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Mystery Surrounds Death of Iranian Kurd Two Months after "Arrest"

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HAWARI YOUSEFI

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Mousa Esmaili, a 32-year-old Kurdish man from the village of Pasveh in Piranshahr, West Azerbaijan province, was arrested in early May by intelligence agents His Urri



Mousa Esmaili, a 32-year-old Kurdish man from the village of Pasveh in Piranshahr, West Azerbaijan province, was arrested in early May by intelligence agents.

His relatives remained unaware of his fate and whereabouts for 62 days, until they were informed of his death at the Intelligence Detention Center in Urmia.

The Urmia Intelligence Department not only refused to hand over the body to the family but also denied it the right to hold a funeral ceremony for its victim.

Esmaili was married and the father of two children aged six months and six years. He worked as a farmer and livestock caretaker in Pasveh, where he also took care of his elderly father.

Esmaili's life took a turn on the evening of May 7, when agents of the Urmia Intelligence Department stopped his car during a car trip from Pasveh to the village of Kanimola.

A source close to the Esmaili family told IranWire that Esmaili was arrested on charges of being a member of opposition groups and possessing weapons.

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"Despite being in a state of shock and mourning, Mousa's father made a plea to the Urmia Intelligence Department, asking to see his son's lifeless body for a brief moment," the source said.

"However, his plea was rejected. He also sought permission to know the location of Mousa's burial, but the authorities once again rejected his request. Adding to the family's distress, they further warned that Mousa's funeral would not be allowed to take place in the mosque."

According to the source, Esmaili's father was also warned that any attempt to talk about his death would result in harsh consequences for the family.

Esmaili's death certificate attributes the cause of death to "internal bleeding resulting from being struck by a blunt object."

Accounts from villagers in Kanimola suggest that security forces fired at Esmaili's car during his arrest. One witness told his family he was unsure whether the man was injured or killed in the shooting.

In their desperate quest for answers about Esmaili's fate, his relatives repeatedly approached the intelligence and judicial authorities in Piranshahr and Urmia, but they refused to provide any information.

The intelligence agents' refusal to allow Esmaili's father to see the body, along with the confiscation of his car, has raised suspicions that the authorities are trying to conceal evidence regarding the circumstances of his death.

Meanwhile, the security forces continue to exert pressure on Esmaili's family.

As the funeral ceremony for Esmaili was being held in a mosque in Pasveh, agents stormed the premises and expelled the mourners.

"They threatened the family and mourners with legal action if they returned to the mosque to continue the funeral ceremony," the source said.

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Hengaw's report on the death of Kurdish political prisoner Mousa Esmaili, who was tortured by Iranian security forces

🕒 22:18 - 8 July 2023

Hengaw: Saturday, July 8, 2023

An Iranian government institution tortured and killed Mousa Esmaili, a political prisoner from Pasve village in Piranshahr city.

According to information obtained by Hangaw, on July 8, 2023, 62 days after Musa Esmaili was taken into custody, Urmia's intelligence department contacted his family and informed them to get their son's body at their security facility without providing any other information. After visiting the security facility, they reported that their child had died. Not only were they unwilling to give the body to the family, but they also threatened not to hold a funeral ceremony at the mosque.

Musa Esmaili, a 35-year-old from the Pasve village in Piranshahr, was detained on Sunday evening, May 7, 2023, by forces of the Intelligence Department without providing an arrest warrant. His personal vehicle was also seized.

A source close to the Ismaili family reportedly said, "The security officers have informed the family that Musa has been executed without presenting any justification or documentation connected to going through any legal process and trial. However, according to Ismaili's family, which has constantly followed

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their son's custodial status throughout his arrest, there has been no trial or additional proceeding against their son."

In essence, Musa hasn't appeared in any court for any appeals to be processed quickly so that the Supreme Court can accept and carry out the verdict. Even the potential allegation against Musa is unknown. The family strongly claims that their child was murdered while being tortured by security forces. It is also noteworthy that the family was only notified today about the body, which has been kept at the mortuary for an extended period of time.

The Ismaili family has been warned by regional security agencies that any knowledge about this subject and media attention to this issue will have catastrophic consequences for them.

It is important to note that Musa Esmaili has been deprived of contacting his family since his detention, and his family's follow-up with several security and legal institutions has been fruitless.

Hengaw will continue its investigation and publish its legal theory while strongly condemning the "self-inflicted murder" of Musa Esmaili.

In the first half of 2023, at least 20 detainees were killed in Iranian prisons, of whom 13 (65%) were Kurdish prisoners, according to a report previously released by Hengaw.

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