



Mohammad Ghobadlou (left) and Abbas Deris

## Iranian Supreme Court Overturns Two Death Sentences

14 hours ago

[Iran Protests](#)

[Human Rights](#)



The Iranian Supreme Court has revoked the death sentences of Mohammad Ghobadlou and suspended the execution order against Abbas Deris.

The decisions come amidst widespread protests and international scrutiny surrounding the country's handling of detainees from the nationwide demonstrations sparked by the death of Mahsa Amini in police custody. The protests spread across many cities, leading to mass arrests and several individuals sentenced to death without proper trial.

Ghobadlou, a 22-year-old detainee, **was charged with** 'moharebeh' or "waging war against God" and "corruption on earth" and had been given a death sentence by the Supreme Court. The accusations against him included the alleged killing of a police officer and injuring five others by hitting them with

his car. In January, he was given a stay of execution but in May the court upheld the death sentence regardless of his lawyer's objections and documents that could potentially exonerate him. However, today, the country's highest court overturned and revoked his death sentence.

Amir Raisian, Ghobadlou's lawyer, said, "The verdict in Branch 1 of the country's Supreme Court has been overturned, and the case will be referred to a same level court for consideration of my client's mental health issues and issuing a verdict."

An execution order against **Abbas Deris, 49**, who was arrested during the infamous Mahshahr canebrake crackdown in 2019, has also been suspended. During the protests, one of the bloodiest crackdowns in the history of the Islamic Republic, Deris was arrested with his 29-year-old brother Mohsen, who was acquitted of the 'moharebeh' charges. However, the elder brother faced a death sentence, which was upheld by Branch 39 of the Supreme Court in May and his lawyer, Fereshteh Tabanian, announced that a retrial had been registered. In response to overwhelming support on social media and appeals from his family and children, the court has now ordered the halt of the execution, and his case will be re-examined.

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## CAMPAIGN TO FREE JAILED WORKERS IN IRAN

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# The jailed worker Abbas Deris is in immediate danger of execution

JUL 14, 2023

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HELP SAVE ABBAS DERIS

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#StopExecution

CAMPAIGN TO FREE JAILED WORKERS IN IRAN

Abbas Deris is an imprisoned worker and one of the protesters arrested in 2019 mass protests, and he is in danger of death. He was a live witness to the brutal killing of protesters in the reeds of Mahshahr region and the shooting down of dozens of protesters there in 2019 by the criminal forces of the Islamic regime. During this conflict, he was brutally assaulted and arrested along with his brother Mohsen and a number of other protesters in Mahshahr city. Abbas was sentenced to death by filing a false case with charges such as “warfare, disorderly conduct and participation in the murder of one of the special forces of the police force known as Nopo”. Now the Supreme Court of the Islamic regime has approved the cruel sentence of Abbas’ execution. And this means that this government is determined to execute him. We have to rush to save his life. In this regard, Ali Deris, the eldest and sixteen-year-old son of Abbas Deris, has asked for



support to save his father's life in a letter addressed to the world. Ali Deris writes: "Kind people of the world! I am Ali Deris, the eldest son of Abbas and Kefaye. Unfortunately, our mother suffered a stroke upon hearing the news that my father might be sentenced to death and left us alone. Now my father is in danger of being executed, and me and my brothers Mehdi 12 and Muhammad who is 8 years old, ask if this world is so cruel to watch us lose our father too? We three children ask all organizations, governments and kind people in the world and even children in the world to help my father not be executed. This is very terrible, help my father come home. Ali Deris, 16 years old".

We are obliged to respond to this child's request. Let's actively become the voice of Abbas Deris and his children, in the world.

After the letter, Ali Deris expresses his gratitude that his first message was broadcast and his voice was heard, and he talks about his situation and his family. He says that due to the needs of his family, he had to drop out of school in the eleventh grade, and his two younger brothers could not go to school either, and his grandmother that is supposed to take care of them, is old and blind. He writes that they have not visited their mother's grave for a year because her mother was buried in Ahvaz city and the distance is too far for them. They have not visited their father either. Because he did not accept and said that this is not a good place for children.

The messages of Ali Deris and the fate of the family of Abbas Deris is a clear and obvious tragedy and a part of the brutal crimes of the Islamic regime against the people of this country. Let's rush to save the life of Abbas Deris with all our strength. Abbas Deris's "crime" is participating in protests against a killer regime. His case is the connecting link between the November popular uprising of 2019 and the "Woman Life Freedom" revolution. This execution sentence has to be stopped by campaigns at the national level and with international struggle and protests. .

Free Them Now (FTN) the campaign to free jailed workers in Iran, expects all trade unions and humanitarian organizations worldwide to support this campaign widely and put pressure on the Islamic regime to release Abbas Deris unconditionally.

It should be mentioned that last year, during the movement of sponsoring political prisoners by world political figures, Lucas Hammer, a member of the Austrian Parliament, undertook the sponsoring of Abbas Deris. Free Them Now tried to spread the news to all workers' and humanitarian institutions by reporting the confirming the death sentence for Abbas. Among other things, we sent a message to Lucas Hammer his political advocate. In protest against the confirmation of the death sentence of Abbas Deris, Lucas Hammer campaigned for the cancellation of the death sentence of this imprisoned worker by placing Abbas Deris's poster on the door of the Islamic regime's embassy in Wien, and protested his conviction.

Abbas Deris and all political prisoners should be released unconditionally.

Free Them Now

<https://free-them-now.com/>

July14,2023



**[The execution sentence of Abbas Deris has been confirmed >>](#)**



# Iran

July 12, 2023

By [RFE/RL's Radio Farda](#)

## Sons Issue Plea For Iranian Activist Father To Be Taken Off Death Row



Abbas Deris and his brother were accused of a role in the killing of a member of the special police forces during nationwide unrest in November 2019.

The three young sons of activist Abbas Deris have appealed to the authorities not to carry out the execution of their father -- which would leave them as orphans -- as fears grow his death sentence on charges he denies may be imminent.

In a [video](#) circulated on social media, one of the three sons [speaks](#) as they all look down at the carpet they're sitting on and says we are "begging for our father's life to be spared. Our mother died from a stroke triggered by the sentence handed to our father. We have no one left but our father."

Deris and his brother, Moshen, [were accused](#) of "waging war against God, disrupting order, and participating in the murder of Reza Sayadi," a member of the special police forces during nationwide unrest in November 2019.

The plea comes a day after Fereshteh Tabanian, a lawyer for Deris, said Branch 39 of the Supreme Court confirmed the death sentence without giving any regard to objections she filed in the case on July 5.

Deris's mother also released a video in which she called for her son's execution to be commuted.

The November 2019 protests saw thousands of Iranians in more than 100 cities and towns protest the government's sudden decision to raise gas prices. The protests quickly turned political, with many chanting against the Islamic regime and its leaders.

Iranian Human Rights has confirmed the death of 324 citizens, including 14 children, in the protests, but the Reuters news agency has estimated through its research that the actual number of people killed was around 1,500.

Iran, which has been rocked over the past year by demonstrations over deteriorating living conditions coupled with discontent over a lack of freedoms, especially women's rights, has been sharply criticized for a jump in executions as it tries to quell the unrest.

The wave of executions has sparked outrage among rights activists and many Western governments, who have called the legal proceedings against the accused "sham" trials where proper representation is not always granted and decisions are rushed behind closed doors.

Norway-based Iran Human Rights said on June 1 at least 307 people have been executed in 2023, a 76 percent rise compared with the same period last year.

Written by Ardeshtir Tayebi based on an original story in Persian by RFE/RL's Radio Farda

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July 17, 2023



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## Iran Human Rights Warns of Protester Abbas Deris' Imminent Execution

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Iran Human Rights (IHRNGO); July 9, 2023: November 2019 protester Abbas Deris is at serious and imminent risk of execution. Per his lawyer, the Supreme Court has upheld his death penalty for *moharebeh* (enmity against god) charges.

Warning of Abbas Deris' hasty and imminent execution, Iran Human Rights calls on the international community to take action to save his life.

Director, Mahmood Amiry-Moghaddam said: "Abbas Deris is at serious risk of being executed in the very near future and the only way to save his life is to raise the political cost of his execution. There's no evidence against him but torture-tainted forced confessions, his sentence is unlawful not only according to international laws but even according to the Islamic Republic's own laws."

His lawyer, Fereshteh Tabanian tweeted that Abbas Deris' death sentence had been upheld by Branch 39 of the Supreme Court without any regard to the filed objections on 5 July. She stated that she will be appealing the decision that she was not even informed of.

An informed source told Iran Human Rights: "All the evidence used at trial to issue the verdict came from the IRGC (Islamic Republic Guards' Corps) Intelligence Protection Organisation. Abbas and his brother Mohsen were tortured to force false confessions."

50-year-old Abbas Deris is a father of three children who was arrested along with his 30-year-old brother, Mohsen Deris in the Mahshahr canebrake crackdown during the November 2019 nationwide protests. They were initially charged with "*moharebeh* (enmity against god), disrupting public order and participating in the murder of a special unit officer." In October 2022, Abbas was **sentenced** (<https://iranhr.net/en/articles/5533/>) to death for the *moharebeh* charges and his brother was acquitted.

A murder case was also brought against the brothers in the Criminal Court. After the Revolutionary Court sentencing, they were transferred from Mahshahr Prison to Ahvaz Prison to face trial. On 11 December 2022, their lawyer tweeted that the victim's family in the case had chosen to forgive in the case. Those charged with the umbrella term of "intentional murder" are sentenced to *qisas* (retribution-in-kind) regardless of intent or circumstances due to a lack of grading in law. Once a defendant has been convicted, the victim's family are required to choose between death as retribution, *diya* (blood money) or forgiveness.

The Mahshahr canebrake crackdown which took place in November 2019, is considered one of the most bloody crackdowns in the Islamic Republic. According to eyewitnesses, security forces opened fire at the unarmed protesters who had blocked the street in Chamran (Jarahi), northern Mahshahr, killing many people. When protesters ran towards the canebrake next to the street to take cover, security forces fired heavy artillery and set parts of the canebrake on fire, killing more people. An eyewitness told Iran Human Rights: "At least 20 people were killed on the street and 40 killed in the canebrake."

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PRISONER

ABBAS DERIS

SENTENCE

EXECUTION

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CURRENT DETENTION STATUS

IN PRISON, SENTENCE CONFIRMED

ACTIVITY PERSECUTED FOR

ALLEGED REBELLION

GENDER

MALE

AGE

50

RELIGION

PROBABLY SHIAA

ETHNICITY

ARAB

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.Abbas Deris is from Jarahi town in Mahshahr Port county. He was a protester in November 2019 and was arrested with his brother while running away after the police started shooting. He was later sentenced to death by the revolutionary court.

## ARRESTS

DATE OF ARREST	ACTIVITY PERSECUTED FOR	CHARGED WITH	SENTENCE	CITY, PROVINCE OF ARREST
10/2019	Alleged Rebellion		Execution	Mahshahr

## TIMELINE

Reverse Chronological

**2/11/2022** Abbas and Mohsen Deris were transferred from Mahshahr Prison to an undisclosed location. According to IPA sources, even though Mohsen Deris was cleared of the charge of colluding with his brother for waging war against God and the Islamic state, a criminal court in Khuzestan province has accused him of being an accessory to murder.

**2/11/2022** Their attorney Fereshteh Tabanian reported on Twitter that her clients were transferred to Sepidar Prison in Ahvaz from Mahshahr Prison. She said their transfer was done without prior notification and the guards didn't even allow the brothers to pack up their belongings.

(see source  
(<https://twitter.com/Fereshtetabani1/status/1588042550635479040>))

22/10/2022

## EXPLANATION

Neizar (Everglade) Massacre refers to the massacre of protesters in Mahshahr city in Iran during the November 2019 protests. The massacre occurred between November 16th to 20th. According to the reports, after the security forces attacked the protesters, many escaped to the everglade around Jarahi and Chamran complex to escape the shooting, but the security forces surrounded the everglade and massacred every single person. No one survived.

## SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

He was sentenced to death. Their attorney Fereshteh Tabanian, reported that the court verdict has been delivered. She tweeted: "Mohsen Deris was exonerated, but unfortunately Abbas Deris was sentenced to death on the charge of waging war against God and Islamic state. We will object to the verdict and I hope that the supreme court reverses the decision."

All

Prisoner's Activism

Court

Media

Family

Campaigns

(see source  
(<https://twitter.com/Fereshtetabani1/status/1583740605015826433?s=20&t=Sdgx5Alu9o6MUwHXCKuyYw>))

**13/9/2022** Their attorney Fereshteh Tabanian reported on Twitter that the second trial session of the brothers was held: "In this session in Mahshahr Prison the last defense was presented in the presence of the chief of the first branch of the revolutionary court of Mahshahr and the magistrate and the prosecutor's representative.

(see source  
(<https://twitter.com/Fereshtetabani1/status/1569728290633424896?s=20&t=TW1z9SBk01AVsWGGN7Z1gw>))

**10/5/2022** HRANA reported on the first trial session of Deris brothers. According to the report, the first paper of the Abbas Deris' case was regarding the charges of war against God and the Islamic state, showing off and carrying an AK-47, and disrupting public order. Mohsen's charges are the same plus shooting the AK-47. The second part of the case is about the murder of Reza Sayadi, a special forces member, and it is being processed in the criminal court of Mahshahr. Abbas Deris has also been charged with participating in the murder of a Muslim man with an AK-47.

(see source (<https://www.hranews.org/2022/hranews/a-34773/>))

**10/5/2022** Fereshteh Tabanian, the attorney of the Deris brothers tweeted that the first trial session of Abbas and Mohsen Deris was to be held at the first branch of the revolutionary court of Mahshahr, was instead held at Mahshahr Prison for security reasons. According to Ms. Tabanian, the Deris brothers offered testimony separately and the procedure was overall positive.

(see source  
(<https://twitter.com/Fereshtetabani1/status/1524798576089391106?s=20&t=OPb4eDgFYh7myYZ-nWN4Jg>))

**16/3/2022** Fereshteh Tabanian, the attorney of Deris brothers told Emtedad: "They lied to Abbas Deris' wife in Tehran, saying that her husband has received a death sentence. After receiving the news, my client's wife had a heart attack and lost her life in a week." She pointed out that before any trial session was held, most judiciary and security institutions had announced the death sentence and its confirmation for Abbas Deris. She said that the first trial session of Abbas and Mohsen Deris, who have been accused of waging war against God and the Islamic state, was to be held on March 8th, 2022, but it was postponed due to technical problems with the video conference.

(see source (<https://t.me/emtedadnet/64795>))