

As Iranians Say No More Theocracy, Ebadi Fantasizes About Islamic Democracy
By Alireza Sabouri
February 29, 2004

Since February 1979, Islamic law has dictated the sadistic rules that Iranians must follow in order to protect themselves from torture, imprisonment and execution. Islamic law also dictates the status of inequality, which degrades an Iranian woman every day from sunrise to sunset.

For example, a woman that is married and raped is charged with adultery, a crime punishable by death from stoning. If a woman kills her aggressor, she is automatically charged with his murder and subject to death by hanging. These laws leave no room for an Iranian woman to seek justice for the violation that has occurred. Her rape is not even considered a violation.

Under Islamic law, a woman's life is worth half that of a man in monetary compensation in the event of accidental death. Moreover, she has to ask her husband for written permission to leave the country on business. If a chador is worn incorrectly in public, it is considered that a woman's crime is self-evident and she is flogged for a crime against Islam without a court hearing. No court hearing is considered necessary because of the nature of the crime.

According to Hashemi Rafsanjani, whom Forbes magazine has listed as a prominent ruling "billionaire mullah" within the Islamic regime,

"...Equality does not take precedence over justice... Justice does not mean that all laws must be the same for men and women. One of the mistakes that Westerners make is to forget this.... The difference in the stature, vitality, voice, development, muscular quality and physical strength of men and women shows that men are stronger and more capable in all fields... Men's brains are larger.... Men incline toward reasoning and rationalism while women basically tend to be emotional... These differences affect the delegation of responsibilities, duties and rights..." -- *Hashemi Rafsanjani, Iranian Parliament (1986)*

Nevertheless, European Union nations, specifically Britain, France, Germany and Russia, have invented a diplomatic fiction dubbed "constructive dialogue" in order to conduct profitable business with the Islamic regime, at the expense of 70 million Iranians. Even Prince Charles himself paid a visit to the mullahs in February 2004, to walk amongst the ruins and suffering which the British government is helping to perpetuate, like a dog marking his territory for the world to

see. In fact, the most recent European Union intervention happened on October 21, 2003, when the British, German and French foreign ministers flew to Tehran and convinced the Islamic regime to allow the IAEA to inspect Iranian nuclear sites. Now, it appears they have an Iranian Nobel Award recipient to help them.

Shirin Ebadi, one of our brightest, sadly enough appeared in February 2004 before the European parliament and urged them to keep negotiating with the mullahs. " You must talk with the Iranian government," said Ebadi as she proceeded to share her fantasies of the existence of democracy under Islamic law. In fact, Ebadi described democracy in her homeland as a "flower", which she said bloomed when the pseudo-reformist Mohammad Khatami was elected President.

Since Khatami's election in 1997, the domestic situation in Iran has deteriorated dramatically. Public executions, stoning, flogging, and newspaper closures have risen dramatically, while individual rights have come under increased attack by the regime and its henchmen. Thus, it appears from her statements that even after winning the Noble Peace Prize, Ebadi tows the regime's party line, speaks of human rights abuses in Iraq and Palestine, but never really attacks or questions all of the blatant human rights abuses taking place under her very nose, against Iranians.

After February 11, 1979, collusion and collaboration, betrayal and hypocrisy became the order of the day in Iran under Islamic law. The list of tragedies inflicted upon a once prosperous and proud Iran includes: Eight years of a bloody and intentionally prolonged war with Iraq; more than 100,000 political executions; 600,000 political prisoners; political and economic mismanagement; isolation and defamation of the country; millions unemployed; annual double-digit inflation; numerous citizens forced to have more than one job in order to make ends meet; women discriminated against; extensive corruption at every level of society; gross violations of human rights; assassination of opponents both within and without; stoning people to death; public executions of dissidents; national unrest and revolt; soaring crime; wide spread drug use; and assistance to terrorist organizations.

According to official sources in Tehran, in recent years there has been a 635 percent increase in the number of teenage girls in prostitution. The magnitude of this statistic conveys how rapidly this form of abuse has grown. In Tehran, there are an estimated 84,000 women and girls in prostitution, many of them are on the streets, others are in the 250 brothels that reportedly operate in the city. The trade is also

international: thousands of Iranian women and girls have been sold into sexual slavery abroad. The child sex slave trade, also known as "white slavery", is one of the most profitable activities in Iran today. This criminal trade is not conducted outside the knowledge and participation of the ruling mullahs. Government officials themselves, including pseudo-reformists, are involved in buying, selling, and sexually abusing women and girls.

Even after the earthquake in Bam, which in California, would have likely claimed maybe a few lives at most, but in Iran killed over 45,000, all that was seen on the news was heart wrenching footage of the dead and interviews with survivors. Western journalists appeared every night pouring out their sympathy and shedding theatrical tears. However, most failed to ask why in an oil-rich, earthquake-prone country, with much experience in this kind of disaster, were the buildings so badly built and government aid so non-existent?

It is, therefore, no surprise that the vast majority of Iranians did not pay much attention to the Islamic regime's orchestrated spectacle of pseudo-reformist resistance on the floor of their parliament in early 2004, prior to the sham elections in February. Iranians simply had no more interest in a deceptive soap opera set up only to preserve the very hated theocracy they are longing to obliterate.

Before it was shut down by the Islamic judiciary on the eve of the sham elections, the newspaper *Yas-e-Now* reported on Feb. 17th that the Tehran city council distributed \$3 million worth of discount coupons to Tehran teachers four days before the February 2004 elections in an attempt to persuade Tehran citizens to vote for their candidates. It is also no surprise that the most liberal official estimates reported a less than 30% voter-turnout nation wide in the February 2004 election, even with the new decreased legal voting age, bribes to the usual paid-for cast and crew of regime supporters, and with polls remaining open for an extended four-hour period.

All of the above begs the question: " WHICH IRAN ARE YOU LIVING IN MS.EBADI?" Please think hard and clarify: Do you stand with the people of Iran for a national referendum to select a genuine secular democratic alternative, or Do you desire to preach democracy under the same Islamic legal system that holds our mothers, daughters, sisters and wives to be half a human being.

Website: WWW.OYICM.ORG