-based Justice for Iran focusses on eradication of impunity in Iran**

Our submission to the third cycle of Iran UPR highlights Iran’s failure to implement recommendations from earlier cycles. It focuses on the extrajudicial killings of protesters and unlawful deaths in custody in relation to the events of late December 2017-early 2018, as well as continued denial of the rights to truth and justice for families of forcibly disappeared persons by deliberate attempts, such as destruction of mass graves from the 1988 massacre of political prisoners. These are only a few examples from the past four years demonstrating Iran has no intention to fulfil its duty to investigate these abuses and punish the perpetrators.

In December 2017 and January 2018, Iran witnessed nationwide protests starting in Mashhad that quickly spread across the country. According to various reports, over 4,000 citizens, including student activists were detained. Many were charged with security-related offences and sentenced to imprisonment. Iran confirmed killing at least eight protesters, while according to other sources the actual number is much higher. There are at least three cases of deaths in custody. In two cases, the authorities announced the deaths were the result of suicide while in the other, they denied the deceased was a protester—claims family members strongly disputed.

Our submission includes these and other cases of extrajudicial killing and unlawful deaths in custody, none of which have been investigated.

Iran’s judicial and security authorities routinely threaten bereaved families to refrain from registering a legal complaint or speaking to media or human rights groups.

Iran carries out orchestrated campaigns to erase evidence of torture, ill-treatment and unlawful deaths while publicly defaming the deceased.

Iran uses torture and ill-treatment to obtain forced confessions from political prisoners and their families to broadcast through state media outlets in violation of multiple human rights.

Iran forcibly disappeared, summarily executed in secret and buried in unmarked mass graves more than 5,000 political prisoners in the summer of 1988 – a massacre described by international experts as crime against humanity.

The UNSR on Iran has called to “undertake thorough and independent investigation into the 1988 massacres.” Not only Iran refused to do so, but also enabled perpetrators to hold highest positions in government, including the current and former Ministers of Justice, and the new Head of its Judiciary.

JFI and Amnesty obtained and analysed evidence pointing to nationwide mass graves associated with the 1988 massacre, showing in recent years Iran has deliberately destroyed sites in spite of the UNSR urging Iran to “ensure that locations believed to be the site of mass graves are preserved and protected.”

Our submission *Iran: Maximum Impunity* invites UN member states to note Iran’s failure to comply with specific past UPR recommendations; and to hold its leadership accountable to meet its international commitments to:

* Conduct impartial, transparent and independent investigations concerning extrajudicial killings and unlawful deaths in custody in late December 2017-early 2018.
* Outlaw and end use of torture and ill-treatment to obtain forced confessions and broadcasts.
* End intimidation, harassment and prosecution of relatives of victims of enforced disappearances, extrajudicial killings and other human rights violations.
* Provide society and survivors of victims of enforced disappearance, extrajudicial killings and unlawful deaths, the truth about details of events surrounding their fates, and bring those responsible to justice.
* Remove from their positions and put on trial perpetrators of the 1988 massacre, including the current and previous Ministers of Justice and the Head of Judiciary.
* Immediately cease to destroy sites of mass graves of the 1988 massacres’ political prisoners and ensure the locations are preserved and protected.