

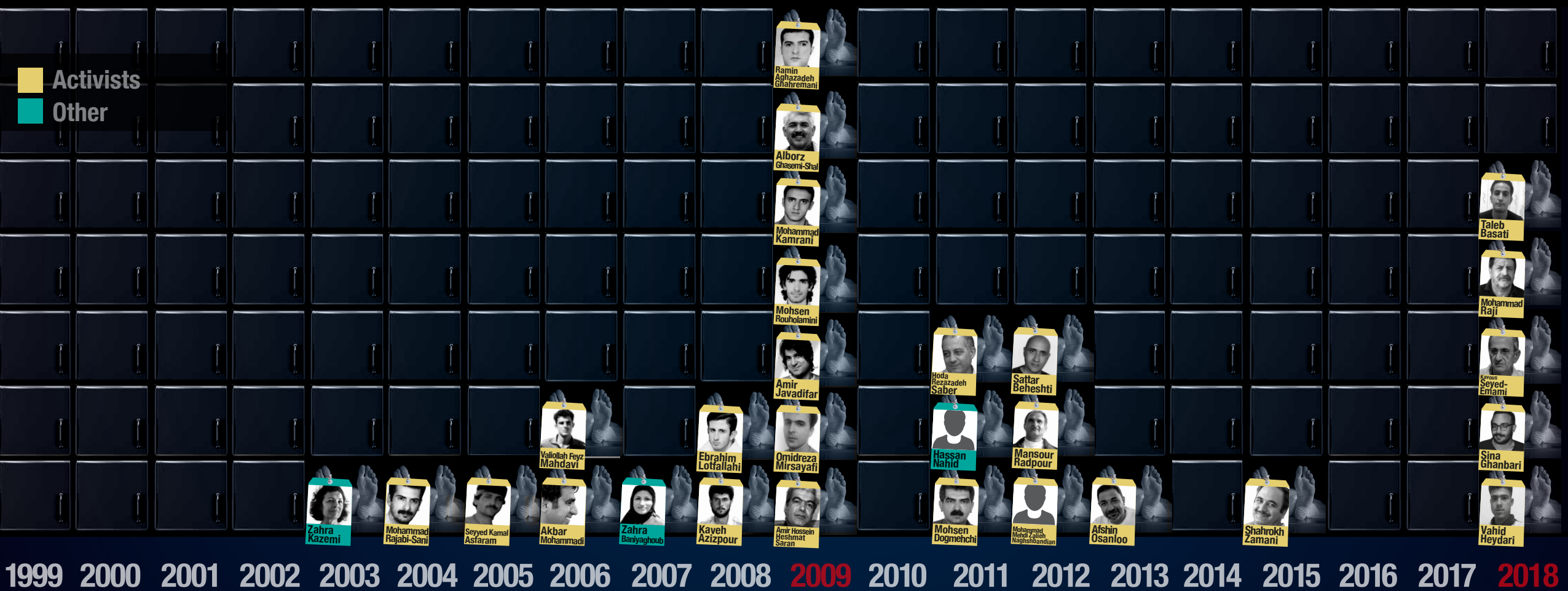
# COST OF ACTIVISM

## Deaths of Political Prisoners

in Iranian State Custody 1999-2018

At least 28 detainees and prisoners held on politically motivated charges have died in Iranian state institutions since 1999 during the terms of two judicial heads—Mahmoud Hashemi Shahroudi and Sadeqh Larijani—both of whom were appointed by Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei. Most of those who have perished in Iranian prisons and detention centers were imprisoned because of their activism, but also include dual nationals such as Iranian Canadian academic and environmentalist Kavous Seyed-Emami, who died in February 2018 under highly suspicious circumstances while being held for interrogations in Evin Prison.

The deaths occurred as a result of beatings while in custody, denial of critically needed medical care, or other gross negligence on the part of the authorities. Only two of the cases were taken to court, leading to just seven prosecutions. The lack of prosecutions is enabled by a judiciary that allows intelligence and prison officials to act with impunity and the absence of mandatory investigations, autopsies or publicly available medical examiner's reports when a death occurs in state custody. There are also no effective grievance mechanisms for the victims' families, who are pressured by state authorities to be silent about their cases.

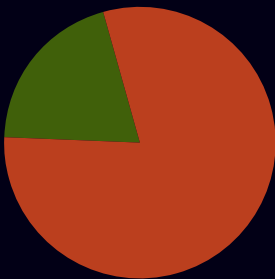


### Two Critical Years

- 2009** Thousands arrested in peaceful protests against the disputed result of the presidential election.
- 2018** Thousands arrested during nationwide protests against government policies.

### Deaths vs. Prosecutions

**Deaths in Prisons: 28**  
7 People Sentenced  
**Prosecutions: 7**



Only two cases were taken to court, leading to seven prosecutions for the deaths of Sattar Beheshti, Mohammad Kamrani, Mohsen Rouholamini and Amir Javadifar.

### Where They Died



### Who is Responsible?

The chief of Iran's judiciary is appointed by the supreme leader and is responsible for the welfare of detainees.



Chief Justice of Iran 1999-2009  
**Mahmoud Hashemi Shahroudi**

14

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Chief Justice of Iran 2009-2018  
**Sadeqh Larijani**



28

Supreme Leader

Seyyed Ali Khamenei

Note: Some deaths may have never been reported or concealed from the public record. If you have information about a case that's not listed here, please contact [info@iranhumanrights.org](mailto:info@iranhumanrights.org).