



DELARAM ALI

IRAN: WOMEN'S RIGHTS DEFENDERS DEFY REPRESSION

“What really annoyed me was the 10 lashes because the lashes don't mean much when compared to the prison term, but they are more of an insult to civil society and the women's movement.”

Delaram Ali

PICTURES OF DELARAM ALI BEING BEATEN BY POLICE WERE WIDELY CIRCULATED

Delaram Ali, aged 23, is the Director of the Social Work Unit for the Cultural Centre for Child Labour in Tehran. She was politically active at the Allameh Tabataba'i University from where she graduated in 2006. As well as working as a social worker, she has written articles on social issues for various publications.

Delaram Ali was among 70 people arrested during a peaceful demonstration in June 2006 demanding an end to legal discrimination against women in Iran. Her hand was broken by police during her arrest, and pictures of her being beaten by police were widely circulated. Delaram Ali and others injured during the demonstration lodged a complaint against the police. However, in October 2007 a court dismissed all charges against the police officers who had been present at the demonstration.

In June 2007 Delaram Ali was sentenced to 34 months' imprisonment and 10 lashes on charges of “participation in an illegal gathering”, “propaganda against the system” and “disrupting public order and peace”. The sentence was reduced to 30 months on appeal, but she was not provided with a written copy as is required by law.

Summoned to report to the Office for the Implementation of Sentences by 10 November 2007, her sentence was temporarily stayed by the Head of the Judiciary following a widespread domestic and international outcry. The Head of the Judiciary ordered a judge to look into the case to see if it had suffered from irregularities. Delaram Ali remains at risk of imprisonment as a prisoner of conscience.

ACT NOW

Write politely worded letters to the Head of the Judiciary.

- Call for Delaram Ali's case to be reviewed immediately with a view to overturning her conviction and prison sentence which are connected to her peaceful campaigning for equal rights for women in Iran.
- Call for an end to the use of flogging in Iran as it is a cruel punishment which amounts to torture.
- 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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