



# SUSSAN TAHMASEBI

IRAN: WOMEN'S RIGHTS DEFENDERS DEFY REPRESSION

**"An [Iranian] women's movement exist[s]... it promises to create positive social change through the employment of civil means, and the building of broad alliances around issues of great relevance... to Iranian women."**

From: Empowering Iranian Women through the One Million Signatures Campaign

## SUSSAN TAHMASEBI HAS BEEN HARASSED BY THE SECURITY FORCES...

Sussan Tahmasebi, a civil society activist and women's rights defender, is facing imprisonment for her part in organizing a demonstration in June 2006 that called for an end to legal discrimination against women in Iran.

She is a board and founding member of the Civil Society Organizations Training and Research Center (Koneshgaran Davtaleb), also known as the Volunteer Actors Institute, and a founding member of the Campaign for Equality, which aims to collect a million signatures of Iranians demanding equality for women under the law. In April 2007 she was convicted of acting against national security and sentenced to six months' imprisonment, with an additional 18 months suspended for five years. She remains free pending her appeal.

Sussan Tahmasebi was also among 33 women arrested on 4 March 2007. Most of the women were arrested while protesting at the trial of Sussan Tahmasebi and four other women. She was released after four days and was charged with "gathering and colluding with the intent to harm national security, disturbing public order and disobeying police orders", but was acquitted of this in January 2008.

Sussan Tahmasebi has been harassed by the security forces, particularly from the Ministry of Intelligence, including by being banned from travelling between October 2006 and April 2007. She was once again prevented from leaving the country in October 2007, when security forces at the airport would not let her travel with her personal computer.

## ACT NOW

Write politely worded letters to the Head of the Judiciary.

- Call for the overturning of her sentence and dropping of all charges against Sussan Tahmasebi that are connected to her peaceful campaigning for equal rights for women in Iran.
- 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](mailto:info@dadgostary-tehran.ir) (subject line: FAO Ayatollah Shahroudi)  
Salutation: Your Excellency

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STOP VIOLENCE  
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