

I. Abstract

Islamic Republic of Iran continue execution of children below age of 18 for committing crime. This is a clear violation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR).

The Islamic Shariat is the main source of national legislation in Iran. The definition of the child, minimum age of criminal responsibility and capital punishment in criminal code are based on conservative interpretation of Islamic rules. Children can be sentenced to death for certain crimes under category of *Qisas*¹ and *Hudud*².

The goal of this research project is to advocate for abolishing juvenile execution in Iran.

Key words: child rights, capital punishment, Islamic principles, juvenile justice, juvenile delinquency.

¹ *Qisas* or retribution in kind is an Islamic punishment for individuals who intentionally hurt or kill another human being. This punishment inflicted upon the offenders by way of reciprocal punishment for causing death of or injuries to a person. The victim or in case of murder his family has the right to opt between *Qisas* or pardon of the offender.

² *Hudud* refers to Islamic punishments which are mandated and fixed by the God for certain type of offences such as incest, adultery, rape, apostasy, *moharebeh* and corruption on earth, etc. The *Hudud* punishments range from lashing to amputation of hand and execution.