

**CAMPAIGN
FOR
EQUALITY
IRAN**

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



**2008
AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL
WRITE FOR
RIGHTS**

PLEASE HELP THE CAMPAIGN FOR EQUALITY

The Campaign for Equality, an Iranian women's rights initiative launched in 2006, is committed to ending discrimination against women in Iranian law. Several activists have been arrested or tried for activities which are entirely legal, such as organizing peaceful gatherings, educational workshops, or petitioning for legislative change.

The authorities have blocked access to the Campaign's main website from inside Iran at least 12 times. Frequently denied official permission to hold public meetings, activists usually hold their workshops in the homes of sympathizers, some of whom have then been summoned by security officials for interrogation.

Campaign for Equality activists have also been prevented from travelling abroad. In March 2008, Parvin Ardalan's passport was confiscated for 72 hours. She was banned from travelling to collect the Olof Palme Human Rights Prize for her work on behalf of women in Iran.

Dozens of women's rights defenders are known to have been arrested, summoned for trial or tried since 2006. Most of them

Y INTERNATIONAL WRITE FOR RIGHTS AMN
ATIONAL WRITE FOR RIGHTS AMNESTY INTE
FOR RIGHTS AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL WRIT
Y INTERNATIONAL WRITE FOR RIGHTS AMN
ATIONAL WRITE FOR RIGHTS AMNESTY INTE

TWO MEMBERS OF THE CAMPAIGN FOR EQUALITY ARE CURRENTLY DETAINED AS PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE, SOLELY BECAUSE OF THEIR WORK FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND THE RIGHTS OF IRAN'S KURDISH MINORITY.

have been charged with vaguely worded security offences. Such charges are used by the authorities to limit the activists' internationally recognized rights to freedom of expression and association as they seek to protect and promote women's rights in Iran. Two members of the Campaign for Equality – Ronak Safarzadeh and Hana Abdi – are currently detained as prisoners of conscience, solely because of their work for women's rights and the rights of Iran's Kurdish minority.

Women in Iran face widespread discrimination under the law. They are excluded from key areas of the state: they cannot, for example, be judges or stand for the presidency. Criminal harm suffered by a woman is less severely punished than the same harm suffered by a man. Evidence given by women in court is worth half that given by a man. Men are allowed to practise polygamy, and have an incontestable right in law to divorce their spouse. Women do not.

ESTY INTERNATIONAL WRITE FOR RIGHTS AM
RNATIONAL WRITE FOR RIGHTS AMNESTY IN
E FOR RIGHTS AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL W
ESTY INTERNATIONAL WRITE FOR RIGHTS AM
RNATIONAL WRITE FOR RIGHTS AMNESTY IN

ACT NOW

1. WRITE TO THE AUTHORITIES IN PERSIAN, ARABIC, ENGLISH OR FRENCH

■ Call for all charges to be dropped against Campaign for Equality activists that are connected to their peaceful campaigning for equal rights for women in Iran.

■ Call for an end to the arrests and harassment of supporters of the Campaign for Equality.

■ Call for a review of Iranian legislation with a view to ending all legalized discrimination against women.

Ayatollah Mahmoud Hashemi Shahrودي
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 Jomhouri
Tehran 1316814737
Islamic Republic of Iran
info@dadgostary-tehran.ir (In the subject
line write: FAO Ayatollah Shahrودي)
Salutation: Your Excellency

2. WRITE A MESSAGE OF SUPPORT TO TWO OF THE DETAINED MEMBERS OF THE CAMPAIGN FOR EQUALITY, IN KURDISH, PERSIAN OR ENGLISH

“We stand by your courageous efforts to bring about positive changes for Iranian women.”

داجی ی کارب امش نه اعاجش یاه ششوک رد ام
یناری انان ز عضو رد تبثم یاهری غت
مکتسه امش رانک رد

Hana Abdi and Ronak Safarzadeh
Zendan-e Zanan (=women's prison)
Khiaban-e Ershad
Sanandaj
Kordestan Province
Islamic Republic of Iran

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



Amnesty International
International Secretariat
Peter Benenson House
1 Easton Street
London WC1X 0DW
United Kingdom

www.amnesty.org
October 2008
Index: MDE 13/133/2008