



KURDISTAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY
KDP 1945 - 2015

Mansour Arwand

**Kurdish Political prisoner and KDP activist Mansour Arwand
has been executed by the Islamic Republic of Iran**

Iran , Mianduaw, June 14th 2015



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KDP-ORGANIZATING COMMISSION PRESS RELEASE REGARDING THE EXECUTION OF MANSOUR ARWAND

Kurdish Political prisoner and KDP activist Mansour Arwand has been executed by the Islamic Republic of Iran:

To our deepest grieve, we report the execution of the well known Kurdistan Democratic Party activist and political prisoner Mansour Arwand, that took place in the city of Mianduwaw in the morning of June 14th 2015.

This Kurdish political prisoner was relocated from the prison of Urmia to the prison of Mahabad last year on November 29th 2014. Mansour Arwand's punishment as political prisoner was downgraded at that moment from execution to sentence to life.

On May 7th 2015, he was relocated again from the prison of Mahabad to the prison of Miyanduwaw by Ministry of Intelligence agents.

Mansour Arwand was a patriotic and revolutionary Kurd that chose to join the ranks of the Kurdistan Democratic Party 10 years ago in his efforts to struggle for the Kurdish nation and started working for the KDP's underground organization team inside Eastern-Kurdistan.

It is also important to note that Mansour Arwand was involved in many



patriotic activities and many efforts to support freedom of the Kurdish people even before he joined the KDP. He was a sportsman and was greatly respected by the Kurdish people, especially the youth, for his patriotic and pro freedom, pro democratic activities.

Mansour Arwand was one of those KDP members and activists that greatly empowered and energized other activists and organization members in Mahabad.

Although he had a family and was aware of the fact that the secret service was monitoring him because of his activities, he was always committed and dedicated to this struggle and his activities related to the KDP.

Due to his efforts a large number of the youth of Eastern-Kurdistan has engaged with the KDP and became political activists. In the year 2011 he was ambushed and arrested by the regime's agents in his house.

His path to freedom for his nation did not end, the youth and followers of his path have safeguarded the flag in his hand and will continue this struggle.

Mansour was brutally tortured and suffered enormously for over 1 year in the prison of Mahabad. All efforts of the government were centered around torturing Mansour Arwand to break his will to make false confessions, so that the government could execute him on false grounds.

The so called <Court> of the clerics of Islamic Republic in Mahabad, issued the death sentence for Mansour Arwand on 12th June 2012.

The torturing and suffering of this political prisoner and the harassment and threats to his family continued, even after the rule of his death sentence was forced upon him unjustly.

He was transferred from prison to prison and the government came with excuses after excuses every now and then but they did not manage to break his will and his dedication to his nation and the aims of his party.

With the execution of Mansour Arwand, Kurdistan Democratic Party lost a precious member, an active, revolutionary and devoted member.

This is why we send our deepest condolences to the spouse of Mansour Arwand and to all of his relatives, to all the people of Mahabad and all the activists who strive and struggle for freedom and democracy in Kurdistan.

Mansour Arwand is the most recent martyr of our path to freedom for the Kurdish nation.

Down with the brutal repressive criminal regime of the Islamic Republic.

Iran executes Kurdish political prisoner Mansour Arvand



A well-known Kurdish political prisoner was executed without notice to family earlier this week, sending shock and outrage through the opposition movement in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Mansour Arvand, a 39-year-old former wrestler from Mahabad, had been sentenced in 2011 for the capital crime of «Moharebeh,» which has been translated from Farsi as «enemy of God.»

His death by hanging has angered Kurdish activists in Iran and abroad who had expressed hope that the new government of President Hassan Rouhani would improve the situation of many Kurdish political prisoners.

According to an opposition website, Arvand was also convicted of «propaganda against the system and membership in the Kurdistan Democratic Party.»

The National Council of Resistance in Iraq wrote: «During the four years of his imprisonment in various prisons, including the intelligence prison of Mahabad and Evin Prison, he underwent the most severe tortures and was



suffering from various illnesses because of that, including renal infection.

He was executed despite the fact that he had been told that his sentence had been commuted to life in prison.»

In 2011, Arvand was reportedly arrested in his home in Mahabad, a Kurdish city in northwest of Iran. He spent months in custody of the Iranian Intelligence, or Etelaat.

A year later, he was accused of collaboration with the Kurdistan Democratic Party of Iran.

Arvand denied the allegations but in 2012 was sentenced to death by the Mahabad Islamic Revolutionary Court, Branch 1.

Arvand was transferred in 2014 to Mahabad Prison and was allegedly informed that his sentence had been reduced to life imprisonment.

Last month, Arvand was transferred from Mahabad Prison to Miandoab Prison without explanation, according to opposition reports.

On Monday, Arvand's family was called into the prison and informed that their son was hanged the day before, according to the Human Rights Defenders Association of Kurdistan.

According to Amnesty International, Iran executed 289 prisoners last year, the second-most in the world. Amnesty claimed without verification at least 454 more prisoners were executed without acknowledgment by the Iranian authorities.



Brother mourns execution of Kurdish political prisoner Mansour Arvand in Iran



Esmail Arvand holds a picture of his dead brother. Photo: Deniz Serinci.

He was at his job as a bus driver in Denmark when Esmail Arvand learned that his older brother, a political prisoner in Iran, had been hanged by the authorities, without notice to the family.

"I could not utter a word and did not know what to say or do," Esmail told Rudaw at a mourning ceremony in Denmark for his dead brother, Mansour Arvand, who was executed 10 days ago in the Iranian city of Miandoab in Western Azerbaijan province.

«The message said: 'Your brother has been hanged.' It was really hard," Esmail recalled. "My thoughts were with my father and mother and Mansour's wife and two daughters."

The 39-year-old former wrestler from Mahabad, a Kurdish city in



northwestern Iran with a history of fighting for independence, had been sentenced in 2011 for the capital crime of «moharebeh,» meaning «enmity against God,» a vague and all-encompassing charge that Iran frequently levels against political opponents.

His family in Iran were called to the prison, where they were told Mansour had been hanged the day before, without even a chance to say goodbye to his loved ones: they include two daughters – aged seven and 17 – his widowed wife and his grandparents, who all live in Mahabad.

Esmail, two years younger than Mansour, described his brother as a «very patriotic man who proudly acknowledged his Kurdish identity.» He said Mansour had studied economics at a local university and worked as a wrestler and a shopkeeper selling paints.

“He was very interested in health and sports,” Esmail recalled. “One other issue meant more to him: he was proud to be a Kurd.”

When they were not discussing politics Esmail and Mansour “were together all the time” for almost 30 years. “We relaxed together, enjoyed the time, etc.,» Esmail remembered.

When Esmail fled to Denmark, presumably for his political activities, his brother stayed behind in Mahabad and was arrested. He spent months in custody of the Iranian Intelligence, or Etelaat.

A year later, he was accused of collaboration with the Kurdistan Democratic Party of Iran.

Mansour denied the allegations, but in 2012 was sentenced to death by the Mahabad Islamic Revolutionary Court. His brother said he was tortured in jail.

Esmail rejected the Iranian regime’s charge that Mansour was guilty of «enmity against God.»

«When you are against the regime, then you are accused of being against God. That’s how the system works there,» he explained.

Shocked by the execution, Esmail and the KDP branch in Denmark plan demonstrations outside the Danish parliament, aiming to maintain a greater focus on the plight of Kurds in Iran.

The International Campaign for Human Rights in Iran and the Iran Human Rights Documentation Center report that since President Hassan Rouhani took office in June last year with promises of pursuing moderate policies, executions have not declined.

According to Amnesty International, Iran acknowledges having executed 289 prisoners last year, the second-largest in the world. Amnesty claimed without verification that at least 454 more prisoners were executed without



Mansour Arwand

IRAN EXECUTES KURDISH POLITICAL
PRISONER DEVELOPMENT IN
EASTERN KURDISTAN



acknowledgment by the Iranian authorities – among them many Kurdish activists.

The Kurds are one of the largest minorities in Iran, with an estimated 8 million population. They have not legal political party in the country and some Kurdish groups have fought with Tehran over the right to self-determination, as well as cultural and linguistic rights.

According to Janne Bjerre Christensen, a researcher at the Danish Institute for International Studies and an expert on Iran, the best way to change things in Iran is to have “pressure from inside.”

“Already now, the Iranians are having an internal debate about the executions. That could slowly press and maybe change the system from within,” Christensen said.

If the ongoing negotiations about the nuclear program between Iran and the West end successfully, “it may have a positive effect on the executions,” since the West will be better able to put pressure on Iran, Bjerre said.

Esmail, meanwhile, criticized the West for focusing so much on Iran’s nuclear program that they are neglecting other important issues such as human rights and the plight of the Kurds.

«The West only focuses on the nuclear issue and forgets the Kurds,” he complained.



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