



SHADI SADR

IRAN: WOMEN'S RIGHTS DEFENDERS DEFY REPRESSION

“My grandmother wasn't allowed the life she wanted. I was lucky. I achieved everything but the struggle was still hard. I didn't want the dearest person in my life [my daughter] to have the same troubles.”

Shadi Sadr

...WHILE SHE WAS STILL IN DETENTION, THE AUTHORITIES SHUT DOWN THE RAAHI LEGAL CENTRE

Shadi Sadr, a journalist, lawyer and women's rights defender, is facing possible imprisonment for defending women on trial for organizing a demonstration in June 2006 calling for an end to legal discrimination against women in Iran. She was arrested on 4 March 2007 and spent over two weeks in detention, some in solitary confinement, before being released on bail.

Shadi Sadr worked as a journalist on several reformist newspapers and set up the respected Women in Iran website in 2002. She is currently editor-in-chief of the Meydaan website (Women's Field).

She also founded the Raahi Legal Centre, an NGO which provided legal advice for marginalized and under-represented women. In October 2006 she helped to set up the “Stop Stoning Forever”

campaign, which aims to end the practice of stoning to death in Iran.

In August 2007 she was summoned to court and charged with illegal assembly, collusion against national security, disruption of public order and refusal to obey police orders in connection with her arrest in March 2007, although no verdict has yet been issued.

Shadi Sadr has also been harassed by the security forces, particularly from the Ministry of Intelligence. In January 2005, the authorities refused to renew her passport, effectively banning her from travel until 2006, and she has been summoned for interrogation on numerous occasions.

On 15 March 2007, while she was still in detention, the authorities shut down the Raahi Legal Centre.

ACT NOW

Write politely worded letters to the Head of the Judiciary.

- Call for the dropping of all charges against Shadi Sadr that are connected to her peaceful campaigning for equal rights for women in Iran or against the punishment of stoning.
- Call for an end to her harassment by security forces.
- Urge him to review Iranian legislation with a view to ending all legalized discrimination against women.

WRITE TO:

Head of the Judiciary
Howzeh Riyasat-e Qoveh Qazaiyeh (Office of the Head of the Judiciary)
Pasteur St, Vali Asr Ave, south of Serah-e Jomhuri,
Tehran 1316814737, Islamic Republic of Iran
Email: info@dadgostary-tehran.ir (subject line: FAO Ayatollah Shahroudi)
Salutation: Your Excellency

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