

Sahand Nourmohammad-Zadeh, 26, a bodybuilding champion.



Sahand Nourmohammad-Zadeh.
via Human Rights in Iran

Sahand Nourmohammad-Zadeh was arrested on Sept. 23 in Tehran and accused of burning a trash can and tires and destroying highway rails in a protest. The court relied for evidence on grainy video footage that his lawyer said did not show him.

On the day he was arrested, he was told he would be executed, he said in a phone call with his family that was posted on BBC Persian.

Mr. Nourmohammad-Zadeh is a bodybuilder who, according to social media posts, has won medals in statewide competitions.

He worked at a small jewelry shop in a mall near where protests broke out in September. Mr. Nourmohammad-Zadeh has said all he did was kick a trash can outside the mall and move rails that were already broken, according to the tape published on BBC Persian. More than 100 employees and shop owners at the mall signed a petition vouching for his innocence.

Part of a religiously conservative family, he said he prayed three times a day, read the Quran in his cell and did not understand the charge of “moharebe,” a term he had been unfamiliar with until his arrest.

His two grandmothers made a video pleading for his exoneration. “Our child is innocent; we are two desperate old women begging you to forgive him,” one of the women said.

Saman Seydi, 24, a rapper and graphic artist.



Saman Seydi.
@samanyasinorg

Saman Seydi, known professionally as Yasin, was arrested on Oct. 2 in Tehran. He was accused of possessing a pistol and shooting three times in the air during protests. As evidence, the court relied on confessions that Amnesty International said were forced under torture.

Mr. Seydi, a rapper and graphic artist, is a member of Iran’s Kurdish minority and lived with his parents and two sisters. He posted his music videos on his Instagram page, often rapping in Kurdish about social injustice.