



Detained protester Mojahed (Abbas) Kourkour

Iran's Supreme Court Confirms Death Sentence For Protester

Sunday, 12/24/2023

Iran Protests Iran

The Supreme Court of Iran has officially confirmed the death sentence for Mojahed Kourkour, a protester detained during the Women, Life, Freedom protests.

Mojahed (Abbas) Kourkour was taken into custody on December 20, 2022, following violent clashes between protesters and security forces near Izeh. Earlier this year, the judiciary [issued a death sentence for Kourkour](#), designating him as the "main suspect" in the case involving the killing of 10-year-old Kian Pirfalak.

Pirfalak's family have explicitly blamed government forces for their son's death. On the evening of November 16 last year, the family's car, carrying Kian, his parents, and three-year-old brother Radin, was targeted by plainclothes individuals in Izeh. Kian's father sustained severe injuries and was paralyzed during the shooting. Authorities claim the family car was attacked by "terrorists".

Contrary to official statements, Zeynab Molaei-Rad, Kian's mother, asserted that their car was shot by security forces and released a photo of herself with her hands in the hands of Kourkour's mother. Maysam Pirfalak, Kian's father, who was severely injured during the incident, also released a video rejecting the allegations against Kourkour following the judiciary's announcement.

Negar Kourkour, Mojahed's sister, said her brother's case had been transferred from the first branch of the revolutionary court in Ahvaz to a court in Izeh, southwest of Iran.

URGENT ACTION

MAN AT RISK OF PROTEST-RELATED EXECUTION

Mojahed (Abbas) Kourkouri is at grave risk of execution in relation to nationwide protests. In early April 2023, Iran's judiciary announced that a Revolutionary Court in Ahvaz sentenced Mojahed (Abbas) Kourkouri to death for "enmity against God" (*moharebeh*), "corruption on earth" (*efsad-e fel arz*) and "armed rebellion against the state" (*baghi*). His grossly unfair sham trial was marred by torture-tainted "confessions" obtained while he was subjected to enforced disappearance.

TAKE ACTION: WRITE AN APPEAL IN YOUR OWN WORDS OR USE THIS MODEL LETTER

Head of judiciary, Gholamhossein Mohseni Ejei
c/o Embassy of Iran to the European Union,
Avenue Franklin Roosevelt No. 15, 1050 Bruxelles, Belgium

Dear Mr Gholamhossein Mohseni Ejei,

Mojahed (Abbas) Kourkouri is at grave risk of execution after being sentenced to death in a grossly unfair trial before a Revolutionary Court in Ahvaz. In early April 2023, the judiciary spokesperson announced that, he was convicted of "enmity against God" (*moharebeh*) and "corruption on earth" (*efsad-e fel arz*) and "armed rebellion against the state" (*baghi*) and sentenced to death. The authorities accused him of involvement in the killing of a child during protests in Izeh, Khuzestan province, on 16 November 2022. However, according to Amnesty International's investigations, plainclothes security officials used unlawful lethal force during protests in Izeh and fatally fired live ammunition at the child. Authorities immediately blamed "terrorists", but the boy's family repeatedly refuted these claims publicly and attributed the responsibility to the authorities. Mojahed Kourkouri was arrested on 20 December 2022 near Ghalehtol, Khuzestan province, by agents from the Ministry of Intelligence, Revolutionary Guards and the Law Enforcement Command of the Islamic Republic of Iran (known by its Persian acronym Faraja) during what state media reported as an "armed clash". Mojahed Kourkouri sustained injuries to his knee from live ammunition and his arm from grenade shrapnel during his arrest.

From his arrest to early April 2023, authorities subjected Mojahed Kourkouri to enforced disappearance, denying his family and independently chosen lawyer information about his whereabouts. During this time, he told his family during infrequent brief phone calls that "they [authorities] will kill me", and said he was in a great deal of pain, including in his injured knee, and in need of healthcare. He also said he believed authorities were forcibly administering chemical substances on him. His trial was grossly unfair. The authorities denied him access to his independently chosen lawyer. His torture-tainted "confessions" were aired by Iranian state media, first days after his arrest, in late December 2022. In one propaganda video, he was filmed in bed with his arm visibly bloody and bandaged. His appeal remains pending before the Supreme Court. On 22 June, Mojahed Kourkouri's family public revealed security forces came to their home, and that they had no information about Negar Kourkouri, Mojahed Kourkouri's sister, raising concerns she was arbitrarily arrested following months of threats for advocating on his behalf.

I urge you to immediately quash the conviction and death sentence against Mojahed (Abbas) Kourkouri. If charged with a recognizable criminal offence, proceedings must meet international fair trial standards without recourse to the death penalty and exclude coerced "confessions". I urge you to immediately grant Mojahed (Abbas) Kourkouri access to his family, independently chosen lawyer, and adequate medical care. I urge you to protect him from further torture and other ill-treatment and investigate torture allegations, bringing anyone found responsible to justice in fair trials. His sister, Negar Kourkouri, if arbitrarily detained for campaigning on his behalf, must be released immediately. Finally, I urge you to grant independent observers access to capital trials connected to protests and immediately establish an official moratorium on executions with a view of abolishing the death penalty.

Yours sincerely,

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

According to information received by Amnesty International, Mojahed Kourkouri was not at the protests taking place in Izeh on 16 November 2022. Relatives of Kian Pirfalak, the nine-year-old child fatally shot by security officials that day, have also repeatedly stated publicly that Mojahed Kourkouri was not involved in the killing of their loved-one; and have repeatedly and publicly attributed responsibility to Iran's security forces.

Amnesty International previously [documented](#) how plainclothes security officials fatally shot Kian Pirfalak with live ammunition during protests in Izeh, Khuzestan province, on 16 November 2022. Security forces fired toward the car in which Kian Pirfalak was travelling with his family. During Kian Pirfalak's funeral service on 18 November 2022, his mother, Mahmonir (Zeinab) Molaierad, publicly described the details of the fatal incident and said: "Hear it from me about how the shooting happened so they [the authorities] can't say it was by 'terrorists', because they are lying." Mahmonir Molaierad described that they were on their way to their house in Izeh when they reached an intersection where a large numbers of riot police and plainclothes officials were stationed. She said an official ordered them to stop and turn around after they passed the security forces. Kian Pirfalak's father, who was driving, heeded the order, but suddenly several plainclothes officials opened fire at the car. As a result, Kian Pirfalak sustained fatal gunshot wounds and his father was severely injured. Mahmonir Molaierad said that amid the shootings, she opened the front passenger's car door, loudly alerted the officials that her children were in the car and asked them to stop. Three of the plainclothes officials responsible for the shootings then walked to the family, removed Kian Pirfalak's wounded body from the car and took him into a nearby building. Mahmonir Molaierad said, "I don't know why [the officials shot at us] ... They bombarded the car with bullets... I told the kids to hide under the seats. My younger child hid under the car's dashboard, but Kian was chubby and didn't go under the seat." The death of Kian Pirfalak sparked an outpouring of rage and solidarity both in Iran and globally, particularly after a video went viral that showed him opening a school presentation with the words "in name of a God of Rainbow" and then testing a boat made up of ice cream sticks. The same evening Kian Pirfalak was fatally shot, state officials including Valiollah Hayati, the Deputy Governor of Khuzestan Province for Law Enforcement and Security Affairs, claimed that "terrorist agents" were responsible for the incident. After Mojahed Kourkouri was named in Iranian state media as having been arrested in relation to Kian Pirfalak's killing in late December 2022, the family of Kian Pirfalak publicly denied his involvement. Amnesty International has [documented](#) a pattern of the Iranian authorities systematically covering-up and concealing their crimes and denying responsibility for the unlawful killings of children perpetrated by its security forces. They instead propagated narratives claiming that children were killed by "terrorists" or "rioters" or that their deaths were not connected to protests, but rather a result of suicides or accidents.

According to Amnesty International's [investigations](#), on 16 November 2022, in addition to Kian Pirfalak, security forces also fatally shot and killed with live ammunition at least three other children: Sepehr Maghsoudi and Artin Rahmani in Izeh, and Danial Pabandi in Saqqez, Kurdistan province.

In late April 2023, Mojahed Kourkouri's independently chosen lawyer learned that he was being held in Sheiban prison in Ahvaz, Khuzestan province, and was permitted to very briefly visit him. According to information received by Amnesty International, Mojahed Kourkouri has not been permitted family visits since his arrest.

Since late April 2023, the Iranian authorities have embarked on an alarming [execution spree](#) of scores of people, intensifying their use the death penalty as a tool of repression in an attempt to instil fear into the population and crush ongoing acts of resistance against the authorities and establishment. To date, Iranian authorities have arbitrarily executed seven people in relation to the popular uprising, including five individuals in 2023.

PREFERRED LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS TARGET: Persian, English

You can also write in your own language.

PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL: 29 August 2023

Please check with the Amnesty office in your country if you wish to send appeals after the deadline.

NAME AND PRONOUN: Mojahed (Abbas) Kourkouri (he, his)



The seven protesters Amnesty says are in danger of execution

At Least Seven More Protesters at Grave Risk Of Execution In Iran

1 hour ago

Iran Protests

Human Rights



At least seven more Iranians have been given the death sentence in connection with nationwide protests, according to rights group Amnesty International, with dozens more at risk.

At least 259 Iranians have been executed since January alone, according to the United Nations.

Amnesty claims Ebrahim Narouie, Kambiz Kharout, Manouchehr Mehman Navaz, Mansour Dahmardeh, Mohammad Ghobadlou, Mojahed (Abbas) Kourkour and Shoeib Mir Baluchzehi Rigi are at grave risk of imminent execution with four others facing retrials on capital charges.

Amnesty said it is aware of at least three others who have undergone trial on charges that carry the death penalty.

“The authorities have violated their fair trial rights and subjected many to torture and other ill-treatment, including floggings, electric shocks, death threats and sexual violence,” said the rights group.

Amid a spike in executions since late April, on May 19, **authorities arbitrarily executed** three tortured protesters, Majid Kazemi, Saeed Yaghoubi and Saleh Mirhashemi who were unjustly convicted and sentenced to death in Isfahan (Esfahan).

Amnesty also urged the Iranian authorities to “immediately quash all convictions and death sentences stemming from the protests, refrain from seeking further death sentences, and ensure that anyone charged with a recognizable criminal offence is tried in proceedings meeting international fair trial standards without recourse to the death penalty.”



Kian Pirfalak and her mother

Iran Sentences Rebel To Death By Forced Confession To Child Murder

Friday, 04/07/2023 3 minutes

Author: Maryam Sinaee

Iran Politics



Iran has sentenced a protester turned rebel to death for the killing of a nine-year-old during unrest in November, although the victim's family insists he is innocent.

The judiciary's news website, Mizan, said Friday Abbas (Mojahed) Kourkour has been sentenced to death for the killing of Kian Pourfalk in Izeh in southwestern Iran on November 15, adding that the sentence could be appealed.

Kian and his family were targeted by plainclothesmen during a night of protests in Izeh while they were in their car. Kian's father was also paralyzed as a result of serious injuries he sustained during the attack.



Abbas (Mojahed) Kourkour

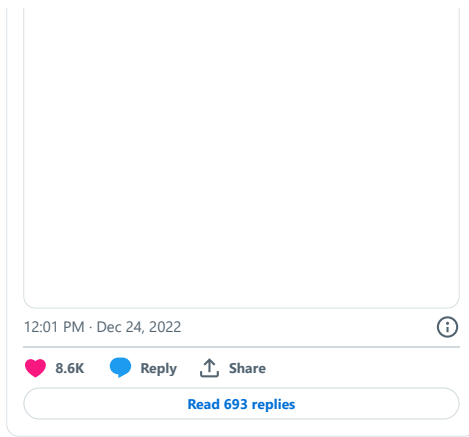
His mother, Zaynab Molaei-Rad, who was also in the car, has always insisted that it was plainclothes agents, not Kourkour and his friends, who sprayed their car with bullets and killed her son.

A former lawmaker from Izeh, Hojjatollah Darvishpour, **confirmed the account Kian's mother gave at her son's funeral** and said she had provided all the details about those who shot and moved her son and husband to the Red Crescent and then hospital.

Belgian politician Tomas Roggerman has accepted political sponsorship of Kourkour.

Tomas Roggerman
@TRoggerman · Follow

I will be the political godfather of Mojahed KourKour.
He was arrested & is badly injured. This doesn't stop Khamenei's torturers from torturing him to extract false confessions. He is accused of things he didn't do so that he can then be executed.
He is in very critical condition

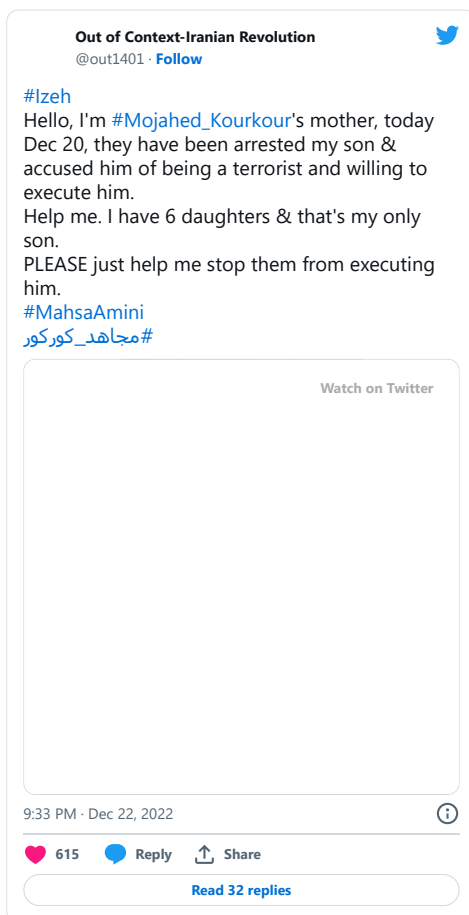


Kourkour's family also insist that he was not anywhere near the site of the shooting and was tortured into "confessing" to the shooting in which Kian was killed. His mother, Golanbar Kourkour, has appealed to Iranians to help prevent his son from being innocently executed.

Six others including three other children, were also shot dead in Izeh during the same night but authorities claim the attacks were perpetrated by "terrorists" who wanted to discredit the regime.

Shocked by the indiscriminate killing of children including Kian during nationwide protests that began in mid-September many Iranians began to call the Islamic Republic a "child-murderer regime". Tens of other children, including a two-year-old, were killed by security forces during the protests.

Kourkour's mother appealing to Iranians to save his son's life.



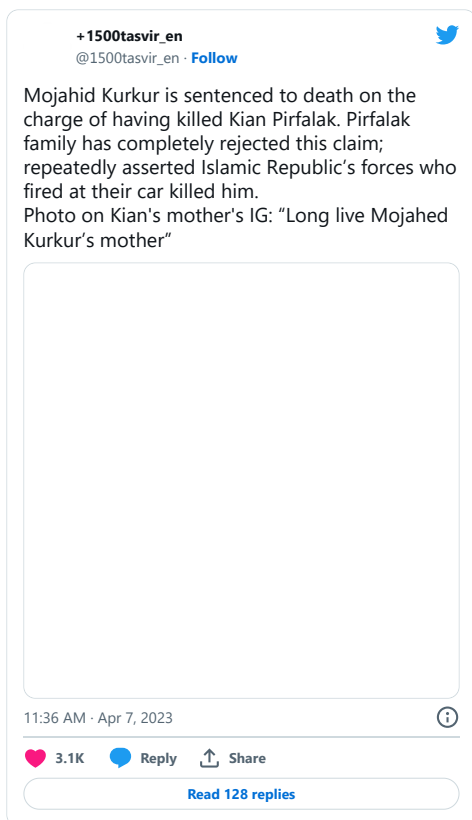
Kourkour and three other men, their families claim, armed themselves to take revenge on the government for the killings of November 25 in Izeh and hid in a village near the city but were ambushed by security forces four days later.

During an hours-long standoff in which security forces used heavy machine guns and anti-tank grenade launchers, two members of the group were killed and Kourkour and another man were arrested.

Over 500 protesters and bystanders were killed by security forces during the protests across Iran. Authorities have only taken responsibility for the killing of one protester, the 27-year-old Mehran Sammak, who was **shot by a senior police officer** in his car in northern Iran on November 29.

The regime executed four young men for their alleged role in the killings of government agents in December and January after hasty trials.

Kian's mother with the mother of the man she says is wrongfully accused of killing her son.



The accused were not allowed to have access to defense lawyers before and during their trials. Many believe that protesters' death sentences were based on "torture-tainted confessions". Several other protesters have been sentenced to death in similar circumstances.

Death sentences based on torture-tainted confessions of the accused are not uncommon. Iran International has learned that currently two men, 19-year-old Farhad Beigi Garousi and 34-year-old Gholamreza Rasaei, have been tortured to confess to the killing of an intelligence official in Sahneh in Kermanshah Province in western Iran on November 18.



Kian Pourfalk and his family

Locals say the officer Nader Beyrami was killed in a clash with mourners when he and his forces raided a funeral ceremony for a local poet and musician to prevent the ceremony from turning into anti-government protests.

Rasaei's family say they have witnesses who will testify that he had not been present at the scene of the killing.

The deceased and both accused belong to the Yarsan religion which has many followers among the Kurdish population of the region. Many Yarsanis hide their religion for the fear of persecution.

Iran Protests

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Protester Mojahed Kourkour Sentenced to Death as Cover-up for Kian Piralak's State Killing

7 Apr

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Iran Human Rights (IHRNGO); April 7, 2023: Mojahed (Abbas) Kourkour who was arrested during the nationwide protests in Izeh, has been sentenced to death by the Revolutionary Court. On November 16, 10-year-old Kian Piralak and several others were shot by security forces. Mojahed and his co-defendants, Human Seidali and Bahman Bahmani have been scapegoated as the perpetrators of those murders.

Condemning the false charges and use of the cruel and inhumane death penalty against protesters, Iran Human Rights demands an independent investigation outside the jurisdiction of Islamic Republic authorities into the case of Kian Piralak and all others killed in the nationwide protests.

Director, Mahmood Amiry-Moghaddam said: "The cruel and unlawful death sentence against Mojahed Kourkour was issued for the sole purpose of creating societal fear and covering up the murder of Kian Pirfalak. The responsibility for the murder of Kian and at least 67 other children rests solely with Ali Khamenei and the forces under his command. They are the ones who should be held accountable for these crimes."

Abbas Kourkouri, known as Mojahed Kourkour was arrested during the nationwide protests in Izeh on December 20. The Islamic Republic's judiciary announced news of his death sentence at the preliminary trial at the Ahvaz Revolutionary Court today.

According to the judiciary, Mojahed Kourkour's charges are: "*moharebeh* (enmity against god) through drawing a weapon with the intention to kill people and create fear, *efsad-fil-arz* (corruption on earth) committed through firing a war weapon, disrupting public order, causing harm to physical integrity of seven people including Kian Pirfalak, causing major damage to public and private property, forming a *baghy* group and its membership through armed rebellion against the government (*baghy*/armed rebellion)."

Kian Pirfalak's parents, uncle and lawyer have previously stated that his murder was carried out by security forces and they have no complaints against Mojahed Kourkour.

Speaking to Iran Human Rights, an informed source said: "Mojahed Kourkour wasn't even at the protest on the night of November 16 when seven people including Kian Pirfalak were killed. He took to the streets in protest to these brutal killings the next day. That's when he was identified and arrested 40 days later."

On December 20, security forces attacked a house in Porsourakh village in Ghaleh Tal city, located in Khuzestan province. Two people named Hassan Saeedi and Mahmood Ahmadi were killed in the attack and two people were arrested. Mojahed Kourkour was shot during his arrest.



Mojahed's forced confessions were aired on December 30 prior to the commencement of his legal proceedings. According to informed sources, Human Seidali who was arrested with Mojahed, and Bahman Bahmani are co-defendants in the case while "Bahman Bahmani wasn't even with them and wasn't even in Porsourakh village on the day of the attack by security forces. But they forced him to say that he was with them."

The source continued: "So far, they haven't allowed Mojahed Kourkour's family to visit him and the family don't even know where exactly he's being held. He has only been permitted to make calls to his family on an irregular basis. In the calls, he said the bullet was removed from his leg but didn't complete the treatment, to the point that he nearly lost his leg. They also didn't let the family hire a lawyer for him and a court-appointed lawyer was present at his trial."

Mojahed Kourkour has also been indicted by Branch One of the Ahvaz Criminal Court for the murder of Kian Pirfalak. It seems that authorities want to cover up the role of their repressive forces in the murder of seven people including Kian Pirfalak by executing innocent protesters. Iran Human Rights calls on the international community to take urgent action to prevent his execution while there is still time.

✉ (mailto:?subject=Protester Mojahed Kourkour Sentenced to Death as Cover-up for Kian Pirfalak's State Killing&body=url:http://iranhr.net/en/articles/5807/)

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