


## NEWS

# Slain Kian Pirfalak's Relative Killed by Agents on Kian's Birthday

JUNE 12, 2023

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 Pouya Molaei-Rad, a cousin of Kian Pirfalak's mother, Mahmonir Molaei, was shot and killed by agents of the Islamic Republic near the cemetery where Kian is laid to rest



Pouya Molaei-Rad, a cousin of Kian Pirfalak's mother, Mahmonir Molaei, was shot and killed by agents of the Islamic Republic near the cemetery where Kian is laid to rest. The shooting occurred amid threats made against Mahmonir, warning her that if she proceeded with celebrating her son's 10th birthday, her husband and their younger son would also be targeted.

Kian Pirfalak was nine years old when security forces shot and killed him in the back of his family's car, on November 16, 2022.

Numerous reports on social media and various media outlets have confirmed the death of Pouya Molaei-Rad, 19, who was visiting Kian's grave at the cemetery in the village of Parchestan, located in the county of Izeh, Khuzestan province.

According to accounts received by IranWire, government agents physically assaulted Pouya at the site. Attempting to then intimidate the agents, Pouya entered his car and drove towards them, but when he stopped and exited the vehicle, he was met with a hail of gunfire, leading to his death.





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The incident took place during preparations for Kian's 10th birthday ceremony. Kian would have celebrated his birthday on June 11.

Mizan, the Iranian judiciary's news agency, confirmed the deaths of a policeman and a civilian during the ceremonies marking Kian's birthday, but has not disclosed any identities. Additionally, there have been reports of arrests within Kian's family in Izeh, with security agents surrounding the village of Parchestan and deploying forces in the city.

Meanwhile, the government's panic over Kian Pirfalak's 10th birthday ceremonies has led to increased harassment of his family, relatives and others in the city of Izeh in Khuzestan province. According to an informed source, a person who had made a special cake for Kian's 10th birthday was arrested on June 10 in Izeh.

"Since Wednesday, June 7, agents of the Intelligence Ministry had put Kian's family under enormous pressure," a friend of the family told IranWire.

"They [the authorities] were and still are very angry about the documentary **The Tulips**, made by Farzan Deljou which was published by IranWire. Before this documentary was published, they put a lot of pressure on Mahmonir and members of her family and insisted that this video must not be published.

"They thought that because it was called a documentary, Kian's family must have provided videos and evidence for making it. They were threatened repeatedly that this film must not be published. Mahmonir and members of the family continually

her that 'If you do not stop these ceremonies from taking place, we will kill your little son Radin and your husband Meysam,'" the family friend added.

According to this source, agents of the Intelligence Ministry were also trying to stop plans by Iranians abroad to celebrate Kian's birthday.

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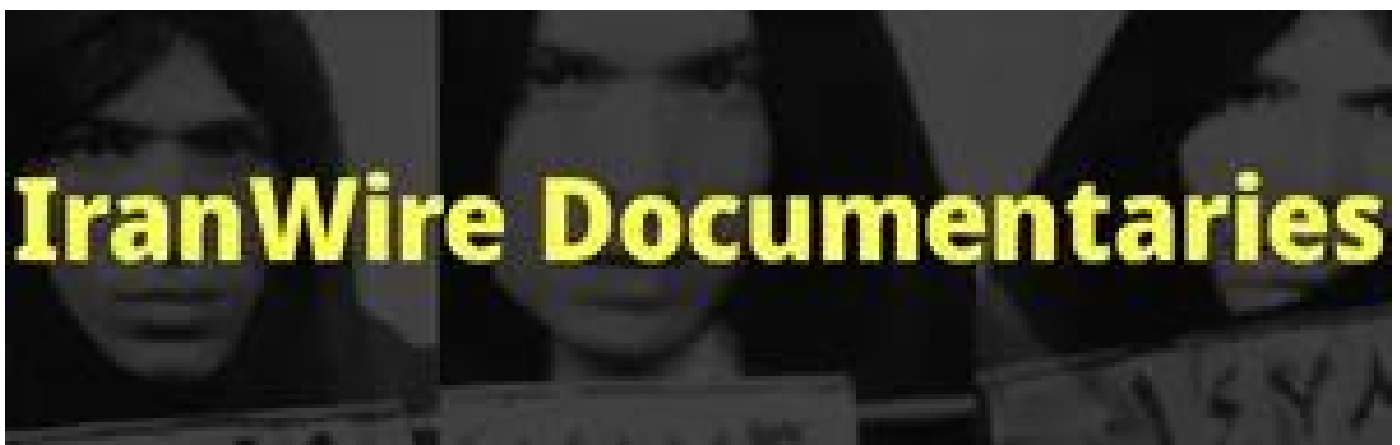
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Pouya Molaei-Rad, 18, who was shot multiple times by Iranian security forces on June 11, 2023

## Police Killing Of Young Man In Iran Raises Tensions

6 hours ago 3 minutes

Author: Iran International Newsroom

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Regime agents in Iran shot and killed a relative of a 9-year-old boy murdered during protests in November, as people gathered at his grave to mark his birthday.

The boy, Kian Pirfalak died when security forces fired at his family car for no apparent reason. Almost overnight, the child became a symbol of regime brutality on social media and during street protests.

Sunday was his 10th birthday and the people of his town Izeh, in the oil-rich province of Khuzestan, tried to gather at the cemetery to commemorate him but faced both regular police and forces sent by the Revolutionary Guard which had deployed in the town to prevent possible protests.

Pouya Molaei-Rad, an 18-year-old student and cousin of Kian's mother was shot and killed by security agents near the cemetery in unclear circumstances. Eyewitnesses say that there was a confrontation with the police. [A video showed the multiple gunshot wounds](#) on the chest.

The government immediately alleged that the young man was driving toward the cemetery when he hit three security personnel and was shot multiple

times, dying in hospital later. But the wounds on the victim's chest seem like straight shots, which many people see as evidence that he was not shot inside the car.

The circumstances of the shooting are not entirely clear. Some say he was caught off-guard by the sudden appearance of security forces on the road as he was driving, while the government says he intentionally ran over security agents.

Nevertheless, the incident has turned into a rallying cry for all regime opponents in Iran and abroad.

The child victim and his 18-year-old relative come from the large and fiercely independent Bakhtiari tribal people, which have to a large extent become urbanized, but maintain kinship loyalties.

Their killings will for a long time antagonize ethnic Bakhtiaris toward the Islamic regime. In the tribal culture, no one can rest until revenge is exacted for the killing of a blood kin.

As Kian Perfalak was laid to rest on November 18, his mother Mahmonir (Zaynab) Molaei-Rad made a fiery speech at her son's grave. She conveyed a strong message of protest against Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei who she seemed to hold directly responsible for her son's killing.

Iranian opposition figures abroad issued messages Sunday as soon as the news of Molaei's killing emerged.

Exiled Prince Reza Pahlavi tweeted: "The criminal regime has murdered another of our youth. The name of Pouya Molai-Rad, this young Bakhtiari patriot, has become eternal. This child-killing regime, however, is not eternal."

He added that the "evil" regime "will be removed and the perpetrators of the murder of Iranian children and youth will face trial. This is a national and unbreakable promise."

Alireza Akhondi, an Iranian-born member of Sweden's parliament and an active opposition figure **said in a Persian tweet** that the day when the "criminal regime will be toppled with the will of the people" is not too far away and vowed that the perpetrators of regime crimes will be held responsible.

US-based **opposition figure Masih Alinejad tweeted** that even family members of Moalei-Rad and Pirfalak have been arrested after Sunday's incident.

"The Islamic Republic has become one of the world's top executioners of its own citizens. The only way the clerical regime has engaged with an educated youthful society is through the muzzle of a gun," Alinejad said.

Hossein Ronaghi, an opposition activist in Iran and a former political prisoner praised Mahmonir Molaei-Rad, saying that Kian's mother "is the darling of hearts in Iran..."

## Iran Protests

Police Killing Of Young Man In Iran Raises Tensions

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