

VANDALIA, MO. > Woman who killed daughter dies • Officials said Maria Isa, 70, died in prison here Wednesday of “apparent natural causes” while serving a life sentence for killing a teenage daughter in St. Louis for defying Islamic traditions.

Isa and her husband, Zein Isa, initially were sentenced to death in the 1989 stabbing of Palestina Isa, 16. Audio of the killing was recorded on an FBI bug in their home that was not monitored live. Authorities suspected Zein Isa of involvement with the Palestinian Liberation Organization.

Authorities said Zein Isa wanted Palestina dead because she had become too Americanized. Prosecutors said he stabbed her while her mother held her down. Maria Isa’s death sentence was overturned and she was resentenced to life. Zein Isa died in prison in 1997 while awaiting execution.