



PARVIN ARDALAN

IRAN: WOMEN'S RIGHTS DEFENDERS DEFY REPRESSION

“... an unstoppable force has begun to forge on, not only increasing the strength of the women’s movement, but one that with each passing day spreads its roots deeper into the ground making our hundred-year-old hopes and dreams bloom even more vividly.”

Parvin Ardalan

WE AIM TO INCREASE THE AWARENESS OF WOMEN IN OUR ENDEAVOUR TO SHAPE OUR DESTINY, [BY A] STRATEGY OF COLLECTING SIGNATURES... THROUGH A HORIZONTAL NETWORK THAT RUNS FROM ONE CITY TO ANOTHER, FROM ONE NEIGHBOURHOOD TO THE NEXT...

Parvin Ardalan

Parvin Ardalan, a journalist and women’s rights defender, is facing imprisonment for her part in organizing a demonstration in June 2006 calling for an end to legal discrimination against women in Iran.

She was briefly detained after the demonstration. In April 2007, she was convicted of acting against national security and sentenced to six months’ actual imprisonment, with an additional 30 months suspended for five years. She remains free pending her appeal.

On 4 March 2007, during the trial, protests were held and she was among 33 women arrested. She was released four days later and was later charged with “gathering and colluding with the intent to harm national security, disturbing public order and disobeying

police orders”. No verdict on this has yet been reached.

Parvin Ardalan is a well-known journalist in Iran, having worked in the past for prominent publications such as the recently banned *Zanan* magazine, and more recently for the website *Zanestan*, closed down in November 2007. She is a member of the Women’s Cultural Centre, a non-governmental organization, and a founder member of the Campaign for Equality, which aims to collect a million signatures of Iranians demanding equality for women under the law.

Parvin Ardalan has also been harassed by the security forces, including by being summoned for interrogation on numerous occasions in connection with her journalism and defence of women’s rights.

ACT NOW

Write politely worded letters to the Head of the Judiciary.

- Call for the overturning of her conviction and dropping of all charges against Parvin Ardalan that are connected to her peaceful campaigning for equal rights for women in Iran.
- Call for an end to her harassment by security forces, such as repeated summons for interrogation.
- 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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