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# Iran Human Rights Report



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**Reza Rasaei | Mojahed Koorkoor**  
**The Ekbatan Kids**

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# Introduction.



Mohammad Ghobadlou

January 1, 2000 | January 23, 2024

These series of periodical reports on Human Rights aim to highlight the cases of prisoners on death row in Iran. Each report is prepared with the assistance of reliable lawyers and human rights activists, both within Iran and, where possible, in consultation with the families of the victims, as well as credible political and human rights centres abroad. The purpose of these reports is to inform politicians and the media outside Iran and seek their assistance in preventing unjustified death sentences in the country.

The Islamic Republic is one of the most notorious perpetrators of human rights violations in the world. In addition to killing and assaulting

their opponents and demonstrators in the streets, they are known for torturing and killing individuals in prison under severe conditions and by denying them medical treatments. The regime is responsible for one-third of all executions worldwide.

The execution of **Mohammad Ghobadlou**, the ninth government-sanctioned killing by the Islamic Republic, related to the revolutionary uprising of 2022, once again demonstrates the regime's oppressive machinery, regardless of international verbal condemnations and the wave of opposition among Iranians. This report each time will address prisoners who are at the highest risk of execution.



## Reza Rasaei.



On 18 November 2022 , at the same time as the nationwide “Women, Life, Freedom” uprising during the Iranian National Revolution, the head of the intelligence department of the Sahne city in Kermanshah province named “Nader Birami” was killed during the anniversary ceremony of the death a Yarsan elder. As a result, a significant conflict occurred between the citizens present at the ceremony and the security officers.

As a result of the killing of a security officer, a case was filed in the second branch of the criminal court in the province of Kermanshah. After nearly a year passed, the court issued its decision on 7 October 2023, according to which **Reza Rasaei**,

(real name Gholamreza), a 34-year-old from Sahne city, a follower of the Yarsan, a late 14 century faith with about half million followers in western Iran, was among 10 other suspects charged with “participating in intentional murder.” He was sentenced to capital punishment (execution).

There are many cases of violation of relevant laws (Criminal Procedure Law and Islamic Penal Code) in the process of handling this case. There are clear violations that show the obvious contradictions and inherent flaws in the case and preliminary investigations (detailed below) which resulted in issuing the final death sentence.



## Contradictions in Judgment.

One of the main contradictions in judgment in the indictment to prove that Reza Rasaei committed murder is the strong emphasis on the fact that Mr. Rasaei was armed with two weapons (knives). They assert that he had prior planning and acted in a purposeful way in order to cause conflict and assault security officers. Reza Rasaei claims he did not have a knife which the court refuses to recognize.

The denial and rejection of Reza Rasaei's claim (of not having a knife) by the justice officials and the court is absurd given that Mr. Rasaei's claim is clearly confirmed on the first

page of the court document. In that context, the written judgment clearly states that the ceremony was not a protest or political rally, but a social and religious ceremony (the commemoration of the anniversary of the death of Salem) and it has been held for several years in the same way.

In this context, according to the testimony of the petition, the reason for the conflict between those present at the ceremony and "Nader Birami" was that he (Birami) warned and prevented one of the women present from taking pictures of the religious ceremony.

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Reza Rasaei

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Based on this, it seems that neither the presence of the security agents nor their inappropriate interference at the ceremony was among the issues that Reza Rasaei had prior knowledge of. He would not have known about the security agents and therefore would not have brought the two knives given that this was to be a normal religious ceremony.

One of the other fundamental flaws of the judgment and the verdict issued in it is the reference that the court made to the testimony of the suspects against each other.

In every part of the written judgment file, one of the main reasons for assigning the charge of premeditated murder to Reza Rasaei and proving his guilt are the "testimonies" which are, in fact, the forced confessions of a number of other suspects in the same case against him.

This illegal action of the court is based on the Islamic Republic's law and penal judgments and the confessions of suspects in a case against each other is not proof of committing a crime.

The use of "testimony" and the forced

confession of a number of suspects in the case against Mr. Rasaei was done by the court while many of the other suspects rejected the testimony that Mr. Rasaei was a murderer.

There were already numerous testimonials that verified it was not Reza Rasai who hit the victim from the front. In the meantime, the court, in a bizarre and illegal act that runs contrary to the basic principles and tenets of law, chose to accept only those testimonies that spoke against Reza Rasai and ignored the other testimonies.



## Issuing the Decision Before the Case is Completed.

Another obvious flaw in the court order in this case is the court's haste in issuing the final verdict despite the incompleteness of the case and the existence of defects in the preliminary investigation. An informed source testified to Dadban that heavy pressure was placed on the judiciary of Kermanshah by the head of the judiciary in the form of an order to determine the disposition of this case as soon as possible.

According to the document, after the initial referral of the case by the prosecutor's office to the court (the second branch of the Criminal Court of Kermanshah), the suspects in the hearing conference rejected all of the charges. They rejected their forced confessions and explicitly declared

that their initial confessions (near bailiff and interrogator) were obtained through torture and pressure and they do not accept any of these forced confessions.

The more important point is that despite the court's declaration in the written judgment that the preliminary investigation was insufficient and that there were defects in the case as well as inherent issues with the interrogations, the prosecutor's office took only brief measures this time and sent the incomplete case back to the court. With full knowledge and awareness of the numerous flaws and defects in the case, the court still issued the sentence of capital punishment against Reza.





## Disregard for Forensic Medical Opinion

In the issued Judgment from the second branch of the criminal court in Kermanshah, the cause of death of "Nader Birami" has been declared by the forensic medicine as "heart rupture due to the impact of a sharp-edged object to the front chest area." From a legal perspective, this statement implies that the perpetrator of the homicide is someone who inflicted a blow to the victim's chest with a "sharp-edged object" (such as a knife) from the front.

The examination of the case indicates that the court, despite being aware that some of the witnesses and suspects in the case have stated in their testimonies that they did not witness Reza Rasaei entering the scene and striking with a knife, has decided to disregard this matter.

Another crucial point is that, in the initial forensic report, the tool causing the injury (knife) is stated to have been used from behind. However, the authorities and the court claim Reza Rasaei struck the victim both from behind and from the front – and the tool causing the fatal injury (frontal injury) was different than the one used from behind. Even in the supplementary and more detailed forensic report,

which the court used as the basis for issuing the criminal verdict against Reza Rasaei, it was explicitly stated that it is not possible to accurately and completely identify the two knives that were used. The court's disregard for all these flaws and deficiencies in the case and its deliberate neglect of these flaws and ambiguities has led to the rejection of Reza Rasaei's retrial request in the Supreme Court under pressure from the commander of the Sepah-e Nabi-akram Kermanshah.

This clearly indicates an illegal intention and will to enforce an inhumane and unfair capital punishment for Reza Rasaei despite all the evidence exonerating him.

# Mojahed Koorkoor.



On November 15, 2022, amidst a nationwide uprising of the Iranian people, security forces killed seven citizens of Izeh. Among them was nine-year-old **Kian Pirfalak**, shot inside a car alongside his parents. In the aftermath, individuals in Izeh, including **Mojahed Koorkoor**, were arrested in connection with a fabricated case, falsely attributing Kian Pirfalak's murder to Mojahed.

Despite repeated assertions from Kian's family that Mojahed Koorkoor was not responsible for their child's death, and evidence suggesting security forces fired upon their car, a death sentence was issued for Mojahed. He stands as one of

the victims of the false narratives created by the security institutions of the Islamic Republic, accused of murdering Kian Pirfalak and others during the protests in Izeh.

Since his arrest, Mojahed Koorkoor has endured "forced disappearance, torture, and coerced confessions", with no access to a fair trial or independent legal representation.

# The Ekbatan Kids.

THE PORTRAIT OF MAHSA AMINI  
& "WOMAN, LIFE, FREEDOM"; ONE OF THE  
SLOGANS OF THE IRANIAN UPRISING  
ON A BUILDING IN EKBATAN TOWNSHIP  
TEHRAN, OCTOBER 2022



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One year after the detention of the suspects in the case known as the Ekbatan Township Tehran, the judiciary of the Islamic Republic of Iran has requested an execution of the accused in this case known as **The Ekbatan Kids**.

This case was the result of an investigation into the incident of the death of a militia student named Arman Ali-Verdi during the nationwide 'Women, Life, Freedom' uprising during the National Revolution last year in Ekbatan Township, Tehran. This Basij member lost his life on the 28 October 2022 as a result of beatings during a confrontation with some citizens.

As a result of the death of this Basij member, for more than three weeks, the Ekbatan district in Tehran turned into a ground for various security

and law enforcement forces to crack down, and at least 50 young residents of Ekbatan were detained by security and law enforcement agencies.

The Criminal and Security Court of Tehran has issued detention orders for 14 detainees, designating them as final suspects based on charges including "armed conflict", "participation in intentional murder", "propaganda against the system", "disruption of public order," and "intentional assault."

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The Ekbatan Kids

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Numerous legal flaws and ambiguities in the case, particularly the lack of valid evidence and documents to attribute the charges to the suspects, along with reliance on confessions obtained through torture and illegal interventions by senior judicial authorities such as Mohammad Shahriari, the Deputy Prosecutor, and the Acting Head of Tehran Criminal Court, have led to eight of the main suspects facing charges that carry the death penalty.

According to the indictment issued by the Sixth Investigation Branch of Tehran's Criminal Court, **Milad Armon**, **Mohammad Mehdi Hosseini**, and **Mehdi Imani** are charged with "fighting with god" and "participation in intentional murder", and **Alireza Kafaeei**, **Hossein Nemati**, **Amir Mohammad Khosh-eghabal**, **Alireza Barmarzpornaak**, and **Navid Najjaran** are accused of "participation in intentional murder", "disruption of public order", and "participation in intentional assault".

The attribution of the charge of "fighting with god" to Milad Armon, Mohammad Mehdi Hosseini, and Mehdi Imani is underway. Milad Armon, the first accused, explicitly declared that he has never had any

weapons, whether cold or hot, in his possession. In a video released by the Islamic Republic media of Milad Armon's confrontation with Hossein Rahimi, the Tehran Province police chief, Milad Armon clearly states that he did not have a knife and categorically denies Rahimi's insistence on having a knife and striking the Basij student as claimed.

The testimony of eyewitnesses and statements from informed sources indicate that security and law enforcement forces, empowered with extralegal authority granted by Mohammad Shahriari, the acting head of Tehran Criminal Court, contrary to the law, launch daily and nightly attacks on Ekbatan. They carry out unlawful home invasions and detain young individuals. Their actions include the use of sound grenades, shouting obscenities at residents, employing sound devices to threaten inhabitants, firing rubber bullets at windows, breaking entry doors of buildings and blocks, and assaulting homes while forcefully breaking entry points.

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The goal of these actions, including violent nighttime arrests, is among the brutal measures undertaken by security and law enforcement forces in Ekbatan, Tehran.

For example, **Amirmohammad Khosh-eghbal** was born in May 1998 and at the time of Arman Ali-Verdi's killing in Ekbatan, Tehran, he served as a soldier in the Air Force of the Army. His arrest was initially carried out by the "Information Protection of the Air Force" (a branch of military intelligence), following the incident. Amirmohammad endured severe torture and harassment by judicial officers to force him into making coerced confessions. The intensity of the torture, abuse, and harassment against Amirmohammad Khosh-eghbal at the Tehran Intelligence Office was so bad that he contemplated suicide.

However, due to the prevailing circumstances, he was unable to carry out this act. Eventually, the torture

and pressure forced Amirmohammad into making coerced confessions, and these forced confessions were used as documentary evidence to attribute charges and issue a judicial order against him.



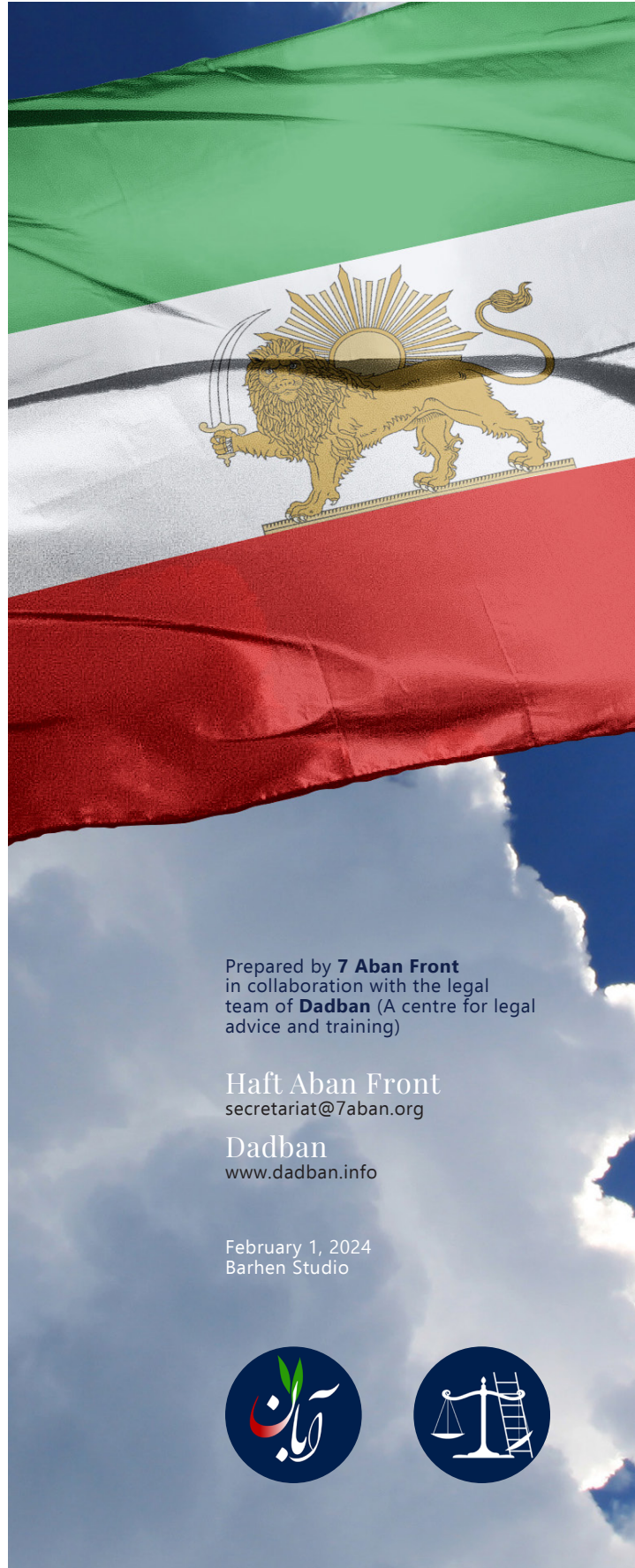
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## The Ekbatan Kids

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**Navid Najjaran**, another accused in the case, was also detained in Ahvaz by special judicial officers of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps' Intelligence Organization on charges of committing criminal acts related to the death of Arman Ali-Verdi, the Basij member killed in Ekbatan, Tehran. After initial interrogation, he was transferred to Tehran for further investigation.

According to information received by the Dadban, Navid has been deprived access to a defense attorney, and no one, including family, friends, or relatives, has so far followed up on his case. Navid has faced highly complex conditions in the legal proceedings of this case, and according to the judiciary's information, his family has remained silent in the hope of his freedom, fearing threats and intimidation from security institutions. As a result, Navid has been without legal representation to date. Navid was born in April 1992 and is a graduate of the Talented Students School in Ahvaz with a degree in civil engineering.



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## Abbas Deris.

As of the time of writing, the Islamic Republic has officially sanctioned the death penalty for one political prisoner and implemented such sentences for four other Iranians:

**Pejman Fatehi, Mohsen Mazloom, Mohammad Faramarzi, and Vafa Azarbar.** These four political prisoners faced execution on the morning of January 29, 2024, after being convicted of espionage for Israel in the aftermath of an unjust trial.

**Abbas Deris**, a witness to the massacre in Mahshahr reeds during the 2019 protests, received a death sentence on charges of "enmity against God" and participation in the death of a special forces police officer. This ruling was issued without a fair trial, in a closed court, and without the opportunity to choose legal representation. The announcement of Abbas Deris's death sentence left his wife devastated, leading to a stroke and leaving their three children alone.