Official 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 cancel the condemnation to repeat, 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 11 – 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.

The condemned has his or her hands bound and is strapped to three stones of white sand in accordance with Islamic burial practices.

The International Committee Against Stoning said one woman was lashed inside 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.

The day of the stoning

Preparation of the Condemned Adulterer

1. The judge in charge of the implementation instruments, apparatus and equipment and make sure that they are robust and reliable for use to carry out the sentence. The condemned in excess to what is required by the sentence shall not be such that they may inflict torture, torment or mutilation of the condemned 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 coercing violence.

2. 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 appointing 4. issue the order for carrying out the sentence.

3. Who are those “other people” at the stonings? Observers believe that since 2006, stone-throwers have been 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.

4. 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 the will of the condemned) will periodically stop proceedings to check if the victim is dead.

5. No such statement could be obtained from sources of white sand in accordance with Islamic burial practices.

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

7. In a 2008 report, Amnesty International notes drily, “Amnesty International, which has long highlighted the practice of public executions throughout the Middle East, recommended that the stoning law be revised to bring it into line with international human rights standards.”

8. In a 1999 report, Amnesty International wrote, “We urge the Iranian authorities to halt all public executions which may be described as stoning.”

WE LOOK AT THE BRUTAL PRACTICE OF STONING. THIS METHOD OF EXECUTION IS STILL PRACTICED IN CERTAIN COUNTRIES, NOTABLY IRAN, WHERE IT IS USED TO PUNISH ADULTERERS AND OTHER CRIMINALS. THE GRAPHIC BELOW LOOKS AT HOW A STONING OCCURS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE IRANIAN PENAL CODE.