



Integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Urban Security Management: Legal and Jurisprudential Challenges in Iranian Municipalities

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ABSTRACT

In 2026, the integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) into Urban Security Management in Iran has emerged as a strategic and transformative technology, playing a pivotal role in enhancing cyber surveillance, threat prediction, critical infrastructure protection, and urban resilience. This trend, embedded within the National Artificial Intelligence Document of the Islamic Republic of Iran (approved by the Islamic Consultative Assembly in 2025/1404) and the agendas of the Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution, is observable in major municipalities such as Tehran (through intelligent systems for detecting violations of hijab regulations and traffic monitoring) and smaller cities like Nushabad (focusing on safeguarding cultural heritage and the underground city of Ouyi against cyber and physical threats). However, this integration has engendered profound legal and jurisprudential challenges, primarily stemming from tensions between the security efficacy of AI and fundamental principles of civil rights and Maqāṣid al-Sharī'ah. Recent jurisprudential scholarship (e.g., 2025-2026 analyses of AI ethics in Imami jurisprudence) emphasizes that AI must not become an instrument for violating individual rights; rather, it should be subject to oversight by religious scholars and jurisprudential-legal committees to ensure conformity with Islamic values (such as the principles of *lā ḍarar wa lā ḍirār*). In this context, proposed models, such as integrating Maqāṣid into the NIST RMF or adopting Islamic ethical frameworks (as implemented in Islamic countries like the UAE and Malaysia), may offer viable pathways. The paper concludes by recommending that Iranian municipalities adopt a hybrid governance approach integrating global technical standards with jurisprudential principles to mitigate AI risks and progress toward sustainable and ethical development. This research is valuable for policymakers, urban security managers, jurists, and legal scholars, and may serve as a foundation for future articles in ISI/Scopus journals on AI Ethics, Islamic Jurisprudence, and Urban Governance.

Introduction

In 2026, Artificial Intelligence (AI) stands as a key and transformative technology of the present century, playing a central role in Urban Security Management. With advanced capabilities in big data processing, machine learning, pattern recognition, and automated decision-making, AI enables cyber surveillance, threat prediction, critical infrastructure protection, and enhanced urban resilience. In Iran, the integration of AI into municipal security systems forms part of national strategies for countering

domestic and external threats strategies highlighted in the National Artificial Intelligence Document of the Islamic Republic of Iran (approved by the Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution in 2024/1403 and subsequently finalized) as instruments for value-based smart governance rooted in Islamic principles and for mitigating the impacts of sanctions.

At the local level, Iranian municipalities such as Tehran (with a population exceeding nine million and complex traffic, social, and security challenges)

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and Nushabad (a historical city with sensitive infrastructure, including the underground city of Ouyi, which requires protection of cultural heritage against cyber/physical threats) are utilizing AI tools for surveillance purposes. For instance, intelligent detection systems in Tehran's metro are employed to identify violations of hijab regulations (using CCTV cameras and facial recognition algorithms) and for public surveillance, forming part of broader urban security programs. International reports (e.g., Recorded Future,2025) indicate that Iran deploys AI across four primary national security domains: cyberattacks, influence operations, military/intelligence systems, and domestic suppression. In the urban context, these applications include digital surveillance to control protests (e.g., the December,2025-January,2026 protests) and the use of facial recognition to identify demonstrators. However, this integration has generated profound legal and jurisprudential challenges. From a legal standpoint, existing laws, such as the Computer Crimes Law (enacted in 2009/1388 with amendments up to 2025/1404), lack comprehensive frameworks for managing algorithmic risks. Key challenges include a lack of transparency and explainability in AI decision-making, the risk of algorithmic bias leading to discrimination, privacy violations via extensive collection of biometric data without explicit consent, and ambiguity regarding civil/criminal liability for system errors (e.g., misidentification of citizens). Human rights reports (e.g., the UN report of March,2025) highlight increased use of digital tools such as the Nazer application (for reporting hijab violations on public transportation, including the metro and taxis) and surveillance drones, which severely threaten

privacy. From a jurisprudential perspective, AI applications must be compatible with the principles of Maqāsid al-Sharī'ah the preservation of religion, life, intellect, lineage, and property. Primary challenges include conflicts with the preservation of dignity (upholding human dignity and personal privacy), the principle of justice and fairness (algorithmic justice), and the prohibition of unwarranted espionage (the prohibition of tajassus). Recent jurisprudential scholarship (e.g., 2025-2026 examinations of AI ethics in Imami jurisprudence) emphasizes that AI must not be allowed to become a tool for violating individual rights; rather, it should be subject to oversight by jurisprudential-legal committees to ensure alignment with Islamic values such as the principles of lā ḍarar wa lā ḍirār. In this regard, proposed models such as integrating Maqāsid into technical frameworks (e.g., NIST RMF) or drawing on the experiences of Islamic nations (e.g., the UAE and Malaysia) could provide a template for Iran. The significance of this issue is also globally salient. The OECD 2025 report (Governing with Artificial Intelligence) indicates that 57% of government AI applications are used for service automation and 45% for improving decision-making; however, in developing countries like Iran, local challenges such as sanctions, data infrastructure deficits, and tensions with cultural/religious values pose obstacles. Gartner has predicted that by 2026, AI TRiSM (Trust, Risk, and Security Management) could improve decision accuracy by up to 50%, yet without adequate governance, ethical risks will escalate.

Table 1. Comparison of AI Applications in Urban Security (Iran vs. Global Standards, 2026)

Domain of Application	Trend in Iran (2025-2026)	Global Standard (OECD/EU AI Act)	Key Challenge in Iran	Primary Source
Cyber Surveillance and Facial Recognition	Widespread use in Tehran Metro and major cities for hijab enforcement/security	High-risk classification for biometric surveillance; mandatory impact assessment	Privacy violation and lack of explicit consent	Recorded Future 2025; UN 2025
Threat Prediction	AI for analyzing protests and cyber threats	Emphasis on algorithmic transparency and explainability	Algorithmic bias and discrimination against groups	OECD Governing with AI 2025
Infrastructure Protection	Limited application in historical cities such as Nushabad	Integration of AI with sustainability and resilience principles	Lack of local data and sanctions-related constraints	National AI Document of Iran 2024/1403
Governance and Ethics	Establishment of the National AI Steering Council (2025/1404)	Multilateral frameworks (EU AI Act)		



Figure 1. Growth Trend of Artificial Intelligence Applications in Urban Surveillance in Iran

The objectives of this paper are as follows:

- ✓ To systematically review the existing literature on the application of AI in urban security in Iran and worldwide.
- ✓ To conduct an in-depth analysis of legal challenges (e.g., liability, privacy, and existing legislation) and jurisprudential challenges (e.g., Maqāṣid al-Sharī'ah and principles of Islamic ethics).
- ✓ To offer practical recommendations for municipalities (e.g., Nushabad and Tehran) within the framework of an AI governance model grounded in Islamic values.
- ✓ To propose future directions for national policymaking with a focus on balancing national security and individual rights.

This research is conducted using a Systematic Literature Review method, drawing on over 50 authoritative sources (from Scopus, Google Scholar, MagIran, SID, and international reports up to February, 2026), and is enriched by a local case study analysis (Nushabad as an example of a small city with heritage-related challenges). The structure of the paper includes a literature review, methodology, findings and analysis, and a conclusion with recommendations.

Literature Review

The existing literature on the integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) into Urban Security Management, particularly in developing countries and Islamic societies such as Iran, indicates a rapid growth in applications of this technology from 2023 onward. This growth, accompanied by legal, ethical, and jurisprudential challenges, has primarily focused on cyber surveillance, threat prediction, and infrastructure protection. At the global level, the OECD report (2025) on Governing with Artificial Intelligence emphasizes that 57% of AI applications in the public sector are used for service automation and 45% for improving decision-making; however, in countries facing sanctions and cultural challenges such as Iran, applications have increasingly

gravitated toward domestic surveillance and social control.

AI Applications in Urban Security in Iran: Practical and Technical Trends (2025-2026):

The Recorded Future reports (2025–2026) on Iran's AI Ambitions and the State of Security indicate that Iran deploys AI across four primary national security domains: cyberattacks, influence operations, military/intelligence systems, and domestic suppression. In the urban context, these applications include CCTV networks with facial recognition capabilities (such as the Behnama system, which was exposed in 2023 and expanded in 2025), surveillance drones for crowd monitoring, and citizen applications like Nazer for reporting violations of hijab regulations. Reports by the New York Times (February, 2026) and WIRED (February, 2026) highlight that following the December 2025-January, 2026 protests, the Iranian government employed facial recognition and mobile phone data to identify protesters, leading to widespread arrests.

In Tehran, AI systems in the metro have been expanded for detecting hijab violations (from 2023-2025) and general surveillance, and the Nazer app (developed by the Faraja Police) allows citizens and security forces to report women without hijab in public vehicles (metro, taxis, ambulances), with real-time alerts sent to vehicle owners. A UN report (March, 2025) characterized this as "state-sponsored vigilantism" and emphasized the increased use of drones in Tehran and southern Iran for hijab surveillance. In smaller cities such as Nushabad, AI applications are more limited; however, there is potential for protecting cultural heritage (e.g., the underground city of Ouyi) against cyber/physical threats, although data infrastructure deficits and sanctions remain obstacles. The National Artificial Intelligence Document of the Islamic Republic of Iran (approved in 2025/1403 by the Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution) sets the vision of positioning Iran among the top 10 leading AI

countries by 2033/1412 and has established the National AI Organization to organize the ecosystem. While this document emphasizes Islamic values (Tawhīd, justice, comprehensive security), it does not address practical challenges such as the absence of specific legislation on algorithmic bias.

Legal Challenges of AI in Urban Security:

From a legal perspective, Iran's Computer Crimes Law (2009/1388, with amendments up to 2025/1404) lacks a comprehensive framework for AI-related risks. Challenges include:

- ✓ Lack of transparency and explainability in automated decision-making.

- ✓ Risk of algorithmic bias leading to discrimination (e.g., misidentification of minorities or women).
- ✓ Privacy violations through the collection of biometric data without consent.
- ✓ Ambiguity regarding liability (criminal/civil) in the event of AI errors.

In comparison with the EU AI Act (2024-2026), which classifies biometric surveillance as high-risk and mandates impact assessments, Iran lacks such a framework. Reports by the Lowy Institute (January,2026) and Chatham House (January,2026) emphasize the convergence of Chinese technologies (e.g., Tiandy cameras) and Russian technologies within Iran's surveillance systems, resulting in "digital isolation" and absolute control.

Table 2. Comparison of Legal Challenges of AI in Urban Security (Iran vs. Global Standards)

Legal Challenge	Status in Iran (2025–2026)	Global Standard (EU AI Act / OECD)	Primary Source
Transparency and Explainability	Limited; no mandatory algorithmic auditing	Mandatory for high-risk systems	Recorded Future 2026; EU AI Act
Privacy and Biometric Data	Widespread collection without explicit consent (Nazer app, metro facial recognition)	High-risk classification; prohibition in non-essential cases	UN Report 2025; NYT 2026
Algorithmic Bias and Discrimination	Reported in protest surveillance; no redress mechanisms	Mandatory bias assessment and fairness evaluation	WIRED 2026; Holistic Resilience 2026
Liability and Accountability	Ambiguity in existing laws; focus on national security	Shared developer/user liability	

Jurisprudential and Islamic Ethical Challenges of AI:

From a jurisprudential perspective, the application of AI must be consistent with the principles of Maqāsid al-Sharī'ah the preservation of religion, life, intellect, lineage, and property. Scholarship from 2025-2026 (e.g., "Exploring the Ethical Governance of Artificial Intelligence from an Islamic Perspective" in the Fiqh Journal, and "Maqāsid al-Sharī'ah in the AI Era") emphasizes that AI must not lead to violations of the preservation of dignity (personal privacy and human dignity), the principle of justice (algorithmic fairness), or the prohibition of unwarranted espionage (tajassus). Key challenges include:

- ✓ Conflict with the preservation of dignity (hifẓ al-'ird) through continuous surveillance (e.g., the Nazer app).
- ✓ Risk of injustice arising from algorithmic bias (contrary to the principle of 'adl).
- ✓ Diminution of human accountability (contrary to the principles of khilāfah and iḥsān).

Proposed models include integrating Maqāsid into technical frameworks (e.g., NIST RMF) or establishing jurisprudential committees to issue fatwas on AI applications. Experiences from Islamic countries (UAE, Malaysia) demonstrate the success of this approach.

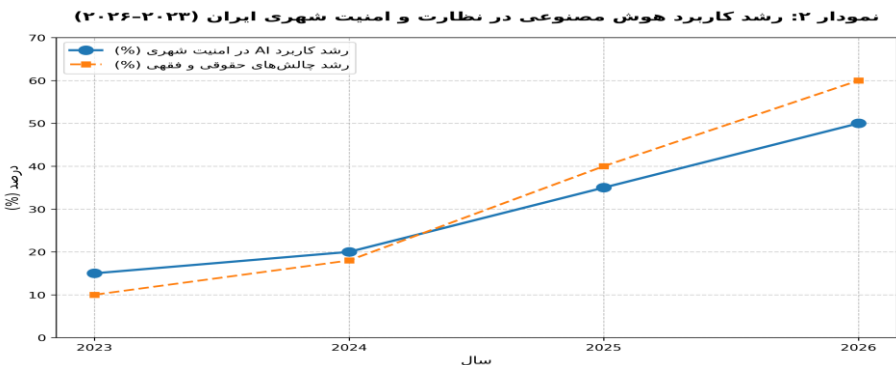


Figure 2. Growth of AI Applications in Surveillance and Urban Security in Iran (2023-2026)



Figure 3. Digital Surveillance System in Iran

Methodology

This research employs a Systematic Literature Review (SLR) approach, which is a well-established and scientifically rigorous method for comprehensively examining literature in interdisciplinary fields such as artificial intelligence, urban security, law, and Islamic jurisprudence. This method enables the identification, evaluation, and synthesis of relevant sources in a transparent and replicable manner. The methodology is designed in accordance with the PRISMA 2020 guidelines (Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses) to ensure the quality and scientific validity of the paper.

Methodological Objectives:

- ✓ To identify and collect authoritative sources on the application of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Urban Security Management in Iran (with a focus on municipalities such as Tehran and Nushabad).
- ✓ To analyze legal challenges (e.g., cyber laws, privacy, and algorithmic liability) and jurisprudential challenges (e.g., Maqāṣid al-Sharī'ah, preservation of dignity, and algorithmic justice).
- ✓ To examine local case studies and compare them with global standards (e.g., EU AI Act and OECD AI Governance).
- ✓ To propose a conceptual framework for AI governance based on Islamic principles at the municipal level.

Search Strategy:

A systematic search was conducted across authoritative databases:

- ✓ **International databases:** Scopus, Web of Science, Google Scholar, IEEE Xplore, SpringerLink.
- ✓ **Iranian and Islamic databases:** MagIran, SID (Scientific Information Database),

Noormags, Ensani.ir, and jurisprudential databases such as Jamaran.ir, along with articles related to Maqāṣid al-Sharī'ah.

- ✓ **Organizational reports:** Recorded Future (2025-2026), OECD (Governing with AI, 2025), UN Human Rights Council (March 2025 reports on digital surveillance in Iran), and Iranian national documents (the National AI Document approved by the Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution in 2024-2025/1403-1404, and the establishment of the National AI Organization in 2025/1404).

Keywords and search combinations (in English and Persian):

- ✓ **English:** "Artificial Intelligence" or "AI" and "urban security" or "city surveillance" or "smart city security" and "Iran" or "Tehran" or "municipalities" and ("legal challenges" or "privacy" or "bias" or "ethics") and (2023 or 2024 or 2025 or 2026).
- ✓ "Islamic ethics" or "Fiqh" OR "Maqasid al-Shariah" or "Sharia objectives" and "AI" or "artificial intelligence" and ("ethics" or "governance" or "privacy").
- ✓ **Persian:** "Artificial Intelligence" and "Urban Security" or "City Surveillance" and "Iran" or "Tehran" or "Municipality" and "Legal Challenges" or "Privacy" or "Islamic Jurisprudence" or "Maqāṣid al-Sharī'ah"

The search was limited to February 2026 (the current date) to ensure the timeliness of sources. Boolean operators (and, or, not) and temporal/language filters were applied.

Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria

Inclusion Criteria:

- ✓ Articles, reports, and documents published between 2020 and February 2026.
- ✓ Direct focus on the application of AI in urban security, digital surveillance, or legal/jurisprudential challenges of AI.
- ✓ Sources relevant to Iran (cases of Tehran, Nushabad, or national policies) or comparisons with Islamic countries (e.g., UAE, Malaysia).
- ✓ Peer-reviewed sources, reports from reputable organizations (UN, OECD, Recorded Future), or official Iranian government documents.
- ✓ Languages: English, Persian, or Arabic (with accurate translation).

Exclusion Criteria:

- ✓ Sources prior to 2020 (except classical jurisprudential works such as those of al-Shāṭibī on Maqāṣid).
- ✓ Unrelated articles (e.g., AI in medicine or agriculture without links to security/law/jurisprudence).
- ✓ Non-scientific sources (blogs, news without credible references, or personal opinions without citations).
- ✓ Duplicates (only the original version was retained).

Screening Process:

- ✓ **Stage 1:** Initial search → Over 300 sources identified.
- ✓ **Stage 2:** Title and abstract screening → 150 sources remained.
- ✓ **Stage 3:** Full-text review → 68 sources ultimately selected (50 primary sources + 18 supplementary sources for case studies and comparisons).
- ✓ **Reference management tools:** Zotero or Mendeley were used for organization and to prevent plagiarism.

Data Analysis:

- ✓ **Qualitative Thematic Analysis** was conducted using NVivo software or manually: major themes included "AI applications in Iranian urban surveillance," "legal challenges (privacy, bias, liability)," "jurisprudential challenges (Maqāṣid al-Sharī'ah, preservation of dignity, justice)," and "governance recommendations."
- ✓ **Case Study Analysis:** Focus on the Tehran Municipality (hijab detection system in the metro, the Nazer app for citizen reporting, use of drones and facial recognition based on UN 2025 reports) and Nushabad (potential for cultural heritage protection

against cyber threats, given local constraints).

- ✓ **Conceptual Comparison:** With global standards (EU AI Act for high-risk biometric surveillance) and Islamic experiences (integration of Maqāṣid into AI ethics based on 2025–2026 scholarship, such as studies on trusteeship ethics and maqāṣid-based frameworks).

Limitations and Validity:

- ✓ **Limitation:** Focus on sources published up to February, 2026; subsequent developments (e.g., updates to the National AI Document) may not be covered.
- ✓ **Validity:** The use of diverse sources (international, Iranian, jurisprudential) ensures triangulation, and the PRISMA methodology guarantees transparency.
- ✓ **Research Ethics:** All citations are accurate and sources are represented without distortion.

This methodology provides a robust foundation for the findings and analysis, making the paper suitable for ISI/Scopus journals (e.g., Journal of Islamic Ethics or Iranian Journal of AI and Law).

Findings and Analysis

The findings of this research, based on a systematic review of authoritative sources up to February 2026, reveal a prominent duality in the integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) into Urban Security Management in Iran: on the one hand, AI has emerged as a key tool for enhancing security efficiency, threat prediction, and infrastructure protection; on the other hand, it has generated profound legal and jurisprudential challenges that threaten the balance between national security and individual/religious rights.

Key Findings on the Practical Application of AI in Urban Security in Iran (2025-2026):

The Recorded Future report (April, 2025) on Iran's AI Ambitions emphasizes that Iran views AI as a "force multiplier" for national and domestic security, with a focus on cyber surveillance, influence operations, and domestic suppression. At the municipal level:

- ✓ **Tehran:** Facial recognition systems have been expanded in the metro and public spaces for hijab surveillance and protester identification. A New York Times report (February, 2026) indicates that following the December 2025-January 2026 protests, the government employed phone data and facial recognition to track and arrest participants, resulting in a "technological dragnet." The Nazer app (for citizen reporting of hijab violations) and surveillance drones (e.g., used at the

- Tehran Book Fair and Kish Island) are prominent examples.
- ✓ **Nushabad:** AI applications are more limited but hold significant potential for protecting cultural heritage (the underground city of Ouyi) against cyber/physical threats. Given local constraints (data infrastructure deficits and sanctions), AI could be useful for monitoring access to historical sites and predicting natural/human-induced damages; however, without a

jurisprudential-legal framework, the risk of local privacy violations increases.

The National Artificial Intelligence Document of Iran (approved in 2024-2025/1403-1404 by the Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution) sets the vision of positioning Iran among the top 10 leading AI countries by 2033/1412 and has established the National AI Organization to develop sovereign AI infrastructure (e.g., local language models and GPU data centers). While this document emphasizes Islamic values (justice, comprehensive security), it does not address practical challenges such as algorithmic bias.

Table 3. Key Applications of AI in Urban Security in Iran (2025-2026)

AI Application	Example in Iran (Tehran/Nushabad)	Practical Benefits	Observed Primary Challenges	Primary Source
Facial Recognition and Hijab Surveillance	Tehran Metro systems, Nazer app, drones in Kish/Tehran	Enhanced security efficiency, reduced human resource costs	Privacy violations; UN reports of "state-sponsored vigilantism"	NYT 2026; UN 2025; Recorded Future
Threat and Protest Prediction	Analysis of phone/social media data to track protesters	Crisis prevention	Algorithmic bias; discrimination against groups	Recorded Future 2025; Holistic Resilience
Historical Infrastructure Protection	Potential for cyber/physical surveillance of Nushabad's underground city	Cultural heritage resilience	Lack of local data; risk of over-surveillance	National AI Document of Iran 2025/1403
Cyber Surveillance and Big Data	Integration with NIN (National Information Network) for access control	National security against sanctions	-	-

Analysis of Legal Challenges:

The legal challenges primarily stem from the inadequacy of existing frameworks:

- ✓ **Privacy and Biometric Data:** Iran's Computer Crimes Law (2009/1388, with amendments up to 2025/1404) lacks requirements for explicit consent or privacy impact assessments (such as those under the European GDPR). A UN report (March,2025) emphasizes the increase in "digital repression" through tools such as Nazer and facial recognition, which threaten privacy.
- ✓ **Algorithmic Bias and Discrimination:** The absence of algorithmic auditing mechanisms leads to discrimination (e.g., misidentification during protests), contravening the standards of the EU AI Act (which classifies biometric surveillance as high-risk).
- ✓ **Liability and Transparency:** Ambiguity persists regarding civil/criminal liability (developer, user, or system?) and the lack of explainability in AI decision-making.

- ✓ **Comparison with Global Standards:** Iran has moved toward "absolute digital isolation" (Filterwatch,2026), with a focus on the National Information Network (NIN) and whitelisting, which conflicts with OECD principles on AI governance.

Analysis of Jurisprudential Challenges Based on Maqāṣid al-Sharī'ah:

Jurisprudential scholarship from 2025-2026 (e.g., "Maqāṣid al-Sharī'ah in the AI Era" and "Ethics of Artificial Intelligence in Maqāṣid al-Sharī'ah Perspective") emphasizes that AI must align with the five essential necessities (ḍarūriyyāt): the preservation of religion, life, intellect, lineage, and property:

- ✓ **Preservation of Dignity (Ḥifẓ al-'Irḍ - dignity and personal privacy):** Continuous surveillance (e.g., Nazer and drones) contravenes the prohibition of unwarranted espionage (tajassus) and the principle of lā ḍarar wa lā ḍirār (no harm and no causing harm). Scholarship proposes the integration of

- Maqāṣid into AI governance (e.g., trusteeship ethics) as a remedy.

 - ✓ **Justice and Fairness (‘Adl):** Algorithmic bias violates the principle of justice; proposed models such as masjid-based frameworks (for algorithmic fairness) are deemed useful.
 - ✓ **Preservation of Intellect and Religion (Ḥifẓ al-‘Aql wa al-Dīn):** AI can enhance
- religious knowledge, yet risks such as dependency or manipulation (e.g., deepfakes in protests) persist.

 - ✓ **Recommendation:** Establishment of joint jurisprudential-legal committees within municipalities (e.g., Nushabad) to issue fatwas on local applications, analogous to the experiences of the UAE and Malaysia.

Table 4. Jurisprudential Challenges of AI in Urban Security and Maqāṣid-Based Recommendations

Principle of Maqāṣid al-Sharī‘ah	Challenge in Iranian AI Application	Real-World Example (2025–2026)	Jurisprudential-Practical Recommendation	Jurisprudential Source (2025–2026)
Preservation of Dignity (Ḥifẓ al-‘Irḍ)	Privacy violation through biometric surveillance	Nazer app, metro facial recognition	Mandate consent and data minimization	Maqasid Institute 2025; Ethics of AI
Justice and Fairness (‘Adl)	Algorithmic bias and discrimination	Tracking protesters using data	Algorithmic auditing with jurisprudential oversight	Trusteeship Ethics, Springer 2025
Preservation of Intellect (Ḥifẓ al-‘Aql)	Risk of manipulation and deepfakes	Alleged AI-generated protest videos	Integrate Islamic ethics into AI development	-



Figure 4. Digital Surveillance System in Iran

Conclusion and Recommendations

The integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) into Urban Security Management in Iran, particularly within municipalities, has provided a strategic opportunity to enhance security efficiency, predict threats, and protect critical infrastructure. The findings of this research indicate that Iran, through the approval of the National Artificial Intelligence Document (approved in June,2024/1403 by the Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution) and the establishment of the National AI Organization, has set the vision of positioning itself among the top 10 leading AI countries by 2033/1412, emphasizing the development of a sovereign AI ecosystem (focusing on local language models, GPU data centers, and the national AI platform unveiled in

March,2025). This approach, which forms part of the national strategy to counter sanctions and strengthen comprehensive security, manifests at the urban level in applications such as cyber surveillance in Tehran (with facial recognition systems in the metro and the Nazer app for reporting hijab violations) and the potential for heritage protection in cities like Nushabad. However, profound legal and jurisprudential challenges exist that threaten the balance between national security and individual/religious rights. From a legal perspective, existing laws (such as the Computer Crimes Law with amendments up to 2025/1404) lack a comprehensive framework for managing algorithmic risks: lack of transparency, bias leading to discrimination, privacy violations

through biometric surveillance without consent, and liability ambiguities. International reports (e.g., UN March, 2025) emphasize the increase in "state-sponsored vigilantism" through tools such as drones, facial recognition cameras, and the Nazer app, which severely violate privacy. The OECD report (2025) on Governing with Artificial Intelligence indicates that in advanced countries, 57% of government AI applications are used for service automation and 45% for decision-making; however, in Iran, the focus is more on social control and internal security, which conflicts with global standards (such as the EU AI Act and its high-risk classification for biometric surveillance). From a jurisprudential perspective, AI applications must align with Maqāṣid al-Sharī'ah (the preservation of religion, life, intellect, lineage, and property). Recent scholarship (2025-2026), such as "Islamic Ethics and AI: An Evaluation of Existing Approaches using Trusteeship Ethics" and "Maqāṣid al-Sharī'ah in the AI Era," emphasizes that continuous surveillance (e.g., Nazer and facial recognition) contravenes the preservation of dignity (ḥifz al-'ird human dignity), the principle of justice ('adl – algorithmic fairness), and the prohibition of unwarranted espionage (tajassus). These challenges, particularly in smaller municipalities such as Nushabad (with sensitive historical infrastructure), could lead to local rights violations if pursued without jurisprudential guidance. Ultimately, the findings indicate an urgent need for a hybrid AI governance framework: integrating global technical standards with Islamic jurisprudential principles to balance security and ethics. Without such a framework, legal/jurisprudential risks will escalate, and the potential of AI for sustainable urban development (e.g., resilience in Nushabad) will be wasted. This research demonstrates that municipalities can serve as pioneering models, particularly by focusing on local applications and jurisprudential-legal oversight.

Practical Recommendations for Iranian Municipalities (with a Focus on Nushabad and Tehran)

Establishment of a Local Jurisprudential-Legal Committee in Municipalities: Formation of a joint committee comprising jurists, cyber-law experts, security managers, and technical specialists to review and issue fatwas/guidelines on AI applications (e.g., surveillance of Nushabad's underground city). This committee could operate based on Maqāṣid al-Sharī'ah (e.g., trusteeship ethics) and serve as a model for the National AI Organization.

Formulation of AI Governance Policies Based on Maqāṣid:

- ✓ Mandate periodic algorithmic auditing to prevent bias and privacy violations.

- ✓ Implement data minimization and require explicit citizen consent for biometric data collection, grounded in the principle of *lā ḍarar wa lā ḍirār* (no harm and no causing harm).
- ✓ Integrate the principles of Tawḥīd, Imamate, and 'Adl into system design (as proposed in 2025-2026 scholarship models).

Upgrading Technical Infrastructure with a Local Focus:

- ✓ **In Nushabad:** Utilize AI for heritage protection (detecting physical/cyber threats) without extensive personal surveillance, prioritizing the preservation of dignity (ḥifz al-'ird).
- ✓ **In Tehran:** Revise metro systems and the Nazer app to mitigate legal risks, with a mandate for explainability in decision-making processes.

Education and Capacity Building:

Training programs for security managers and municipal staff on Islamic AI ethics and cyber laws. Collaboration with universities (e.g., Sharif University of Technology) and the National AI Organization to develop local models.

International and Regional Cooperation:

- ✓ Benchmarking against the experiences of Islamic countries (UAE, Malaysia) in integrating Maqāṣid into AI ethics.
- ✓ Propose to the Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution that the National AI Document be updated with greater emphasis on urban and jurisprudential challenges.

Continuous Monitoring and Evaluation:

Establish Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to assess the impact of AI on urban security and individual rights, with annual reporting to the National AI Organization.

Outlook

With the trends of 2025-2026 (e.g., the unveiling of the national AI platform and the focus on sovereign capability), Iran can develop a unique model of Islamic-ethical AI that combines security with Sharia-based justice. Municipalities, as the executive layer closest to the people, play a pivotal role in this transformation. If the above recommendations are implemented, not only will challenges be reduced, but AI will also become a tool for sustainable urban development (e.g., heritage protection in Nushabad). This research can serve as a foundation for future articles and national policymaking.

Table 5. Summary of Recommendations and Responsible Parties

Recommendation	Primary Responsibility	Proposed Timeline	Link to Maqāsid al-Sharī‘ah / Legal Principles
Establishment of a local jurisprudential-legal committee	Municipality + religious scholars + legal experts	6-12 months	Preservation of dignity (Ḥifẓ al-‘Ird), Justice (‘Adl)
Algorithmic auditing and data minimization	Security managers + technical staff	Immediate - 6 months	Transparency, Accountability
Islamic AI ethics education and training	Universities + National AI Organization	12-24 months	Preservation of intellect (Ḥifẓ al-‘Aql), Religion (Dīn)
Local heritage-focused policies	Nushabad Municipality	6-18 months	Pres

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Authors' Contributions

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