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# Prisoner died after being flogged for drinking alcohol in Iran

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A young prisoner died after being flogged for drinking alcohol in the city of Ahar in northwestern Iran. He was identified as Hadi Attazadeh.

Hadi Attazadeh passed away a few hours after being flogged in Ahar Prison, northwest Iran. Footage of his funeral and footage showing marks of his lashed back was also published in the report.

The Chief Justice of Eastern Azarbaijan Province denied reports of the man dying from flogging and said "initial investigations showed that the most likely cause of death was drug poisoning" and "abdominal pain". Musa Khalilollahi did not provide further details on how Hadi Attazadeh obtained the medicine.

However, his family denied this claim.

In an interview with VOA, the man's brother Qasem Attazadeh said they were informed on August 30 that Hadi was transferred to [redacted] sem Attazadeh said he became unwell after being flogged and when he was taken to the hospital two days later, it was too late.

"The Chief Justice of Eastern Azarbaijan said he passed away from abdominal pain and the prison told us he died from COVID-19. All of these are lies. They killed him," he said.

Qasem Attazadeh said his brother was detained for possession of alcoholic beverages and had been sentenced to one and a half years of prison. He also said his brother was completely healthy.

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A poster announcing a memorial ceremony for Hadi Attazadeh, who was killed after being flogged for drinking alcohol in the city of Ahar in northwestern [#Iran](#) [#HumanRights](#)  
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The Iranian authorities continue to allow such ruthless punishments and to justify them in the name of protecting religious morals.

Article 265 of Iran's Islamic penal code states that the punishment for consumption of alcohol by a Muslim is 80 lashes.

More than 100 other offences are punishable by flogging, including theft, assault, vandalism, defamation and fraud, as well as acts should not be criminalised, such as adultery, intimate relationships between unmarried men and women, "breach of public morals" and consensual same-sex sexual relations.

Article 179 of Iran's Penal Code provides for a mandatory death sentence following the third conviction for drinking alcohol.

Iranian authorities [executed a man](#) in July 2020 for "drinking alcohol" in Mashhad Central Prison in Razavi Khorasan province. He was [identified](#) as 55-year-old Mortaza Jamali.