

CRIME
SAWSAN MHAMDI
FEMICIDE
AHMED I.
COURT OF APPEAL
'S-HERTOGENBOSCH

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Femicide: Dutch man sentenced to 21.5 years for killing wife, burning her body

The 's-Hertogenbosch Court of Appeal has [sentenced](#) 47-year-old Ahmed I. from Reuver to 21 years and six months in prison for the murder of his wife and the burning and disposal of her body in 2022.

The sentence is considerably higher than the [14-year sentence he was given](#) two years ago when the District Court convicted him of manslaughter. The Court of Appeal convicted I. of femicide - the premeditated murder of his wife, 35-year-old **Sawsan Mhamdi**.

Mhamdi's body was found burning under a viaduct in Münster-Sarmsheim, Germany, on June 15, 2022. The viaduct is about 245 kilometers from the Limburg village of Reuver, where the couple lived. The victim was only identified by means of a fingerprint [in October of 2022](#). I. was arrested later that month.

I. reported his wife missing to the police several days after her body was discovered in June 2022. He said that Mhamdi, who was Tunisian, had waited until she obtained her Dutch passport before leaving with another man. After Mhamdi's body had been identified, the man said that he had struck her during an argument, after which she started hyperventilating and died.

But the police investigation told a different story. Witnesses described I. as possessive, controlling, and abusive towards Mhamdi. He controlled her and isolated her from her friends and family. After she said that she would leave him once she had a Dutch passport, he told several witnesses that he would kill her and burn her body so that no one would find her.

Because the body was too severely decomposed and burned, experts were unable to determine a cause of death. "But both the District Court and the Court of Appeal consider it legally and convincingly proven that the man intentionally took his wife's

life," the Court of Appeal said in its ruling. The Court of Appeal considered it proven that I. killed Mhamdi with a premeditated plan.

A few weeks after she obtained her Dutch passport, I. bought petrol, a lighter, and large garbage bags. He killed Mhamdi at home and hid her body there for several days before taking her body to Germany and setting it on fire, the court said.

"During the time she was missing to the outside world, he spread lies about the victim to conceal her death and its cause. The Court of Appeal considers this particularly reprehensible on the part of the man: not only did he take the victim's life, but he also tarnished her reputation in order to get away with it," the Court of Appeal said.

"With the murder of his wife, he has also inflicted irreparable suffering and irreversible loss on the victim's two young sons and family. By the manner in which he handled the remains, he deprived them of the opportunity to say goodbye in a dignified manner," the Court of Appeal said.