

Milad Zohrevand was executed on November 23, 2023.

### **Execution Of Another Protester Sparks Outrage Among Iranians**

Friday, 11/24/2023

Iran International Newsroom

Human Rights - Women's Rights Iran Protests Iran

The execution of Milad Zohrevand, a young Iranian protester on Thursday, has shocked and angered anti-government activists and dissidents in Iran and abroad.

Zohrevand was secretly executed in the Malayer prison in the western province of Hamedan while his family were not allowed to see him for one last time. Hengaw Human Rights Organization said in a statement that Zohrevand had not been notified that his execution.

The 21-year-old was married and became a father while serving time in prison. It is not clear if he ever had the opportunity to see his newborn child before his death.

In June, Zohrevand was sentenced to death in connection with the "murder" of an IRGC officer named Ali Nazari during the nationwide uprising against the Islamic Republic. Zohrevand was arrested by security forces on October 26, 2022, at the height of the anti-regime protest movement, triggered by Mahsa Amini's death in the custody of the hijab police.



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**Gohar Eshghi,** the mother of the 35-year-old blogger Sattar Beheshti, who was killed under torture in Evin prison 11 years ago, released a video message after the Zohrevand's execution.

"You're right; you start working at five in the morning. At the time of the call to morning prayer, you execute the youth or kill them under torture," Eshghi said in the video, addressing Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei, "do not kill these young people."

Executions take place around the time of Muslim dawn prayer in Iran. The time for the call for dawn prayer (called azan or adhan) is now associated with executions for Iranians.

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Execution Of Another Protester Sparks Outrage Among Iranians | Iran International

Despite the claims made by the Iranian judiciary, no video has been released so far showing how the IRGC officer was killed. According to human rights activists and organizations, there are many contradictions in the charges levelled against Zohrevand.

Iran's judiciary and security officials provided different and even contradictory data regarding the number of suspects that were arrested in relation to the "murder" of the IRGC officer.

Zohrevand was reportedly accused by prosecutors of being one of a group of five masked men who shot the IRGC intelligence

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Information received by Iran International indicates that Zohrevand was denied access to a lawyer and other basic rights of an accused throughout his detention. His family was also under intense pressure from the IRGC intelligence service not to make public statements about his case.

The execution comes two weeks after UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres released a report highlighting a surge in executions in Iran.

According to the report, at least 419 people were executed, including 409 men and 10 women, between January 1, 2023 and July 31, 2023, marking a 30 percent increase compared to the same period last year. Iran is second only to China in the number of executions carried out annually.

At least eight people have been executed by the Iranian regime for their involvement in nationwide protests triggered by the death in custody of Mahsa Amini in September 2022.

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## Iran secretly executes man over 2022 anti-government protests - sources

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2022 Iran protests



If confirmed, Milad Zohrevand would be the eighth protester to be executed in the past year

By David Gritten BBC News

Iran has secretly executed a man sentenced to death in connection with last year's anti-government protests, sources have told BBC Persian.

Milad Zohrevand, 21, was put to death on Thursday morning at a prison in the western city of Hamadan, they said.

Human rights group Hengaw also said it had received reports of the execution.

There was no confirmation from Iran's judiciary, which convicted Zohrevand of murdering a member of the Revolutionary Guards during a demonstration.

The sources said he was denied a lawyer throughout his detention and trial.

If confirmed, Zohrevand would be the eighth protester to be executed after last year's rallies.

<u>A recent report by UN Secretary General António Guterres</u> warned that in the seven previous cases, information "indicated that the judicial proceedings did not fulfil the requirements for due process and a fair trial".

It added: "Access to adequate and timely legal representation was frequently denied, with reports of coerced confessions, which may have been obtained as a result of torture."

The protests against Iran's clerical establishment erupted in September 2022 following the death in custody of Mahsa Amini, a 22-year-old woman who was detained by morality police for allegedly wearing her hijab "improperly".

Hundreds of people have been killed and thousands detained in a violent crackdown by security forces, which have portrayed the protests as "riots".

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<u>Two informed sources told BBC Persian</u> that Milad Zohrevand was executed at Hamadan Central Prison at dawn on Thursday. But prison authorities had not handed over his body to his family by the afternoon, they said.

Hengaw, which focuses on Iran's Kurdish ethnic minority, said in a statement that Zohrevand had also not been notified that his execution was imminent or granted a final meeting with his family. It strongly condemned the execution, which it said "not only violates the right to life but also egregiously infringes upon the human rights of the detainee and his family".

Hengaw also alleged that the Revolutionary Guards - a major military, political and economic force in Iran - had put pressure on authorities to carry out the execution.

It said this had happened without the explicit consent of the family of the officer whom Zohrevand was alleged to have killed.

Last week, **Hamadan's prosecutor said** a branch of the Supreme Court had confirmed the death sentence handed to a defendant convicted of the murder of Ali Nazari, a member of the Revolutionary Guards' intelligence service.

They did not identify the defendant, but legal collective Dadban cited sources as saying that it was Zohrevand. It also reported that his family had been pressured into not publicising his case.

Zohrevand was reportedly accused by prosecutors of being one of a group of five masked men who shot Nazari as he confronted students demonstrating at the Malayer Faculty of Medical Sciences in October 2022.

Iran is second only to China in the number of executions carried out annually.

The UN secretary general's report said Iran was carrying out executions "at an alarming rate", putting to death at least 419 people in the first seven months of the year. That is a 30% increase compared to the same period in 2022.

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#### POLITICAL

# Approval of the death sentence" of the accused" in the case of the killing of an IRGC officer during last year's protests

November/1402/23



An image attributed to Milad Zahravand, who has been warned by human rights defenders about the risk of his execution

At the same time as human rights activists warned about the situation of Milad Zahravand, one of the protestors in danger of execution, the Hamedan prosecutor announced the confirmation of the verdict of one of the defendants in the case of the killing of one of the .intelligence agents of the Hamedan Provincial Guard in the Supreme Court of the country "Approval of the death sentence" of the accused in the case of the killing of an IRGC officer during last year's protests Hossein Khanjani, the prosecutor of Hamedan city, told Tasnim news agency on Monday evening, November 22, close to the Revolutionary Guards, that "one of the branches of the Supreme Court issued a retribution verdict" against one of the accused in the killing of Ali Nazari, a member of the intelligence force of the Hamedan Revolutionary Guards. has .approved

Hamedan prosecutor, without mentioning the name of this defendant, added that after the death sentence was issued in the primary court, at the request of the defendant and the lawyer, the case was sent to the Supreme Court for appeal, but in the end, the judges of "one of the ."branches of the Supreme Court rejected the decision of the court." They approved the first one

Khanjani emphasized that currently the case of this person sentenced to death "is going through legal formalities to be sent to the General Justice of Hamedan province and execute the ."sentence

Mizan, the Judiciary News Agency, also reported on the evening of Monday, November 22, the "confirmation of the death sentence" of one of the detainees in this case in the Supreme Court, but it mentioned the name of the person sentenced to death, the branch of the trial court that .issued this sentence, and the branch that confirmed it. He did not in the Supreme Court

The news agency affiliated with the Judiciary also did not mention the time of the trial of those arrested in connection with the death of a member of the Malair Corps, but stated that in early 1402, a court in Hamedan issued a "death sentence" to one of the detainees under the title of . .'""retribution

Ali Nazari was one of the intelligence forces of Hamedan province's security forces, who died on November 4 of last year, during the suppression of street protests that were formed after the .gathering of students of Malayer Faculty of Medical Sciences

A day after this incident, Hossein Farsi, the special deputy governor of Malair, explained that this member of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and other security forces, when they were at the protest site, saw "about 5 people with their faces covered" in a car, but some of them ."with Seeing the police and security forces, they ran away

He added that "Ali Nazari approached one of the cars, which was a white Peugeot Pars, and opened the front door and observed that there was no one inside the car, but when he opened ".the back seat, a person was lying on the seat and was armed. He shot him

Tasnim news agency, however, stated in a more or less different story that "security forces, after a chase" with a car, stopped it "with shots" and Ali Nazari who approached the car and opened .it "with shots" One of the rioters was injured and died in the hospital "Approval of the death sentence" of the accused in the case of the killing of an IRGC officer during last year's protests. The security authorities of Hamadan province, including the deputy governor of Malair, announced the arrest of 6 people in connection with the case, and said that one of the people present at the scene is also a fugitive. has been

After that, on Tuesday, May 26th of this year, the account of "1500 Images" introduced one of the detainees in this case as "Milad Zahrevand" and wrote: "Milad was arrested with the fake scenario of "killing a government force" during the protests. And it is on the verge of [issuing] .the death sentence

This user account added that "Milad Zahravand was arrested on November 4, 1401 in Malair, and since that day no information about his physical and mental condition is available" and his ."family is also under "severe pressure

At the same time, the Dodban group, which provides legal advice to human rights activists, stated that "the Supreme Court of the country has confirmed the death sentence issued against Milad Zahravand, a 22-year-old young man from Malair", referring to the statements of the .Hamadan prosecutor on Monday night

Dodban added that Milad Zohrevand's death sentence was approved in the Supreme Court while "he was denied access to a lawyer during his detention" and the whole process of "holding his trial was done in less than three months" and " Milad Zahravand's death sentence has been .issued

This human rights legal consulting group also emphasized that during this period, "the family of Milad Zohrevand was strongly pressured by the IRGC Intelligence Organization not to ."inform about him

Over the past year, the judiciary of the Islamic Republic has executed seven people arrested during the nationwide protests of 1401, and the Iranian Human Rights Organization has warned that more than a hundred other protesters are in danger of issuing or executing death .sentences

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VOA NEWS ON IRAN

# Rights Group: Iran Secretly Executed Man in Case Related to 2022 Protests

November 23, 2023 3:50 PM Agence France-Presse

PARIS — Iran secretly executed a man on Thursday after convicting him of killing a member of the security forces during mass protests that swept the country last year, rights groups said.

It was the eight execution Iran has carried out in a case related to the protests which erupted in September 2022 following the death in custody of Mahsa Amini, a young Iranian Kurd who had been arrested for allegedly violating Iran's strict dress rules for women.

Milad Zohrevand was executed at dawn in a prison in the western city of Hamadan, the Norway-based Hengaw organization said.

He had been sentenced to death for killing a Revolutionary Guards officer during a protest in the town of Malayer in November last year.

Hengaw, which focuses on Kurdish issues, said that Zohrevand had received no prior notification that his execution was imminent and was not granted a final meeting with his family.

The execution of Zohrevand, who was in his early 20s, has not been reported by media inside Iran.

The Dadban legal collective also confirmed the execution on social media, adding that Zohrevand had been denied a lawyer.

Iranian authorities have already executed seven men in cases related to the 2022 protests, drawing condemnation from human rights groups and Western governments.

The last such executions were of three men in May. Amnesty International said they were intended to "send a strong message to the world and the people of Iran that they will stop at nothing to crush and punish dissent."

Iran launched a sweeping crackdown to snuff out the protests that saw hundreds killed and thousands arrested, according to rights groups and the United Nations.

Iran has executed at least 680 people this year, mostly on murder and drug-related charges, according to Oslo-based group Iran Human Rights.

L'Iran ha giustiziato almeno 680 persone quest anno

# La denuncia dell'Ong norvegese: "Impiccato in Iran un giovane attivista legato alle proteste"

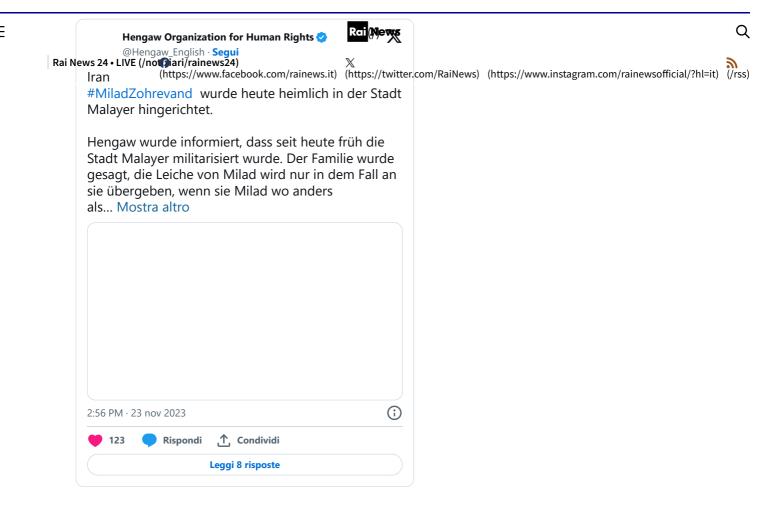
Si tratta dell'ottava esecuzione dall'inizio delle proteste scoppiate nel settembre 2022. L'attivista Milad Zohrevand aveva 20 anni ed è accusato di aver ucciso un membro delle forze di sicurezza

() 23/11/2023



ost pubblicato su X dell'organizzazione norvegese Hengaw Organization for Human Rights che denuncia secuzione di Milad Zohrevand, avvenuta oggi in Iran

Iran ha giustiziato oggi segretamente un uomo dopo averlo riconosciuto colpevole dell'omicidio di un membro delle forze di sicurezza durante le proteste di massa che hanno spazzato il Paese lo scorso anno a seguito della morte in custodia di Mahsa Amini. Lo ha reso noto l'organizzazione Hengaw con sede in Norvegia, un gruppo che lotta per i diritti umani. Si tratta dell'ottava esecuzione eseguita dall'Iran nell'ambito della repressione delle proteste scoppiate nel settembre 2022. Milad Zohrevand, che aveva poco più di vent'anni, è stato giustiziato all'alba in una prigione nella città occidentale di Hamadan.



Il giovane era stato condannato a morte per aver ucciso un ufficiale delle Guardie rivoluzionarie durante una protesta nella città di Malayer nel novembre dello scorso anno. Hengaw, che si occupa di questioni curde, ha affermato che Zohrevand non aveva ricevuto alcuna notifica preventiva dell'imminente esecuzione e non gli è stato concesso un incontro finale con la sua famiglia.

L'esecuzione di Zohrevand non è stata riportata dai media iraniani. Anche il collettivo legale Dadban ha confermato l'impiccagione sui social media, aggiungendo che a Zohrevand è stato negato un avvocato. Le autorità iraniane hanno già giustiziato **sette uomini in casi legati alle proteste** del **2022**, suscitando la condanna dei gruppi in difesa dei diritti umani e dei governi occidentali.

Le ultime esecuzioni di questo tipo erano avvenute a maggio. **Amnesty International** ha affermato che la Repubblica islamica intende "inviare un messaggio forte al mondo e al popolo iraniano che non si fermerà davanti a nulla pur di reprimere e punire il dissenso". Secondo i gruppi in difesa dei diritti umani e le Nazioni Unite, l'Iran ha lanciato una radicale repressione per soffocare le proteste che hanno visto centinaia di morti e migliaia di arresti. Secondo il gruppo Iran Human Rights con sede a Oslo, **l'Iran ha giustiziato almeno 680 persone quest'anno**, la maggior parte con accuse di omicidio e traffico di droga.

#### Tag

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