

GHASR PRISON

The full name of the Ghasr Prison is Ghasr Ghazar Prison. The meaning of word Ghasr in English is Palace, and was used as such by the Ghazar Deynasty. The Ghazar Deynasty ruled Iran after Z and Deynasty and before the Pahlavi Deynasty.

When the Ghazar Deynasty ruled Iran they moved the Capital from the city of Sheraz to Tehran. Ghasr Ghazar was the first palace built by the Ghazar Deynasty as an imperial family residence. It was built approximately 200 years ago. Other palaces were built during the rule by the Ghazar Deynasty and eventually the Ghasr became the Haram palace. When the Pahlavi Deynasty took over the rule of Iran, the original building became the Police Academy. In the garden a prison was built with six wards -- one for women prisoners, one for political prisoners and the remaining four for ordinary criminals.

The most dangerous criminals were kept there. Before the building of Evin prison by SAVAK, the most important political prisoners were also kept at Ghasr. In addition to the usual prison security measures, security was considered to be extra tight because on the west side of the prison was the police academy and police station; the east side was an army camp and on the north side was a military hospital. The south side of the prison faces Ghasr square. As far as I can remember, there was only one escape -- Army Captain Khorro Rosbah, a communist, escaped to USSR. The rumor was that USSR aided in the escape. This took place in the early 1950's at the same time that Dr. Maradegh became prime minister and the Shah left Iran temporarily. In those days, the influence of USSR and the Toeh Party, Iran's Communist Party, was very powerful.

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