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Sardasht; Barzin Hamzezadeh, one of the Kurdish children arrested in the Jin, Jiyan, Azadi movement, died as a result of injuries caused by torture

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Hengaw: Wednesday, January 3, 2023

Barzin Hamzezadeh, a Kurdish child from Sardasht who suffered severe injuries to his internal organs as a result of the severe beating of the Iranian forces, finally passed away 13 months after surgery at the hospital. He was arrested at the age of 15 during the Jin, Jiyan, and Azadi movement and was tortured for a week.

According to the report received by the Hengaw Organization for Human Rights, on Tuesday, January 2, 2024, Barzin Hamzezadeh, a 16-year-old injured child from Sardasht, died during surgery at "Khomeini" hospital in Urmia.

According to a well-informed source close to Barzin Hamzezadeh's family, this child lost both his kidneys last year following his arrest and severe strikes and beatings by the Iranian security forces in the fall of last year and later suffered physiological dysfunction.

This source further added: "Over the past year and two months, Barzin has experienced a decrease in his level of consciousness and anesthesia several times, and he has visited the doctor many times for treatment."

One of the child's relatives confirmed this news and told Hengaw: Before his arrest, Barzin was in perfect physical and mental health and had no signs of illness. However, due to the torture during detention, he lost consciousness several times after his release.

This source further stated that the Iranian security agencies have been pressuring Hamzezadeh's family since yesterday to refrain from publicizing this news.

Barzin Hamzezadeh was arrested by the forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran in early December 2022, after the massive protests on November 20, 2022, in Sardasht, and was subjected to severe torture for nearly a week. The symptoms of this child's illness appeared a few days after his release in December 1401.

It is worth mentioning that, among those who were injured during the 2022-2023 protests in Iran, especially the ones from the Jin, Jiyan, Azadi movement, have suffered mental and physical disorders after their release from prison, and some of them, in the silence of the news, have not been able to resume their normal life and in some cases, they lost their lives.

Based on the statistics registered in the Statistics and Documents Center of Hengaw, more than 300 children have been arrested in different cities of Kurdistan by the security institutions of the Islamic Republic of Iran during the Jin, Jiyan, Azadi movement, and so far the identities of 193 of them have been confirmed for Hengaw.

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Teenager Barzin Hamzeh-Zadeh Was Tortured to Death in Iranian Prison, Hengaw Says

January 9, 2024

By [Natasha Phillips](#)

Barzin Hamzeh-Zadeh, a 16-year-old Kurdish boy arrested in November 2022 during the 'Woman, Life, Freedom' protests in Iran, died on Jan. 4 of injuries sustained while being tortured in prison, the human rights organization Hengaw has said.

[Hengaw monitors human rights violations in Iran](#) with a focus on Kurdish areas in the country and has volunteers working for it in Germany, Kurdistan and Norway.

Barzin, who was 15 years old at the time of his arrest, told his friends while in detention that officials prevented him from using the bathroom for long periods of time and gave him contaminated water to drink, leading to acute dehydration and severe abdominal pain. Security forces are also alleged to have beaten Barzin so severely that he lost both kidneys.

Concerned that the teenager could die from his ill treatment, officials sent Barzin to a medical center in Urmia, a city in the West Azerbaijan province of Iran, [according to Hengaw](#). There, his condition worsened, and he was transferred to a hospital in Tehran. Doctors at the hospital diagnosed Barzin with an autoimmune disorder, and recommended dialysis as a form of treatment following suspected kidney failure, Hengaw added.

Medical research has found that autoimmune disorders can be brought on by torture and other deeply traumatic events.

The details of Barzin's experience in the detention center, subsequent medical treatment and a video showing his arrest were published by Hengaw in a Jan. 7 post on the social media platform X, formerly Twitter.

"Doctors have emphasized that a disorder at this level, without the existence of genetic and hereditary factors, can only be caused by continuous and severe physical and mental pressures," the post said.

The video showing Barzin's arrest on a street in Iran includes a series of distressing scenes, including officers dragging him on the ground and threatening him. Several members of Iran's security forces can be seen surrounding the teenager and forcing him into a vehicle.

Amnesty International documented the systemic torture of children in Iran's prisons and detention centers in a March 16 report. The organization found that children as young as 12 were flogged, endured electric shocks to their genitals and were subjected to sexual violence in the regime's crackdown on nationwide anti-government protests.

The human rights organization also found that children were routinely given unsafe water to drink and denied access to toilets and hygiene facilities.

"They gave us electric shocks, hit me in my face with the back of a gun, gave electric shocks to my back and beat me on my feet, back and hands with batons. They threatened that if we told anyone, they would [detain us again], do even worse and deliver our corpses to our families," a boy speaking to Amnesty said.

The torture and killing of children and young people by Iran's security forces continues despite an international social-media outcry following the publication of Amnesty's report.

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Mahmoud Rakhshani, a 19 year-old boy from the Baluch community, was tortured to death on Dec. 11 by intelligence agents of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), according to a Dec. 13 Hengaw report.

Mahmoud was arrested on Sept. 3 by IRGC officials after they accused the family of being in possession of a weapon. No weapon was ever found and the search conducted at his father's home was carried out without a warrant.

The injuries that Mahmoud sustained while being subjected to severe torture in custody resulted in the teenager losing consciousness. Mahmoud spent three months in a coma before succumbing to his injuries at the Amirmomenin hospital in Zabol, a city in the Sistan and Baluchestan province in Iran.

His body was released to the family after they reluctantly signed a document which prevented them from launching a lawsuit against the government or publicly talking about their son's death.

Mahmoud's father, Ebrahim Rakhshani, suffered a fatal stroke on Dec. 16, five days after his son's death.

The Islamic Republic has been heavily criticized by human rights bodies in recent years over the treatment of children in Iran's justice system.

The United Nations has expressed ongoing concern about the government's use of the death penalty against children. There are an estimated 90 juvenile offenders on death row in Iran who have been sentenced to death, in a violation of international human rights law.

Responding to the execution on Nov. 25, 2021 of Arman Abdolali, who was convicted for an alleged murder committed when he was 17, the UN said: "This case is emblematic of the deep flaws of the juvenile justice system in the Islamic Republic of Iran and we call on the Government to undertake reforms as a matter of priority."

Iran is currently the world's most prolific executioner of children.

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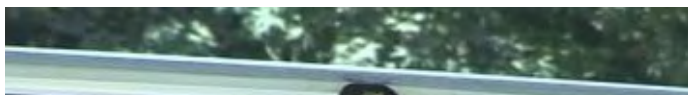
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