



SHAHLA ENTESARI

IRAN: WOMEN'S RIGHTS DEFENDERS DEFY REPRESSION

“If today a group of women’s movement activists are imprisoned at Evin Prison, their voices come out of other throats... [we] will make a river of our voices.”

From “A River Can’t be Imprisoned”, a statement by Meydaan (Women’s Field) signed by Shahla Entesari

FACING IMPRISONMENT FOR HER PART IN ORGANIZING A DEMONSTRATION

Shahla Entesari is a social worker, a well-known human rights activist and a member of the Campaign for Equality which aims to collect a million signatures of Iranians demanding equality for women under the law. She is facing imprisonment for her part in organizing a demonstration in June 2006 calling for an end to legal discrimination against women in Iran.

Police arrested her on the morning of the demonstration and reportedly held her for two days. In April 2007, she was convicted on charges of acting against national security and sentenced to six months’ imprisonment, with an additional 30 months suspended for five years. She remains free pending her appeal.

Shahla Entesari is also facing another possible sentence following her arrest along with 32 other women on 4 March 2007. Most of the women were arrested while protesting at the trial of Shahla Entesari and four other women accused of organizing the June 2006 demonstration.

Shahla Entesari was released after four days and was later charged with “gathering and colluding with the intent to harm national security, disturbing public order and disobeying police orders”. No verdict has yet been issued.

Shahla Entesari lost her job after she was found to have distributed Campaign for Equality leaflets in her workplace.

ACT NOW

Write politely worded letters to the Head of the Judiciary.

- Call for the overturning of the conviction and dropping of all other charges against Shahla Entesari that are connected to her peaceful campaigning for equal rights for women in Iran.
- 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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