

PREPARATION OF THE CONDEMNED ADULTERER

Officials and witnesses involved in the case are summoned to appear 48 hours before the scheduled execution. The law stipulates that executions take place at dawn.

Article 10 – Tells the advising clergyman to counsel the condemned to repent, share his or her last will, and recommend that he or she submit to a ritual pre-burial washing with lotus water, camphor water and pure water in advance of the stoning, so that the body will be ready for burial after the execution.

Article 12 – If the condemned asks for food or drink, the officers are obliged to provide it except for when the request is made only to delay the execution of sentence.



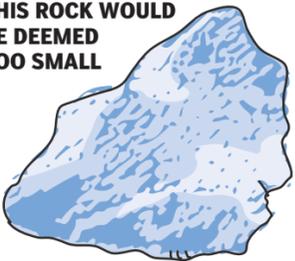
Article 102 – The condemned has his or her hands bound and is wrapped in three pieces of white shroud in accordance with Muslim burial practices.

The International Committee Against Stoning said one woman was lain beside the hole as it was being dug, then placed in it, and then removed from the pit again when it was found to be too shallow. Her agonizing wait for death was prolonged as she listened to the sound of the shovels.

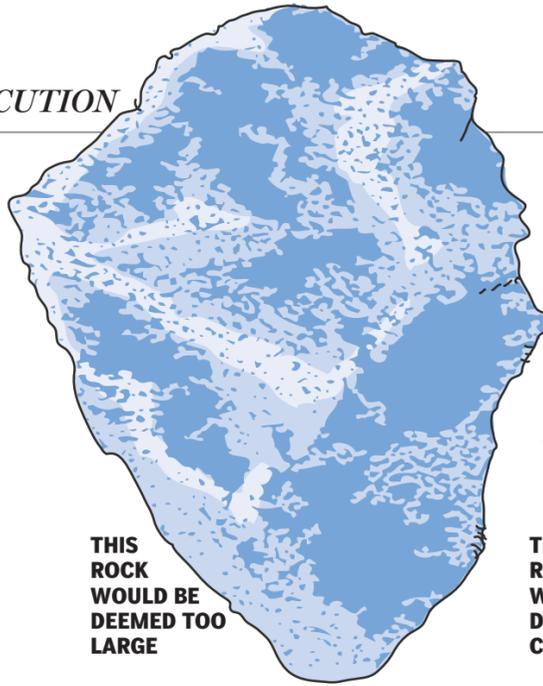
INSTRUMENTS OF EXECUTION

Article 104 – “The size of the stone used in stoning shall not be too large to kill the convict by one or two throws and at the same time shall not be too small to be called a stone.” That is, pebbles are ruled out, but so are rocks big enough to kill quickly. As Slate magazine explained, the stones should be “around the size of a tangerine.”

THIS ROCK WOULD BE DEEMED TOO SMALL



THIS ROCK WOULD BE DEEMED TOO LARGE



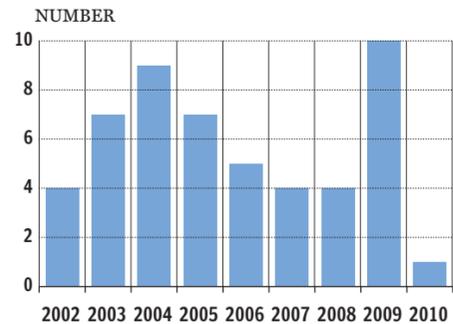
THIS ROCK WOULD BE DEEMED CORRECT



THE BANNING OF STONING

Although Head of the Judiciary Ayatollah Shahrudi issued a moratorium on stoning in Iran in 2002, stoning is still used as a sentence for those found guilty of adultery.

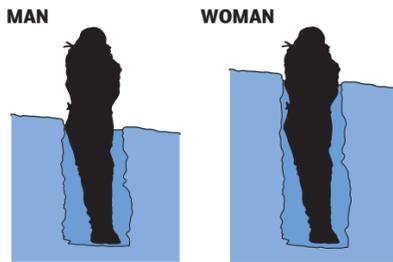
PEOPLE SENTENCED TO STONING



THE DAY OF THE STONING

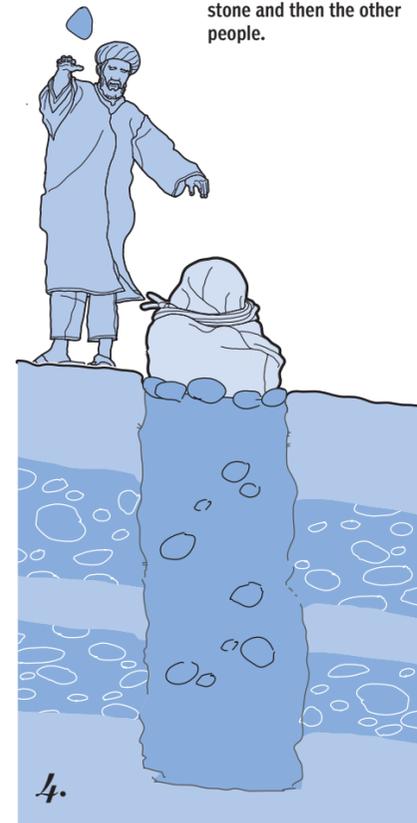
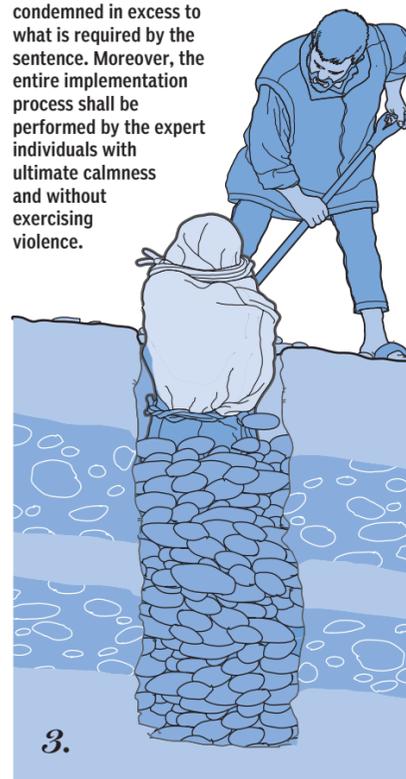
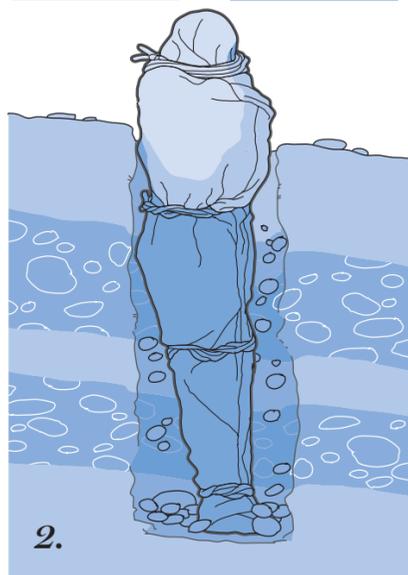
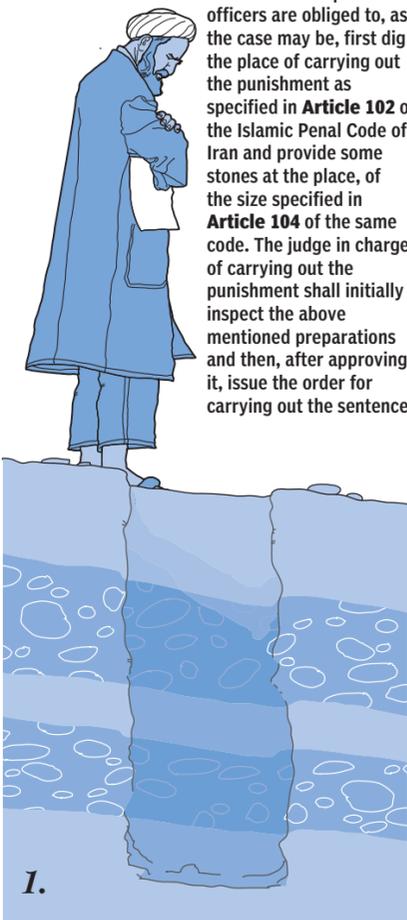
Article 22 – The law enforcement or prison officers are obliged to, as the case may be, first dig the place of carrying out the punishment as specified in **Article 102** of the Islamic Penal Code of Iran and provide some stones at the place, of the size specified in **Article 104** of the same code. The judge in charge of carrying out the punishment shall initially inspect the above mentioned preparations and then, after approving it, issue the order for carrying out the sentence.

Article 102 of the Islamic Penal Code reads: “An adulterer man shall be buried in a ditch up to near his waist and an adulterer woman up to near her chest and then stoned to death.”



Article 16 – Officers carrying out the sentence are obliged to carefully examine and inspect the implementation instruments, apparatus and equipment and make sure that they are robust and ready for use to carry out the sentence. The aforementioned items shall not be such that they may inflict torture, torment or mutilation in excess to what is required by the sentence. Moreover, the entire implementation process shall be performed by the expert individuals with ultimate calmness and without exercising violence.

Article 23 – If the stoning sentence is based on the condemned's confession, then at the time of execution, the sentencing judge will throw the first stone and then the other people.

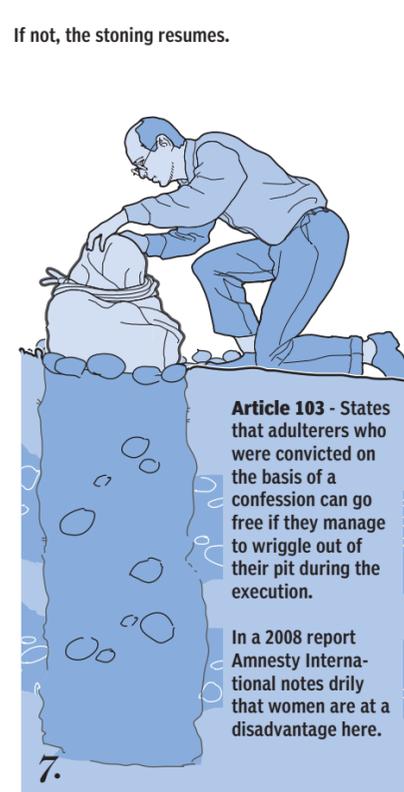
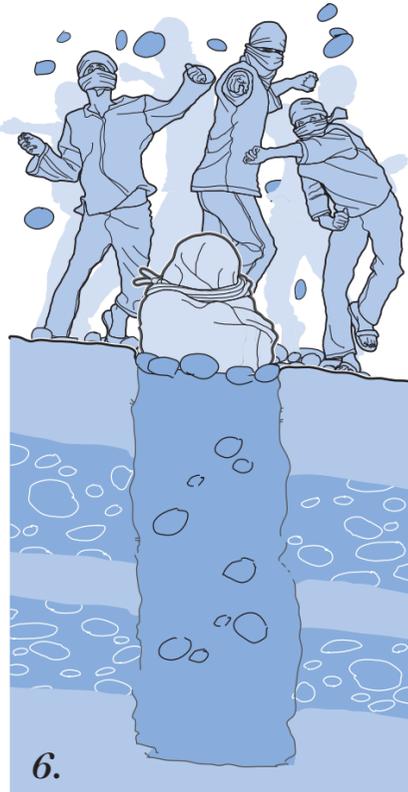


Article 23 – But if the condemnation is based on the testimonies of witnesses, then first the witnesses will throw stones, then the mentioned judge and then other people.

Who are these “other people” at the stonings? Iranian law originally intended for stoning to be conducted out in the open, with community participation – the law even mandates that the proceedings be recorded and then shared via newspapers and other media outlets.

Stonings can reportedly take anywhere from 20 minutes to two hours. According to the International Committee Against Stoning, the doctor recruited to oversee the execution (often against his will) will periodically stop proceedings to check if the victim is dead.

Observers believe that since 2006, stone-throwers have tended to be recruited from volunteer paramilitary groups. Human rights activists assume adult men comprise the bulk of stone-throwers, but it is not known what age or gender restrictions, if any, govern stoning crews in contemporary Iran.



Article 103 – States that adulterers who were convicted on the basis of a confession can go free if they manage to wriggle out of their pit during the execution.

In a 2008 report Amnesty International notes drily that women are at a disadvantage here.

