

## **“Justice for Banaz” Campaign**

**Iranian and Kurdish Women’s Rights Organisation  
International Campaign Against Honour Killings  
Tel: 02074900303 Mobile: 07862733511  
Email: [ikwro@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ikwro@yahoo.co.uk)**

26 May 2006

### **Banaz could be alive today if the Police had acted effectively on the information she gave them!**

Banaz Mahmoud Babakir Agha, a 20-year-old woman of Kurdish origin, living with her family in Mitcham, south London, was announced by police as a missing person on 23 January 2006.

On Friday 28<sup>th</sup> April, the body of Banaz was found in a suitcase buried in a garden in Birmingham.

We have learnt from the Metropolitan Police that there are reasons to suggest it was an “honour killing”.



Banaz Mahmoud Babakir Agha

Banaz was forced to marriage by her own family 3 years ago, but she divorced her husband last year and used to live with her family in Mitcham, south London but her family’s home was not a safe shelter for young Banaz.

Banaz was in fear that she was about to be a victim of honour killing and repeatedly sought help from Metropolitan Police. She was sent back into the arms of her family and was killed. From then on, the Police took positive action which has led to the charging of some of Banaz’s male relatives. Whilst Police now act in concert with the Prosecution services, the crucial question is how can their inaction, inaction leading to implied, unthinking collusion be explained? How can we prevent other honour killings? What is to be done by police to prevent foreseeable murders in the future? What steps needs to be taken to prevent more killings, and more of Banazs, Heshus, Bibis, and Roxannas. It is too late for Banaz, but not late for other women/men who are in danger and seek help.

### **If different action had been taken by police, Banaz could be alive today.**

The Police investigation continues and a total of 16 other people have been arrested and released on police bail in connection with the murder. Police are looking for two men that have fled to Kurdistan-Iraq to avoid the UK police.

On Sunday night, Ari Mahmod Babakir Agah, 50, of Mitcham, south London, who is the uncle of Banaz, was arrested and remanded in custody by Woolwich magistrates. Earlier this year Mohammad Marid

Hama, 29, of South Norwood, south-east London, appeared in court in February charged with murder. He was remanded in custody by Greenwich magistrates. They appeared at the Old Bailey on 12 May.

### **What is “honour killings”?**

Honour killings are murders in which, predominantly, women are killed for actual or perceived immoral behaviour, which is deemed to have breached the honour code of a household or community causing shame.

Honour killings” are an extreme and brutal violation of human rights, and a crime against humanity. In communities where honour killings are implemented, that most basic of human rights, the right to life, is entirely disregarded, and cultural, religious and nationalist values are judged far more important than women’s lives. Codes of ‘moral’ behaviors are instilled by the state, religion, and nationalist organizations have become regarded as community traditions through long practice. A woman is expected to be modest, pure and obedient; she is expected to be a virgin at marriage. Women and girls have been killed for very trivial reasons, such as looking out of the window, or laughing in public; many have paid with their lives for falling in love or loving someone forbidden to them, for seeking divorce, for escaping marital violence, or for many other things which are believed to bring shame and dishonour to their families.

The killing of Banaz and others who fall victim to “honour killings” shows that this barbaric phenomenon is a very real problem in the UK. Many more young lives are at risk of being ended by “honour killings”; many more young women live lives circumscribed by fear. IKWRO and ICAHK urge the British government, police, health workers, schools and colleges, local authorities, human and women’s rights organizations, to join with all people who feel pain in their hearts from the murders of Banaz Agha and so many others, to stand up against these brutal, horrific crimes.

### **What should be done to stop “honour killings”?**

- **Effective legislation is needed to punish all forms of crimes committed in the name of honour;**
- **Ensure that all reports of violence and abuse to police and other organizations are taken seriously and that action is taken;**
- **Ensure that the Service providers apparently those in front line are aware of the crime of “honour” and have received proper training;**
- **Ensure that crimes of honour are investigated and prosecuted seriously;**
- **Ensure all perpetrators are charged before the LAW;**
- **NO reduction of charges should be made in the name of “culture”, “religion” or “nationalities”;**
- **Education and raised awareness within communities about equal rights of women and men and human rights;**
- **Ensure that service providers have received appropriate resources for supporting victims of honour based violence;**
- **Asylum applications based on fear of “honour killings” should be considered favorably by the Home office.**

**Honour killing is murder and must stop. There is no honour in “murder”.**

About us:

“Iranian and Kurdish Women’s Rights Organisation” (IKWRO) is a nonprofit charity Organisation that works to help and support women who are in danger of “honour killings”, forced marriage and domestic violence. We promote to influence mainstream society, raising awareness both within the communities and with policy makers.

The “International Campaign against Honour Killings” (ICAHK) is an independent and non-government network that aims to raise an international awareness about the violence against women particularly “honour killings”.

Our slogan is **Save Lives!**

For more information and return the signed petition, please contact:

Diana Nammi at: [diana.nammi@gmail.com](mailto:diana.nammi@gmail.com)

**The following Organisation/individuals have joined “Justice for Banaz” campaign.**

No	Name & Surname	Organisation	Email/ Tel/ Address	Signature
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				