

# thestreet

By : **REVOLUTIONARY ROAD** Newsgroup

Sunday 11 October 2009

## HEED THE CALL OF THE IRANIAN PEOPLE

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### >>>Editor's Note

After Ahmadinejad announced the proposed ministers for his new cabinet, the mood of public protest calmed somewhat and there was no further news of the assembly of millions or the collective chants of hundreds of thousands of people. The brutal murder of people at the hands of various security forces in Iran coupled with the formidable, confession extracting court sessions of the arrested, has made people look to other avenues for the continuation of their dissent. The people of Iran took the first available opportunity – and in a political scenario – to gather one more time in protest, on the Islamic Republic's so-called Qods day, with

street conflict and slogans of Death to the Dictator. These protests continued at the level of bringing awareness to one another and bringing about social congregation on the streets and universities and factories. Until that is, the start of the academic year in Iran and the assembly of hundreds in the universities as the communal potential took shape with slogans like “Mahmoud the Traitor” and “Death to the Dictator” that were heard throughout Iran's universities.

These days we see a lot of video footage on social websites that show the vastness of this student dissent, even in small towns. This aroused atmosphere like a flame beneath the ashes, indicates a more critical situation that deepens and becomes more

and more radical each day in its attack of Ahmadinejad's government and the Islamic Republic's rule overall.

You may know that in the Islamic Republic Khamenei, as leader, is commander of three areas, and that all affairs are conducted with his final comment and will. Therefore his total support of Mahmoud Ahmadinejad in the events following the election show that Khamenei in the capacity of the phenomenon of leader of the Islamic Republic is not distinct from Ahmadinejad and that both stand in one path against the people, in the name of Islamic Republic.

Therefore from now on, it's better to use the term, the “Ahmadinejad-Khamenei Wing” against the people.

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### 8 October Milan Italy - Mohsen Namjoo the Persian Rocker introduced his newly released album "OY"

By: Neguin

An intense and unique performance was exhibited in front of thousand of spectators, by the persian musician Mohsen Namjoo, on 8 October in Sala Verdi of Milan Conservatory. Golshifteh the Iranian actress was also a guest at the event and participated at the performance.

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### NEWS

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### Prison Sentences for the Union Board of Haft Tappe Workers

**A**ccording to our correspondent the Islamic Republic of Iran's court of appeal in Ahvaz has issued prison sentences for labor activists and union members of the board of Neishekar of Haft Tappe workers. Union Chairman Ali Nejti, Ferydoon Nikoofard, Ramezan Alipoor and Jalil Ahmadian syndicate members of the Haft Tappe union were suspended for six months and sentenced to six months in prison. Mohammad Heidari Mehr, another member of the board of this union was suspended for eight months and sentenced to four months in prison. Their crime was forming syndicates and organizing strikes.

It is significant point that these have been approved by Ahvaz appeal courts. Ali Nejati and Reza Rakhshan were also put on trial, separately by the Revolutionary Court of Dezfoul and are yet to be convicted.

#### Final Defense of 10 Polytechnic student members of the Islamic Association

**Th**ese students of the Polytechnic University of Tehran were arrested between February 2008 and March 2009 and placed under severe physical and psychological torture. According to our correspondent, on 5 February 2008, four members of the Polytechnic Association, Hossein Tarkashvand, Majid Tavakoli, Esmail Salmanpoor and Kourosh Daneshyar were arrested at an anniversary ceremony for Mohandes Bazargan, supposed to have been held at Hosseiniye Ershad, and were transferred to Evin prison with the chimerical charge of disobeying a police command and attending an illegal gathering.

### 3 Iranians tied to election protests get death sentences

**T**hree Iranians have been tentatively sentenced to death in connection with post-election protest activities, according to semi-official state media.

The three -- who were identified only by initials -- were accused of contacts with opposition groups, the semi-official ISNA news agency reported Saturday.

The death sentences can be appealed, ISNA reported, quoting Bashiri Rad, director of public relations of the Tehran judiciary.

No other information was released about the three defendants or the charges they faced.

The Iranian government restricts the activity of journalists in Iran, making it difficult for news organizations to independently obtain or confirm information.

Tens of thousands of Iranians took to the streets in protest following the country's con-

tested June 12 presidential election. Incumbent President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad won a second term despite widespread fraud accusations by supporters of opposition candidates.

Dozens of protesters have been tried in the months since. Opposition presidential candidates Mehdi Karrubi and Mir Hossein Mousavi have alleged that those convicted were tortured into confessing, and that some defendants were raped in prison.

Reformist former President Mohammad Khatami condemned "the atrocities committed at certain detention centers, as well as those committed during arrests, which, in some cases, resulted in murder," according to a statement issued by his office in August.

The Iranian government initially denied such accusations. But state media reported in August that authorities had fired and arrested the chief of an Iranian jail that was closed amid allegations of mistreatment of detainees.

Later, on the morning of 24 February when recently discovered bodies of those killed in the Iran-Iraq war were brought to the university for burial in the grounds as part of the government's burial project - a concept that the students were categorically resistant to, Mehdi Mashayekhi, Abbas Hakimzadeh, Ahmad Ghassaban and Nariman Mostafavi were arrested and transferred to Ward 209 of Evin prison following a simultaneous raid on their houses by the security forces.

On 10 March Yasser Torkaman, a member of the Central Committee of the Polytechnic was arrested by security forces near the university campus.

On 20 April, Masoud Dehghan former member of the Polytechnic Association was arrested after his house was raided by security forces.

These 10 students were kept in harsh conditions of solitary confinement, under severe psychological and physical torture to obtain fabricated confessions.

They were finally released in July of this year on a hefty bail of 200-300 million Tomans (\$20,000 and \$30,000).

The students have reported to the Revolutionary Court to participate in the final defense session.

### Illegal Pressure on Female Student Activists of Mazandaran University

**I**llegal pressure on student activists at Mazandaran University has increased. Recent attempts by the University's president and intelligence organizations to suppress and eliminate student activism has included the summoning of 50 students to the disciplinary committee and issuing suspension verdicts, shutting down the office of the Islamic Association, grading 28 student protesters with 0, along with arrest, threats, and intimidation.

In the last incident of these attempts, university officials in an illegal act contacted three female students: Soodabeh Saeedi, Parvaneh Rahmani and Mahdieh Alijani, all members of the Central Women Council of the Islamic Association telling them that they are were no longer allowed use of university dorms and other facilities and must evacuate the premises.

According to our correspondent university officials prevented them from entering the dorm that night even though they had not yet found anywhere to live. The students stayed behind the closed doors of the dorm for hours, until they were finally allowed to stay in the prayer room for that night only.

Investigations by these students to find out which organization had issued this illegal warrant, none of the university authorities took responsibility but pointed to the participation of these students during a protest on 15 June 2009.

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## >>Interviews with Student Activists

### • Basij Loss of Power and Confusion of Authorities

Following student protests at Tehran and Sanati Sharif universities, the oppression of students has become more intense. The latest instance is the arrest of 17 student activists at Jamshidieh Park. Even though 15 of them were released the next day two remain in custody and have been transferred to Ward 209 of Evin prison. We review this incident in an interview with



Mehdi Arabshahi, Bahareh Hedayat and the brother of Ahmad Ahmadian, now in Ward 209.

### • 10 Hours of Interrogation within 24 Hours

Mehdi Arabshahi, student activist who was arrested on Friday with 16 other activists, in an interview with "Rooz" explained: "On Friday we gathered at Jamshidieh Park with other members of Tehran universities associations, to discuss latest news and issues and also to spend some time together at the end of the week. I arrived late, 10 minutes hadn't passed when some 40 officers raided, arresting us and taking us to the Information Ministry." According to the secretary of Tahkime Vahdat organization, the arrested students were interrogated more than 10 times in 24 hours. Mr Arabshahi said: "They interrogated us for more than 10 hours with regard to Friday's meeting, the organizations activities during the past few months and student gatherings at Tehran and Sanati Sharif universities. They then they gave us a statement and told us we must sign it. It read: 'We promise that we will not undertake any illegal activities' when we do not have any such activities. I crossed out the parts where it



stated 'I promise not to repeat what I have done.' and then signed it. After signing these statements they released 15 of us, but assured us that we would be summoned again.

According to Mehdi Arabshahi, Ezat Torbati and Ahmad Ahmadian two other members of Tahkime Vahdat are still being detained in connection with recent demonstrations and were transferred to Ward 209 of Evin prison.

### • Students Detained in Evin's Ward 209

The brother of Ahmad Ahmadian the student activist arrested on Friday told "Rooz": "Ahmad hasn't contacted the family yet and our follow-up has led nowhere. We went to the Ministry of Information twice, but they told us that my brother and Mr Torbati had been transferred to Ward 209 of Evin prison and that from now on we would have to take matters up with the Revolutionary Court." Mr Ahmadian stated that his brother is being charged with attempts against national security. With regards to his follow-up with the court stated: "Unfortunately we had no response from the court and we still don't know to which branch of this court my brother's case has been transferred."

In response to the question: What is the reason for not releasing these two student activists among the 17 originally arrested, Mr Ahmadian stated: "We are still not informed. But last Tuesday, my brother who was a resident of a student dormitory, was prevented from staying there. His food allowance and dormitory accommodation was voided without explanation and he was told that they would turn him in to the police if he returned to the dorm."

Finally, Mr Ahmadian hoped that the country's authorities will consider the tense atmosphere at universities, without further comment.

### • Haste of Government Intelligence

Bahareh Hedayat believes the increase of pressure on student activists is due to haste and confusion of the country's information authorities. Ms Hedayat, who is an activist emphasized: "Government authorities and all those who have been following the green movement knew that once schools and universities were open fresh blood would be injected into this movement along with the pursuit of new goals, which can be a threat to government authorities.

Referring to student activist summons, threats and denial of education by the disciplinary committees and information offices, Ms Hedayat said: "The authorities planned a series of actions in an attempt to prevent any movement and disperse student activities, months before the re-opening. These attempts began with Khamenei's statement regarding the study of humanities and without legitimate excuse ended in the summoning and arrest of student activists once again. This clearly shows the confusion and chaos of the information authorities. According to Ms Hedayat, the broadcasting of a so-called confession of Abdollah Moemeni, a well-known figure of Iranian students, on TV and summoning more than 20 student activists from different universities to disciplinary committees and information offices, is to intimidate and frustrate the student activists. She added: "This method has continued and now resulted in students' being deprived of the use of university dorms. About 400 students in Tehran have been denied their dormitory residence for chanting Allah Akbar (God is Great) from their rooms.



ISNA / PHOTO: MEHDI GHASEMI

## >>From Discrimination to Discrimination: An Overview of Four Years of Ahmadinejad's Government Practices Regarding Women-part II

### • 1386

In 1386 (2007-March 2008), Ahmadinejad's government entered a new phase in the treatment of women. With the change of the police commander of Greater Tehran, comprehensive efforts were made - in the name of public security - to limit the way women cover-up in public more than ever. The first phase of the Social Security Plan started at the beginning of the month of Ordibehesht, according to General Raddan, the head of the police forces of Greater Tehran, and was designed to confront women who were inappropriately dressed. At his first press conference, in 1386, General Raddan announced that bad dress consisted of wearing short trousers, short scarves and shawls and other short, tight or revealing clothing. According to him, bad dress disturbs society psychologically. But instances of bad dress were not limited to these items. Other long fabrics with slits on the side or back were a "New style for some women" which would be challenged. In the execution of this plan many women were arrested by police forces and taken to detention centers until their families brought them longer, "more appropriate" dress. There were numerous cases of women getting in trouble for the way they were dressed and even being by the police forces, prompting Hashemi Shahroodi to announce: "Bringing women and young adults to police stations only produces social harm". This plea was ignored and the public prosecutor of the Revolutionary Court of Tehran, announced: "Many of the women have come to Tehran from the provinces and if they don't obey the law here they will be dealt with by the courts in their own home towns.

However, the oppression of women wasn't limited to their cover. In the autumn days of that year there were whispers of a plan for "improving" gender quotas against female students. By implementing this plan, there would be 40 percent quotas for men without any competition for places, to prevent female students. Protest and gatherings took place against this decision, which made the head of the organization responsible to confirm gender acceptance in universities for entrance exams in 87, and a minimum acceptance of 30 percent male and female for the following year.

1386 was the last year of the 7th government and in the first months parliament had begun to review women's demands. The plan for equal inheritance for men and women ap-

proved an urgent proposal to allow a woman to immobilize her husband's property on 28 Azar. Approval of the rights allocated to the widow mothers subject to social security (including social security organization and other retirement loans) with the observation of legal conditions related to their children, was one of the cases mentioned in the 7th parliament.

Despite these cases, announcement of the details of a bill named the "Family Support Bill" launched a new phase in the public confrontation of the government against women. According to article 23 of this bill, which was reviewed by the Guardian Council on 4 Shahrivar, remarrying of men would be dependent on his wealth, the permission of the court and the first wife's consent. This bill which was a bigger step to oppress women rights further, was added and submitted to the judiciary and parliament by the government illegally. Continued protest against this bill caused the 7th parliament to ignore the bill in the final months of its review. Their excuse for not reviewing this bill was the existence of other more urgent bills.



Photo : Ebrahim Noroozi FARS NEWS AGENCY

This year, despite all the bills, plans and programs of the 9th government to limit the presence of women in public and social areas and despite the arrest of 40 members of the One Million Signatures campaign at different intervals, for the first time after the 1357 (1979) revolution, we witnessed presidential candidates addressing the issue of discrimination against women and making some promises. The 12th episode of presidential election programs of Reformists for the 8th parliament was to "Strengthening the family institution and eliminate discrimination against women by changing laws related to women's issues".

### 1387

The last year of Ahmadinejad's presidency (2008-March 2009) marked the beginning of

the 8th parliament. Despite all promises made, the 8th parliament during the first few months began to review the bill to support families. The news of approval of this bill without any changes by the legal and judicial commission was enough to bring more protests against it. Considering other events happening during the 9th government, this time women activists with different beliefs and points of view decided to go against the approval of the Family Support Bill in solidarity. This time the protest was not limited to women, social and political activists, but included some authorities. Even the Friday Emam of the city of Qom clearly announced his objection to the bill. These events took place with a few of Ahmadinejad's ministers in full support of this bill and its 23rd article. Ahmadinejad, despite the request of the judiciary to remove the bill due to its illegal changes did not take any action. And during his first year as president, he revoked his order allowing women to attend football matches at the Azadi Stadium after just two weeks following objection from some scholars. In the meantime, a considerable number of the House of Representatives did not react to this bill when a group of activists went to parliament to speak with members, since they all had multiple wives. On the other hand, women in other cities and in solidarity with women in the capital printed flyers and published contact numbers of parliament members, encouraging other men and women to oppose this bill and contact their city representative and announce their objection. Finally, these protests forced Larijani, the head of the parliament to remove the bill from parliament on the same day that he met with women activists from various organizations, referring it to legal and judicial commissions. However, Larijani's action was objected by Fatemeh Aali and some other hard-line women in parliament. Fatemeh Aalia called these groups of women activists who met with Larijani "a handful of dirt" saying: "The House of Representatives will not abandon their legal responsibilities and give in to a handful of dirt and seculars". These statements and the continued support of the government spokesperson and Minister of Justice meant the passing of this bill. But legal and judicial commission of parliament decided to remove article 23 after a week. At a press conference a few days before the bill was due to be presented to parliament, I took advantage of an opportunity while Ahmadinejad was surrounded by 225 managers and employees of education and training in Iran, and asked him, why he had added this article to the bill illegally? Ahmadinejad insisted that the purpose of this article was to make second marriages legal with restrictions and that he knew what he did was illegal.

[Continued on pg 7]

From pg 1 (8 October Milan Italy - Mohsen Namjoo the Persian Rocker introduced his newly released album "OY")

The highlight of the concert was with no doubt when Namjoo performed his new satiric poem entitled "The Beautiful Supreme Leader". He had written the poem some eight years ago and now following the recent post-election uprisings and the crack down on protestors by the Iranian government, Namjoo decided not to pursue with "self censorship" and bring the poem "out of the drawer".

Another overwhelming moment during the event was when he performed and interpreted the Koranic verses of Shams in rock style music. Earlier this year for the same song Namjoo was sentenced to five years prison by the Iranian justice authorities, for "derisive rendering of Koran verses and disrespect towards the holy book". His sentence was issued in absentia while he was travelling abroad and he has never returned to Iran ever since.

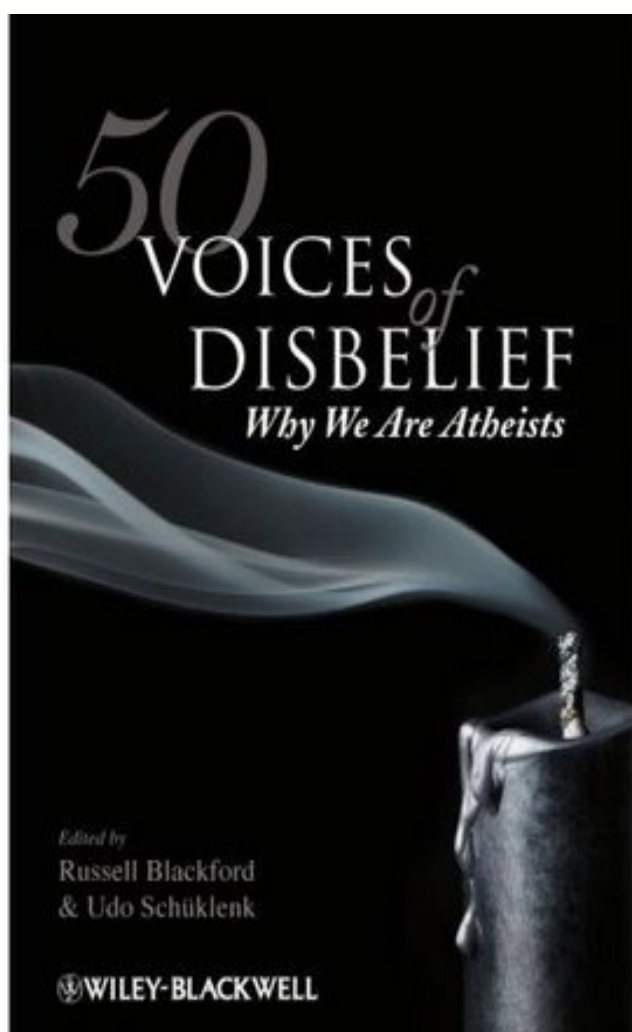
Born in 1976 in Iran, Namjoo studied music and theatre at the university of Tehran but after a while abandoned his studies and began to record independently. Slowly his songs grew to become very popular within the underground music scene in Iran and now he is internationally praised as an innovative and experimental musician for his ability to combine traditional Iranian music with western sounds, such as jazz, blues and rock. His songs are inspired from a lot of ancient Persian poetry which he interprets in a modern style resulting in a completely unique and original style of music. Mohsen Namjoo has been referred to as Iran's Bob Dylan. He is known to be one of the best "sitar" players in the world and is said to have redefined the Iranian music and taken it to the 21st century.

The new album of Namjoo is produced by the Italian production house, Fabrica (Benetton Group), and will soon be available on the market.



## >>Books

### 50 Voices of Disbelief: Why We Are Atheists ?



Recent religious and philosophical debate from self-proclaimed "atheists" has challenged the ethical, scientific, and political implications behind belief and non-belief, and the potential damage that can be done in the crusade to promote a certain brand of faith. A handful of spokespeople have appeared on the mount in defense of their non-belief, including authors Richard Dawkins (*The God Delusion*), Christopher Hitchens (*God is Not Great*), and television host Bill Maher with his film *Religulous*.

The authors of this collection of original essays *50 VOICES OF DISBELIEF: Why We Are Atheists* (Wiley-Blackwell, October 2009) come together from varied professions and perspectives to broaden the debate even further and present carefully considered statements on the nuances of personal belief. At this intersection is the overall consensus that religion cannot explain all, or offer a solution to all people, and that science and personal responsibility must play a central role in this discovery.

The contributors do not simply defensively react to the bullying tactics from the religious camp with dogmatic and similar conversion-based tactics, but plainly state their case, revealing an essentially humanist philosophy. They effectively defend their right to proudly practice outside the sphere of organised faith and continue to question the authority presented by these long-standing faith-based institutions.

Maryam Namazie  
(When the Hezbollah  
came to my school)

The internationally-based contributors work in the fields of science, academia, literature, media, and politics and include Julian Baggini (*Atheist, Obviously*), Susan Blackmore (*Giving Up Ghosts and Gods*), A.C. Grayling (*Why I Am Not a Believer*), Joe Haldeman (*Atheist Out of the Foxhole*), Maryam Namazie (*When the Hezbollah came to my school*), Peter Tatchell (*My Nonreligious Life: A Journey from Superstition to Rationalism*), and Peter Singer (*Why Morality Doesn't Need Religion*).

## >>Thug Groups at Large in Universities

By order of Information officials and double pressure from the Revolutionary Guard, university presidents - who are all related to Basij and government officials - are to allow thug groups to become more active in universities.

Allowing thug groups to practice in universities was initiated in smaller universities on assignment by government officials. Soon, this program will be executed in major universities. Based on this, characters known as Fadaian, and supporters of the supreme leader will attend the student protest to beat and suppress protesters. According to news received from behind the scenes sources, these violent forces consist of three groups:

1. Groups and teams of the supreme leader led by people outside universities.
2. Basij students or those whom are dependent on Basiji's.
3. Forces that will participate in protests as undercover students.

In smaller universities the third group as supreme leader supporters will attack uni-

versities, beat students and even identify individuals in towns and injure them using cold weapons. Instances of such acts have been witnessed and will happen again at the universities of Kurdistan, Lorestan, Razi of Kermanshah, and Hamedan's Boo Ali Sina University.

But in major universities such as universities of Tehran, Ferdosi of Mashhad, Tabriz and Ahvaz Chamran, this group by posing as students and involving university security will act quickly and put a stop to the protests and student movements.

On the other hand, Basiji students of universities will act by identifying and informing within universities. Also, these so called students are supposed to be preparing as soldiers to stand against students protests. Instances of this movement occurred during the last week at Te-

hran and Sanati Sharif universities. Giving free reign to violent groups is will mean that students will be suppressed harshly in the next few months, especially on Student Day on 4 November and 16 December. According to news received by a correspondent of Iran agency news, this dangerous government plan by the government is set to silence the students once and for all. The architects of this plan believe that after the violent clashes with protestors in the streets, that government opponents have been disarmed and that if they continue with this approach students will stop with their public protest. While harsh repressions did diminish public opposition, the protest became a social movement which appears in various aspects of society in different shapes and forms, that will in the end overthrow the Islamic regime.



## Workers of Arak Pars Wagon on Hunger Strike

According to our correspondent, Arak Pars Wagon company workers went on hunger strike on Wednesday in protest of non-payment of wages.

Workers of Pars Wagon gathered at the entrance of the company chanting slogans against the directors while a group of Kazakh visitors were visiting the company.

This protest was also reported by the Islamic Republic News Agency, IRNA.

The workers raised their voices for the ninth time in the past six months in objection to unpaid salaries that are more than 75 days late and neglect of pensions and retirement settlements.

IRNA added that with Kazakh Group's visit, the company directors and officials

tried to disperse the workers from the entrance. They instead gathered in front of the canteen and went on hunger strike.

According to Mr Maddahi a member of Pars Wagon's workers council, they will remain on hunger strike until the state authorities and representatives and company managers and directors fulfill their promises. Mr Maddahi also warned that if the workers' demands remain unfulfilled they will block the main road to the city of Arak.



More news on pg 12

## Stoning is bound to happen in Tabriz

Rahim Mohammadi was hanged on October 6<sup>th</sup> (14 Mehr) in Tabriz prison without notifying his lawyers nor his family of his execution. Last year this young man and his wife were sentenced to execution and stoning to death by Tabriz's five appeal court judges and the approval of two Supreme Court Branch 27 judges. Their sentences were ready to be executed Rahim Mohammadi was hanged.

As implementation of the death without family and his lawyer for Mohammad Mostafaei, there have been fears that Kobra Babai, his wife's sentence also be exposed to the violent execution by stoning.

From pg4(**From Discrimination to Discrimination: An Overview of Four Years of Ahmadinejad's Government Practices Regarding Women-part II**)

When I asked him to express his opinion on multiple marriages to the women of this country who constitute more than half the population, he said: "For 90% of Iranian males, even the first wife is too much to handle." This statement was not published anywhere to prevent pressure on state based media. There was no further opportunity to ask him that same question and hear his response, in which he considers that 90% of Iranian males are not capable of having one wife. Who were the remaining 10% for whom a new article was about to be approved illegally!

In the past year of Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's presidency, the Social Security plan and the severity of restricting women's clothing, took a broader dimension. According to this plan, the Interior Ministry and chastity legislation are responsible for controlling bad dress and other crimes, and 88 people were arrested for committing these types of crimes. Harsh confrontations and the beating of a few women by police forces, raised public sensitivity to society and media objection, forced the president to send a letter to Sadegh Mahsooli, the Country Minister demanding the respect of citizens' rights in the last few months of his presidency. However, General Radaan, who was the patron of this plan, in many statements after the president's letter announced: "The performance of police forces in this field is ac-



ceptable and other cultural units are responsible for lack of work and neglect". These continued statements prompted a rumour that government and police forces were in disagreement on this plan. As a result Ahmadi Moghadam, Head of police forces had to react and in a short interview with said:

"Government and Naja (police forces) have no disagreement". Some political analysts believe that the government's retreat from implementing this plan was just an election tactic, otherwise they would've taken action during the past two years. Despite continued objections even by the Head of Judiciary, Ahmadinejad has never consid-

ered the freedom of women's cover and their presence in society and public places, such that the very same women whom he doesn't consider equal to men, but as a ornamental objects, to be put down even more because of their gender and end up at police forces detention centers.

Despite all the hard work during the presidency of Ahmadinejad to marginalize women from the public and social spaces around them, the wave of freedom supporters against female discrimination in social and legal rights was so extensive that for the first time in the last 30 years all three presidential candidates, in detailed statements talked of

eliminating such discriminations. Mahmoud Ahmadinejad was the only candidate who did not make any promises to women and did not present any statement or plan in this regard.

During the days that Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, unlike other candidates remained silent on his plans and programs for women, his advisor, the Head of the Center for Women and Family had a strange and interesting reaction. He, whose management had reduced the budget for this organization, held two reporting session, in which government critic media were not allowed to attend. Instead of presenting a report of this organization's performance, he criticized the One Million Signature campaign and the 8th government, saying "This is a campaign to defend Shirin Ebadi. Shirin Ebadi is a traitor, and supportive of the Bahai religion who was given the noble price to be able to go against the Islamic regime with legal cover-ups. Were all the women rights activist dead when white phosphorus was spilled over thousands of defenseless women and children in Palestine and Gaza. Where was Shirin Ebadi at that time?" He later went on to criticize other women.

And just four years ago women were the crown of society, and unlike mothers, sisters and daughters in the post election crisis in Iran, were not devastated in mourning for the loss of their children, fathers, and brothers.

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## >>New Sculpture of Neda

As the world witnessed the bloody body of Neda, her open eyes and final call, Paula Slater, an American sculptor created a bust of Neda's scarfed head that is displayed in San Francisco. At the time, Ms. Slater explained that she did not have a photo of Neda with the veil, but that she intended to create another piece once she found a photo with her hair unveiled.

Ms Slater kept her promise and the the new sculpture was revealed in San Francisco on 12 September at the Palace of Fine Arts.

During the ceremony it was stated "When an unjust ruler dies, his or her ruling days are over. But when a martyr dies, he or she begins to rule. This is Neda's story. She died for the freedom of Iran, becoming a symbol and ruler of every heart.

**C**elebrated American sculptor, Paula Slater, made headlines in July when she sculpted a life size portrait bust of Neda 'Angel of Iran' to memorialize the fallen martyr. Neda Agha-Soltan was the lovely young Iranian woman who was shot in the heart by an Iranian Government sniper while on her way to an election protest. "The positive outpouring from people around the world, and especially from Iranians, was incredible," says the sculptor. "My website received half a million hits in the first four days after photographs of the portrait sculpture appeared on the internet." She also received requests for interviews from many TV and radio programs, newspapers and internet blogs and columns.

Neda's mother and brother also phoned NCTV from Iran while the station was airing an interview with Ms. Slater. The station owner said that Neda's mother cried and said she loved the portrait sculpture of her daughter and to thank the sculptor for creating it. Slater says, "That may well have been a very risky thing for Neda's family to do. Neda's fiance, Caspian Makan, was arrested after speaking out about Neda's death, and Amnesty International said 'it fears Makan may be tortured or receive other ill-treatment, given the pattern of human rights violations in Iran following the election.' It is a terrifying time in Iran for the brave freedom fighters who have been challenging the archaic leadership in their country."

So why has the sculptor created a second portrait bust of Neda? Slater explains, "The response to the first portrait sculpture was overwhelming and very loving. However, I also received many passionate requests asking me to sculpt a portrait of Neda without her wearing the

hejab/scarf--which women in Iran are forced to wear when in public. So this second portrait is of the face on the other side of the coin. The first sculpture was a historical portrait of Neda "Angel of Iran". It showed a strong and proud Neda whose spirit could not be broken by an oppressive dictatorship under which she lived and died. However, this second sculpture is of Neda "the Angel of Freedom" with her hair uncovered and radiating the hope of her people for a free Iran. It is a more intimate portrait, based on a photograph of Neda taken by her fiance, in which she was free to show her vulnerability and innocence. On the base, Slater sculpted 'Angel of Freedom' in Farsi above Neda's name and in English below it.

The sculptor says she will be unveiling and donating this second portrait bust of Neda, once it is cast in bronze, at the Celebrating Iranian Women Conference in Washington, D.C. in mid-November. Many important personalities and dignitaries have been invited to this conference and while it is being promoted as a tribute to Iranian women in particular, "it is also intended to be a tribute to all women of the world who are courageous enough to at least attempt to change the course of history."

Slater goes on to say, "These two portraits of Neda are a gift from my heart to the Iranian people to show my solidarity with their fight for freedom and Democracy. I want them to know they are not alone."

###

Paula Slater Sculpture is owned and operated by Paula B. Slater. Slater is a professional sculptor who specializes in finely detailed realistic bronze portraits and monuments. She has been awarded many prestigious private and public art commissions



**Neda Acknowledged in Obama Nobel Peace Prize Acceptance**

"...This award must be shared with everyone who strives for justice and dignity - for the young woman who marches silently in the streets on behalf of her right to be heard even in the face of beatings and bullets; for the leader imprisoned in her own home because she refuses to abandon her commitment to democracy; for the soldier who sacrificed through tour after tour of duty on behalf of someone half a world away; and for all those men and women across the world who sacrifice their safety and their freedom and sometime their lives for the cause of peace."

**Comment to follow next week**





>>Iran's nuclear threat is a lie

In 2001, the *Observer* published a series of reports that claimed an "Iraqi connection" to al-Qaeda, even describing the base in Iraq where the training of terrorists took place and a facility where anthrax was being manufactured as a weapon of mass destruction. It was all false. Supplied by US intelligence and Iraqi exiles, planted stories in the British and US media helped George Bush and Tony Blair to launch an illegal invasion which caused, according to the most recent study, 1.3 million deaths.

Something similar is happening over Iran: the same syncopation of government and media "revelations", the same manufacture of a sense of crisis. "Showdown

looms with Iran over secret nuclear plant", declared the *Guardian* on 26 September. "Showdown" is the theme. High noon. The clock ticking. Good versus evil. Add a smooth new US president who has "put paid to the Bush years". An immediate echo is the notorious *Guardian* front page of 22 May 2007: "Iran's secret plan for summer offensive to force US out of Iraq". Based on unsubstantiated claims by the Pentagon, the writer Simon Tisdall presented as fact an Iranian "plan" to wage war on, and defeat, US forces in Iraq by September of that year - a demonstrable falsehood for which there has been no retraction.

The official jargon for this kind of propaganda is "psy-ops", the military term for psychological operations. In the Pentagon and Whitehall, it has become a critical component of a diplomatic and military campaign to blockade, isolate and weaken Iran by hyping its "nuclear threat": a phrase now used incessantly by Barack Obama and Gordon Brown, and parroted by the BBC and other broadcasters as objective news. And it is fake.

• **The threat is one-way**

On 16 September, *Newsweek* disclosed that the major US intelligence agencies had reported to the White House that Iran's "nuclear status" had not changed since the National Intelligence Estimate of November 2007, which stated with "high confidence" that Iran had halted in 2003 the programme it was alleged to have developed. The International Atomic Energy Agency has backed this, time and again.

Obama's "showdown" with Iran has another agenda. The media have been tasked with preparing the public for endless war



The current propaganda derives from Obama's announcement that the US is scrapping missiles stationed on Russia's border. This serves to cover the fact that the number of US missile sites is actually expanding in Europe and the "redundant" missiles are being redeployed on ships. The game is to mollify Russia into joining, or not obstructing, the US campaign against Iran. "President Bush was right," said Obama, "that Iran's ballistic missile programme poses a significant threat [to Europe and the US]." That Iran would

contemplate a suicidal attack on the US is preposterous. The threat, as ever, is one-way, with the world's superpower virtually ensconced on Iran's borders.

Iran's crime is its independence. Having thrown out America's favourite tyrant, Shah

Reza Pahlavi, Iran remains the only resource-rich Muslim state beyond US control. As only Israel has a "right to exist" in the Middle East, the US goal is to cripple the Islamic Republic. This will allow Israel to divide and dominate the Middle East on Washington's behalf, undeterred by a confident neighbour. If any country in the world has been handed urgent cause to develop a nuclear "deterrence", it is Iran.

As one of the original signatories of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, Iran has been a consistent advocate of a nuclear-free zone in the Middle East. In contrast, Israel has never agreed to an IAEA inspection, and its nuclear weapons plant at Dimona remains an open secret. Armed with as many as 200 active nuclear warheads, Israel "deplores" UN resolutions calling on it to sign the NPT, just as it deplored the recent UN report charging it with crimes against humanity in Gaza, just as it maintains a world record for violations of international law. It gets away with this because great power grants it immunity.

• **Preparing for endless war**

Obama's "showdown" with Iran has another agenda. On both sides of the Atlantic the media have been tasked with preparing the public for endless war. The US/Nato commander General Stanley McChrystal says 500,000 troops will be required in Afghanistan over five years, according to America's NBC. The goal is control of the "strategic prize" of the gas and oilfields of the Caspian Sea, central Asia, the Gulf and Iran - in other words, Eurasia. But the war is opposed by 69 per

cent of the British public, 57 per cent of the US public and almost every other human being. Convincing "us" that Iran is the new demon will not be easy.

McChrystal's spurious claim that Iran "is reportedly training fighters for certain Taliban groups" is as desperate as Brown's pathetic echo of "a line in the sand".

During the Bush years, according to the great whistleblower Daniel Ellsberg, a military coup took place in the US, and the Pentagon is now ascendant in every area of American foreign policy. A measure of its control is the number of wars of aggression being waged simultaneously and the adoption of a "first-strike" doctrine that has lowered the threshold on nuclear weapons, together with the blurring of the distinction between nuclear and conventional weapons.

All this mocks Obama's media rhetoric about "a world without nuclear weapons". In fact, he is the Pentagon's most important acquisition. His acquiescence with its demand that he keep on Bush's secretary of "defence" and arch war-maker, Robert Gates, is unique in US history. He has proved his worth with stepped-up wars from south Asia to the Horn of Africa. Like Bush's America, Obama's America is run by some very dangerous people. We have a right to be warned. When will those paid to keep the record straight do their job?



>>About the writer

**John Pilger**, renowned investigative journalist and documentary film-maker, is one of only two to have twice won British journalism's top award; his documentaries have won academy awards in both the UK and the US. In a *New Statesman* survey of the 50 heroes of our time, Pilger came fourth behind Aung San Suu Kyi and Nelson Mandela. "John Pilger," wrote Harold Pinter, "unearths, with steely attention facts, the filthy truth. I salute him."

## >> Our journey from Toronto to New York : A CHRI Story

By :Maryam Ny

**T**he story of the CHRI team begins in Toronto.

It was the 19th of September and we were preparing for a carefully-planned cycling journey that began at University of Toronto and finished in New York City.

In Toronto, after a successful ceremony organized by Solidarity with Iran, a community bike ride was held. 40 cyclists, including the CHRI team, got on their bikes and rode along the Lakeshore. When the community ride finished and the CHRI cycling team was getting ready for their long journey ahead, one of the cyclists got approached by a man in his seventies who was also a participant in the community bike ride. We will call this man Sam and the cyclist's name is Mahdi. Sam greeted Mahdi and they shook hands. "Are you one of the cyclists riding to New York?" "Yes, I am."

Sam didn't respond back. He just looked at Mahdi with glossy eyes. When Sam finally blinked, formed tears popped on his face and rolled down his cheek.

Mahdi watched Sam cry. He didn't know what to say or how to console him. Sam continued to look ahead and his eyes turned a faint red. Mahdi eventually made the decision to hug Sam. They held each other for several seconds. Mahdi could feel Sam slightly shaking. "Why are you crying?" Sam didn't respond. Instead, he let go of their embrace and kept his eyes fixed on the ground. It seemed like he wanted to speak, but instead, he shook his head expressionlessly and walked away.

Curious to know the reason for Sam's strange reaction, Mahdi approached him several minutes later. "Why did you cry before?" Sam seemed to be in better spirits. His eyes were glistening, and they still looked watery. He began:

*My tears were the only way I could express my appreciation for what you are all about to do. There are so many young people who are participating in this ride and none of you are obligated to. You can go live for your life. There are many other activities you can be doing instead. You could go hang out with your friends. But, instead, you choose to be here. You choose to cycle all the way to New York City. You choose to stand up for a cause that you believe in. You are young, but you are aware. And that makes me so happy.*

Mahdi listened, and this time, he was the one that couldn't speak.

## Cycling for Human Rights in Iran

We took the Lakeshore all the way west and the cyclists rode until the sun went down. In the beginning of the trip I shared a car with Behzad, our road manager. The cyclists were separated into two teams. The advanced team was ahead, and we followed the intermediate team. The CHRI crew didn't all reunite until the first night's motel stop in Niagara Falls. It was there we noticed that Binesh, one of the advanced cyclists, had been injured along the way.

Crashing, for a cyclist, is a matter of inevitable averages. The more hours spent cycling, the closer each rider gets to a crash. Not much can be done to eliminate crashes. The only way to cope is to laugh about it after. Binesh was the ill-fated rider on CHRI's 800 kilometre journey. Pooyan, a trained cyclist in the advanced team, described the crash as one of the scariest he had ever seen. Binesh was drafting in the resistance-free pocket of air directly behind cyclist Koosha when his front tire nicked Koosha's rear tire. The impact sent Binesh sprawling across the asphalt and onto the center of the busy road. Cyclist Rubil was following Binesh at 35 km/hour. Rubil was unable to break in time, so he lost control of his bike and joined Binesh on the road.

The rest of the cyclists went into panic mode. At any moment an unaware driver could have crushed the wounded cyclists as they scrambled to safety. The skin on Binesh's right cheek had been scraped off and his raw flesh was surrounded with blood. His knee looked more or less the same. That night at the motel, CHRI team members approached Binesh with great concern, and each one made sure to ask him if he was alright. He didn't seem to be in pain. And if he was, he didn't show it. It was obvious he didn't want sympathy. "It's alright. I'm fine," he responded. A few moments later, he explained to everyone what had happened.

The next morning, the cyclists rode to the falls where they said their goodbyes to the team returning home. Ten out of the 30 cyclists planned to go all the way to New York City. Most weren't able to go all the way for various reasons that included not having a Visa or not being able to get time off.

When we were all busy hugging each other farewell, I became overwhelmed by the thought of the large team returning back to Toronto. These cyclists chose to ride halfway, despite knowing that they would be missing the main event in New York City. Thinking of their endeavor, I was overwhelmed by their determination. I immediately formed a high respect for every single one of them.

By the second day and for the remainder of the journey, I traveled in our rental van with Saman, a CHRI member who took the much-appreciated responsibility of driving us the whole way. We followed the intermediate team, while members Behzad and Bronwyn drove alongside the advanced team in another rental.

The journey to New York City was a funny one, both in respects to humor and peculiarity. Every day the advanced team would ride an average of 150 kilometres and the intermediate team 80 kilometres. It sounded exhausting, but you could never tell by looking at the cyclists.

At each stop, they would constantly smile at each other and joke around every chance they got. The days were never dull to say the least and our spirits were always high. When the short breaks ended, the cyclists would get on their bikes and ride the rest of their scheduled path; this time with a renewed energy and enthusiasm. I didn't realize the significance of our lively days until day three in Pennsylvania. That was when the cyclists reached their first real test of endurance. It was in Pennsylvania that I secured my respect, trust, and belief in every crew member.

One part of the path we took in Pennsylvania had an unavoidable steep uphill that extended for 15 kilometres. It looked excruciating, and after speaking with the cyclists, it was confirmed.

Watching the cyclists ride uphill made me feel guilty for sitting in the car. When the cyclists eventually stopped to rest, I made a conscious effort to be overtly courteous to each of them. I was in awe of the success in their perseverance.

During those pit stops, we would all become closer. We took care of each other and we were considerate of one another. Being immersed in the moment then was much too natural to observe. But now when I reflect on our interaction with one another, the situation becomes undeniably extraordinary. The act of constantly considering and genuinely caring for people you don't know well is rarer than reality.

By the third night, the cyclists looked visibly tired and the back of all their legs was covered with greasy black track marks from the bikes. Most of their legs were also scratched up. But strangely enough, their physical fatigue didn't deter their natural positive energy. Consequently, our rests were happy and calm. There was hardly anyone around in the parts of the USA that we retired for the night. It seemed like it was just us and the beautiful surrounding nature.

In New Jersey, where we made our last stop before arriving to New York City, we all got to talking. I was curi-

ous to know what motivated the cyclists to ride all the way from Toronto to New York. I thought, surely a positive attitude is not enough of a drive! After speaking with several cyclists, it became clear that despite political opinions, our belief in focusing on the human rights aspect of the issue was mutual.

For some team members, traveling with CHRI was their first experience cycling and boarding with a group consisting mostly of Iranians. When the undeniable passion of every member is considered, it is better understood why some were initially apprehensive about the possibility of the eruption of political conflicts. As we journeyed through the USA, the fears of conflict proved to be unfounded, but the fact that they existed in the first place made the conclusion of the trip more appreciated. Not only were conflicts minimal for the six-day venture, but we also made the conscious effort to appreciate each other as human beings.

We used our free time to learn about each other. I learned of each person's witty personality and kind heart. I learned of their inner strengths and concluded that their confidence extended far deeper than a demeanor. I was fortunate to spend so many days with the CHRI crew. It was all very refreshing; especially in respect to my culture.

The courses the cyclist's rode were difficult and the wind was against them most of the time. But, the physical and mental support of each member had made the journey not only bearable, but pleasurable and successful. Cycling for seven hours a day gave every member a lot of time to reflect. During our moments of solitude, many of us reflected on Iran in the ways that were unique to us. Some thought of the political prisoners and the pain their families were forced to endure. Some thought of the torture that took place inside the prison cells. Some thought of the fear that the citizens were forced to face each day. Some reminded themselves of the bravery of the people who took to the streets. And some thought of the beauty of our nation's newfound unity.

While cycling through those rough patches, a focused area of motivation was needed for the cyclists to continue in the successful way that they did. A number of riders found inner strength to push through their pain and discomfort by reminding themselves of those in Iran who do not have the option of quitting. The citizens in Iran who are in jail certainly don't have the option of picking up and going home.

At the end of each day, we all became tougher both mentally and physically.

[Continued on next pg]

From previous page...

They say when you are chasing your dreams, you can't sleep. When we arrived in New York City, we didn't get much sleep. The night before, the crew had sat around until very late at night and discussed what to expect upon our arrival in New York City.



New York City was a large fantastical blur. We were far too busy to let it all sink in. At 6:30 pm, after Saman and Behzad endured driving in the NYC traffic for nearly two hours, we arrived at our first event. The organizers were waiting for us before they began.

The cameras were also waiting, and we were prepared. The reception we received was incredible. Lights flashed and reporters rushed the cyclists. I quickly turned on my camera and joined in. It was such a rewarding feeling to see the cyclists get recognition for the journey they had just accomplished. We were all so tired, because we didn't sleep much, but when we saw the crowd applauding and heard the chants that rang on 42nd and 2nd, our energy filled up once more. It was a special moment.

That night we didn't sleep much either. The next day was the big UN rally and we had a packed day of events to attend. The crew had to time and structure every detail precisely. The cyclists were exhausted and I was too. But, we had to keep on going. At that point there was no turning back. Our journey was a big deal in many ways that could be perceived. And because we believed it was a big deal, so did everyone else.

Day two in NYC was a busy one, just as we predicted. We had a community bike ride in the morning, a pre-UN rally in the afternoon, followed by the main rally outside the UN; all events organized by Where is My Vote? Day two was one of the most exhausting days. We didn't need to cycle any long distance, but brand new tasks confronted us that needed to be executed properly. The media aspect was important and everyone knew it. The media was planning to be everywhere for the next couple days.

The rallies and events the next day were nothing short of successful. The planning almost killed us and getting there was another

pain, but at the end of the day, it was all worth it. We were all united. It was a sight I had never seen and a feeling I had never experienced.

We worked tirelessly and spread our message. We were there for human rights and it was answers to those we wanted to hear. But instead, Mr. Ahmadinejad's talks in the USA were focused on side-swiped issues

justified by generic answers. This was not a surprise, considering Mr. Ahmadinejad's history. His answers have never been convincing, but nonetheless, it was those answers that we heard.

The end of our days in New York City were always so bittersweet. Physically, we were overly-exhausted, but we were also so content. Our bodies were fueled with the energy from the rallies. During the nights we bonded as friends.

The next day on Brooklyn bridge was quite an exercise for us! The cyclists rode across the bridge slowly and stopped often for photo-ops and interviews. I ran after them, stopping to take pictures every chance I got. The rally that day was another success. Our team was so bonded and I believe many people noticed. That night after a very long day, mixed with less than a couple hours of sleep, we prepared to go home.

By the time we were driving back to Toronto, most of us were sick. A few of us slept, while the rest alternated driving. But it was Saman and Behzad who did most of the driving. I would constantly wake up from my sleep and worry about them. I would glance at Saman driving and he looked awake. I appreciated the big responsibility he took on, but I was too tired and sick to express it. He was probably too tired to hear it anyway. I would then think to Behzad driving in the next car and admire how organized and prepared he was throughout the trip. Without these two, our trip would have been completely different.

The rest of the CHRI team who didn't come to NYC were hard at work in Toronto, making sure the information we were sending them was being spread. It was this unified teamwork that made our campaign so successful.

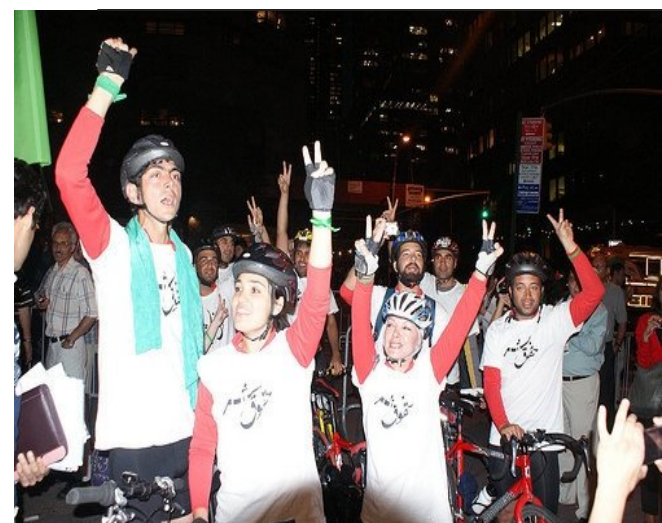
There is a big lesson to be learned from the perseverance of the CHRI team. The dedica-

tion each member demonstrated far extends personal gratification. The physical pain of sore muscles and pressure on the lungs is all part of the fight for human rights. Our trip was a symbol for endurance and strength.

As CHRI member Bronwyn stated beautifully, "When working for political and social change, activists draw support from the like-minded people who are fighting for the same thing. While one cannot compare riding a bike hundreds of kilometres to suffering at the hands of a dictatorial regime, one can use the ride and its challenges as a metaphor for the fight for human rights. The beautiful sunny weather [of our journey], the excellent company, the inspiring send off in Toronto and the heart-warming welcome in New York City all reflect the pleasures of living in a free society."



CHRI team in Niagara Falls



CHRI team on the first night in NYC

## ABOUT CHRI

Cycling for Human Rights in Iran (CHRI) is a campaign launched in response to the violent crackdown by the Iranian authorities against peaceful demonstrations after the election on June 12, 2009.

The CHRI initiative was first supported primarily by Iranian students and professors from University of Toronto. But it wasn't long before Canadian students and activists also joined in on the campaign.

Now, CHRI is a large, diverse, and non-partisan group of students, academics, and concerned citizens whose principal objective is to support those arrested while expressing their right to demonstrate peacefully.

It is the responsibility of Iranians to reform Iran into a vibrant democracy. However, it is the responsibility of all citizens of the world to protest violation of human rights. As such, we invite people of all nations and backgrounds to join us for the event or to sign the online petition. With your support we can make a difference.

# STOP EXECUTIONS RIGHT NOW!

**ACT NOW AND STOP THESE CRIMINALS**

**D**espite widespread protests against violent orders such as execution by domestic and foreign human rights institutions, such sentences, especially in case of children and teenagers under the age of 18 is still taking place.

According to Human Rights Activists on The prisoners of Iran, despite the change in the head of Judiciary department, it was still hoped that implementation of death sentences to at least be processed less. Hence not only this was not the case but the cases from previous cycles which their sentences had not been executed have been resurfaced and everyday worrisome news from them comes our way.

## **Hussein Ali Pur born 7 July 1368**

Hussein Ali Pur born in 1368, is in the verge of execution for a crime he committed when he was only 16. He is currently being kept in Lakan prison of Rasht, and is awaiting the approval for his sentence.

## **Safar Anguty 20 years in a juvenile**

Born in 1989 (1368) Safar Anguty was only 17 years old

at the time of the crime and in now facing execution. Safar Anguty's crime is that during an unwanted conflict with Mahdi Rezaei injured him from the neck area with the knife, which unfortunately led to this young man's death. He turned himself into the police due after running away for only a day to rest his conscience. Safar Anguty reveals his motivation to be the fact that on the day of the event victim had been talking to his 14-year-old crush Fatemeh and their rage was over jealousy. Fatemeh was only 14 years of age and Safar had seen her several times around the neighborhood and felt a crush on her. Mohammad Mostafaei who is legally representing Safar states: "Unfortunately, a conflict so childish had changed the fate of both teenagers, one leaves this mortal world and the other says farewell in prison as his decision is pending on supreme court Branch 71." But this childish conflict is awaiting fatal results by the judiciary department. Rulings issued in Iran pay no attention to the age of the defendants and all ruling's are the same for adult and juveniles.

## **Likely execution for Akram Mahdavi**

Akram Mahdavi was arrested in the year of 2003 (1382) for



murdering her 74-year old husband and has been in prison ever since. The Court has issued her a death sentence which has been approved by the Supreme Court. Akram Mahdavi has been married twice, both marriages were early and enforced and her actions were the result of growing anger and violence in her family is following a forced marriage. Criminal Prosecutor's Office, during a phone conversation with her plaintiff's family has informed them of her execution next week Sunday, and has asked of them to appear at 3 a.m. at Evin prison to have witnessed the execution. However Mina Jafari, Akram Mahdavi's lawyer has not been

communicated. In followup conversation with Ms. Jafari, Criminal Enforcement judge has denied talking to plaintiff's family's statements

## **Probability of execution of a security sensitive convict (Saleh Soltanzadeh)**

Saleh Soltanzadeh, a Defense Department personnel involved in Shahab-3 missile project was arrested in the August 2006 (Shahrivar 1385) by military's anti-information, and for one year was maintained in detention center at Security F-64. Garrison J.. He, after being sentenced to death for charges of espionage was transferred to Ward 7 of Evin prison's Hall 5 which is designated for military accused.

Saleh Soltanzadeh, whom had been arrested and sentenced to death in 2006 on charges of spying for hostile government was taken from his cell in Evin prison on September 29th (7 Mehr) and transferred to an unknown location, as of yet no information has been released on his caprice place nor his condition. Witnesses mentioned he has treated this transition as his execution, given his belongings to other prisoners, and has left them his Will to be delivered to his family.

## **Behnoud Shojaie Was Executed In Front Of My Eyes**

**B**logger Mohammad Mostafaei is an Iranian lawyer who represents offenders on death row who committed crimes when they were younger than 18. Mostafaei writes about the October 11 hanging of his client, Behnoud Shojaie, who was executed for stabbing to death a teenager when he was 17.

About 2.00 a.m., rights activists and a

number of Iran's mourning mothers were [outside Tehran's Evin Prison]. We were waiting for the parents to arrive at the prison. After about an hour, Ehsan's [the victim] parents appeared along with his siblings. The crowd moved towards them to try to convince them with their pleas to reconsider the execution of Behnoud.

Some time passed and his parents agreed to forgive.



All of a sudden the surroundings changed, the prison gates opened up, and the parents...and I went in. We stayed for some time in the waiting room. I thought the parents would forgive and Behnoud would not be executed.

[Continued on pg 13]

From pg 12 (**Behnoud Shojaie Was Executed In Front Of My Eyes**)...

Some more time passed and the voices of the activists praying were audible from outside. After a couple of minutes we entered into another lounge. Behnoud and some prison officials were present. As soon as he saw the parents he got down at their feet and begged them for his life....

Some of the prison officials, Mr. Oliyaifar, and myself went to the parents and begged them once more to reconsider Behnoud's execution and forgive him.

The mother said that she was

incapable of thinking right: I just have to see the rope around his neck, she said. The sound of the azan [the Islamic call to prayer] could be heard.

Behnoud went into another room to offer his last prayers and ask God for forgiveness.

Behnoud had wished to see the blue sky one last time before he died but instead he was face-to-face with a blue rope...

After he completed his prayers we all went into the prison again. I was overcome by fear, I was shivering. I did not know what would be the fate of this orphan child.

When Behnoud was begging the parents of the victim, he told the mother that he never had a mother of his own and asked her to be a mother for him and forgive him. We went

to another lounge, hall number 4, comprising a rectangular stage with a rope hanging from the top.

Behnoud had wished to see the blue sky one last time before he died but instead he was face-to-face with a blue rope. The parents entered the hall and Behnoud was brought in afterwards.

The hall of executions.... It was more surprising for me that Behnoud was the only one to be executed. Probably this was bad luck as well, to leave on his own, all alone.

All of those present there asked for the victim's parents once more and said they wouldn't regret it if they left it in the hands of God. But the mother said once more that she

just had to see the rope around Behnoud's neck.

He went onto the stage and the rope was placed around his neck. Within seconds, the parents of the victim approached him and pulled away the stool on which he was standing. Behnoud left this world....

Everything around me turned dark. Behnoud is no longer in the prison and among his friends. He will be missed.

I did everything in my power to try and stop this from happening. I still believe that he did not deserve what he got.

He shouldn't have been executed. But he was. He was executed.

**U.S. Presses Tehran to Free Two Detainees**

*>State Department Request Doesn't Make Their Release a Condition of Further Talks on Iran Nuclear Program*

By :Farnaz Fassihi



**T**he United States is asking that Iran immediately release two jailed foreign nationals even as it pursues talks over Tehran's nuclear program, according to people familiar with the negotiations. Families, colleagues and friends of the detainees have collected petitions signed by prominent figures and written letters to public officials as part of their far-reaching efforts to win the release of American-Iranian scholar Kian Tajbakhsh and Canadian-Iranian Newsweek journalist Maziar Bahari, who have been held captive by Iran for roughly three months. The State Department says it pressed Iran on its human-rights record when

representatives of the two countries sat at the negotiating table to discuss Iran's nuclear program in Geneva last week. So far, Iran hasn't taken any action. The U.S. didn't make the release of Mr. Tajbakhsh, 47 years old, and Mr. Bahari, 42, a condition for further negotiations on the nuclear matter. The U.S. used the opportunity of the face-to-face high-level meeting with Iran to appeal for their release on humanitarian grounds and as a measure of goodwill, the people familiar with the talks say. Supporters of the two men hope the backdrop of the talks will aid their cause. "If Iran is trying to build trust with the rest of the world one good way to do it would be to release people like Maziar and Kian," said Newsweek's foreign editor Nisid Hajari. The two men are the only foreign nationals arrested in relation to the recent unrest surrounding controversial presidential elections in June. Neither has a political affiliation in Iran. Three young Americans have been detained since the end of July by Iran for illegally crossing the Iranian border during a hike in the Kurdish areas of northern Iraq. Iran allowed a representative of

the Swiss Embassy to meet with the hikers last week. Mr. Tajbakhsh and Mr. Bahari were arrested soon after the elections, on different days but under similar circumstances. Intelligence officials raided their homes in the middle of the night, confiscated their computers, documents and passports. The two men were taken to the notorious Evin prison, to the ward controlled by the intelligence unit of the Revolutionary Guards. They have had no access to legal counsel, and haven't been charged or sentenced, according to their families. Prisoners who have been released on bail recently from the same ward say they were blindfolded most of the day, beaten, psychologically tortured and interrogated for up to 12 hours at a time, often in the middle of the night. Mr. Tajbakhsh and Mr. Bahari looked visibly thinner and haggard when they appeared in televised mass trials in August next to prominent opposition figures. Each delivered a confession detailing how, in their respective roles as academic and journalist, they had unwittingly participated in a plot by the West for a so-called soft revolution against Iran's regime. The court appearance was the first time their families had seen them since the arrests. Families and colleagues dismiss the confessions and say they were coerced. [Continued on pg 14]

From pg 13(U.S. Presses Tehran to Free Two Detainees)...

Mr. Tajbakhsh's two-year-old daughter, Hasti, ran to the television and kissed the screen as it showed him mumbling his confession, and his wife sobbed, according to family members. Mr. Tajbakhsh and his family were planning to move this fall from Tehran to New York, where he was scheduled to start teaching at Columbia University.



In London, Mr. Bahari's wife, Paola Gourley, is eight months pregnant with the couple's first child. She says her husband's hollow eyes in court shocked her.

"Understanding the reality of where he is and what he is going through was heartbreaking," says Ms. Gourley, a British lawyer. Since his court appearance, she says she has suffered serious pregnancy complications threatening her life and the baby's and has been hospitalized twice. She says doctors tell her the problems are related to too much stress.

Messrs. Bahari and Tajbakhsh have recently been allowed occasional brief phone calls and visits with their families supervised by a prison guard.

Mr. Tajbakhsh holds a Ph.D. in urban planning from Columbia University, and grew up in London and New York. In 2001, Mr. Tajbakhsh returned to Iran to research a project about Iran's government institutions. Mr. Tajbakhsh met and married his wife Bahar and settled in Tehran. He was arrested and imprisoned for four months in 2007.

Mr. Bahari, who studied in Canada, divides his time between London and Tehran. He has been Newsweek's Iran correspondent since 1998 and has made a series of award-winning documentary films. Mr. Bahari was a finalist for the prestigious Prince of Asturias Award for Concord in 2009, for his coverage of Iran.

## Anti Jewish attitude is strictly forbidden

By :Elham

The world has been suffering from discrimination against religious views for quite some time now, but I must say what we have witnessed over the past .in Iran has been the most ridiculous way of tempering with the Jews popularity. Several weeks ago a picture of Ahmadinejad, Iran's alleged president came out and in the picture he was shown holding his birth certificate all exited about the fact that he had gotten a chance to vote. So far this is not a big deal but a conspiracy theory was seen from within the document.

His documented last name was said to be Sabuorjian which later on in his life was changed to Ahmadinejad. Retracing his heredity he was said to have come from an original jewish family whom has converted later on in his life.

The original story was printed on *Daily Telegraph* which went into details about this matter, to find it only two days later denied by a fellow english newsletter the *Guardian*. Many other news agencies have reflected the news

as well and all have differed from one side to another.

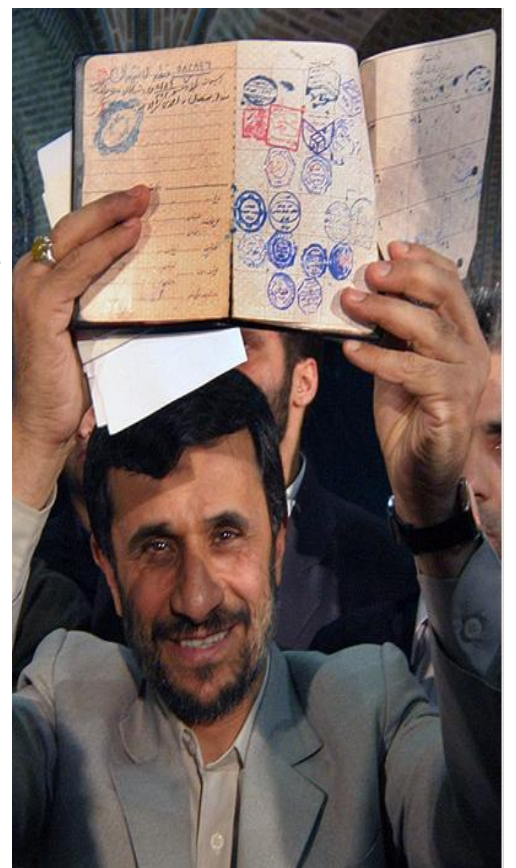
Unfortunately *Daily Telegraph's* report has reflected on one of the most ugliest features of some of our compatriot's life and soul: antisemitism takes roots deep from within life and mental beliefs of our compatriots. According to the *Daily Telegraph* and author remarks Mahdi Khan paid another story about the Jewish roots of Ahmadinejad. Principle is that his family was given the name Sabourjian and after his family involuntary migrated to Tehran, the name was changed to Ahmadinejad. And many believe for Sabourjian to be a jewish name. Sabour is a native word that although refers to the local spinning and weaving, but is entirely unrelated to Hebrew and Jewish. Despite all facts, these speculations and findings have given the room to antisemitic discussions that are at times brought up by fellow democratic citizens and even joined by Human Rights Activists. Although even if Ahmadinejad is a designated international Zionism, and today's Zionism not only in Iran - that fellow antisemitic brothers have no political problem with that in other countries is a code for antisemitism; If Holocaust is

a reason to bring Europeans to shame and of course legal troubles, behind the opposition to Zionism veil anything can be forced upon jewish people.

We have not forgotten from time to time here and there documents have been revealed and Hitler had been claimed to be from a jewish background as well. The problem is simple, all the misery in the world had been created by the jews.

Even the home wrecking World war II, antisemitism and Hitler's massacre was a part of an international Zionist plan to occupy Palestine. Ahmadinejad's story is a repeat of the same ridiculous thesis. Some claimed Jaleh Square's massacre was the work of Israeli soldiers, now the old regime that who's foreign policy was centered on Palestine and antisemitism and destroy all antisemitic Jews and enemies everywhere. It is interesting that the same country whose president is asking for elimination of Israel - and obviously does not only mean Israel but it's citizens as well - and called the Holocaust a myth, who has claimed that all wickedness is done by jews .

. One with muted words and hints towards friendship with Israeli people - that is clear is ra-



tional blasphemy – sees Ahmadinejad's collaborations with Zionist a done deal and others cuts straight to the point and calls him a jew. The thesis, has not changed, Jews are responsible for all wickedness.

We strongly oppose such believes against jews and any other religion and if Ahmadinejad or any other dictator In History is said to be Jewish, Muslim or any beliefs, that has nothing to do with other's beliefs.

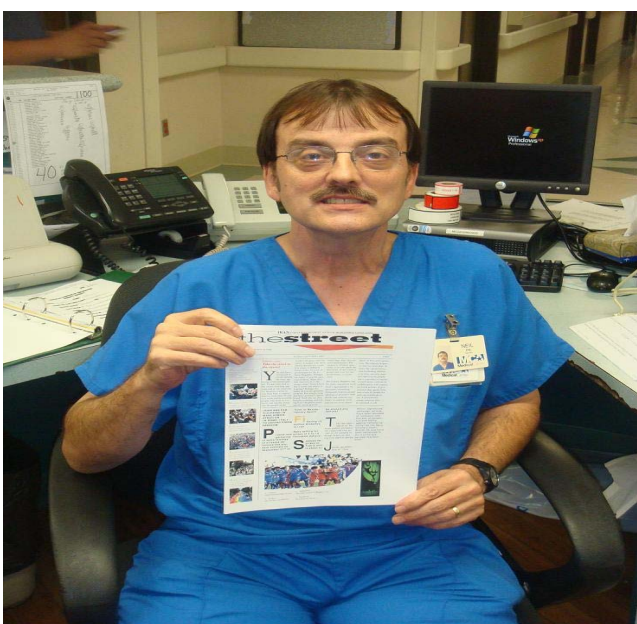
## >>You & the street

The first edition of "The Street" has been reviewed on different websites such as Facebook, Tweeter, well-known blogs (as Revolutionary Road), Issue' website and etc. Close to 85,000 have reviewed and more than 35,000 copies have been downloaded.

The journal has been published, downloaded and printed in 6 countries so far; U.S., Italy, France, Iran, Japan and UK.

In our next editions, we will have a complete report of "The Street" publication and distribution in different cities in the world.

We ask all Street viewers to help us with publication of "The Street" journal by advertising with us. You also can help us distributing by copy, email and introducing your colleagues to "The Street" jour-



## Mohammad Taghi Mesbah Yazdi is another criminal for crime against humanity in Iran!

By: *Morteza Abdolalian*

### Why Mohammad Taghi Mesbah Yazdi?

Known as Ayatollah "Temsah" or crocodile.



Time and time because of his religious position, he has ordered the young and probably uneducated blind Basiji militias to arbitrarily act for God and murder those who are calling for change in Iran. He has repeatedly (all are documented in the past daily media) called for the physical removal of the reformists.

Here is just one such arbitrary order without any fear from judiciary power and respect for human lives:

On the evening of Wednesday September 17th, speaking in the "Imam Khomeini's Hosseinieh" in the city of Qom just two days before the "Qods Day of rally in Iran" speaking to a gathering, he asked the "friends of God, like a wounded tiger, to attack on the oppositions".

in the disclosure of part of the Ministry of Information plan in "Chain Murders" in 1998, few journalists including Akbar Ganji named Mohammad Taghi Mesbah Yazdi as an instigator for the murdering of innocent and the most beloved sons of the country including poet and writer Mohammad Mokhtari and Mohammad Jafar Pouyandeh.

In August, after the coup d'etat by Ahmadinejad, when many religious personalities didn't attend in Ahmadinejad's taking presidential oath, Mesbah Yazdi told: Following the order of president is following the order of God".

In the trial of the case known as the "Kerman murdering circle" several person from one of the Basiji base in the city of Kerman who have murdered several women and men, claimed that; with the speech of Mohammad Taghi Mesbah Yazdi they were provoked to do such an action."

In that murdering a writer and poet who was sleeping in his home with his 9 year old son, both were brutally killed by knife.

In a letter Mesbah rejected the trial proceeding and he just approved his speech.

The list goes on ...

He must be brought to the International court of justice for crime against humanity.

**WE ARE CONSTANTLY LOOKING FOR INTERESTED AND EAGER INDIVIDUALS THAT WILL HELP US BUILD A STRONGER AND MORE KNOWLEDGEABLE TEAM OF WRITERS, ARTISTS AND EXECUTIVES. HENCE WE ARE ASKING YOU; SHOULD YOU BE INTERESTED TO JOIN OUR TEAM.**

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Revolutionary Road ...

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## &gt;&gt;Film

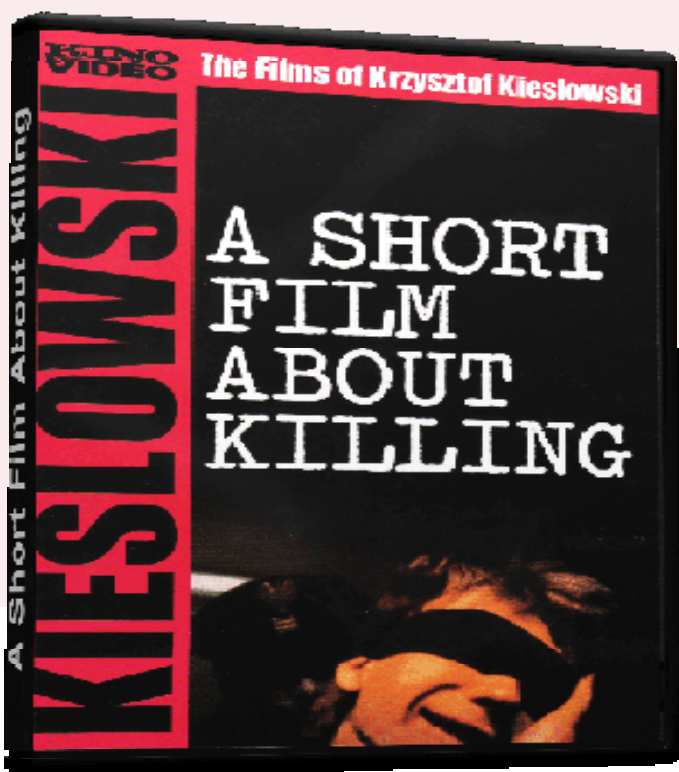
## A SHORT FILM ABOUT KILLING

Director: **Krzysztof Kieslowski**

Release Date: 26 October 1988

The plot couldn't be simpler or its attack on capital punishment (and the act of killing in general) more direct - a senseless, violent, almost botched murder is followed by a cold, calculated, flawlessly performed execution (both killings shown in the most graphic detail imaginable), while the murderer's idealistic young defence lawyer ends up as an unwilling accessory to the judicial murder of his client.

A youth randomly, and brutally, murders a taxi-driver. Piotr has just passed his law exams and been admitted to the bar. He is to defend Jacek, the young murderer. There is no evidence for the defence and no apparent motive. Jacek is put on trial, found guilty and executed by hanging. Piotr, after his first case, is left with the bitter doubt - does the legal system, in the name of the people, have the right to kill with cold blood?



## TIME

Poet: Bahare

*There was a time, epic of shouting from stitched lips**Came into sight-seeing of mourning maniac**There was a time, pounding of clear criticism among closed eyes**Came into left-handed critics habit**There was a time, laughter of old clown**Came into pitying look**There was a time, spying of century's microscope**Came into scythe, axe and chariot's uprising**There was a time, conquering, conqueror, conquered weren't conjugated**There was a time, thunder of termites, locusts and rats**Came into plundered Avesta**There was a time, responding to absolute justice of round-glassed man**Came into un-imagine-d bullet**Time comes and time goes by**The first gone, the second come and the third will...**\*DESCRIPTION: Avesta: The original sacred book of Iranians.**Round-glassed man: John Lennon*

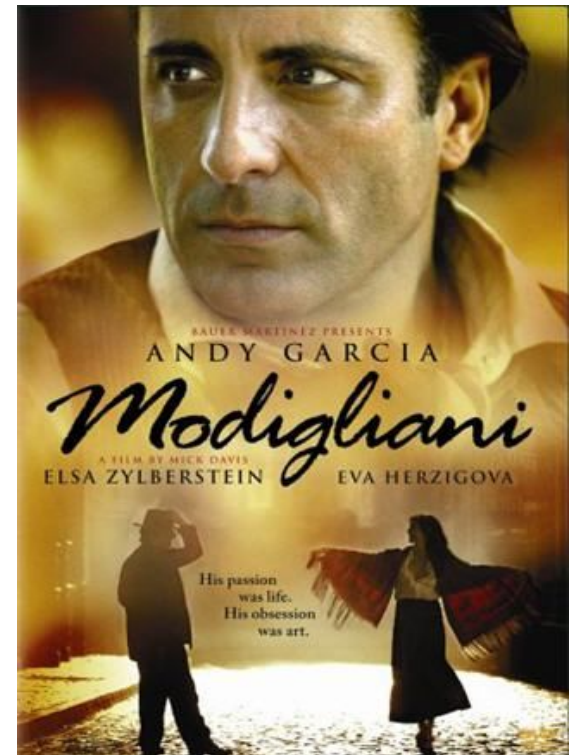
## MODIGLIANI

Director: **Mick Davis**

Release date: 29 September 2004

Set in Paris in 1919, biopic centers on the life of late Italian artist Amedeo Modigliani, focusing on his last days as well as his rivalry with Pablo Picasso. Modigliani, a Jew, has fallen in love with Jeanne, a young and beautiful Catholic girl. The couple has an illegitimate child, and Jeanne's bigoted parents send the baby to a faraway convent to be raised by nuns. Modigliani is distraught and needs money to rescue and raise his child. The answer arrives in the shape of Paris' annual art competition. Prize money and a guaranteed career await

the winner. Neither Modigliani, nor his dearest friend and rival Picasso have ever entered the competition, believing that it is beneath true artists like themselves. But push comes to shove with the welfare of his child on the line, and Modigliani signs up for the competition in a drunken and drug-induced tirade. Picasso follows suit and all of Paris is aflutter with excitement at who will win. With the balance of his relationship with Jeanne on the line, Modigliani tackles this work with the hopes of creating a masterpiece, and knows that all the artists of Paris are doing the same.





## >>Why November 21 is an important day for you?

By: Maryam Namazie

The One Law for All campaign is organising a rally against Sharia and all religious-based laws in Britain and across the world and in defence of human rights and secularism on November 21 in London. Rally organisers are calling upon those who cannot get to London to organise rallies or acts of solidarity in various cities across the globe.

A public show of opposition is crucial at a time when Sharia law is on the rise in many places and is being touted as a 'right' and a 'choice' when it is anything but these things.

Contrary to the misinformation peddled by their proponents and the far Right, Sharia courts are the demand of the political Islamic movement. They are not the demand of ordinary Muslims or those labelled as Muslims (since there are just as many differences of opinion and belief in all so-called Muslim communities as among others). Do not forget that these very "Muslims" are the first victims of and dissenters against Sharia law.

If it were really the desire of "Muslims" to be stoned to death for sex outside of marriage, hanged for being gay, executed for being apostates, flogged for eating during Ramadan, forcibly veiled and segregated from childhood, Islamic states and the regressive Islamic movement would not need to resort to such indiscriminate violence and brutality.

Only recently, this 'cuddly' Sharia law convicted Lubna Hussein of 'indecent' for wearing trousers in the Sudan, sentenced a man to be flogged for drinking alcohol in Malaysia, and sentenced a 75 year-old woman, Khamisa Sawadi to four months in prison, 40 lashes and deportation in Saudi Arabia for meeting with two young men who were not relatives who brought her bread. Just today, on October 11, 2009 - a day after the International Day against the Death Penalty - the Islamic regime of Iran executed juvenile offender Behnoud Shojaee; there are at least 160 juveniles on death row in Iran, including for homosexuality, apostasy, sex outside of marriage and involvement in school or street fights that have resulted in murder.

In this year alone, MPs in the Indonesian province of Aceh unanimously passed a law which stones adulterers to death and Sharia was introduced across the country in Somalia and in Pakistan's Swat region. And as if Sharia law were not enough for 'liberated' Afghanistan, its parliament recently passed a new "rape law" for 'Shias' which requires, among other things, that women submit to sex with their husbands at least every four days, with few exemptions.

And it is not just men, women and children who are targeted by Sharia; even mannequins (wax models) are. This week, again in Iran, the police warned shopkeepers that they should not display female mannequins without a hijab or showing bodily curves. The list goes on and on.

Of course, when it comes to Britain, Sharia

councils and tribunals do not issue stoning sentences but that is not because they think it is wrong to do so - it is because this is the 'duty' of Islamic states. (Even here, though, Sharia judges have been known to advocate stoning.) And whilst there is a significant difference between letting Islamic courts and councils decide on civil matters and giving them jurisdiction in criminal cases, this difference is a matter of degree only; the fundamentals are the same. In fact, discriminatory family and personal status codes are important pillars in the oppression of women in Islamic states. Losing custody of your child at a pre-set age irrespective of the child's welfare, being told to remain in an abusive relationship or having your forced marriage rubber-stamped with the approval of these sham courts can be just as destructive.

Whether in Pakistan, Somalia, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan or Britain, Sharia law concerns us because we are concerned about human rights and peoples' freedoms. Sharia and religious laws in general do not belong to the 21st century. We will not let the political Islamic movement drag us back to the Middle Ages.

So November 21 is an important day for all of us to oppose Sharia and all religious laws and defend human rights and secularism. Join us in London's Hyde Park from 1200 until 1400 hours. If you can't come to London, why not organise a rally or act of solidarity in the city centre where you live on the same day? If you coordinate it with us beforehand, we could upload photos and film footage of your acts on our website.

We will also respond every day beginning Monday 12 October to one question or comment emailed to us or posted on our website here: <http://www.onelawforall.org.uk/universal-childrens-day-and-international-day-for-the-elimination-of-violence-against-women/> until November 20 so that we can help to draw attention to this important campaign.

And please don't forget to donate to One Law for All. We urgently need money to do all that still needs to be done to get rid of Sharia. Every bit helps so please do take the time to send us a cheque made payable to One Law for All or by donating via Paypal by visiting <http://www.onelawforall.org.uk/donate.html>.

Thank you.  
We look forward to a successful rally in London and elsewhere.

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**NOTICE:**

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Your area.

Best

## SICK

You may hide in your grief shell  
I touched your soul much closer  
Full of holes  
I filled them up with cotton  
You burst into flames and  
The smell of cotton carbon irritates all  
tastes  
You took your roots on my hair from my  
childhood  
The girl high school of AEENE  
ROSHAN  
And the memorial of Shamlou  
Girls of plains, Girls of waiting  
You learned each day  
Carrying a bag  
Bag of grief and complex  
Bag of your desires  
I closed the door and you avenge your  
helpless loads on me  
Who are you plundering my existence?  
The Berlin's wall broke  
Victim, victim and victim  
Pink Floyd sang: Is there anybody hear  
me?  
We heard you...  
We heard you...  
I knew this brain tumor took roots in my  
head from the beginning  
Here's a fuse  
Now watch me!  
Boom!

*Poet: Bahare*

Theme of the poem: Hijab in Iran.

\*DESCRIPTION:

AEENE ROSHAN: a restricted religious high school in Iran.

Shamlou : Ahmad Shamlou is an Iranian poet, symbol of love and freedom.

From pg 1 (Editor's note)...

This wing that is a product of a time of revolution and disorder in Iran, sets out to choose irrational concepts and alarmist positions for itself and - by attracting public attention through the nuclear issue and emphasizing anti-west characteristics and its stance as enemy of America - find partners in the region and elsewhere in the world to gain control and balance in discussions. The Islamic Republic that is in economic terms bankrupt in the mother industries and large companies, has dipped into the pockets of the people and sustains itself with ever-increasing pressure on their welfare and living conditions. It's enough to walk the streets of Iran and observe the minimum wage that based on Iranian workers' laws is USD\$260 per calendar month, in relation to the cost of goods and food stuffs. Incomes way below the poverty line and statistics that the regime itself proclaims, together with the millions of unemployed, a flood of educated and motivated youth, alongside many other factors, have caused people to break out and show their dissatisfaction according to their own high standards, in different ways.

The vast inequality that exists against women in every aspect of Iranian law along with discrimination and sexual apartheid against half the human force in Iran has caused women, as an immense group of the aggrieved, to be even more present and distinguished on the streets than others. Here in Iran women are separated from men just as blacks were from whites in the days of race apartheid in South Africa. In many shops where women in hejab are deemed unsuitable, goods are not sold to them, just as, according to the wants of religious leaders, to prevent marriage and sexual relations, women are stoned to death for being "subversive" and "corrupt upon earth". Despite a population of learned and hopeful people, Iran is at the mercy of a government that sees a woman's rights as half those of a man and recognizes men as the superior gender.

Bear in mind too that Iran is a country with a vast ethnic diver-

sity and numerous languages. In Iran live the Kurd, Lor, Arab, Baluch, Azeri and Turkeman people, each denied in some way by the laws of the Islamic Republic, from determining their language and destiny. Any disagreement with the status quo can mean heavy consequences for their activists. In recent years there have been wide campaigns against these minorities who represent a significant group of Iranians, such that any human cry or pursuit of rights from these people is denoted them as elements of terrorist and separatist groups. In the media they are portrayed as threats to national

security and the benefits system, and worthy of a death sentence.

Likewise there are many religious minorities living in Iran who unwillingly endure and accept the country's religious laws. For them this makes living intolerable such that they are left no choice but to leave their homeland and seek refuge in other countries. The crime of all of these people is dispute with a form of religious governing that counts them as second-class citizens. The Baha'i are a very clear example of these religious minorities in Iran, who do not have a claim to education, work or any social rights. It is hard to imagine such treatment of the citizens of a country for upholding different views, religious or otherwise.

Furthermore, as far as the rulers of the Islamic Republic are concerned, the people of Iran are Muslim and so if anyone proclaims that they have no religious conviction, not only must they be known as an apostate with no social rights, but they must also be killed.

Yes, all this is taking place in a part of our planet earth called Iran. Every day a large number of people under the influence of narcotics and poverty and ruin, die in a corner of Iran. Not a day goes by without news of an execution or stoning and flogging or amputation in the name of God and religious laws. Not a day goes by without a newspaper being shut down for the crime of

writing a few words against even a faction of the government. Not a day without millions of people selling themselves short in the absence of work and welfare and bodily comfort. Yes, the situation in Iran has reached a critical point of incredible difficulty for people. Such a level of discontent with the current climate has reached the stage where fundamental changes in economic and cultural frameworks are required. Above all there is call for a fluid leadership, for change and respect for advanced and human rights according to humanitarian laws - and none of these factors are components the Islamic Re-

public. This climate has been created so that leading will be difficult for the leaders such that the integrity of the Islamic Republic and its anti-human policies will be at the mercy of the people of Iran.

These contradictions and the polarization of society caused the people to lash out taking to the streets, such that it has meaning for all, defining values accordingly for each social class and movement. The university student came to the streets to not throw away the result of years of effort and hope and knowledge to the difficult employment laws of Iran or to the role of "army of the unemployed" behind the walls of the terror houses of Iran. Women came to the streets to not bury their existence and humanity behind religious patriarchy and medieval backwardness. A flood of workers came to the streets to cry out the slogans they had written and announcements they had made, to build a better world and benefit from the welfare and dignity of community under the protective shade of freedom and equality. Even the affluent youth of the well-to-do classes came out, asking why the people of Iran today suffer cultural poverty with society's lack of advancement. The learned and impassioned youth of Iran still live under a system that doesn't allow music to be played state television and imprisons, humiliates and tortures young people under the most severe laws for the

crime of going to a party and wearing western clothes, or for participating in clandestine concerts.

Many speeches can be given on the ills on the streets of Iran, but our street is limited and we try to tell you about one aspect of developments each time so that we may promote a fair and accurate understanding of the wants and desires of the people of Iran in contrast with human society outside. Universities as refined and intellectual sections of society have taken on the responsibility for the radicalization and transformation of the struggle. The student campaign as defined by the conditions in society that I have described is not a union campaign for the realization of the internal demands of the university students, but the same cry on the street that today reveals itself in the universities. Many try to maintain that this struggle is a specific interest demand, separating the students as an open-minded force from the rest of society and the recent protests. But this is not the case and I can boldly proclaim as a political student of Iran who spent years of my life in this struggle and in the prisons of the Islamic Republic's regime, that the student movement is a sophisticated and aware part of society that has stood more organized by using cultural tools against the leadership. A court's heavy sentencing of 10 polytechnic students for leftist activism shows the latest attack of the leadership against the student movement in an effort to promote an atmosphere of fear and oppression. Before this a large number of students of the liberal spectrum of Tehran's universities were arrested and many of them are still languishing in the prisons of the Islamic Republic and are subjected to interrogation and torture. Therefore the Islamic Republic's attack on the student movement should be questioned, not only within Iran's borders, but in European and American countries, and this blatant oppression be challenged.

Take the voice of millions of Iranians to your streets and help us build a free and humanitarian world.

**In hope and freedom**

*Saeed Valadbaygi*

**Every day a large number of people under the influence of narcotics and poverty and ruin, die in a corner of Iran. Not a day goes by without news of an execution or stoning and flogging or amputation in the name of God and religious laws ...**