

Nobel Peace Prize to a women's right activist or a religious figure?



'The basis of socialism is the human being... Socialism is the movement to restore human being's conscious will.'

- Mansoor Hekmat

The great Marxist thinker and leader of the Worker-communist Party and worker-communist movement, 1951-2002

An Open Letter to the Nobel Peace Prize Committee



By: Azar Majedi

Dear Committee members. As a veteran activist for women's equality, as one who has been the subject of the Islamic Republic of Iran's persecution and

political Islam's brutality and has devoted her life to combat it, I would like to express my indignation at your statement regarding the awarding of the Noble peace prize to Ms. Shirin Ebadi.

It is said that she has been awarded the prize "for her efforts for democracy and human rights' especially for "the struggle for the rights of women and children." But further down in the statement the more specific reason for which she has been awarded the peace prize is given: "Ebadi is a conscious Moslem. She sees no conflict between Islam and

fundamental human rights."

It is further emphasized that the committee is awarding her the prize as "a woman who is part of the Moslem world."

The assumptions by the Noble prize committee are objectionable by anyone who has lived through the horrors of the Islamic Republic of Iran, or has felt or seen the terror of political Islam in the past decades. This statement is a blow to a people whose aspirations are to bring about a secular state, and to free themselves from

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Two Days Of Protests and Meetings in Oslo

The Nobel Peace Prize Committee is planning a ceremony to award this year's Peace Prize to Shirin Ebadi in Oslo, Norway on December 10, 2003. By now, everyone knows that neither peace nor human rights is to be celebrated at this ceremony. The ruling reaction in Europe recognises that it is not enough to conduct so-called 'critical dialogue' or directly support the Islamic barbarity in Iran.

This is a clear response to the spectre of a popular

revolution in Iran. With this award, European governments have directly and indirectly declared through Shirin Ebadi that Islam is not incompatible with human rights, that the Islamic regime is reform-able, and that the people of Iran must tolerate Islamic Sharia Law and the Islamic constitution! On December 10th, this is the despicable political message the Nobel Peace Committee, the European Union and western governments want to announce to the world.

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Nobel Peace Prize to religion rule. One need not to be a seasoned politician to understand the implications and implied meanings of this sentence. For ordinary people in Iran who have witnessed the support given by the West to the Islamic Republic in one form or the other over the years, and have also witnessed their support for Islamic states and movements, the clear message of this statement reads that the Noble peace prize is being awarded to a Moslem movement in the hopes of reforming the Islamic Republic.

For a committee whose main task is to follow, understand and discern the movements for improving people's lives, for improving human rights, women's rights, the rights of children, and any disadvantaged section of society, I am amazed that you have not followed the events in Iran, have not heard the message and slogans of the protest movements of the people, workers and women in Iran. The most recent one took place in June and continued for over three weeks. Every night, thousands took to the streets and shouted: "long live freedom and equality" and "down with Islamic Republic." As it regards women, they threw off their compulsory veils - some even burnt their Islamic veils - as signs of protest to Islamic laws, and broke the walls and laws of gender apartheid by holding hands

with their male comrades and dancing in public. As a matter of fact as I am writing these lines, I received the news of wave of demonstrations in the streets of Tehran, in which thousands of people, especially women are shouting "down with the Islamic Republic" and demanding freedom. Perhaps you could understand my indignation at your statement when you explain that you are awarding the prize to a "conscious Moslem" who "sees no conflict between Islam and fundamental human rights." In explaining the reasons for awarding a prize to a woman for her activities in the arena of women's rights in a country where women are considered by law, that is religious law, as second-class citizens, where the secular and women's equal rights movement are tremendously strong, why do you find the need or choose to describe her as a Moslem?

There is a clear political justification for portraying a women's rights activist from Iran, and under the tyranny of a religious state, first and foremost, by religion, and by describing the geography of her activities, again, by religion. This statement does not award the women's and protest movements in Iran fighting for a free and better world, a secular state, and the complete equality of women and men, but instead awards a section of a movement which is trying to maintain the rule of Islam. This statement, contrary to the

demands and judgements of the people in Iran is awarding that movement which is more eager to stop the people than to stop the Islamic state, and religious tyranny in Iran. I believe one is justified to draw the conclusion that the noble prize committee is biased and has made a political decision to support not the secular movement in Iran, and the so-called "Moslem world" but the Islamic movement. Let me assure you that such a decision is contrary to the will and wishes of the majority of people and women of Iran who will free themselves and Iran of a religious state all together, and will bring about a secular, free and equal political system.

Sincerely yours,
Azar Majedi

Two days of...

The Worker-communist Party of Iran will organise demonstrations and meetings on 9th and 10th of December to bring a different message to the world. We will bring the message of the millions of people in Iran who are sick and tired of the Islamic regime of Iran and are determined to overthrow this regime and establish a free, equal and prosperous society. Come with us to Oslo and declare that the conspiracy to save the Islamic regime is doomed to fail!

Worker-communist Party of Iran
23 November 2003

How much more?



Fariborz Pooya

The ceremony to award the Nobel Peace Prize to Shirin Ebadi on 10 December 2003 in Oslo has been challenged in an alternative gathering in protest against the EU's move to support the Islamic regime of Iran.

The alternative protest and gathering organised by the Worker-communist Party of Iran and many other human rights and women's organisations are going to tell the truth about this sham choice.

The people of Iran have made clear that they do not want the Islamic regime in their lives. They have rejected sexual apartheid, Islamic misogyny, torture, imprisonment, and lack of any basic rights, such as freedom of expression and strike.

They are demanding a modern life worthy of human beings. In contrast and in opposition to this clear wish, the EU has been working to uphold the reactionary Islamic regime for many years. Regular visits to the Islamic

No Contradictions between Islam and human rights?



By: *Maryam Namazie*

Believe you, me, there are a whole lot of contradictions between Islam and human rights – whatever the 2003 Nobel Peace Prize winner Shirin Ebadi may say and regardless of how many years she has worked for reforms. Don't get me wrong; I have nothing against Shirin Ebadi and I like reforms a whole lot, thank you very much. But for a woman – let alone a 'human rights activist' - to say that there is no contradiction between Islam and human rights is like a black South African saying there is no contradiction between Apartheid and human rights. Islam is synonymous with sexual apartheid and its first victims are women and girls.

This is not just insider knowledge for those of us who have lived under Islamic rule but general knowledge. Islam and human rights are a contradiction in terms. In fact, Shirin Ebadi herself lives with these contradictions – appearing at a press conference unveiled, defending secularism and the separation of state and reli-

gion, and more recently calling for the abolition of stoning and amputation – realities that are part and parcel of Islam and Islamic states.

I know that Ms. Ebadi and her Islamic feminist (an oxymoron) colleagues have said and will say that violations of human rights in the name of Islam are not Islam but one need only flip through the pages of the Koran, Hadith and Islamic jurisprudence to see ample evidence otherwise. Ms. Ebadi might actually be able to persuade us of Islam's harmony with human rights if we all had historical amnesia and were living, say, in a future where Islamic laws and political Islam had been eradicated. But she can't really truly persuade us of such when we see and hear otherwise every single day. If that were not the case, there would be no need for Ebadi and her colleagues to reiterate that it is but a question of the mis-interpretation of Islam. If that's all, then maybe after Islam's re-interpretation, we could go back and see whether with a little bit of interpretation, blacks, Jews, Communists and so on could have had their human rights respected under Apartheid or Nazi Germany. Are we really supposed to believe that a little bit of interpretation is all that's needed to end misogyny in Islam? Clearly, the question of re-interpretation of reaction only comes

up for those who believe in something and want to superficially pull and tug at it and excuse and justify it to fit into the 21st century. Well I'm sorry but no can do. As an aside, it seems even the Nobel Prize Committee has had some debates on this since its use of the term human rights in describing Ebadi's work is always preceded with the adjectives 'fundamental' or 'vital'. I suppose the rights to choose one's clothing, have sex with whomever one wants, travel without a male guardian, one's sexuality, divorce and child custody and so on are not so 'fundamental' and 'vital' to that Committee. But since a lot of other human rights violations persist in the arena considered 'vital' even by the Committee, reform of Islam is their and Ebadi's response to them. The Nobel Peace Prize has thus been awarded to Ebadi who represents 'Reformed Islam' as if such a thing is possible. Even when De Klerk won the 1993 Prize with Nelson Mandela, it wasn't for 'reformed' Apartheid but for the termination of the Apartheid regime because Apartheid's supporters (including many of the western governments that support sexual apartheid in Iran today) were made to understand by the likes of the ANC and international public opinion that Apartheid couldn't be reformed, wouldn't be accepted or tolerated and had to be termi-

nated. The same is true of Islamic laws and states, political Islam and sexual Apartheid.

I suppose it could have been a lot worse. Khatami or the Pope could have received the Prize. Ebadi has after all done a lot of good work and begun to use her influence to call for the release of political prisoners and an end to amputations and stonings. She has the responsibility, however, to do much more - not as a representative of 'Reformed Islam' but of the women and people of Iran.

A word to Shirin Ebadi: Khatami hopes that you 'who come from a religious family and [have] expressed [your] love for Islam, will pay attention to the interests of the Islamic world and of Iran...' I, on the other hand, 'hope' that you will pay attention to the interests of human beings and their full human rights. Of course, this would mean leaving the ranks of Islamic 'feminism' and 'Reformism'. And of course this would mean joining the equality seeking and liberation movement in Iran, which won't accept or tolerate sexual Apartheid and is demanding the termination of not just Islamic punishments but all Islamic laws and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

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1106 well known Human/Women's/Children's Rights activists'

Open letter to Noble Peace Committee

Dear Committee members,

We the undersigned, hereby, demonstrate our protest to the explanation given by the Noble Peace Committee regarding awarding this year's Noble Peace Prize.

In its statement, the Committee has explained that the Peace prize is awarded to Mrs Shirin Ebadi as "a woman who is part of the Moslem world." Thus identifying the people of Iran and millions of men and women in all the Islamic stricken countries to this "world". The only connection of the people in Iran has been the life of brutality and suppression imposed on them by Islamic laws. The only aspect of Islam that people identify themselves with is to fight against it.

The statement further explains that the prize is awarded to Mrs Ebadi because "Ebadi is a conscious Moslem. She sees no conflict between Islam and fundamental human rights." Presumably, the Committee believes this description would initiate delight and joy to people of Iran! The fact of the matter is that people of Iran see the Islamic Republic with all its laws and regulations as the cause of the hardship, poverty, destitution, women's suppression and the brutal state of children's rights.

We the undersigned would

like to express our indignation to such explanations and implications. We together with the people of Iran, see the law of hijab (Islamic veil) as violation of our most basic rights. We see how Islam is enforcing sexual apartheid in the society, we see how Islamic law on marriage perpetuates rape of children, we see how Islamic law of eye for an eye and stoning is ruining the lives of millions of people in Iran...

The list is endless. We regard the whole philosophy of Islamic government in violation of human and civil rights. Contrary to your explanation, there is a whole world of contradiction between political Islam and human rights. There is no common ground between women's and children's rights and Islam. Your statement not only refuses to address these issues, but by endorsing, it paves the way to consolidating the very cause of violation of human rights in Iran.

People in Iran, especially women, are paying the price of such international praises, by being denied their rights under Islamic laws. They are struggling for equality and a secular state. Twenty-four years of torture, execution, sexual apartheid, child poverty, and the demands for freedom and a secular state through the daily struggle of people in Iran are proof

enough that there is every contradiction between Islam and basic human rights.

We regard the statement by the Noble Peace Prize Committee against the interests of women, children and the people of Iran, and hence condemn it.

Copy to: Mrs Shirin Ebadi Women's and Children's Organisations Political Parties and organisations Mass Media

Signatures: 1- Mina Ahadi, founder and chair person of International Committee against Stoning, Representative of organisation of Women's Liberation abroad; 2- Mehroosh Moosavi, writer and editor of the weekly newspaper of Organisation of Women's Liberation, member of Militant Women's Central Council in Germany; 3- Azar Majedi, Chair person of the Organisation of Women's Liberation, editor of Medusa, journal of Women and Socialism, Chair person of Middle East Centre in Defence of Women's Rights; 4- Parvin Kaboli, Speaker of International Campaign in Defence of Women's Rights in Iran, Chief of Persian language Radio Station Gothenburg, Sweden; 5- Nahid Ryazi, Women's activist, member of Stirring Committee of Pen Society in Denmark, International Campaign in Defence of Women's Rights in

Iran- Denmark, Chief of Persian language TV in Denmark; 6- Susan Saberu, student, women's activist, Chair of Persian language Solidarity Radio in Gothenburg; 7- Shahla Khabaz-zadeh, women's activist, Germany; 8- Laila Gasemian, Speaker of International Campaign in Defence of Women's Rights in Iran, Gothenburg, Sweden; 9- Galavizh Mostafanejad, activist of International Campaign in Defence of Women's Rights in Iran, Gothenburg, Sweden; 10- Mahin Alipoor, speaker of International Campaign in Defence of Women's Rights in Iran, Stockholm, Sweden; 11- Soheila Sharifi, writer and journalist; 12- Shahnaz Moratab, member of the Workers Steering Committee in Essen and Rhine Land – Germany, Representative of the International Committee against Stoning in Frankfurt; 13- Soheila Kyani, Msc. in Arabic, Women's activist; 14- Sahra Kyani, Student 15- Tavoos Karimi, Women's activist; 16- Parvin Moazi, Chair of International Campaign in Defence of Women's Rights in Iran – Germany; 17- Halaleh Taheri, Chair of the Organisation in Defence of Women's Rights in Kurdistan, member of the Women's Committee of the Network of Human Rights in Sweden, member of the Central Office of

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- Organisation of Children First; 18- Azam Kamguyan, writer, researcher, founder and Chair of the Middle East Committee in Defence of women's Rights, editor of the Bulletin Women in the Middle East; 19- Soraya Shahabi, Chair person of Children First, International Campaign for Children's Rights, Founder of International Campaign in Defence of Women's Rights in Iran; 20- Ebtessam Rahbari, women's activist in Switzerland; 21- Azar Moosavi, Worker activist, Founder of workers fund at the pharmaceutical plant of Sina Daroo – Iran; 22- Nasrin Ramzanali, Chairperson of International Federation of Iranian Refugees in Germany, member of the Central Office of Hambastegi; 23- Solmaz Kyani, Women's activist, Austria; 24- Shahdokht Gorbani, Bsc Phsycology, women's activist; 25- Tooran Ahmadi, teacher, women's activist, Gachsaran, Iran; 26- Parvin Poorhakim, teacher, women's activist, Gachsaran, Iran; 27- Shahdokht Aryayee, Microbiology student from Kazeroon, Iran; 28- Shagayeg Mehrjoo, Law student, women's activist, Tehran, Iran; 29- Sholeh Ranazade, MA Persian Literature, university lecturer, Iran; 30- Bi bi Ashta, women's activist, Koln, Germany; 31- Azar Modaresi, Chairperson of TV International; 32- Sara Mohamad, Women's activist from Iraq, founder of the organisation of Remember Pella and Fatemeh in Sweden; 33- Halaleh Rafe, women's activist, speaker of International Campaign in Defence of Women's Rights in Iraq; 34- Pegah Ahmadzade, student, women's activist, Germany; 35- Shahnaz Khandani, Chairperson of organisation of Children First in Germany; 36- Narges Mangeneh, activist and member of Children First in Sweden; 37- Nazanin Sadigi, women's activist, presenter Radio Hambastegi, Persian language radio in Gothenburg, Sweden; 38- Sakar Ahmad, Chairperson of Women's Independent Organisation in Arbil – Iraq, editor of the journal of Equality, Coordinator of Women's Shelter in Iraq, women's activist in Iraq; 39- Maryam Kousha, member of the management Committee of Iranian Civil Rights Committee, women's activist, member of the editorial board of Medusa – Journal of Women and Socialism; 40- Zari Asli, women's activist, Coordinator of Committee in Defence of Women's Rights in the Middle East, Vancouver, Canada; 41- Sima Bahari, political activist, presenter of International Radio, Stockholm, Sweden; 42- Azar pooya, political activist, women's activist; 43- Mina Ahmadloo, political activist, women's activist in Gothenburg, Sweden; 44- Gharibeh Hosseini, member of the Swedish Organisation in Defence of battered women, speaker of International Campaign in Defence of Women's Rights in Iran, Helsingbory, Sweden; 45- Shahla Daneshfar, initiator of organising Workers' Strike Fund in Iran, editor of online newspaper – Workers; 46- Parvaneh Ahmadi, Childrens rights activist, member of organisation of Children First; 47- Nasrin Parvaz, writer of the book Laleh Abasi, ex-political prisoner in Islamic Republic of Iran; 48- Diana Nami (Galavizh Ghadernezhad), chairperson of the organisation Remember Hishu, London – Britain; 49- Shiva Mahboobi, International Relations of the Committee against Stoning, Britain; 50- Ozra Adami (Abaji), women's activist, Sweden; 51- Nazireh Memary, political activist, women's activist; 52- Ebtessam Azizi, coordinator of the International Campaign in Defence of Women's Rights in Iran, Denmark; 53- Fereshteh Moradi, coordinator of the International Campaign in Defence of Women's Rights in Iran, Holland; 54- Shirin Samavarsaz, bank employee, women's activist, Gohardasht, Karaj, Iran; 55- Maryam Yadgar Asl, student architect, Esfahan, women's activist; 56- Simin Yadgar Asl, year 8 pupil, women's activist, Esfahan, Iran; 57- Zahra Omidvar, primary school teacher, political prisoner under the Islamic Republic, political activist, women's activist, Hamadan, Iran; 58- Ladan Davar, political activist, women's activist, Koln, Germany; 59- Gashow Mohamad, coordinator of the International Campaign in Defence of Women's Rights in Iraq; 60- Soheila Hasan, self-employed, women's activist; 61- Bigard Vahab, activist of the International Campaign in Defence of Women's Rights in Iraq, Koln, Germany; 62- Nadia Mahmood, well known political and women's activist in Iraq, coordinator of Middle East Centre for Women's Rights, one of the founders of the Organisation of Women's Liberation in Iraq; 63- Mahboobeh Sihahmardi, Nurse, women's activist; 64- Maryam Taheri, political and women's activist, ex political prisoner in the Islamic Republic of Iran; 65- Shahin Pische Ehsan, women's activist, Belgium; 66- Maryam Namazie, Chair person of International Federation of Iranian Refugees, Editor of the English journal of the Federation, Editor of the weekly paper of WPI Briefing; 67- Soheila Khosravi, nurse, political and women's activist; 68- Maryam Afrasiabpoor, Speaker of the International Campaign in Defence of Women's Rights in Iran, Vesteras – Sweden;...For the full list visit www.rowzane.com

Children First, International Campaign for Children's Rights

Children's rights in Iran should not be jeopardized by any political interest



By Soraya Shahabi

Mrs. Shirin Ebadi,
I am writing this letter on behalf of Children First, the International Campaign for Children's Rights. You are awarded this year's Noble Peace Prize. You are one of the well-known defenders of women's and children's rights in Iran. This is an important event. A woman who is in opposition to the Islamic government and is regarded a legal and "secular" opposition to it. It goes without saying that by awarding prizes, the aims of committees such as the Noble Peace Committee or any government have never been introducing peace and security. They have never adopted the cause of Human Rights. These committees seldom award such prizes to radical opposition figures. These seats are not supposed to be occupied by the radical opposition activists! Choosing the country or the figure as a candidate for the prize takes a lot of political calculations of which peace and Human Rights

are not one of them! However this event, i.e., your election is indeed important, mainly because the suppression and violation of the most basic Human Rights by 24 years of Islamic rule against women and children in Iran is an important issue. Your election as the recipient of the Peace Prize is important because it has brought the situation of women and children and the faith of Islamic rule in Iran to the forefront of the international community. This event, independent of any analysis about the reasons behind your election, independent of the stands of any political current on the issue, can either become a step forward towards advancement of women's movement and defense of children's human rights, or be an obstacle to this advancement!

The question as to why amongst all the political figures of the world, Shirin Ebadi has been awarded the Prize, itself gives us guidance to more basic reasons about this choice. The truth behind such nomination takes us beyond Shirin Ebadi herself and her work.

Why Iran? Why Shirin Ebadi and not people like Ganji or Hajaryan? It is clear that Iran has not been chosen because of its thousand years of history or "the birth place of prominent people or women"! This can be nothing but patronization by the

so-called superior nations. The only truth in magnifying your "Iranian" descends is to reduce the inferiority feeling of being a "third world" country in the eyes of the West!

Iran has been chosen by the Noble Peace Prize Committee because the Islamic regime is on the verge of being overthrown; because its Islamic pillars are in the process of being crumpled; because it is the only important place in the world where its people have shown the will to rise against one of the most brutal regimes of the world, i.e. the Islamic Republic of Iran. Following many years of silence in support of the struggle of people in Iran, by choosing you, the international community has shown to the world that the overthrow of the Islamic regime in Iran is inevitable. They state that there is no hope in survival of the regime in Iran.

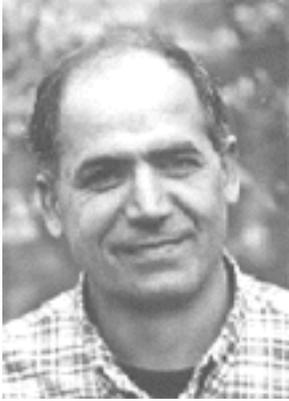
Once again, after the Berlin conference, Iran and the painful situation of women and children has found a place in the political geography of the world! After many years of silence, the Western governments now speak of violation of women's and children's rights and have heard the voice of the people's struggle and the whisper of revolution in Iran! This confession is forced out of the mouth of the Noble Peace

Committee and the international community as a result of the advancement of the people's movement to overthrow the sexual apartheid regime in Iran. The struggle of the people of Iran, women, the youth and workers has imposed this confession on the international community. Otherwise such committees would have preferred to award the prize to the "honorable" Muslim men like Montazeri and Khomeini! Whatever the analysis behind awarding the prize, one thing is for sure; this event can either be a step towards advancement of the women's movement and the movement for children's rights in Iran or an obstacle on the path of this advancement!

The Noble Peace Committee, in its statement about the importance of your election has issued an Islamic communiqué. One does not expect the committee to reflect the truth and issue a radical and human manifesto in defense of women's and children's rights. Your closeness and sudden alignment with the content of the Committee's statement regarding the claim that Islam is not in contradiction with Human Rights is a well-timed event! Your comments about Islam being progressive and closing your eyes on an important issue like Hijab not being a "vol

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Asqar Karimi: We have a different message to the world



We want to tell the truth to the world. In its decision to award Shirin Ebadi with the 2003 Nobel Peace Prize, the Noble Prize Committee has referred to Iran as an Islamic society. We want to tell the world that this is a

Children First...

untary culture" but a religious and compulsory policy which has claimed hundreds of victims during the 24 years of Islamic rule in Iran, is more than a political cleverness.

The hundred thousands of women and young girls who have been suppressed as a result of imposition of Hijab (veil), who have been humiliated, imprisoned, tortured, and executed will not be deceived by you or your god. The millions of parents who have, for more than two decades, been forced to observe the veil on their innocent children, those children who have been segregated at schools, in the streets and at the playgrounds, will not be deceived by you or your god. All the mothers who have been refused the custody of their children after divorce

huge deception. Iranian society has risen against Islam and is trying to get rid of Islam. This is the reality of Iranian society. Their and Shirin Ebadi's own statements, which will be reiterated on 10 December in Oslo, state that there is no contradiction between Islam and human rights. They want to force feed the people a milder Islam. We have organised a demonstration and an alternative conference to expose all these lies to the world. Fortunately, the world is more open than before to hear what we have to say. People all over the world are

and have cried outside the courtrooms and lawyers offices, such as your office, will not accept your statement. Neither will we!

Undoubtedly, you or anybody else can regard yourselves as Moslem woman/women, interpret Islam the way you choose to, and after 25 years of compulsory veil, even regard the veil as your own choice, but you are not justified to deceitfully conceal the truth about the lives of women, young girls and children. No degree of political interest can justify your swing to the right! No degree of political interest can justify victimization of women's, children's or anybody's rights.

Mrs. Ebadi,

As mentioned above, your selection to receive the Noble Peace prize can either be a step towards advancement of the women's

movement and the movement for children's rights or an obstacle on the path of this advancement! By conforming to the statement of the Noble Peace Committee, you have made your choice. Your role in concealing violation of women's and children's rights in Islam and the Islamic state, determines your present position. You strive for a liberal Islamic Republic, and not children's and women's human rights!

We are experiencing the fact that Islam and Islamic governments are synonymous with stoning, murder, torture, compulsory veiling for children, absolute rightlessness of women, mutilated bodies in Iran and Algeria, bombing of public places, September 11, Talibans, Bin Laden, Khomeini, Khamanei, Khatami, etc. We have had a role to play in this development. Iranian society is approaching a huge revolution, a revolution that is going to wipe away the Islamic Republic of Iran and the totality the misogynist Islamic laws. We are

Mrs. Ebadi,

The era of suppressing the people ended with the demise of Doo Xordad (Islamic opposition within the government against hardliners), and the demise of the process of reforming the Islamic regime. Your role, after that of Abdullah Sorosh and Shalgooni, in clearing the name of Islam and the Islamic state, has

actually put you against the people! You might, with the respect and the credibility that you enjoy, and with your past experience be able to keep the rule of two decades of such hated regime for yet some limited time. However, you cannot hide the truth. No amount of credibility can stop the massive and ever growing protest movement in Iran.

assembling in Oslo to bring this to the attention of the world... We have organised meetings and protests to tell the world that the women's liberation movement in Iran is a lot more radical, progressive, and organised than to accept Shirin Ebadi. Iranian society will reject anyone who tries to appease Islam or Islamic rule in Iran... It is now clear to many that we are the ones capable of confronting political Islam and it is we who represent the profound progressive, egalitarian and anti-religious movement in Iran.

Mrs. Ebadi,

You have made your choice! So have the millions of people fighting for women's and children's rights in Iran. The battle is ongoing. We, together with the people in Iran will use this opportunity to achieve human rights for children, to provide a platform for advancement of women's movement, and a step towards the overthrow of the Islamic republic of Iran.

Two Press Conferences; Two Alternatives in Oslo

The Nobel Peace Prize will hold a press conference in Oslo on December 9, 2003. Simultaneously, outside the conference, we, the undersigned, will be holding an alternative press conference - Two press conferences with two different objectives!

At their conference, the Nobel Peace Prize Committee will feign that the award of the Nobel Peace Prize to Shirin Ebadi is a mark of their respect for human and women's rights. **At our conference**, we will show the destructive effects of labelling the people of Iran and the region as 'Moslem'.. **At their conference**, they will talk about the compatibility of Islam and human rights. **At our conference**, we will show the open enmity of Islam with human and women's rights. **At their conference**, they will try to

portray a mild and malleable picture of political Islam and Islam in government. **At our conference**, we will show the reactionary nature of the Islamic movement and political Islam and document the 25 years of untold crimes carried out in Iran and the world.

At their conference, they will talk about appeasing and collaborating and the possibility of reforming the Islamic regime of Iran. **At our conference**, we will show the hostility of Islamic rule to any kind of human rights and the necessity of overthrowing the Islamic regime.

Their message is to work with the Islamic regime of Iran. Ours is that of an anti-religion, secular movement in Iran and the region. **Our message is** that of the protesting workers, women, and youth against the Islamic

regime. Come to our press conference and hear the truth from us!

The speakers at our two-day meeting and press conference are as follows:

Azar Majedi, the director of the Organisation of Women's Liberation in Iran and the Editor of Medusa.

Mina Ahadi, co-ordinator of the International Campaign against Stoning and the representative of the Organisation of Women's Liberation in Iran.

Mehrnoosh Mosavie, the Editor of Azadi Zan.

Ali Javadi, member of the Worker-communist Party of Iran's Political Bureau, director of A Better World TV Station and Editor of Porsesh Journal.

Parvin Kaboli, co-ordinator of the International Campaign in Defence of Women's Rights in Iran. **Nahid Riyazie**,

Representative of the Organisation of Women's Liberation in Iran and member of the executive committee of PEN in Denmark.

Sarah Mohamed, Representative of the Organisation of Women's Liberation in Iraq and the founding member of the 'Never Forget Pela and Fadima' Organisation. **Darioush Niknam**, secretary of the Oslo organisation of the WPI. **Halale Taheri**, Head of the Centre in Defence of Women's Right in Kurdistan. **Mersedeh Ghaedi**, Representative of the Organisation of Women's Liberation in Iran and a former political prisoner.

Maleka Ezati, Oslo Representative of the International Campaign in Defence of Women's Rights in Iran.

Bahram Soroush, Refugee and women rights activist.

How Much More...

Republic, the maintenance of diplomatic relationships with the Islamic criminals who rule in Iran and constant reassurance that they support the Islamic government internationally has pitched the EU governments against the wishes of the people of Iran. Awarding the Noble Peace Prize to celebrate the marriage of Islam and human rights is the biggest deception ever. Islam is in total

contradiction with basic rights and freedoms. The history of the Islamic regime of Iran and the political Islamic movement internationally are testimony to this brutal fact. How many more massacres on the streets of the cities of Iran, how many more car bombs blowing up innocent people, how many more stonings of women, tortures and executions and the murder of the opponents of Islam does the world have

to endure to convince the EU and the west that Islam is unreformable and that the only solution is to support a civilised, secular alternative in Iran and the Middle East? Vis-à-vis this reaction, the Worker-communist Party of Iran is leading the civilised and humane alternative. On 9 and 10 December, this Party will once again raise the banner against Islam, political Islam, and in defence of humanity.

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