

**Flygtningenævnets baggrundsmateriale**

|                                 |                                                                     |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Bilagsnr.:</b>               | <b>1083</b>                                                         |
| Land:                           | Iran                                                                |
| Kilde:                          | Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty                                     |
| Titel:                          | Iranian Prisoner Has 4 Fingers Amputated For Theft Charge He Denies |
| Udgivet:                        | 10. februar 2024                                                    |
| Optaget på baggrundsmaterialet: | 5. juli 2024                                                        |
|                                 |                                                                     |

# Iran

February 10, 2024

By RFE/RL's Radio Farda

## Iranian Prisoner Has 4 Fingers Amputated For Theft Charge He Denies



An accused thief has his fingers amputated in Iran. (file photo)

An Iranian prisoner has had four of his fingers **amputated** after being accused of stealing five sheep from a farm owned by a member of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps, a charge the man denies.

The Iran Human Rights organization said the sentence to cut off four fingers from the hand of a 34-year-old prisoner, identified only as Yousef T., was carried out last summer in the central prison of Qom, central Iran. It was not previously reported.

According to an informed source cited by the organization, Yousef T. insisted on his innocence throughout the 13 months he was detained in prison before the sentence was carried out. The man was a builder working at the farm when he was accused.

"Amputating a man's fingers for the alleged theft of a few sheep by a corrupt regime whose officials compete in billion-dollar thefts and embezzlement, demonstrates the utmost cruelty and immorality of this system," said Mahmud Amiri Moghadam, the director of the Iran Human Rights organization.

Mahmud Amiri Moghadam, the organization's director, added: "[Supreme Ruler Ayatollah Ali] Khamenei, the officials, and the judges of the judiciary, as well as the executors of these medieval sentences, must be held accountable for such crimes."

Under Islamic law enforced in Iran, repeat offenders face amputation of their fingers for theft. Despite widespread criticism, the sentence of amputation for theft continues to be carried out regularly in Iranian prisons.

Diana Eltahawy, deputy director for the Middle East and North Africa at Amnesty International, has described the punishment as "a horrifying display of the Iranian authorities' assault on human rights and human dignity."

The D.C.-based Abdorrahman Boroumand Center for Human Rights in Iran (ABC) says it has collected reports on at least 356 sentences of amputation issued since the 1979 revolution, adding that the real number is believed to be many times higher.

Written by Ardeshir Tayebi based on an original story in Persian by RFE/RL's Radio Farda

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## More News

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July 05, 2024

By [RFE/RL's Radio Farda](#)

## Swedish-Iranian Drops Hunger Strike Over Exclusion From Swap Deal

Amnesty International is among the groups protesting for Ahmadreza Djalali's release.

The wife of an Iranian-Swedish academic condemned to death in Iran says he has ended a hunger strike eight days after launching the protest at his being left out of a prisoner swap between Tehran and Stockholm.

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UPDATED July 05, 2024



By [RFE/RL](#) and [RFE/RL's Radio Farda](#)

## Khamenei Presses Turnout Message As Voting Begins In Iran's Presidential Runoff

Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, casts his vote during the presidential election in Tehran on July 5.

Polls have opened across Iran on July 5 in a runoff presidential election after no candidate secured enough votes to be declared the outright winner of the June 28 vote, which saw a record-low turnout.

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July 04, 2024



By [RFE/RL's Radio Farda](#)

## Iran Sentences Labor Activist To Death Amid Rights Groups' Outcry

Iranian labor activist Sharifeh Mohammadi (file photo)

Labor activist Sharifeh Mohammadi has been sentenced to death by the Revolutionary Court in the northern city of Rasht, [rights groups told RFE/RL's Radio Farda](#) on July 4, a move her supporters have labeled "medieval and criminal."

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July 04, 2024



By [RFE/RL](#)

## Campaigning Over Ahead Of Iran's Presidential Vote, With Turnout A Concern

Reformist Masud Pezeshkian (left) and ultraconservative Saeed Jalili in a televised debate ahead of the second-round vote in a presidential election where turnout has been a cause of concern for Iran's most senior leaders.

Iranian state media said on July 4 that campaigning had ended one day ahead of a runoff vote between a reformist and a hard-liner to replace the country's late president in an election beset so far by record-low turnout.

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UPDATED July 04, 2024

By [AP](#)

## Iranian-Born Norwegian Man Convicted Of Oslo LGBT Festival Attack Gets 30 Years

Zaniar Matapour (center) attends court in Oslo earlier this year.

An Iranian-born Norwegian man was found guilty of terrorism on July 4 in a 2022 attack on an LGBT festival in Oslo and sentenced to 30 years in prison. Two people were killed and nine were seriously wounded in the shooting at three locations, chiefly outside the London Pub, a popular gay bar, on June 25, 2022. The Oslo District Court said Zaniar Matapour, 45, shot 10 rounds with a machine gun and eight shots with a handgun into the crowd. It said Matapour had sworn allegiance to the Islamic State group and “has been radicalized for several years.” His 30-year sentence was the highest penalty in Norway since terror legislation was changed in 2015. Matapour can request parole after 20 years but can only be released if he is deemed no longer dangerous.

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July 04, 2024

By [Reuters](#)

## Putin Holds Talks With Iran's Interim President

Russian President Vladimir Putin (file photo)

Russian President Vladimir Putin met Mohammad Mokhber, the interim president of Iran, on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit in the Kazakh capital, Astana, on July 4. Moscow and Tehran have been negotiating a comprehensive bilateral cooperation agreement reflecting the "unprecedented upswing" in their bilateral ties, according to Russia's Foreign Ministry.

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UPDATED July 03, 2024



By [RFE/RL](#)

## Turkmenistan, Iran Sign Natural Gas Deal That Includes Plan To Build Pipeline

A handout picture showing an inauguration ceremony for a new gas pipeline link between Iran and Turkmenistan. (file photo)

Turkmenistan and Iran signed a contract on July 3 for the delivery of 10 billion cubic meters of Turkmen natural gas per year, which Iran will then ship to Iraq.

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July 03, 2024



By [RFE/RL's Radio Farda](#)

## Iran's Khamenei Insists Voters Who Shunned Presidential Vote Not Opposed To Islamic Republic

Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei votes in the first round of Iran's presidential election on June 28.

Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has lamented the record-low turnout in the first round of Iran's presidential election last week, but **insisted** that it is not reflective of the popularity of the Islamic republic.

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UPDATED July 03, 2024



By [Reid Standish](#)

## Xi, Putin Kick Off SCO Summit In Kazakhstan With Belarus Set To Join

Kazakh President Qasym-Zhomart Toqaev (left) welcomes Chinese leader Xi Jinping to Astana on July 2 for a state visit and two-day SCO summit.

Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese leader Xi Jinping met on July 3 in Kazakhstan as part of a two-day summit for the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), which is poised to admit Belarus as a member.

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July 03, 2024



By [RFE/RL's Radio Farda](#)

## Wife Of Swedish-Iranian On Death Row 'Devastated' After Meeting Sweden's Foreign Minister

Ahmadreza Djalali has been held in Iran since 2016. (file photo)

The wife of Ahmadreza Djalali, a Swedish-Iranian physician sentenced to death in Iran, [said](#) on July 2 that she was “devastated” after meeting Sweden’s foreign minister to discuss her husband’s case.

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July 01, 2024



By [Kian Sharifi](#)

## To Vote Or Not To Vote? Iranians Mull Continuing Presidential Election Boycott

The election on June 28 saw the lowest turnout in a presidential vote in Iran's history.

More than 60 percent of Iran's electorate did not vote in the June 28 presidential election, despite it being billed as an important poll given the role that the next president could play in the succession to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

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June 30, 2024



By [Amos Chapple](#)

## When The Shah Met The Tsar: How Iran's Ruler Viewed Russia And The Caucasus 150 Years Ago

*In 1874, a travel diary of Iran's ruler Naser al-Din Shah was published in English for the first time, offering a fascinating insight into the shah's trip through Russia, Western Europe, and the Caucasus that had taken place the previous year. It was the first trip of its kind by an Iranian ruler.*

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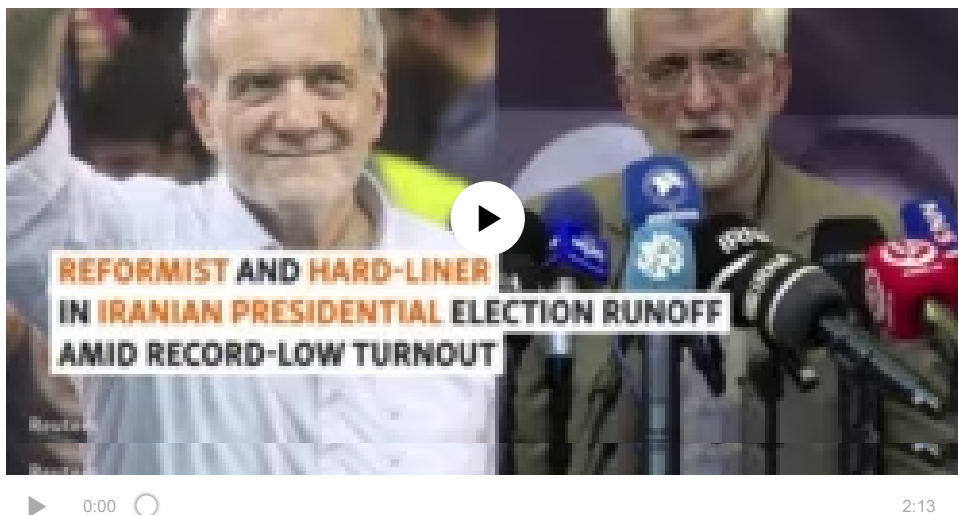
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June 29, 2024

By [RFE/RL's Radio Farda](#), [Kian Sharifi](#) and [Austin Malloy](#)

## Reformist And Hard-Liner In Iranian Presidential Election Runoff Amid Record-Low Voter Turnout

Reformist And Hard-Liner In Iranian Presidential Election Runoff... SHARE



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UPDATED June 29, 2024

By [Kian Sharifi](#)

## Takeaways From Iran's Record-Low Presidential Vote With No Winner

Young women flouting the mandatory Islamic head scarf walk past electoral posters of moderate candidate Masud Pezeshkian (left) and hard-line hopeful Saeed Jalili in Tehran.

The Islamic republic of Iran witnessed its lowest presidential-election turnout ever on June 28, when only around 40 percent of eligible voters cast their ballots.

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June 29, 2024



By [Kian Sharifi](#)

## Who Is Masud Pezeshkian, The Surprise Front-Runner In Iran's Presidential Vote?

Masud Pezeshkian has criticized Iran's hijab-enforcement methods but also spoken in support of Khamenei's policies.

Masud Pezeshkian is a reformist lawmaker representing the ethnic Azeri-majority province of West Azerbaijan in northwest Iran.

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June 29, 2024



By [Michael Scollon](#)

## Who Is Saeed Jalili, The Hard-Line Candidate In Iran's Runoff Vote For President?

Saeed Jalili's supporters hold up one of his campaign posters ahead of Iran's presidential election on June 28. Jalili finished second among four candidates and will head to a run-off vote on July 5.

Saeed Jalili is a hard-line conservative who has never held public office but has long been seen as a favorite of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and Iran's clerical establishment.

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June 29, 2024

By [AFP](#)

## Iran Warns Israel Of 'Obliterating' War If Lebanon Is Attacked

A photo taken from southern Lebanon shows smoke billowing in the northern Israeli town of Metulla from cross-border rockets launched from the Lebanese side on June 26.

Tehran has warned that "all Resistance Fronts," a grouping of Iran and its regional allies, would confront Israel if it attacks Lebanon. The [comment](#) from Iran's mission to the UN in New York on June 29 comes amid fears of a wider regional war involving Israel and Iran-backed Hizballah movement in Lebanon. The two sides have engaged in near-daily exchanges of fire since the war in Gaza began. Israel's military said plans for a Lebanon offensive had been "approved and validated", prompting Hizballah to respond that none of Israel would be spared in a full-blown conflict. The war in Gaza began in October when militants from the U.S.- and EU-designated terror group Hamas attacked southern Israel.

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June 29, 2024



By [RFE/RL](#)

## Reformer Pezeshkian, Hard-Liner Jalili Headed To A Runoff In Iran's Presidential Election

Masud Pezeshkian (left) and Saeed Jalili look set to compete in a presidential election runoff on July 5. (composite file photo)

Preliminary final results showed that reformist lawmaker Masud Pezeshkian and hard-liner Saeed Jalili will head to a second-round, runoff vote in Iran's presidential election.

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June 28, 2024

By [RFE/RL](#)

## 2 Dead As Gunmen Reportedly Attack Vehicle With Ballot Boxes In Iran

Election workers empty a ballot box in Iran's presidential election.

Unidentified gunmen [attacked a vehicle](#) carrying election boxes in Iran's Sistan-Baluchistan Province, killing two security force members and injuring several others, Iran's state news agency IRNA reported early on June 29. Quoting an "informed source," IRNA said the attack occurred in the village of Jakigor just minutes after voting ended in a presidential election being held to replace Ebrahim Raisi, who was killed in a helicopter crash last month. Authorities did not immediately comment on the report. IRNA did not say whether the ballot boxes were damaged or taken.

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June 28, 2024

By [RFE/RL's Radio Farda](#)

## 'Not Free At All': Iranians Voice Need For Change Amid Snap Presidential Election

'Not Free At All': Iranians Voice Need For Change Amid Snap Presidential Election [SHARE](#)



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June 28, 2024

By [RFE/RL's Radio Farda](#), [AP](#) and [Reuters](#)

## Iranians Go To The Polls To Replace President Killed In Helicopter Crash



Iranian women wait in line to vote at a polling station in a snap presidential election in Tehran on June 28.

Iranians will choose between mostly hard-line candidates to choose a successor to Ebrahim Raisi following his [death](#) in a helicopter crash.

UPDATED June 28, 2024



By [Kian Sharifi](#)

## Polls Close In Iranian Presidential Election Held After Raisi's Death

Women queue to vote at a polling station in Tehran on June 28.

Polls have closed in Iran, where voters cast ballots on June 28 in an early presidential election triggered by the death of Ebrahim Raisi in a helicopter crash at a time of growing frustration among many over a lack of freedoms, declining living standards, and a faltering economy.

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June 27, 2024



By [RFE/RL's Radio Farda](#)

## U.S. Slaps Fresh Sanctions On Iranian Entities, Vessels Over Nuclear Escalations

An underground nuclear site in a photo released in 2019 by the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran

The United States on June 27 issued fresh sanctions against Iran in response to Tehran further expanding its nuclear program, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said in a statement.

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June 27, 2024



By [RFE/RL's Radio Farda](#)

## Hard-Liners Withdraw From Iran's Presidential Race To Concentrate Vote

Alireza Zakani (file photo)

Alireza Zakani, the hard-line mayor of Tehran, has said he is withdrawing from Iran's presidential race -- the second to announce backing out of the June 28 election -- to help the conservative camp reach a consensus candidate.

[Read more](#)



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June 26, 2024



By [RFE/RL's Radio Farda](#)

## Swedish-Iranian Academic Goes On Hunger Strike After Being Left Out Of Prisoner Swap Deal

Vida Mehrannia (right) said her husband, Ahmadreza Djalali (left), was protesting at being left out of Sweden's prisoner swap deal with Iran. (file photo)

Iranian-Swedish academic Ahmadreza Djalali has gone on a hunger strike to protest against being left out of a prisoner exchange deal between Tehran and Stockholm, his wife Vida Mehrannia told RFE/RL's Radio Farda.

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