

Violating the Right to Life

**A Report on Suspicious Deaths in Custody
in the Islamic Republic of Iran (2022-2023)**

Campaign to Free Political Prisoners in Iran

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A Report on Suspicious Deaths in Custody in the Islamic Republic of Iran (2022-2023)

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The **Campaign to Free Political Prisoners in Iran (CFPPI)** is one of the first organizations advocating globally for the release of political prisoners in the Islamic Republic of Iran. CFPPI is dedicated to amplifying the voices of detainees and their families while actively working to end all forms of torture and abolish the death penalty in the country.

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Violating the Right to Life: A Report on Suspicious Deaths in Custody in the Islamic Republic of Iran (2022-2023)

Introduction and background

This report documents cases of ‘suspicious deaths’ that occurred in the prisons and detention centres of the Islamic Republic of Iran in 2022 and 2023. The Islamic Republic has a long history of unlawful deaths and executions spanning over forty-six years since the regime’s inception. The United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Iran has determined that the mass killings of political prisoners in the 1980s constituted crimes against humanity¹. Over time, it has become increasingly clear that extrajudicial killings are not isolated events but are common practice within a systematic campaign of violence targeting political dissidents, particularly protestors.

In light of the human rights violations documented by the UN Fact-Finding Mission (FFM) during the Woman, Life, Freedom (WLF) protests (2022-2023), this report aims to bring international attention to the suspicious deaths that occurred during this period. The circumstances surrounding these cases reveal that the Islamic Republic of Iran is acting in flagrant violation of international laws and norms, including obligations as a State Party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)

We stress that the cases documented here represent only a fraction of those who had their right to life violated during this period. We further underscore the urgent need to continue investigating the deaths and disappearances of individual during and after the WLF protests, and to pursue accountability from the Islamic Republic’s authorities.

In this report, the term suspicious death refers to two general circumstances:

- Deaths for which no formal investigation was conducted, despite credible evidence and probable cause indicating the involvement of the State authorities. In these cases, the victims died while in State custody, likely as the result of torture.
- Death occurring shortly after release from prison, raising concerns about the conditions endured during incarceration. These are individuals who died under suspicious circumstances—such as alleged heart attack, suicide, or overdose—despite credible reason to suspect State involvement. In several of these cases, there is probable cause to believe that authorities coerced families into attributing the deaths to alternative causes. In all cases, family members reported that the deceased had no pre-existing health conditions.

This report highlights the gravity of the issue and the urgent need for further investigation, documentation, and accountability from the Islamic Republic of Iran. In cases where families have been silenced, we have sought to uncover and bring their stories to light.

¹ UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, “*Atrocity Crimes” and Grave Violations of Human Rights Committed by the Islamic Republic of Iran (1981-1982 and 1988)*, July 17, 2024.P3.

Violations of the right to life and the protection of the right to life in prison

The right to life is a fundamental and universally recognized right, reaffirmed by the United Nations since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948. The declaration serves as the common standard of fundamental human rights for all peoples and all nations to uphold and universally protect. As stated in [Article 3](#):

Everybody has the right to life, liberty, and security of person.

The Islamic Republic of Iran is party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which, in Article 6 states:

Every human being has the inherent right to life. This right shall be protected by law. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his life.

The findings outlined in this report reveal a systematic pattern in which the Islamic Republic of Iran arbitrarily deprives this right, failing in its fundamental duty to protect its citizens.

The UN Human Rights Committee's [General Comment No. 36](#) on Article 6 affirms the primacy of the right to life, declaring it “the supreme right from which no derogation is permitted.” The Comment further emphasizes the duty of the State authorities to protect this right, including for individuals in detention. Our findings demonstrate that the Islamic Republic of Iran has not only failed to uphold this obligation but has actively and systematically violated it. The following highlight specific clauses of international law that the regime is in direct violation of.

- Deprivation of life involves deliberate or otherwise foreseeable and preventable life-terminating harm or injury, caused by an act or omission. It goes beyond injury to bodily or mental integrity or a threat thereto. (Para.6)
- Investigations into allegations of violations of article 6 must always be independent, impartial, prompt, thorough, effective, credible and transparent [...] Where relevant, the investigation should include an autopsy of the victim's body, whenever possible, in the presence of a representative of the victim's relatives. (Para. 27)
- Loss of life occurring in custody, in unnatural circumstances, creates a presumption of arbitrary deprivation of life by State authorities, which can only be rebutted on the basis of a proper investigation that establishes the State's compliance with its obligations under article 6. (Para.28)
- States parties are expected to take all necessary measures to prevent arbitrary deprivation of life by their law enforcement officials, including [...] putting in place appropriate legislation controlling the use of lethal force by law enforcement officials, procedures designed to ensure that law enforcement actions are adequately planned in a manner consistent with the need to minimize the risk they pose to human life, mandatory reporting, review and investigation of lethal incidents and other life-threatening incidents. (Para.19)

The absence of transparent and independent investigative mechanisms for deaths in custody means that, while direct State responsibility cannot be conclusively established in every case, the lack of accountability itself constitutes a violation of Article 6 (Para. 27). The fact that these deaths occurred in custody, under unnatural circumstances, demonstrates a clear deprivation of life and creates a presumption of arbitrary deprivation by State authorities—one that necessitates thorough and impartial investigations (Para. 28). To date, no such investigations have been conducted. Instead, families report a disturbing and consistent pattern of intimidation and coercion by

State agents, aimed at silencing their pursuit of justice and preventing the public disclosure of their loved ones' deaths.

Suspicious deaths in custody

We have identified at least 39 cases of suspicious deaths involving individuals who either died while in custody or shortly after their release from prison. We also have reason to believe that additional cases of this nature exist and warrant urgent investigation. However, our ability to report on these cases is currently constrained by limited logistical capacity and critically by the climate of fear in which affected families live. Several families approached by CFPPI are too afraid to speak out. In some instances, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) has reportedly threatened to arrest other family members if they speak publicly about the death of their loved ones. This pattern of intimidation severely hampers documentation efforts and highlights the need for independent investigations.

Appendix I of this report provides a comprehensive overview of these cases, including individuals such as:

Ebrahim Rigi, 24 years old, who was arrested on October 13, 2022, in Zahedan, Sistan and Baluchistan Province. Rigi, a young doctor who treated the wounded during protests, was released on bail on January 1, 2023. However, he was re-arrested shortly after, on February 22, 2023, and taken into custody at the 12th Police Station of Besat District, where he died just an hour later. Rigi's case is one of the rare instances where there is confirmed evidence that he died as a result of a beating inside the police station.

Tragically, another member of Ebrahim Rigi's family, **Dariush Rigi, 22**, was detained in September 2022 in Tehran, also for participating in the WLF protests. He was allegedly beaten in custody and died on September 23, 2022. The following week, on Bloody Friday in Zahedan, State security forces reportedly desecrated his grave by smashing his headstone.

Two women, Asma Shojaei and Darya Nazmdeh, also died in custody under suspicious circumstances. Asma Shojaei, 23, a graduate student in accounting at the University of Tehran. Shojaei allegedly participated in protests on December 24, 2022, in Karaj when she was detained. Reports indicate that she was injured during her arrest and later succumbed to her injuries.

Darya Nazmdeh, 27, was another young woman who died in custody following her involvement in the WLF protests. Nazmdeh attended the Chehelom (40-day memorial) of Hadis Najafi with friends at Behesht Sakineh cemetery in Karaj when she was reportedly beaten and forcibly taken into a car and disappeared. Her family later found her body in a morgue, where they identified visible bruising on her face, cheeks, and body.

Following Nazmdeh's death, security agencies allegedly pressured her family to claim on State television that she died in a car crash in exchange for the release of her body. A source close to her family says that Nazmdeh's death certificate states she died a week before she was arrested and implied, she was hit by a car.

Deaths following release from detention

Cases of prisoners dying after their release from custody also warrant scrutiny.

Barzin Hamzeh-Zadeh was only 15 years old when he was detained and tortured by security forces for a week during the WLF protests, resulting in serious injuries to his internal organs. He was held in detention for 13 months, during which time he reportedly lost the function of his kidneys due to the severity of the beatings.

Hamzeh-Zadeh's family stated that he was in good health prior to his detention. The tortures he endured left him severely injured, ultimately leading to his death after his release. Hamzeh-Zadeh died on November 26, 2022, at the age of 16, in Urmia's Imam Khomeini Hospital.

Another young man, **Amir Hossein Taravol Iman, 21**, was detained in Greater Tehran Prison and Evin Prison for eight months, also for his participation in WLF protests following the death of Mahsa Jina Amini. Just six days after his release, on May 16, 2023, Iman went for a walk with his cousin, returned home, and died in his sleep the following day from a reported heart. Available information about his death suggests that the heart attack was a result of the physical and mental abuse suffered during his detention, as well as medication administered to him before his release².

Intimidation of families and denial of justice

Building on the documented cases of suspicious deaths, it is evident that families are routinely denied justice. A consistent pattern of intimidation and threats by State authorities has been reported. Many families report being coerced into declaring a false cause of death for their loved ones, often as a condition for the return of the body. Investigations are not conducted in a manner that meets the standards set out in Article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Instead, families report being pressured to remain silent and refrain from making their cases public, and abandon efforts seeking justice. Under these conditions, it is likely that the cases of suspicious deaths identified thus far represent only a fraction of the true number of deaths in custody or shortly thereafter.

To date, no investigations meeting the standards of being “independent, impartial, prompt, thorough, effective, credible, and transparent,” have been conducted for any of the cases documented in this report (see: General Comment, Para. 27). Autopsies of the victims are also not performed—let alone in the presence of a representative of the victim's relatives, as is recommended under the ICCPR. Instead, families are routinely denied the remains of their loved ones unless they comply with conditions imposed by the authorities.

Emad Heydari, a 31-year-old ethnic rights activist for Arab Iranians, was arrested in Ahvaz in September 2022 during the WLF protests, despite no apparent charges against him. While in detention, his family was informed that he had died of a stroke. Security officials pressured the Heydari family to bury his body quickly to avoid drawing attention and pressured them against sharing any information about the circumstances of his death. This case exemplifies not only the absence of a credible investigation, but also the use of intimidation tactics aimed at silencing families from speaking out about the circumstances surrounding their loved one's death.

Mehdi Zare Ashkezari, another young man (age unknown) detained for participating in the September 2022 protests, was temporarily released from prison (date unknown)—reportedly due to the severity of his injuries from torture. Soon after, he fell into a coma and died 20 days later in a hospital in Yazd. He relatives reported seeing clear signs of torture, including bruises, a broken nose, and broken teeth. To receive his body, Ashkezari's family was coerced into declaring his cause of death as “suicide.” Only after complying with this demand was his body returned to them, and his burial ceremony took place in December 2022.

Similarly, in the case of **Saman Ghaderpour Darvish, a 37-year-old protestor**, who died in detention in Tehran, the authorities denied his family the right to view his body. His burial ceremony was only permitted under the strict supervision of the Intelligence Department in his hometown of Oshnuyeh (date unknown).

The body of **Esmail Dazvar, a 39-year-old**, was buried by the IRGC intelligence forces without his family's knowledge. Arrested during the WLF protests in Saqqez—Mahsa Jina Amini's hometown—on October 9, 2022,

² CFPPI's 2023 report: [Political Prisoners in Iran Are Subjected to Pharmacological Torture](#) –P12

Dazvar's body was transferred to a hospital in Saqqez on October 10, 2022. The authorities attributing his death to a "car accident," as stated by the IRGC-affiliated Tasnim News. Under intense pressure, Dazvar's family was also forced to publicly declare a car accident as the cause of death.

In one case, a family was denied information about the location of their loved one's burial site for three months. **Bahareh Lelahi, a 40-year-old**, a dissident director and screenwriter from Mazandaran, was briefly detained during the 2022 protests. She later went missing in March 2023 and is believed to have been killed in detention by security forces, before being secretly buried. Authorities reportedly withheld information about her burial site from her family for three months.

These cases offer a glimpse into the recurring tactics employed in deaths of protestors and dissidents during their incarceration in State custody. Families are routinely denied access to their loved one's body unless they agree to specific conditions—such as endorsing an alternative cause of death—and are subsequently pressured into silence. In blatant violation of Iran's obligations as a State Party to the ICCPR, independent investigations and autopsies are systematically refused. In some instances, families are even denied the right to see their loved one's body before burial—ceremonies that often take place under the watch of security forces.

Such was the case for the family of **Ramin Fatehi**, who died in prison in October 2022, and was buried without their knowledge. No family member was permitted to see his body, nor were they allowed to hold a funeral for him. His sister, Rada Fatehi, has spoken to CFPPI in an interview detailing the events surrounding her brother's death and the treatment their family endured at the hands of the authorities. Rada Fatehi's testimony is provided in **Appendix II**.

Recommendations

The CFPPI calls on the international human rights community to take urgent and decisive action in investigating the deaths of political prisoners in Iran. We recommend the following:

Investigation of Torture and Accountability

CFPPI urges international human rights organizations, including the UN Human Rights Council and the World Organisation Against Torture and the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Iran to urgently investigate the use of torture in the prisons of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the regime's role in custodial deaths. The Islamic regime must be held accountable for these crimes against humanity.

Investigation of Deaths in Custody

CFPPI calls on the UN Independent Fact-Finding Mission on Iran, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Iran and the UN Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary, or Arbitrary Executions to thoroughly investigate patterns and specific cases of deaths in detention and those who died shortly after release.

Support for Investigation from International Bodies

CFPPI urges governments, the European Union, and the European Parliament to actively support these investigations and to pressure the Islamic regime to allow an independent inquiry into these deaths, led by an investigator chosen by the victims' families.

Holding the Regime Accountable

CFPPI calls on governments, the European Union, and the European Parliament to take concrete action to hold the regime in Iran accountable for deaths in custody, suspicious deaths, and human rights violations.

Appendix I.

Detailed Reports of 39 Cases of Deaths in Custody or Following Release in Islamic Republic of Iran

#	Information	Details and testimonies
1	<p>Name Ghaffar Akbari</p> <p>Prison Malekan Intelligence Detention Centre, East Azerbaijan</p> <p>Date of arrest 20-10-2024</p> <p>Date of Death 16-11-2024</p> <p>Sex M</p> <p>Age 48</p> <p>Status Died in hospital</p>	<p>A father of four, Ghaffar Akbari died at Sina Hospital in Marageh following three weeks of detention and abuse at the Malekan Intelligence Detention Centre. His burial took place with heavy security presence.³</p> <p>Akbari was arrested on October 29 alongside his son-in-law, his son-in-law's brother, his brother-in-law, and another individual. They were detained in connection with the murder of a villager, despite the police investigation finding no evidence linking them to the murder. Informed sources have confirmed that he was held in inhumane conditions while denied contact with his family, access to a lawyer, and essential medical care.</p> <p>According to someone close to Akbari, the Malekan prosecutor played a direct role in his death. Reports suggest that the head of the prison alerted the prosecutor about Akbari's deteriorating condition, but he was only transferred to the hospital when there was no longer hope of keeping him alive. His family has been under significant pressure to remain silent about his death in custody.</p> <p>Images obtained by <i>IranWire</i> show clear signs of physical torture on Akbari's body. According to Mehdi Koukhiyan, an exiled Azeri civil activist, Akbari endured "intense interrogation." During the interrogation sessions, the officers told Akbari, "We'll make you confess to even killing Hassan Nasrallah."</p>
2	<p>Name Mohammad Mir-Mousavi</p> <p>Prison N/A, Langerud, Gilan</p> <p>Date of arrest Unknown</p> <p>Date of Death Between 24-08-2024 and 28-08-2024</p> <p>Sex Male</p> <p>Age 36</p> <p>Status Body handed to family after arrest</p>	<p>Mohammad Mir-Mousavi, a driver by profession, died from injuries sustained under severe torture while in custody in Gilan⁴.</p> <p>He was last seen alive on the evening of August 24, when police arrested him and took to a station in northern Langerud. Four days later, his body—marked with signs of beating—was handed over to his family. On August 28, 2024, human rights sources published images of his bloodied body being washed, revealing clear evidence of severe torture and assault.</p>

³ [IranWire](#), 19 November 2024

⁴ [Iran International](#), 4 September 2024

“These places are pierced,” a voice is heard saying in said in a video documenting the washing of Mir-Mousavi’s body. One of the photos also shows autopsy marks on his chest, though no official forensic report has been released⁵.

At a police station in Lahijan, a former IRGC commander, Hossein Alaei, commented on Mir-Mousavi’s death, asking "Why do such incidents keep happening from time to time?" Hossein Alaei said at a police station in Lahijan. The Navy commander stressed the importance of proper training for police officers in their interactions with the public.

3	Name	Sara Deldar	
	Prison	Lakan Prison, Rasht, Gilan	
	Date of arrest	Unknown	
	Date of Death	09-09-2024	
	Sex	F	
	Age	32	
	Status	Died while out on parole	
			<p>Sara Deldar, a political prisoner, writer, and nurse from northern Rasht, died from severe liver complications and infections caused by pellets lodged in her body during the <i>Woman, Life, Freedom</i> protests⁶⁷. She told her cellmates she was shot by a shotgun in November 2022 while aiding injured protesters.</p> <p>She was sentenced to one year and three months on charges of “promoting corruption and prostitution” for posting photos without the mandatory hijab on social media. Additionally, she received another year and nine months for “insulting religious sanctities” after posting about the killing of Qassem Soleimani. Deldar confided in fellow prisoners that she had suffered both physical and psychological violence during her arrest and imprisonment⁸.</p> <p>After serving over six months, she was released on parole as her health deteriorated. Already suffering from a preexisting liver condition, her time in prison further worsened her health. She had not menstruated since her second month of incarceration and experienced severe anemia, physical weakness, and complication with her kidneys and ovaries—ailments she described in her final Instagram post. Many other prisoners released from Lakan prison reportedly face similar health issues.</p> <p>Yalda Dehgani, a political prisoner who was in prison with Deldar, published a video in the wake of her death saying it was not at all “natural incident.”</p> <p>“When she was in prison with us, she was doing everything she could to make sure she</p>

⁵ [IranWire](#), 30 August 2024

⁶ [IranWire](#), 12 September 2024

⁷ [Iran International](#), 9 September 2024

⁸ [Radio Farda](#), 10 September 2024

was receiving her medications... she was just hopeful she would be released, even temporarily, to receive the medical attention she needed.”

4	Name Prison Date of arrest Date of Death Sex Age Status	Pooya Ghisvandi N/A, Kamiyaran, Kurdistan 21-09-2022 22-09-2022 M 26 Committed suicide the day after his release	<p>Pooya Ghisvandi was arrested by government forces at the start of the WLF protests on 21 September 2022.⁹ He was released in the evening of the same day. According to his family, on the night of his release, Pooya seemed mentally disturbed. The next day Pooya commits suicide, and his lifeless body was found at his home. The family told CFPPI that Pooya was a happy young man full of hope and passion. His funeral was under the heavy presence of IRGC security forces. In the morgue where Pooya's body was washed, security forces were present, they did not let the family take a photo of the body and they were not allowed to look at the body. The security forces confiscated all his personal belongings. Pooya's mother went to the forensic doctor to find out what was done to Pooya, but the doctor said she shouldn't pursue the case. His family was under intense pressure not to publicise the news otherwise other members of the family would be arrested. To this day, Ghisvandi's family does not know what happened to him in prison while in detention.</p>
5	Name Prison Date of arrest Date of Death Sex Age Status	Mojtaba Qhanati Kholari Unknown, Shiraz, Fars 30-12-2022 04-01-2023 (estimated) M 28 Found dead after being arrested	<p>Mojtaba Kholari was reportedly abducted and tortured by the IRGC before succumbing to his injuries¹⁰. His body was discovered by a civilian in a desert near the city of Shiraz on December 31, 2022. Kholari's family was threatened by the IRGC to not make his death public, or they would be denied access to his body and face arrest themselves.</p> <p>Kholari had been detained for writing slogans on the wall on the street. His family searched for him but failed to find him. According to one of Kholari's friends, Afshin, during their last inquiry of the local officials, they were told he was in detention but had committed no serious crime and would soon be released on bai. Mojtaba's body was later found in the desert. The friend alleges was done because Mojtaba was killed under torture.</p> <p>When Mojtaba's family was called to identify him, the forensic doctor officially attributed the cause of his death to “poisoning”. His burial took place on a Friday and his family was repeatedly threatened that if they spoke to anyone or the media about what happened, they would be harassed¹¹. Relatives and those close to him have also faced ongoing intimidation.</p>

⁹ [CFPPI YouTube Channel](#), 8 February 2023

¹⁰ [CFPPI YouTube Channel](#), 24 January 2023

¹¹ [CFPPI YouTube Channel](#), 5 May 2023 (shows people gathered at Kholari's grave)

6	Name	Maryam Arvin	Maryam Arvin, a lawyer, died two months after being freed from prison. She was detained at the beginning of the month of Azar (corresponding to late November and early December), which were the early months of the nationwide <i>WLF</i> protests. After three weeks, she was released on bail on December 12, 2022 ¹² .
	Prison	Sirjan Prison, Kerman	
	Date of arrest	20-11-2022	
	Date of Death	08-02-2023	
	Sex	F	
	Age	29	According to a source who contacted the citizen journalist group <i>Mamlekate</i> , Arvin became a lawyer at 25 and earned her doctorate at 28. She was imprisoned for defending protesters who could not afford legal representation. A judiciary expert, Ziad Abadi, claimed to have videos of her attending protests. ¹³
	Status	Died after release from prison	
			The Kerman Bar Association confirmed that she died in February 2023. The public prosecutor of Sirjan stated that Arvin “committed suicide by using medical products.” ¹⁴
			Several human rights organizations, including the International Observatory of Lawyers at Risk and the <i>Fédération internationale pour les Droits Humains</i> , have cited Arvin’s death as one of three cases of lawyers dying under “highly dubious circumstances” ¹⁵ ¹⁶ . The European Council later imposed restrictive measures imposed on an individual linked to her case ¹⁷ .
7	Name	Emad Heydari	Emad Heydari, a Sunni convert of Arab ethnicity and an <i>ethnic rights activist</i> , was arrested at his home in Ahvaz during the WLF protests without any apparent charges. A few days later, security forces raided his home again, confiscating his family’s mobile phones.
	Prison	Unknown, Ahvaz, Kous	
	Date of arrest	--/09-2022	
	Date of Death	07-10-2022	
	Sex	M	
	Age	31	In the following days, the authorities informed a family member that Heydari died of a stroke ¹⁸ . However, his relatives believe that he was killed in prison. Security officials pressured the Heydari family to his body and to remain silent about the circumstances of his death.
	Status	Died in prison	

¹² [Radio Farda](#), 9 February 2023

¹³ [Mamlekate](#), 22 December 2022

¹⁴ [IRNA](#), 8 February 2023

¹⁵ [International Observatory of Lawyers at Risk](#), 22 August 2023

¹⁶ [FIDH](#), February 2024

¹⁷ [European Council](#), 22 May 2023

¹⁸ [Iran International](#), 2 October 2022; see also [United4Iran](#)

8	Name	Mohammad Abdollahi	
	Prison	Ilam, Ilam Province	
	Date of arrest	12-10-2022	
	Date of Death	12-10-2022	
	Sex	M	
	Age	36	
	Status	Died in detention	
	Abdollahi was detained by government forces during protests in Ilam and reportedly died under torture. According to a report received from the human rights organization Hengaw, he was arrested by security forces on Wednesday, October 12, 2022, opposite the Governor's Building in Ilam. Just hours later, he reportedly died under torture ¹⁹ .		
9	Name	Aida Rostami	
	Prison	Police Station, Ekbatan, Tehran	
	Date of arrest	12-12-2022	
	Date of Death	Between 12-12-2022 and 13-12-2022	
	Sex	F	
	Age	36	
	Status	Suspicious circumstances, signs of torture	
	Dr. Aida Rostami, a general practitioner, worked anonymously in Tehran's Ekbatan neighbourhood, providing medical care to injured protesters in their homes. On December 12, 2022, she left the home of an injured protester to get supplies from the 24-hour pharmacy—but she was never heard from again after reaching her car ²⁰ .		
	The next day, her family was contacted by Ekbatan police station instructing them to collect her body. At the station, her family was told that she died in an accident. However, when they insisted on seeing her remains, it was immediately clear that her injuries did not align with the “accident” explanation.		
	Her hands were broken, the right half of her face was crushed, her nose was smashed, and her left eye was completely drained. There were also obvious bruises on other parts of her body. Her family believe she had been tortured ²¹ .		
	<i>Mizan</i> , the judiciary-affiliated news agency, claimed she was thrown from a bridge near Azadi Square by “a man she was in a relationship with”—a reference to her fiancé.		
	The authorities pressured her family to appear in an interview on State television on December 17, 2022, to deny security forces' involvement in her death and to confirm she fell from a bridge. When they refused, they faced increasing pressure from the authorities ²² .		
	Rostami's brother, Arvin, posted a message on YouTube saying his sister “selflessly sacrificed her life for the sacred oath of medicine ²³ .”		

¹⁹ [Hengaw](#), 17 October 2022

²⁰ [IranWire](#), 17 December 2022; see also [Wikipedia](#), [British Columbia Medical Journal](#), [Iran International](#)

²¹ [Center for Human Rights in Iran](#), 10 February 2023

²² [IranWire](#), 17 December 2022

²³ [Youtube](#), “Parvaz TV Canada”, 15 July 2023

10	Name	Mehdi Zare Ashkezari	Mehdi Zare Ashkezari was detained for participating in protests and fell into a coma just hours after his temporary release from prison, reportedly due to the severity of his injuries from torture. He died 20 days later in the hospital ^{24,25} . His relatives described his injuries, stating, “His nose and several teeth were broken, and bruise from beatings were evident on his face and body. Under pressure from authorities his family was forced to declare his death as “suicide.” Only after complying, Mehdi’s body was returned to them two days later, on Saturday, December 31, 2022. He was buried the same day in Ashkazar Cemetery, Yazd.
	Prison	Unknown	
	Date of arrest	Unknown	
	Date of Death	Unknown	
	Sex	M	
	Age	31	
	Status	Died after being detained	
			Riccardo Noury, spokesman for Amnesty International Italy, said, “He was tortured so severely that after 20 days in a coma, he died.” Reports suggest he was released after the beatings to avoid feeling ill while in his cell but immediately fell into a coma.
			Ashkezari studied pharmacy at the University of Bologna in Italy, supporting himself by working at a pizzeria. Following his mother’s death, he returned to Iran a year and half before his arrest.
			His friend, Ali Janaban, who remains in Italy, confirmed reports that Ashkezari fell into a coma upon his release and died 20 days later.
11	Name	Shadman Ahmadi	Shadman Ahmadi was detained on the charge of participating in the WLF protests. A few hours after his arrest, his family was informed that Ahmadi lost his life in the Dehghan Police Detention Centre. His family believe their son died because of torture ²⁶ .
	Prison	Dehghan Police Detention Centre, Kurdistan	
	Date of arrest	08-12-2022	
	Date of Death	08-12-2022	
	Sex	M	
	Age	33	
	Status	Death in custody; suspicion of torture	A Telegram channel affiliated with the IRGC in Kurdistan later confirmed his arrest, citing charges of “destroying public property, creating intimidation, and disturbing public order” during the protests in Dehghan.

²⁴ [Radio Farda](#), 2 January 2023

²⁵ [BBC Farsi](#), 2 January 2023; see also: [L’Unione Sarda](#), [Iran International](#), [United for Iran](#)

²⁶ [Kurdistan Human Rights Network](#), 9 December 2022; see also [United for Iran](#), [United Against a Nuclear Iran](#), [Radio Free Europe](#), [Hengaw](#)

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12	Name	Shahriyar Adeli	Shahriyar Adali was detained for participating in protests and was transferred to the city's intelligence department detention centre, where he was reportedly subjected to severe physical torture ²⁷ .
	Prison	Detention Centre, Intelligence Dept., Sardasht	
	Date of arrest	22-11-2022	On December 3, 2022, he was released on bail in critical condition and was hospitalized at Sardasht Hospital due to internal bleeding. Five days later, he succumbed his injuries.
	Date of Death	08-12-2022	
	Sex	M	Following his death, authorities pressured and threatened Adali's family to declare the cause of death as "cardiac arrest," though photos of his tortured body were later published.
	Age	27	
	Status	Died in prison	
13	Name	Hemin Aman	Hemin Aman, also known as <i>Hemin Rash</i> , was shot and by security forces during the WLF protests in Bukan. The following morning, authorities his family home, arrested him, and transferred him to an undisclosed detention Centre. There he was reportedly severely beaten and tortured ^{28 29}
	Prison	Security Detention Centre, Bukan; Urumiyeh Detention Centre, West Azerbaijan	
	Date of arrest	18-11-2022	On an unknown date, he was moved to another detention Centre in Urumiyeh, where his hands, legs, face, and head were broken. He died under torture.
	Date of Death	23-11-2022	
	Sex	M	On November 23, 2022, the authorities contacted his father, instructing him to collect his son's body from the Urumiyeh Detention Centre. The family was threatened and ordered to hold a quiet burial, with strict warnings not to speak to the media about his death.
	Age	26	
	Status	Died in prison, suspicion of torture	
14	Name	Omid Hasani	Omid Hasani was violently detained by law enforcement officers while returning from the <i>Chelom</i> ceremony (a memorial service held on the 40 th day after death) for some of those who lost their lives in during the WLF protests in Sanandaj. The arrest took place near some Mohammadi Square and Sanandaj's passenger terminal. He was taken to the district's law enforcement detention centre in 12 Farvardin Square. That same night, as he had fallen unconscious, the law enforcement he was transferred to Sanandaj's Towhid Hospital, where he succumbed to his injuries after just one night. His death resulted from severe internal bleeding, including brain haemorrhaging, caused by baton beatings and torture ³⁰ .
	Prison	Law Enforcement Detention Centre, Sanandaj	
	Date of arrest	17-11-2022	
	Date of Death	18-11-2022	
	Sex	M	
	Age	20	
	Status	Died in hospital after being detained	A source who spoke to <i>Kurdpa</i> confirmed that Hasani's fatal injuries were inflicted under

²⁷ [Kurdistan Human Rights Network](#) 22 December 2022

²⁸ [BBC Farsi](#), Facebook, 24 November 2022

²⁹ [KURDPA](#), 10 April 2023

³⁰ [Kurdpa](#), 28 May 2023

torture.

On the evening of November 18, with only two family members present, Hasani's body was quietly buried in Behesht Mohammadi cemetery in Sanandaj³¹. His family was denied permission to hold funeral ceremonies or publicize his death.

15	Name	Saman Ghaderpour Darvish
	Prison	Unknown, Tehran
	Date of arrest	Unknown
	Date of Death	29-10-2022
	Sex	M
	Age	37
	Status	Died in detention, under torture

Saman Ghaderpour was detained during protests in Tehran and lost his life due to torture by security forces. Originally, from Oshnuyeh, he was arrested in Tehran, where he died under torture³².

A source who spoke to *Hengaw* said that security forces ordered Ghaderpour's family to travel to Tehran to identify his body the Monday after his death. His uncle identified his corpse at the Behesht Zahra morgue, where officials claimed he had died from cardiac arrest. However, his uncle strongly refuted this, stating that Ghaderpour's face was severely bruised and injured—clear signs of torture³³.

Ghaderpour was buried in Behesht Zahra cemetery, Tehran. The security forces dictated that his burial ceremony had to be coordinated with the Intelligence Department in Ashnoyeh. His immediate family, including his mother were forbidden from seeing his body.

16	Name	Mohammad Lotfollahi
	Prison	Unknown, Sanandaj
	Date of arrest	26-10-2022
	Date of Death	26-10-2022
	Sex	M
	Age	Unknown
	Status	Death in custody

Mohammad Lotfollahi was shot by IRGC forces in the Niser area of Sanandaj during protests on the *Chelom* of Jina Mahsa Amini's death. While injured, he was detained and placed in a van, then taken to an unknown location³⁴³⁵.

The next morning, his body was returned to his family, and his funeral took place with some family members present. The ceremony was performed under heavy security presence.

³¹ [Hengaw](#), 19 November 2022

³² [Hengaw](#), Twitter, 23 September 2024

³³ [United4Iran](#), date unknown

³⁴ Kurdpa

³⁵ [Kurdistan Human Rights Network](#), 19 November 2022; see also [United4Iran](#)

17	Name	Esmail Dazvar	Esmail Dazvar was detained around 12:00 pm on 09-10-2022 (17 Mehr, 1401) during the <i>WLF</i> protests in Saqqez.
	Prison	Saqqez detention centre, Saqqez	
	Date of arrest	09-10-2022	
	Date of Death	09-10-2022	
	Sex	M	
	Age	39	
	Status	Death in custody	
			At the detention centre, he was tortured by the IRGC. According to the coroner's medical report, his skull was fractured, one of his legs was broken, and he died of internal bleeding. Around 3:00 or 4:00 pm of the same day, his family was contacted by the IRGC to the Ettelaat office, where they informed the family that Esmail died in a car accident. Dazvar was secretly taken to the hospital, while his family was taken there in a separate car. Later, the family found out that the coroner was threatened and forced to write on the medical report that he died in a car accident. IRGC-affiliated Tansim News officially reported his death as a "car accident" ³⁶ .
			Under pressure from security forces, the hospital personnel and his family also forced to publicly declare "a car accident" as the cause of their child's death.
			CFPPI received information that two months after Dazvar's death, his wife, Nazila, and their son (4-months old at the time) were arrested by the IRGC for a few hours. Dazvar's wife was detained because she placed a headstone on Email's grave and named him as "martyr."
18	Name	Ramin Fatehi	Ramin Fatehi, a van driver, was detained while on his way to city of Saqqez. His brother, Varya Fatehi, was arrested alongside him, and the following day, his sister, Rada Fatehi, was also detained. ³⁷
	Prison	IRGC detention Centre, Sannandaj	
	Date of arrest	13-10-2022	
	Date of Death	21-10-2022	
	Sex	M	
	Age	49	
	Status	Death in custody	
			Eight days after his arrest, the Ministry of Intelligence informed Fatehi's family that he died by suicide while at the detention centre. However, his son, Ramtin Fatehi, told the media that his father's death resulted from severe torture. His son added that the authorities prevented his uncle from seeing the body and identify him.
			Without the family's knowledge, Fatehi's body was secretly buried in Behsht Mohammadi Cemetery in Sanandaj.

³⁶ [Hengaw](#), 10 October 2022

³⁷ Kurdistan Human Rights Network; see also [IranWire](#), 15 January 2025

19	Name	Ahmad Goudarzi	Ahmad Goudarzi was arrested for his participating in the <i>WLF</i> protests in Saqqez. A wrestler from Lorestan and a resident of Shahr-e Quds, he was arrested while attending the <i>Chelom</i> ceremony of Hadis Najafi in Karaj. One month after his arrest, on December 13, 2022, his body was handed over to his family ³⁸ .
	Prison	Unknown, Karaj	
	Date of arrest	03-11-2022	
	Date of Death	On or before 13-12-2022	
	Sex	M	According to a report from the <i>Committee for Monitoring the Status of Detainees</i> , due to pressure from government forces, only a small number of relatives attended his funeral. The report also stated that Goudzari's family was forced to stay silent about the cause of his death. Eyewitnesses described visible signs of fracture on his chest and other signs of torture on his body.
	Age	Unknown	
	Status	Died in detention; visible signs of torture on his body	Goudzari was buried in the Dar al-Salam cemetery in Kheshtianek, Lorestan.
20	Name	Alireza Khari	Alireza Khari, a young protester from Bandar Gaz in northern Iran, had previously been detained for burning a picture of Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei in front of the IRGC headquarters and was reportedly tortured while held captive.
	Prison	Bandar Gaz, Golestan	
	Date of arrest	--/09-2022	
	Date of Death	19-03-2024	
	Sex	M	Arrested in September 2022, Khari endured 40 days of solitary confinement and three months in Amirabad Gorgan prison ³⁹ . After his release, he was repeatedly summonsed and interrogated by the IRGC. Under relentless pressure from the security forces, he reportedly took his own life on March 19, 2024 ⁴⁰ .
	Age	Late twenties	
	Status	Announced as death by suicide after release	
21	Name	Amir Javad Asadzadeh	Amir Javad Asadzadeh was arrested by the Intelligence Ministry forces on Pirouzi Boulevard in Mashad and taken to Vakilabad Prison, where he was brutally beaten. The next morning, his 'half-dead body' was reportedly dumped near a police station in Haft-e Tir and left there ⁴¹ . Officers at the station placed him in a holding cell, but less than two hours later he lost consciousness due to blows suffered to his head. He was transferred to Javad ul-Aemmeh Hospital where he died from his injuries ⁴² .
	Prison	Vakilabad Prison, Mashhad	
	Date of arrest	19-11-2022	
	Date of Death	20-11-2022	
	Sex	M	
	Age	36	

³⁸ [United4Iran](#)

³⁹ [Hyrcani Human Rights Media](#), 19 March 2024

⁴⁰ [Iran International](#), 19 March 2024

⁴¹ [United4Iran](#)

⁴² [AusIran](#)

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Status Died in hospital after beatings in prison A source close to Asadzadeh told *Iran International* that he was arrested for graffiti writing, which was reportedly in connection to the *WLF* protests going on at the time⁴³.

22	Name	Amir Hossein Taravol Iman (went by Ashkan Saddam)	Iman, a resident of Tehran's <i>Aliabad</i> neighbourhood, participated in protests following death of Mahsa Jhina Amini. He was later identified and arrested by Basiji forces while at home alone. He was beaten and taken to a detention centre where he was interrogated, tortured, and put in solitary confinement ⁴⁴ . He was later transferred to the Greater Tehran Prison and then Evin Prison. He was issued a sentence of moharebeh (enmity against God). After eight months of detention, he was released from Evin on May 9, 2023.
	Prison	Greater Tehran Prison, and Evin Prison	
	Date of arrest	24-10-2022	
	Date of Death	16-05-2023	
	Sex	M	
	Age	21	
	Status	Died after release from prison	On May 15, he went for a walk with his cousin, came home, and died of a heart attack in his sleep on May 16. The information available about his death attributes the heart attack to physical and psychological abuse endured while in detention, as well as medication given to him before his release.
23	Name	Arian Yavari	Yavari, a young man from Bukan in Kurdistan, was arrested during the <i>WLF</i> protests on an unknown date detained for 70 days before being released on bail.
	Prison	Bukan Centra lPrison, Bukan	
	Date of arrest	January 2023	
	Date of Death	18-04-2024	Six months after his release, he reportedly took his own life. Reports indicate that he had been threatened by IRGC agents following his release ⁴⁵ .
	Sex	M	
	Age	19	
	Status	Announced death by suicide after release	
24	Name	Asma Shojaei	Asma Shojaei, a Master's student in accounting at the University of Tehran and the daughter of a permanently wounded Iran-Iraq War veteran, reportedly died under torture in Karaj.
	Prison	Greater Tehran Prison and Evin Prison	
	Date of arrest	24-12-2022	
	Date of Death	Unknown, may have been on day of	According to one account shared on the website Balatarin, she was killed while in

⁴³ [Iran International](#), YouTube, 23 November 2022

⁴⁴ [LoabatK on Twitter](#), 7 April 2024

⁴⁵ [Avatoday](#), 20 April 2024

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	Sex	arrest	detention. Another account posted on Instagram states that she participated in protests on December 24, YEAR, in Karaj ⁴⁶ . She was kidnapped and severely injured under torture and later died from her injuries ⁴⁷ .
	Age	F	
	Status	23	
		Died of injuries and/or under torture	
25	Name	Atefeh Naami	Atefeh Naami, a civil rights activist from an Arab family in Ahwaz, disappeared on November 21, 2022. Five days later, on November 26, she was found dead in her home in city of Karaj with a gas hose in her mouth and covered by a blanket.
	Prison	N/A	
	Date of arrest	N/A	
	Date of Death	26-11-2022	
	Sex	F	Her body was buried by the security forces on 28/11/2022 in Ahwaz Behesht Abad cemetery.
	Age	37	
	Status	Suspicious death	According to her family, she was an active participant in the <i>WLF</i> movement. When her body was discovered, there were visible bruises on her thighs, chest, and back ⁴⁸ .
26	Name	Bahareh Lelahi (Haji Delai)	Bahareh Lelahi, a dissident director and screenwriter from Amol, Mazandaran, was briefly detained during the 2022 protests before going missing in March 2023. Her family could not find her whereabouts despite that they repeatedly went to the IRGC offices to ask about her.
	Prison	N/A	
	Date of arrest	2022	
	Date of Death	02-04-2024	
	Sex	F	Reports indicated that she was killed by security forces while in detention and buried in secret. Authorities allegedly withheld information about her burial site from her family for three months ⁴⁹ .
	Age	40	
	Status	Death in detention	
27	Name	Barzin Hamzeh-Zadeh	Barzin Hamzeh-Zadeh was 15 years old from Sardasht when he abducted and tortured by security forces for a week during the <i>WLF</i> protests, suffering severe internal injuries. He remained in detention for 13 months, during which time he reportedly lost function of both kidneys due to the severity of repeated beatings ⁵⁰ . Hengaw organisations published a video of when Barzin was abducted by the security forces. ⁵¹
	Prison	Sardasht	
	Date of arrest	Unknown	
	Date of Death	26-11-2022	
	Sex	M	
	Age	16	His family stated that before his arrest, he was in good health, but the torture left him critically injured. His family was threatened by the IRGC not to speak about the situation
	Status	Death after release, due to torture	

⁴⁶ [Balatarin](#), 2023

⁴⁷ [Kamelia Sajadian on Instagram](#), 13 October 2023

⁴⁸ [IranWire](#), 24 October 2024; see also [United4Iran](#), [Geneva International Centre for Justice](#)

⁴⁹ [Iran International](#), 12 June 2024; see also [Witness Report](#)

⁵⁰ [Iran International](#), 4 January 2024

⁵¹ [Hengaw](#), 6 January 2024.

of Barzin.

On January 2, 2024, he died during surgery at Imam Khomeini Hospital in Urmia.

28	Name	Dariush Righi	Born in Zahedan, Dariush Rigi moved to Tehran to work in a restaurant. He joined the <i>WLF</i> protests and was arrested while participating at a protest. He was brutally beaten and taken to a detention centre where he was tortured. He reportedly suffered a head injury, multiple broken bones, and his body was covered in bruises, and he had several bones-broken injuries that ultimately led to his death.
	Prison	Kahrizak, Tehran	
	Date of arrest	Unknown	
	Date of Death	23-09-2022	
	Sex	M	
	Age	22	After great difficulty, his family was given his body, which showed clear signs of torture. A week after his burial, security forces allegedly destroyed his tombstone on the Bloody Friday of Zahedan [September 30, 2022].
	Status	Death in detention, reportedly due to torture	One of his family members, Ebrahim Rigi, was later arrested, tortured, and killed on February 22, 2023, for speaking out against Dariush's death and the Bloody Friday Massacre ⁵² .
29	Name	Ebrahim Rigi	Arrested in connection with the WLF protests in Zahedan, Sistan and Baluchistan, Ebrahim Rigi was released on bail on January 1, 2023, but then was rearrested on Karimpour Street in Zahedan on the afternoon of February 22, 2023. He was taken to the 12 th Police Station of Besat District where he died an hour later. Rigi was a young doctor who treated the wounded during the protests ⁵³ ⁵⁴ .
	Prison	Zahedan, Sistan and Baluchistan	
	Date of arrest	13-10-2022	
	Date of Death	22-02-2023	
	Sex	M	
	Age	24	The judge on duty and a forensic pathologist reportedly confirmed that he died as a result of a beating at the police station.
	Status	Died due to beatings in custody	
30	Name	Darya Nazmdeh	Darya Nazmdeh attended the Chelom of Hadis Najafi with her friends at Behesht Sakineh Cemetery in Karaj. She was reportedly beaten and violently put into a car and taken away. Her family later found her body in a morgue. Her face and cheeks were bruised, with additional bruises and injuries across her body.
	Prison	Karaj	
	Date of arrest	03-11-2022	
	Date of Death	Unknown—possibly on date of arrest	
	Sex	F	After Nazmdeh's death, security agents pressured her family to falsely claim on State television that she died in a car crash to obtain her body. A source close to the family
	Age	27	

⁵² [LoabatK](#) on Twitter, 11 September 2024

⁵³ [Radio Free Europe](#), 24 February 2023

⁵⁴ [HAALVSH](#), 23 February 2023

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Status	Death in detention, reportedly due to torture	stated that her death certificate falsely lists her death as occurring a week before her arrest and implies that she was hit by a car ⁵⁵ .
31 Name	Erfan Sarikhani	
Prison	Unknown	Erfan Sarikhani, a resident of Tehranpars in the province of Tehran, participated in the <i>WLF</i> protests. He was taken into custody on October 22 by security forces and his lifeless body was later discovered near Jajrood, a river that passes through Mazandaran and Tehran ⁵⁶ .
Date of arrest	22-10-2022	
Date of Death	Before 01-11-2022	
Sex	M	Initially, the cause of death was listed as “unknown” but was later changed by forensic medicine authorities to be “suicide.”
Age	22	
Status	Death in custody	
32 Name	Fardin Rouhi Dehkordi	
Prison	Shahrehkord	Fardin Rouhi Dehkordi was a protester arrested in Shahrekord, Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari Province, during the <i>WLF protests</i> and was later released. He committed suicide after being released from prison ⁵⁷ .
Date of arrest	15-11-2022	
Date of Death	17-07-2024	
Sex	M	
Age	22	
Status	Suicide after release from prison	
33 Name	Hesam Forouzandeh	
Prison	Sarafabad Prison, Zanjan	Hesam Forouzandeh, an anesthesiology student at Zanjan University of Medical Sciences, was detained during the <i>WLF</i> protests and taken to Safarabad prison in Zanjan.
Date of arrest	September 2022	
Date of Death	21-02-2023	The circumstances of his death remain disputed. Some accounts state that the security forces left his body at his father’s doorstep, while others claim that he took his own life following his imprisonment ⁵⁸ .
Sex	M	
Age	22	
Status	Suspicious death related to detention	

⁵⁵ [IranWire](#), 15 December 2022

⁵⁶ [Hengaw](#), 27 September 2022

⁵⁷ [HRANA](#), 2022; see also [Center for Human Rights in Iran](#)

⁵⁸ [Witness Report](#); see also [AusIran](#)

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34	Name	Mohammad Naderi	Mohammad Naderi was arrested during the 2022 protests and was released on 4 th , November 2023. He informed his family that he was given numerous pills in prison. Tragically, he passed away one day after his release. The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Cops (IRGC) did not permit the family to take his body for forensic examination and insisted that the family must declare Mohammad's cause of death as heart failure.
	Prison	Unknown	
	Date of arrest	2022	
	Date of Death	05-11-2023	
	Sex	M	
	Age	22	
	Status	Suspicious death after release from prison	
35	Name	Javad Rouhi	Javad Rouhi, who was detained in Noshahr, was arrested on 21, September 2022. He was initially sentenced to death but then He was transported to a local hospital in Noshahr, where he was pronounced dead on 31, August 2023. Officials asserted that Rouhi's death was a result of an infection contracted during hospital treatment following a seizure in prison. However, the family vehemently denies this claim.
	Prison	Noshahr	
	Date of arrest	2022	
	Date of Death	21-09-2022	
	Sex	M	
	Age	32	
	Status	Death in custody	
36	Name	Amirhossein Torval	Amirhossein Torval, arrested on 24, October 2022, was temporarily released from Evin prison on bail. However, he tragically died under suspicious circumstances only ten days after his release.
	Prison	Evin Prison	
	Date of arrest	24-10-2022	
	Date of Death	31-08-2023	
	Sex	M	
	Age	20	
	Status	Suspicious death after release from prison	
37	Name	Bamshad Suleimankhani	Bamshad Suleimankhani, was released on 24/05/2023 and on the same day he experienced headaches after his release and was subsequently taken to the hospital. According to his family, at 12 midnight, his family noticed that foam was coming out of his mouth, and they immediately took him to Razi Hospital in Ilam.
	Prison	Ilam	
	Date of arrest	2023	
	Date of Death	28-05-2023	
	Sex	M	
	Age	21	Initial examinations revealed that his shoulder and two ribs were broken, there were clear signs

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Status	Died after release	of physical assault on his body, and a deep burn wound on his hand, caused by a cigarette being extinguished, was visible. The Chief Justice of the province, Omran Ali-Mohammadi, said that Soleimankhani committed suicide by taking an overdose of pills.
38	Name Mazdak Maryaneh Hamedani Prison Lakan-Rasht Date of arrest Nov 2022 Date of Death 27-03-2023 Sex M Age 16 Status Died after release	Mazdak Maryaneh Hamedani, arrested in November 2022. He was tortured died under suspicious circumstances shortly after his release. He died due to the severity of injuries caused by torture and being thrown from the fourth floor. ^{59,60,61}
39	Name Arash Forouzandeh Jamali Prison Tehran Date of arrest 10-03-2023 Date of Death 19-03-2023 Sex M Age 33 Status Died after release	Arash Forouzandeh Jamali, arrested on 10, March 2023, was released after a few hours of interrogation during which, according to various accounts, prior to his release, he was given a bottle of water to drink. When he arrived home, he experienced severe abdominal pain, nausea, and vomiting after arriving home. He was taken to the hospital. A few days later, on March 19, 2023, he again suffered from nausea and vomiting and was urgently transferred to Shariati Hospital. He passed away on the morning of March 19, 2023. ⁶²

⁵⁹ Dadban 1 June 2023, <https://x.com/dadban4/status/1664386453558775808?t=2vzBakLE3o5fM18OJxYsZA&s=19>

⁶⁰ Kurdpress 2 June 2023, <https://tinyurl.com/3ydfdp74>

⁶¹ Zamaneh 27 March 2023, <https://www.tribunezamaneh.com/archives/342457>

⁶² Iran HRC 2023, <https://tinyurl.com/yx6533cp> , Radiogooshekenar 26 March 2023, <https://x.com/SaeedHafezi631/status/1640044547114778624>

Appendix II.

Testimony of a former prisoner and sister of a detainee who died in custody

Rada Fatehi is a former prisoner and sister of Ramin Fatehi.

This interview was originally conducted on 29th January 2025, in Farsi language and was later translated by CFPPI into English.

CFPPI: What happened to your brother in the prisons of the Islamic Republic?

Rada Fatehi: After eight days of severe torture in prison, my brother was murdered. The authorities claimed that he lost his life on the eighth day of his detainment, but we had no news of him or his condition in the days before and it was not clear how long he stayed alive.

CFPPI: What was the cause of death for your brother?

Rada Fatehi: The authorities officially ruled his death as a “suicide,” but the evidence contradicts their claim. They took him to a hospital and the hospital personnel confirmed that the reason for death was severe physical injuries to his head. His body was also bruised and showed several signs of torture, which was reported by witnesses in the hospital.

CFPPI: After your brother’s death, what information did the authorities give you? What kind of investigative process was undertaken?

Rada Fatehi: We were given no transparent information. Authorities claimed that he had taken his own life but provided no video evidence, despite the presence of multiple several surveillance cameras in the prison. The authorities stated that 72 hours of footage from his cell was available, yet even in those recordings, there was no indication of suicide or intent of suicide. Meanwhile, no investigation was conducted, and we were denied access to any official documents or a review process. The only information we received was from hospital workers who had seen him.

Was anyone from your family permitted to identify the body?

Rada Fatehi: No, not a single member of our family saw my brother’s body. Instead, they just took my uncle to a grave and told him that it belonged to my brother. He was allowed to glimpse a small part of the corpse for a few moments. He told us the corpse was not identifiable and that he couldn’t be certain if it truly was my brother’s body.

Did the authorities pressure you? Were you permitted to hold a funeral ceremony?

Rada Fatehi: Yes, the authorities put pressure on our family and denied us permission to hold a funeral ceremony. At the time of the burial, my other brother and I were in prison. Despite this, people gathered around my family, sharing in our pain. Even after the burial, every time we went to my brother’s grave, the security forces were present, watching us closely. They would give us warnings and even took us to the intelligence department and threatened us.

Did your family have the opportunity to investigate? Were you able to share your news with the public?

Rada Fatehi: No, our family had no opportunity to investigate. However, one of my other brothers and his child, who are outside the country, were able to publicize the news in social media and other networks. Because of this, people were able to find out about our situation and the murder of my brother.

The **Campaign to Free Political Prisoners in Iran (CFPPI)** is one of the first organizations advocating globally for the release of political prisoners in the Islamic Republic of Iran. CFPPI is dedicated to amplifying the voices of detainees and their families while actively working to end all forms of torture and abolish the death penalty in the country.

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