# Iran executes alleged Mossad spy amid heightened nuclear talks and recent port explosion



Iran has executed Mohsen Langarneshin, an Iranian national convicted of espionage and intelligence cooperation with Israel’s Mossad spy agency, the Mizan news agency, affiliated with Iran’s judiciary, reported early on Wednesday. Langarneshin was accused of acting as a senior spy providing logistical support for multiple Mossad operations within Iran. The agency stated that Langarneshin had close cooperation with senior Mossad officers and had met with them in countries including Georgia and Nepal.

Mizan accused Langarneshin of being present during the assassination of Hassan Sayyad Khodaei, a member of Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, in Tehran in May 2022, as well as providing operational and technical support for an attack on an industrial centre linked to Iran’s defence ministry in Isfahan. No further details about Langarneshin’s background were disclosed.

This execution occurs amidst sensitive ongoing negotiations over Iran’s nuclear programme between Tehran and the administration of then-US President Donald Trump. The US is aiming to limit Iran’s nuclear activities to prevent it from acquiring a nuclear weapon, in exchange for lifting severe economic sanctions that have heavily impacted the Iranian economy. Both the US and Israel have issued threats of military action should these talks collapse.

Iran has frequently accused Israel of sabotage targeting its nuclear facilities and the assassinations of nuclear scientists. In recent years, the Islamic republic, which routinely enforces the death penalty, has executed multiple people accused of espionage for Mossad. Human rights organisations, including Human Rights Watch, have criticised Iran’s judicial processes, warning that death sentences are often imposed without adequate due process, rendering legal protections ineffective.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has stressed that any agreement must result in the dismantling of all Iranian nuclear infrastructure. In response, Iran’s Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi criticised Netanyahu’s statements, accusing him of attempting to dictate the terms of US diplomacy with Iran, and alleged that Israel seeks to undermine diplomatic efforts through sabotage and assassinations intended to provoke legitimate responses. Araghchi communicated these views on X, the social media platform formerly known as Twitter.

The execution followed a catastrophic explosion and fire at the Shahid Rajaee port in Bandar Abbas in southern Iran, which occurred on the same weekend of the third round of nuclear talks held in Oman between Tehran and Washington. The blast resulted in at least 70 deaths and over 1,200 injuries. While speculation circulated online alleging possible Israeli involvement, neither Iranian nor Israeli officials have supported these claims. Iran’s Interior Minister Eskandar Momeni attributed the incident to safety failures and negligence, while Ebrahim Rezaei, spokesperson for the parliament’s national security and foreign relations committee, stated there was no proof of sabotage or foreign interference in the explosion.

The Financial Times is reporting on this significant series of events noting the ongoing tensions between Iran, Israel, and the US amid diplomatic attempts to resolve the nuclear issue.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://apnews.com/article/fec502ef5eaa367500cd813d0cff7b9b> - This article reports on Iran's execution of Mohsen Langarneshin, who was accused of espionage for Israel's Mossad and involvement in the assassination of Colonel Hassan Sayyad Khodaei in Tehran in 2022.
* <https://www.ft.com/content/99226436-42ae-47bd-911f-2faa66529b72> - This report details the execution of Mohsen Langarneshin, highlighting his alleged role in providing logistical support for Mossad operations, including the assassination of Colonel Khodaei and an attack on an industrial center in Isfahan.
* <https://www.huffingtonpost.es/global/iran-descarta-sabotaje-explosion-puerto-bandar-abbas-apunta-un-error-humano.html> - This article discusses Iran's dismissal of sabotage as the cause of the explosion at Bandar Abbas port, attributing it instead to human error, and provides details about the incident's impact.
* <https://apnews.com/article/64b09236ce31358d5b6dda9f390b68ba> - This piece covers the explosion at Shahid Rajaei port in Bandar Abbas, linking it to a facility operated by a charity overseen by Iran's Supreme Leader, and discusses the potential involvement of missile fuel chemicals.
* <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Port_of_Shahid_Rajaee_explosion> - This Wikipedia entry provides detailed information about the explosion at Shahid Rajaei port, including the number of casualties, the suspected cause, and the port's significance in Iran's economy.
* <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hassan_Sayyad_Khodaei> - This article offers background on Colonel Hassan Sayyad Khodaei, detailing his role in the Quds Force and the circumstances surrounding his assassination in Tehran in 2022.
* <https://www.ft.com/content/99226436-42ae-47bd-911f-2faa66529b72> - Please view link - unable to able to access data