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Liberation - Iran

Editor of women's website arrested!

According to report published by Change for Equality, Maryam Hossienkhah, Journalist, member of the Women's Cultural Centre and an active member of the One Million Signatures Campaign in Iran was arrested on 18 November. A few days ago on the order of the Islamic regime, the site of the Women's Cultural Centre was also shut down. Maryam Hossienkhah is an editor of this site.

Recently Islamic regime has clamped down on any activities it regards as anti-state or anti Islamic. Many women rights activists, worker and student activists have been arrested or kidnapped.

At least 50 women have been arrested in the past 8 months. women's, workers' and human rights organisations to join us in our campaign to publicly condemn the Islamic Republic of Iran and free the activists.



Maryam
Hossienkhah

www.we4change.info/english/
See moving images from Iran: http://www.we4change.info/english/IMG/clip/titr1/mainflash_en.html

Women arrested or disappeared in Iran!



Delaram Ali is a woman's activist who has been given a custodial sentence for 28 months with 10 lashes for taking part in a protest meeting in June 2006 in Iran. Following mass national and international protests her sentence has temporarily been suspended. This was announced by her lawyer on 10th November.



Hanna Abdi, a 21 year old female student at the University of Payam Noor Bijar is another victim suppression by the Islamic regime. Hanna is one of the activists of the "One Million Signature" movement, a campaign to raise public opinion against anti women legislations in Iran. Hannah was taken from her family home in September 2007 in Sanandaj. Her computer and documents about the campaign were later confiscated.



Ronak Safar Zade who is Hanna's friend has also disappeared for more than a month with no trace. Ronak's mother is desperately looking for her to no avail. The only response has been intimidation from the authorities.

Committee of Mothers of "One Million Signatures Demanding Changes to Discriminatory Laws"

Last week 2 of the mothers of the 1 million signature campaign traveled to Sanandaj to meet Hanna And Ronak's mothers. They also met the county vice prosecutor and asked about the whereabouts and situation of the two women. They were told that Hanna and Ronak will be sent to jail after their interrogation next week. Only then can their families will be able to visit them. The Campaign mothers spoke of the rudeness of the officials. The mothers argued that their daughters are involved in Campaign activity but the authorities accuse them of other charges.

Sign our online petition and help us to free political activists in Iran. You can make a difference!

<http://www.PetitionOnline.com/maryam20/petition.html>

Saudi Arabia

Rape victim sentenced to jail and 200 lashes!

The courts in Saudi Arabia have condemned a 19 year old woman and her male friend to jail and lashes. The woman and her friend were traveling in a car when the car was attacked by a gang of 7 men who raped both of them. Four of the men were convicted of kidnapping but the court sentenced the woman and her friend to receive 200 and 90 lashes respectively for the crime of “illegal mingling”. The woman was later sentenced to 6 months.

It is outrageous but the reality of Islamic backward values and treatment. You would expect the rape victim to receive medical attention and counseling. No, according to Islamic values not only women are worth nothing but in fact they are the source of corruption and should be punished. It is so obviously brutal and inhumane.

Doa the 17 year old Iraqi girl stoned to death for falling in love

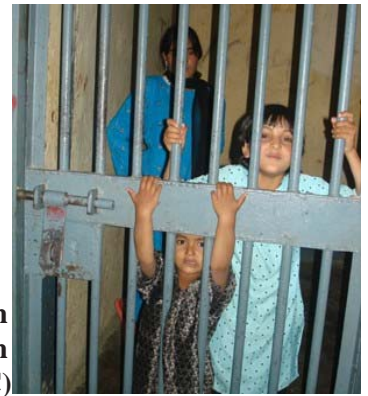


Protest against Doa's killing in Iraq

Her name was Doa and she was only 17 years old. She grew up in northern Iraq near Mosul, in the village of Bahzani, and was a member of a religious minority called the Yazidi. She was killed by her family in public in May. Her crime? She fell in love. She ran off to be with her love. Her family kidnapped her, dragged her back to the village and had her stoned to death to pay for what they viewed as

dishonoring her family and religion. This atrocity which is not the first and unfortunately the last in countries under Islamic rule and values faced a lot of national and international protests. Watch the interview of Aljazeera TV station with Hozan Mahmud (the UK head of the Organization of Women's Freedom in Iraq) on the issue. www.youtube.com/watch?v=GtKM2Vx_oGY

High numbers of children stay with their mothers in Afghan prisons (UNODC)



Afghan women prisoners raped

According to news translated by RAWA some women prisoners in Kabul prison are given medicines to stupefy them and then sexually assaulted. Following the reports by Amnesty International warning about the abuse of prisoners in Afghanistan, a delegation of members of Afghanistan parliament visited the prisons and confirmed the horrendous findings. They reported that the situation is worst than AI's report.

Women prisoners have become pregnant after being raped. The delegates report that “prisoners say when we are ill and ask for medicines, they gave the medicines to make them unconscious, and then they are sexually abused. In some cases they are forcibly taken to the offices of prison officials, few women have got pregnant”.

Financial contributions

We need your support and donations. Please send your contributions to the following bank account and let us know by email. We urge all individuals and organisations to help us in our efforts to make a difference in the lives of women in Iran and the region.

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