

Killing of Kian PIRfalak

Kian PIRfalak (Persian: کیان پیرفالک; c. 2013 – November 16, 2022) was an Iranian child who was killed in a shooting by the security forces of Islamic Republic of Iran in his parent's vehicle in the city of Izeh in Iran.^{[1][2][3]} His father Meysam PIRfalak was also critically injured in the assault and was hospitalized.^{[4][5]} His mother and other family members who witnessed the incident blame the attack on Iranian security forces.^[6] Islamic Republic news agencies, including IRNA, blamed his death on terrorists, circulating a statement attributed to ISIS, alleging that the group has claimed the deadly shooting that killed him.^[7] BBC Monitoring, however, investigated the statement and concluded that it was fake.^[8]

PIRfalak's death sparked a nationwide outrage against the government and its use of extreme lethal force against protestors.^{[9][10][11]} He is considered the youngest known victim (either 9 or 10-years old) of suppressing the Mahsa Amini protests.^{[9][12][13]}

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History

Kian PIRfalak was shot and killed on November 15, 2022, in the city of Izeh.^[13] Seven people died during this incident including two teenagers, Artin Rahmani, and Sepehr Maghsoodi (who was killed by a bullet in his head).^{[13][14][15][16]}

The Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), Fars News Agency and other Iranian news outlets attributed the assault to terrorists rather than the state's security forces, attributing the killings to ISIS.^{[17][18]}

Kian PIRfalak



Born	2013
Died	16 November 2022 (aged 8–9) <u>Izeh</u> , <u>Khuzestan</u> , <u>Iran</u>
Cause of death	Shooting by security forces of the <u>Islamic Republic of Iran</u>
Resting place	<u>Parchestan-e Gurui</u> , <u>Central District</u> , <u>Izeh County</u>
Nationality	<u>Iranian</u>
Known for	The youngest victim of crackdown on <u>Mahsa Amini protests</u>

A relative of Pirlalak told Radio Farda that security agents had opened fire on the car where Pirlalak was sitting.^[17] A bullet had gone through Pirlalak's lung.^{[19][14]} His father was also seriously injured and was later hospitalized.^{[20][19]} His mother, Zeinab Moulai denies the government's account of events, and claims her son was killed by security forces.^{[21][11]}

Funeral

The family placed Pirlalak's body on ice, refusing to keep it at the morgue.^[17] This was due to the fear of security forces stealing the child's body, as that has happened in many cases.^[17] Hundreds of people gathered at Pirlalak's funeral and chanted anti-regime slogans in protest of his death.^{[13][22][20][23]}

"Hear it from me about how the shooting happened so they can't say it was by terrorists, because they're lying," Pirlalak's mother Zeinab Molaie told mourners at his funeral.^[17] During the ceremony, Pirlalak's mother criticized the Islamic Republic's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei through a poem, which read: "How's Mister Seyyed Ali [Khamenei] doing? He has a long beard coming down to his chest! A chest full of hatred - his heart is like stone - all he says is nonsense!"^{[21][24]}

Impact

Pirlalak's death sparked an increase in the nationwide protests,^{[20][15]} and international support.^[25] After Pirlalak's funeral, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's childhood home was set on fire on November 17, 2022; which is being used as a commemorative museum and located in the city of Khomeyn.^{[26][10][15]} Protests at the University of Tehran's Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences displayed photos of Pirlalak.^[27]

Days after Pirlalak's death, UNICEF issued a statement condemning the death and detention of children in the wake of the 2022 protests in Iran.^{[28][29][30]}

A viral video circulated online of young Pirlalak testing his hand-made boat, and he stated, "in the name of the God of rainbows."^{[10][31]} The stanza "In the Name of the Lord of the Rainbow" is a poem by Mahmoud Purohab (Persian: محمود پورهاب) which is included in Persian 3rd grade elementary school book.^[31] As a result, many memorials about Pirlalak have referenced the God of rainbows.^[31]

See also

- Death of Mahsa Amini
- Iranian protests against compulsory hijab
- Deaths during the Mahsa Amini protests

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