



Ethical Action Report



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Women's Rights: Urge Iran to Stop Stoning Women

Write to the Iranian government and the United Nations and demand an end to stoning.

BACKGROUND

In the Islamic Republic of Iran the penalty for women who have sex outside of marriage is savage. A common practice, stoning, has the woman buried in the ground to her neck as the community throws stones at her head, usually resulting in her death. Article 104 of the Law of Hodoud provides that the stones will "not be large enough to kill the person by one or two strikes; nor should they be so small that they could not be defined as stones," making it clear that the purpose of stoning is to inflict severe pain upon the victim before her eventual death. Generally, the woman's family is forced to attend the stoning, adding to the cruelty of the practice.

The Iranian government has argued that the practice of stoning is confined to only a few backward, rural areas, but this is the reality; stoning takes place across the country, including in cosmopolitan areas. Moreover, any instance of stoning, no matter how uncommon it may be, is a crime against humanity and must not be tolerated by the government.

Ashraf Kolhari, the mother of four, had been sentenced to death by stoning for having an extra-marital affair. Iran's Ayatollah Shahroudi has commuted her sentence after receiving a petition with signatures from over 100 Iranian women's rights activists and thousands of individuals. He was also influenced by protests from human rights activists all over the globe. This is certainly a great triumph for women's rights, but the fight is far from over. Stoning is still legal in Iran and Kolhari's fate still remains in question.

ACTION

Act now by writing to the Iranian government and the United Nations and demanding that Iran stop the cruel practice of stoning and ensures that Ashraf Kolhari does not come to harm. You can send an e-mail petition here:

http://www.democracyinaction.org/dia/organizationsORG/feministmajority/campaign.jsp?campaign_KEY=4953&t=template2.dwt.

Religious Liberties: Urge your Elected Official to Reaffirm Religious Freedom

Help preserve our nation's longstanding tradition of the 'first freedom'.

BACKGROUND

Our Founding Fathers believed that people should be free to practice their religion without coercion. The freedom to practice or not to practice religion and the barring of government from establishing a state religion are thus prominent provisions of the U.S. Constitution. The separation of church and state is a long-held tradition of the United States, ensuring not only that the government be free of religious corruption but also that religion be free from government corruption. Our religious institutions are thriving and vibrant because of our respect for church-state separation.

But our religious freedoms are now under attack from a cabal of Religious Nationalists who deny the separation of church and state and insist that religious pluralism is unfavorable. These Religious Nationalists are attempting to inscribe their own personal religious moralities as government law.

To ensure that our religious liberties remain strong, tax dollars should not go to charities that discriminate in hiring based on religious beliefs, political candidates should not be endorsed or opposed by houses of worship, public schools should teach with academic integrity and without the promotion of religious preference or belief, and certain decisions – such as those concerning family life, reproductive health, and end of life care – must remain personal.

ACTION

Visit the following website to sign a petition urging our elected officials to reaffirm

America's religious freedom: <http://www.firstfreedomfirst.org/>.

Human Rights: Demand that Jordon end Torture

Demand that the Jordanian King end torture at the General Intelligence Department and other detention centers in Jordan.

BACKGROUND

The Jordanian military security agency – the General Intelligence Department – commonly detains and tortures political and security suspects. Torture methods used include the “falaqua”, in which the soles of the suspect’s feet are beaten with a stick, and the “shabeh”, in which the suspect is suspended from their wrists for several hours. These methods are employed to extract “confessions” that are regularly used as evidence against them, sometimes resulting in the suspect’s execution.

More disturbingly, the United States, acting in accordance with our rendition program, has sent at least 10 individuals to be tortured or otherwise ill-treated in Jordanian prisons. It is impossible to know how many others have been sent to secret detention centers in the name of the “war on terror”.

The Jordanian government has a responsibility to bring criminals to justice but it must not do so by means of torture and other ill treatment.

ACTION

Email, write, or call the Jordanian King and demand that he halts the practice of torture as a mean to extract “confessions” and that he bring suspected torturers to justice. Send appeals to:

His Majesty King ‘Abdallah bin Hussein
Office of H.M. the King
Royal Palace
Amman
Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
+ 962 6 462 7421
e-mail: info@nic.gov.jo
Salutation: Your Excellency

In addition, e-mail, write, or call you congresspersons and urge them to end our rendition program, which funnels prisoners into the Jordanian system.

Humanitarian Crisis: Urge Investigation into Attacks on Israeli and Lebanese Civilians

When fighting erupted between Israel and Hezbollah on July 14th, 2006, the world saw a civilian death toll begin to mount. Approximately 1,050 civilian lives – many of them children - were lost, a testament to the tragedy of war. In addition, the damage to essential public infrastructure raises serious questions as to the safety of survivors returning to war-ravaged areas.

An international investigation into these deaths and the abuses of international humanitarian law by both sides is needed. Call for an immediate inquiry into violations of International law by both sides of the conflict, which may amount to war crimes.

ACTION

Attacks on civilians and violations of international law need immediate investigation: write to the UN Security Council!

Appeals should be sent to Foreign Ministers of UN Security Council member states:

Fax: Peru: +51 1311 2410
Denmark: +45 3254 0533
Greece: +30 2103 6814 33
Qatar: +974 4429 454
Congo Brazzaville: +242 81 41 61
France: +33 145 516012 and +33 143 175212

E-mail: minsik@um.dk; msu.correspondence@fco.gov.uk;
tnwinfo@plancom.go.tz; kami@foreign.gov.sk; cio@mfa.gr;
webmaster@mfa.gov.cn; secretary@state.gov; webmaster@mofa.go.jp;
dip@mid.ru; ministry@mid.ru; btc@cancilleria.gov.ar; btc@mrecic.gov.ar;
ghmfaoo@ghana.com

International Relations: Urge your Senator to VOTE NO on Bolton

Contact your Senator and tell him/her to keep the Senate from confirming John Bolton.

BACKGROUND

The Senate will decide in early September whether or not to confirm John Bolton as U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations in 2007. Mr. Bolton was installed as Ambassador by President Bush without Senate approval on August 1st, 2005. Had President Bush not made this "recess appointment" it is possible Mr. Bolton would not have been confirmed.

John Bolton is not the right man for the job. His track record at the U.N has been less than adequate: he has alienated allies, undermined U.S. foreign policy, and neglected to make the U.N. stronger and more effective.

In particular, his actions relating to the crisis in Sudan have been disastrous. He has not met his promise to stop genocide in Darfur; in fact, he has done little to advance this cause. Bolton failed to attend a mission to Darfur in June, choosing instead to deliver a political speech in London. The United States thus missed a key opportunity to reinforce support for a peace agreement.

ACTION

Please take action now to stop the Senate from confirming John Bolton. Call or write your senators' Washington, D.C., office and urge him/her to VOTE NO on Bolton.

Contacting Elected Officials

White House

Mailing Address

The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Phone Number

Comments: (202) 456-1111
Fax: (202) 456-2461

E-mail

President George W. Bush:
president@whitehouse.gov

Vice President Richard Cheney:
vice.president@whitehouse.gov

Congress

Mailing Address

United States Senate
or

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Phone Number

Capitol Switchboard: (202) 224-3121

E-mail

Visit www.senate.gov or www.house.gov to
use your representatives' e-mail contact forms.

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