



### Editorial:

*This year's*

*International  
Women's Day*

**Fouzieh Khalediyani**

This year, the celebration of international women's day was extraordinary in many places worldwide. Many militant women with strength and power spoke for millions who suffer in silence. The restraints on women's voices in many countries couldn't hold them back from demanding the rights that have been taken away from them. Furthermore, these women confronted traditions and cultures which are relentless in their effort to maintain women in their steel chain of slavery. Many women have joined the battle to bring gender equality in the Islamic stricken countries. In the city of Sanandaj, Iran, 3000 people participated in celebrating IWD.

In nearby cities such as Maryvan as the government did

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## *Declaration of Goals of the Organization for Emancipation of Women*

Campaign and struggle against oppression and violence towards women is as old as oppression itself.

lence and discrimination of women is characteristic of the modern world.

Oppression and hu-

the core movements in shaping future political transformation in establishing freedom and equality in Iran

and equality in Iran

nation towards women. Equality in our movement is fundamental to human justice, dignity, and respect. We emphasize and demand universal human rights, regardless of gender, nationality, religion, race, etc. The Organization for Emancipation of Women wants to be the pioneer, voice, and the leader of this rights seeking struggle. Because of this we declare:

1- All discriminating and violating laws against women must be immediately eradicated. Unconditional freedom and equality of women and men in all aspects of personal life, family, social, political and civil must be guaranteed and be declared in the constitution acts. The right of marriage, divorce, custody and guardianship of children must be fundamental rights of women and men.

2- Religious laws must be removed from women's

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Oppression of women is a characteristic of a capitalist system and stems from inequality, injustice and discrimination. Struggle against this oppression, visible and invisible discrimination, has turned into a widespread strong movement all over the world and especially in Iran and other Islamic-stricken countries.

Struggle and fight for freedom, equality, and opposition against any shape or form of vio-

lence of women is a trademark of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Iran is a women's prison. Political Islamic movement in Iran, region and all over the world, has used the religious cruelty and submission as a force against freedom and equality. At the same time, there is a great social and secular movement against the religious violence.

The equality movement for emancipation of women is one of

and world. Our unity guarantees our success.

We declare that the Iranian society will not be a free society without emancipation of women from oppression. Unconditional and immediate freedom and equality of rights for all women and men in all civil, political and social rights must be the fundamental constitution principles

act. We are struggling to completely remove cruelty and discrimi-

## Women's Rights Are Universal

# The March 8th's resolution in the city of Sanandaj (Iran)

March 8th, International Women's Day, is the day for millions of freedom loving and equality seeking people. This is the day that women's movements, world wide, proclaim statements of denunciation against a world of oppression, violence and discrimination. On this day we plead for justice in the face of capitalism as the source of human hardship. We, women and men, who take part in the March 8th celebration, along side with the voices of protest coming from all across the world, pronounce our demands, and struggle to



achieve them.

- 1- We condemn gender apartheid. We demand complete abolishment of patriarchal and discriminatory laws in society.
- 2- We demand recognition of equal rights involving activities in politics, economics

- and social life, for women and men.
- 3-We condemn stoning, honor killing and any form of violence against women. These are barbaric crimes against humanity.
- 4- Individual and civil rights have to be respected. Violation of

- these rights for any reason has to be considered a crime.
- 5- We demand equal wages for men and women.
- 6- House wives have to be regarded as unemployed. We demand social security to include: social in-

urance, unemployment insurance, retirement pension, disability pension and equal access to social benefits for all housewives. 7-The workers' family is suffering from imposed inhumane living condition. We are supporting workers and their families in their protest for unpaid wages. We demand wage increase for workers in relation to recessions and increased cost of living. We support security of a human life and the prosperity of workers families.

**Long live Equality and Freedom**

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**Declar.from.pg.1**

lives and must be eliminated from dictating their lives. Elimination of oppression towards women is not possible without elimination of religion from public life. All religious laws such as "Sieghe"\* , polygamy, "dieh"\*\* , must be immediately eradicated. 3- Religion must be separated from the state and education. This is a very important step towards a secular society. 4- Non-stop struggle against patriarchy and misogyny in all moral, cultural, social and political aspects must

formally and legally be organized and supported by the secular government. 5-Unconditional political freedom, the rights of gathering, protest, and strike must be recognized and protected. All organizations, None Government Organizations (NGO), and women's associations must be unconditionally active without requiring permits. All related media for these kinds of associations, activities, must be accessible to all. 6-March the 8th must be recognized as the International Day for

Women all around the world. This day must be declared as a public holiday and all gatherings and celebrations in relation to this day must be allowed unconditionally without requiring permit. 7- Compulsory veil in any form or shape must be eradicated. Wrapping children in veil is a crime and must be prevented. Freedom in what to wear must be established. 8- Gender apartheid and gender segregation is a disgrace of contemporary man-kind and must be eradicated immedi-

ately. 9- All Islamic sentences such as capital punishment, life sentences, stoning, retaliation, torture, and whipping must be eradicated. Physical and emotional aggression towards any member of the society must be forbidden. All criminal sentences must be inclined to correct the behavior of the person committing the crime; this may insure the safety of the society and insure that the crime will not take place again. 10- In retribution laws, any physical and emotional encroach-

ment and aggression must be considered as crimes. Honor killing and ethno-racial hatred must be considered as severe crimes. 11- Freedom of sexual relationships must be recognized. This includes all young girls and boys reaching legal age. Interference in people's sexual orientation and relationships either by individual or governments must be forbidden.

\* sigheh= temporary marriage  
 \*\* dieh = fine

**No to Gender Apartheid!**

## *Complaint to the police about the leader of the Copenhagen's mosque and Moslem association in Denmark*



Nahid Ryazi took the initiative in honor of The International Women's Day by making a complaint to the police about the leader of the Copenhagen's mosque and Moslem association in Denmark.

Last February, this Mosque Mullah had summoned all immigrant Moslem men to prevent their wives

and daughters from attending in public without veil and chador. He had told them women are the cause of men's astray. He also reminded the men that the women were not allowed to wear perfume and make up as well. Upon this, the Mullah stated that women and girls, who don't wear Islamic hejab, are evil.

Moslem's association in Denmark had recorded these preaching and distributed the tape among elementary Islamic schools.

Nahid Ryazi objected to these speeches and she quickly called on women organizations and women activists to condemn the Mullah, in their women's day celebration. On the same day a complaint letter was signed by 40 women and was officially given to police. The women claimed in their letter that the Mosque Mullah's speech was insulting to women and it was encouraging violence against women and this is crime in Denmark's laws and regu-

lations. Three women, who were the representative of 40 other women, submitted a formal complaint letter to Denmark's police. At that moment, media, including channel 2 TV news agencies, were present. The television reporters, news papers, and news agencies interviewed Nahid Ryazi about the case. It should be noted that Denmark's news agencies broadcasted the event repeatedly. For further information, this news

is available on Tax TV news sites and the papers published on this issue.

Many people have encouraged and supported Nahid Ryazi for this action.

The Organization for Emancipation of Women thanks her for her continuing efforts towards a more equal and freer society. It can be sure that many women in Denmark are grateful, for her conscientious actions in defense of women's rights against this Muslim mullah, as well

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### **Iraq IWD in Baghdad was held by OWFI Yanar Mohammed**

The past two days were a landmark in the post-war women's movement in Baghdad. We had claimed that AlFardawse square is ours on March 8. We gathered there - almost two hundred of us. Many of us were pretty unveiled university students wearing OWFI T-shirts. Some of us were women from the internally displaced complexes and some of our WCPI political supporters.

Many of our OWFI-Basrah organization (unveiled beautiful girls) stood around me all the time and chanted slogans for equality and freedom. They would not clear the space around me and took me back and forth all the way to the car that brought me.

Media was all around us. While a few female ministers were holding a press conference inside the green zone - protected by an Iraqi/American army, we gave our speeches in open air in Al Fardawse square hearing far away bombs...and have already had a

close-by explosion to our Baghdad office. The warm determination in the chanted slogans and speeches were terribly moving. Nada spoke about women and unemployment, Hadil about our sheltering the women, Um Ali about how they take girls out of schools. While I was speaking, one of the Basrah women, a trade-unionist pulled the microphone from my hand to further elaborate on their suffering under political Islam in Basrah. Meanwhile, a young girl of 12 with a worn-out dress jumped to the stage chanting

equality for women. Yesterday, our conference was very successful. With an audience of 200 people, there was the supportive left side of the hall, while the right side was full of all kinds of questions, objections and sometimes some misogynist remarks that we had to shut up immediately. Our panel of 5 Yanar, Nada, Hanan, Hadil and Thikra was quite a powerful women's team, with Samir supporting us with his remarks from time to time. We /the women activists have multiplied here...there are many of us who are

militant enough to meet in an open space between the explosions to demand a secular egalitarian constitution. We are over the TV channels a few times a week. These shows are seen even in the surrounding countries where women needed to hear about what we do here. It seems the TV shows and debate with the Islamists that I've had in the last few weeks have been seen everywhere.

In spite of all the insecurity and threats ... I can see that we are somewhere else now.

# **Islamic Terrorism is Women's Rights enemy!**

## French version of Rahai Zan in the university of Sherbrooke Canada



Amir kanani

On March the 8th, I went to class with flowers and the French version of Rahai Zan in my hands. None of the students knew why

I brought the leaflet and flowers. They followed me with their eyes inquisitively. Here, I walked to the chalk board and wrote in large letters the words which shook the room: "HAPPY INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY!" While the students read the words to themselves, I wasted no time and quickly separated the leaflets and the flowers on my

table and began distributing them to the ladies in the room. The quietude within the class suddenly turned into a murmur, the students began to congratulate each other, echoing the words on the board all around the room. Enthusiastically male classmates rose to their feet and began collecting donations. Finally a large cake was brought over to

celebrate the occasion. Glee and happiness captured the room. Meanwhile, during the celebration, Students from the other classrooms made their appearance and joined us in the festivity. Noticing the numerous people gathered around us, I took the opportunity present a short speech on the history of March 8th. In my speech I highlighted women's situation in

Islamic-Stricken countries and the importance of the international women's day for all women, from every corner of the world. It seemed to me that many students, if not all, were absorbed into the Rahai Zan leaflet I had distributed. They showed enthusiasm and interest for what was written. Further more, a teacher, noticing the shortage of

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**This year from pg.1**  
not permit the celebration. Despite this, hundreds of people gathered in a cemetery where the bodies of women who took their life by setting themselves aflame were buried. Not only this, the crowd rallied against honor killing. The last victim of honor killing was the slaughter of Delbar Xosravi an eighteen years old girl who was murdered by her brother a day prior to women's day. In Iraq hundreds of militant women gathered to demand a secular egalitarian constitution in the midst of war and terrorism. In Pakistan, Bangladesh, and many other Islamic stricken countries, thousands of women participated in the rally for women's rights and freedoms. These women protested against gender discrimination and

honor killings which is generated for years. The increased number of IWD participants in this year's protest demonstrated that people are more aware of the fact that women's rights are in dyer condition around the world. It has become apparent to these women's day participants, that women must be liberated from their captivity. In the western countries, where human rights and freedoms are better respected, there is a great opportunity for equality seeking activists to support the movements of women in the countries that are under religion or tradition restriction and help be their voices. In the city of Tehran, Iran, where women live under the constant assault of political Islam, the celebration of IWD was not allowed.

In Laleh Park, however, a few people gathered but chose not to follow the obtuse government rules imposed on the event. They were asked to leave by the police. It should be noted that in the west and many European countries, women's right activists remembered their fellow women activists in countries like Iran. These activists tried their best to make an international awareness of women's situation in such countries. They declared against the inhuman and misogynist rules against women. They also stood against the cultural integration philosophy of the west that maintains continuation of the patriarchal ruling system in immigrant women's life. They demanded the acknowledgment and recognition of the universality of

women's rights. To highlight the demands that women had in each country during this year's IWD celebration, is to show the similar characteristic of the movement internationally: slogans such as: "stop compulsory veil" in Iran, "stop establishing another Islamic regime" in Iraq, "stop honor killing" in Pakistan. Meanwhile in Bangladesh "stop throwing acid to women's faces" was pronounced. In western countries such as Denmark, "stop the Islamic mosque from ruling women's life" was demanded, "No to Sharia court" was highlighted in Canada. Although these demands have been echoing our world for many years now, nevertheless they illustrate the dyer state of women's rights globally and give us only a

hint of how much needs to be done in the future. Also, these slogans demonstrate the different ways in which women's rights are crushed world wide by the political Islam and the harmony and unity of the struggle created to combat it. The celebration of women's day in 2005 showed the closeness and internationality of the steps toward the revolution in women's life. Freedom loving men and women protested against gender discrimination disregarding their nationality, religion, gender and race. They wanted the elimination of women enslavement to political Islam. Their aim is the emancipation of women, because with out the emancipation of women, humanity as a whole can not be liberated.

# The International Women’s Day celebration in Vestress , Sweden and the dedication of a prize to Maryam Afrasyabpor



**Maryam Afrasiabpour**  
 The Organization for Emancipation of Women along with the participation of The Social Democrat party, and The International campaign to defend women rights, prepared the public event. The ceremony started at 5 pm with a welcoming message from Mofyda Khalid, a member of The International campaign to defend women’s rights. The next speaker was Maryam Afrasiabpor from the central committee of The Organization for Emancipation of Women. Maryam presented a speech on the history of The International Women’s Day and also women’s situation for 150 years after the historical

event of March 8 in 1857. Moreover, Maryam stated that the inequality, violence and oppression on women are one of the characteristic of the contemporary world. Specifically, Maryam referred to the Swedish society and acknowledged that in spite of the laws that support women, inequality and violence against women is still an ongoing fact in the life of the Swedish women. Nevertheless the root of this inequality needs to be uncovered. Equal civil rights are simply not sufficient to ensure egalitarian relations between women and men. Women and men need to be economically, socially, and politically equivalent as well. On the same token, she illuminated the role of political Islam in violence against women incorporated in stoning,

execution, imprisonment and torture of women in Iran. In addition to this, she declared that the documentary film concerning prostitution under hejab reveals only a very small portion of the misery that women are suffering from in Iran. In the next portion of her speech Maryam discussed the painful life of women in Iraq and the menacing growth of political Islam in the region. She called on all women movements to support The Organization for Women Freedom in Iraq. After the conclusion of Maryam’s speech, the representatives of The Social Democratic Party and The House for Women in Vestress followed up with speeches on women’s issues. However it is important to mention that during this day at 8 pm in the city of Vestres’s municipal-

ity, a prize of honor was dedicated to Maryam Afrasyabpor by an organization called Zonta. This prize was given to her in appreciation of her effort for seeking women equality. Zonta organization is active in 67 counties, and its efforts are centered to the betterment of women’s rights situation. The first network of Zonta established in 1919 in The United States of America. A Swedish branch of this organization started its activity in the city of Vestress from 1961. Maryam, during her acceptance speech to Zonta, brought to attention that for years thousands of women and girls are struggling for equality in Islamic-stricken countries like Iran. She explained, unfortunately because of the lack of civil freedoms established by the

government, the world is deprived of knowing them. She said that “I wish one day all my comrades and those who are struggling for women equality get honorary recognition from a civilized and human system in Iran”. She continued and said that “I think this honorary recognition deserves many unknown activists in the movement for freedom and equality for women. Hopefully one day we will ask all the international equality seeking organizations to come to Iran and learn more about women rights activists and the history of women movement in Iran.” During the public ceremony and speeches there was an information table from the OEW in both English and Farsi. The conference participants continued the celebration with party and dance till

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## Kobra Rahmanpour has been threatened to death by the Islamic Regime of Iran

Kobra Rahmanpour is a 22 years old woman who murdered her mother-in-law and has been imprisoned by the Islamic Republic of Iran since the year 2002. On May 2005 the Islamic court in Iran is going to sen-

tence Kobra based on her sister-in-law’s decision. For 3 years Kobra has been threaten to death by Islamic government. We will not let Kobra to get executed. Life brought nothing for Kobra rather than poverty, misery, ar-

ranged marriage, jail and the threat of execution. This is a familiar story in today’s Iran. Our organization is trying hard to save Kobra’s life, this is happening while the judicial system in Iran is threatening to execute her in

two weeks. We will not let this to happen. We know that Iranian people’s anger towards their unpopular government is ready to explode anytime. We need to put an end to capital punishment in Iran. We are asking all freedom lovers and

human rights activists to join our campaign against execution of Kobra Rahmanpor. We demand the release of Kobra Rahmanpour.  
**The Organization for Emancipation of Women**

Enjo.frompg.8

lately, even some Iraqis received their share of those beheadings. It took two horribly scary hours to leave that mess and have some hope that we will survive for the day. Flocks of Apache helicopters were flying over our heads with their machine guns/bombers pointed in all directions, trying to follow the tracks of those who operated the bombed car around the American four wheel drives. Our cab driver went pale while describing the number of American soldiers' bodies he saw on the street half an hour ago. He believed he was living a second life ... because he was a few minutes late. After sleeping for the noisy night here in Baghdad, I needed to meet our friends to recapture our situation and upcoming projects and where it's all reached. We have reached to the conclusion that there can be absolutely no light of hope as long as the occupation is still in-

side Iraq. The plans for liberation need the secular and libertarian groups who can bring about the bright scenario ... we will work through all means to end this hideous occupation, but we will also make sure that the criminal heroes of kidnapping and beheading will follow the occupiers out of our lives. The occupiers' military forces distributed the election flyer at gunpoint. They have empowered the worst groups in Iraq. Previous Baath figures, Islamist theocracy heads and Nationalist fascist parties, whether Arab or Kurdish. These three parties hold hand in hand in a unified position against the free women, youth, men, and all the progressive and especially the working class groups. We are the big losers in these elections and this is more about women than men... and still, no need to feel this sore about it. For all of those who were tricked by the game and illusion of

these elections, the results will be clearer in the coming days: the Bulcanization of Iraq has just started and the scum of the scum are ruling now, or at least trying to. The American troops have no intention of stepping out for any reason. They are here to stay and attract more Islamist terrorists into Iraq. There is no hope in this puppet government. There is no security or life for us with the daily military harassment of US troops and the deadly Islamist terrorism. It is up to us now to gather the third alternative, the bright and humanitarian one... and we need to gather all forces at this point in time. We held our OWFI activists meeting. I was surprised at the number of women and men who are looking for us now...within workers, students and intellectuals ... and especially the local media. Hadil has set our schedule of daily trips to factories, and the internally dis-

placed complexes. Hanan has our schedule for visiting the student groups, starting in the department of Political Sciences in Baghdad University. Still, the other reports were not as positive and bright. Um Haidar (mother of Haidar) reported that in the city of Mahmoudiya, her sister, a nurse in the local hospital has witnessed around 30 people - mostly women - visit the emergency because their inked finger tip was cut off by the Mujahideen who were angry at their taking part in the voting. Another nurse brought us stories of physical abuse, one of which was done by an American soldier who broke the ribs of a woman in the street with the base of his rifle. Most distressful of all was the news of the kidnapping of our dear Giuliana Sgrena, the reporter of il manifesto, who was kidnapped by the Mujahideen. She had spent the whole day of last Tuesday and part of



Thursday with our activists and one of our shelter residents. We were horrified to think of the possible consequences. Our office was full of people of all kinds today. In spite of all the difficulties, we sense a desperate determination to keep our banners of freedom and equality high up in the air. I have the feeling that the potential for leading towards a change is much bigger after two years of consecutive lies about security and democracy to be achieved by the CPA and their puppet government. The time has come for us to increase our numbers and fight back. This deadly circus of forcing a hideous tyranny called "democracy" cannot go on...anymore.

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### Afghanistan Women still may face forced marriages

Human rights officials say that between 60 percent and 80 percent of marriages in Afghanistan are forced on women.

In rural areas, "tradition is so powerful women feel they really are the property of male relatives. Whatever they are told, they obey. Girls and women are often wedded off for economic gain or to settle scores between feuding families, even

though both practices run counter to civil and Islamic law. While arranged marriages are normal in this Muslim country, they are meant to have the consent of the bride and groom. The fall of the Taliban has heralded some opportunities for Af-

ghan women. Millions of girls have returned to school. Many also have returned to work, especially in the cities. Fawzia Amini, deputy director of the law and rights department at the Ministry of Women's Affairs, said the department investigated about 500 cases

a year of abuse against women, usually of husbands beating their wives. She said victims could seek legal support for divorce, but such a step is so socially detrimental to the woman that it is usually better to try to force the husband to cooperate [con.on.pg.7](#)

### Women's day In Toronto, Canada

The activists from the Organization for Emancipation of Women enthusiastically, hand in hand with freedom loving people, participated in outstanding International Women's Day ceremony. The ceremony took place at University of Toronto, the downtown campus. Several organizations setup information table during the event, including The OEW's information table was full of publications, books, posters, cards and t-shirts with beautiful artistic designs. A popular design, on cards and t-shirts, was the figure of a woman wearing red skirt and boots walking forward. The drawing is only from her waist down, but it portrays an image of women rights situation while demonstrating strength within a journey forward. This design was very meaningful and drew much

attention from the crowd gathered there. Besides this, one of the women's rights activists had tied herself in chador and chain to display the contempt of compulsory Hejab. Other activists of the organization introduced the OEW to the audience during the discussion on the inferior situation of women. Meanwhile during this discussion, the OEW members appealed to the crowd to join them in their quest for equality and freedom. In addition to this, one of the radio stations in Toronto, which was broadcasting the women's day ceremony, interviewed Fahymeh Adele Rezaei and Fouzieh Khaleidian. Fouzieh and Fahymeh revealed the place of political Islam in the Islamic stricken countries. Also they exposed the types of oppression such as imprisonment, torture, execution of children, stoning, and

honor killings. In this interview the OEW's activists became a voice for oppressed women and children who suffer in silence by the inequalities embedded in capitalism, but also by the role of political Islam in the world. The OEW activists also highlighted women's demands such as revoking compulsory veil, preventing establishment of another Islamic regime in Iraq. Also they exclaimed imprisonment, executions should be immediately discontinued. Concerning Canadian and western issues, OEW activists called on to the public to prevent establishing Sharia court for family dispute in west and Canada. Furthermore OEW invited the public to support humanist movements and to demand secular governing system in the Islamic stricken countries. In this ceremony Mr. Jack Layton, the



leader of NDP, and Mrs. Boyd, the representative of NDP for reviewing the Arbitrations Act, visited the OEW's information table. Fahymeh Adele Rezaei in a short conversation with Jake Layton mentioned her concern on setting up the sharia court in Canada. Fahymeh continued the conversation by stating that women rights are universal and the secular system is very vital for women rights in a society. Jack Layton responded by confirming his party's views on the subject of secularism and that he "believe ('s) in a secular system as well." Many people who

were visiting the OEW's information table admired our work, specially the presentation of the women tied up in chain of Islamic Hejab as an example of the brutalities of political Islam in women's lives. Variety of people, including students, workers, professors, artists, teachers and even teenagers whom were inquiring about the work of OEW visited the information table. During the ceremony, the OEW's activists distributed Rahai Zan publication in English and Farsi as well.

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**Afgan.from.pg6**  
with the authorities and rescue the marriage. She said there were only 10 to 15 divorces last year in the family court in Kabul, a city of around 4 million people. "Our culture does not tolerate divorce. Divorced women will

have a painful life. No one will care for them," Amini said. "There's no legal support for divorced women. Mostly they can't get a share of their dowry and they lose their children."

**Source: AP**

**Franc.from.pg.4**  
copies in the room, rushed to get more. On the same day we also had a conference on domestic violence. We were viewing methods to confront men who are violating the rights of female members of the family. During this con-

ference I presented a speech on women's inferiority situation in Islamic stricken societies. In the end of the conference the university's representative inquired my phone number and wanted to be in contact with me in the future. Also they invited me to

assist them in the search on women's issues in Iran. Here I like to thank those who worked hard to publish Rahai Zan in French because in Quebec people mostly speak French therefore having the French version of Rahai Zan is very useful.

**Long Live Freedom and Equality**

## *Enjoying our Post-election Democracies in Iraq*



**Yanar Mohammed**

come of this democratic process floods the hospital with the dead and wounded. He was upset explaining to us why they couldn't save both legs of the man who happened to be close to one of the exploded centers.

There were others who looked forward to sharing the "democratic process" though. Wisaal had candidated herself in spite of all our warnings at the time. She visited me with an apologetic smile and behavior. Sami, her husband, mentioned in a low voice before leaving, that their elections center was controlled by the clergy and their militia was demonstrating intimidating suggestions and gestures. In some instances, the voters were accompanied till the last step by a 'Sayed'. I didn't want to embarrass Wisaal, but she could see the "I told you" glance on my face.

One of the other achievements of the new government was opening Baghdad airport, which I had decided to use for the first ... and last time - obviously. In a way, I was glad that Iraqi Airlines has finally taken off the ground and were open for the citizens. I was not surprised when the flight attendants served the food manually, and not through a tray. I was not surprised to see flies and mosquitoes on board. The biggest surprise was when we were close to the airport, but still flying at a very high altitude. The plane started to descend in small endless circles that caused even the bravest hearts and stomachs to fear and wonder whether the plane and the pilot were up to this challenge. A business man sitting in a close-by seat went blue and almost fainted while holding strongly to the seat in front of him. After we got off, he swore he is never taking another plane. In spite of everything, I was optimistic to step into OUR Baghdad airport, previously Saddam's Airport. While doing some paperwork, the employee asked me: "...so madam, did you get the chance to vote while you were abroad?" I answered with a straight NO without offering any explanation. To my surprise, he smiled and said: "Neither has any of us in here. We did not dare leave our homes on that day ... and don't you believe all the shows you see over the TV channels of all kinds". Traditionally, any Iraqi has the seventh sense of not chatting with a government/intelligence official. Still, I asked timidly: "Are you serious?" He answered while handing me my papers: "Well ... it applies to me and all the others in this room (3 of them)". Obviously, after the roller coaster trip in the airplane, I could not care much about right and wrong. I just wanted to reach home. I saw the exit full of people going back and forth in frenzy not knowing what to do. The bus driver said after he asked us kindly to get off his bus: "The route to the airport is blocked for the time being ... we may receive other instructions after one hour and a half. There is absolutely nothing we can do about it. We all need to wait". The time was close to 5:00 pm. We were in the most dangerous zone in all of Iraq as that area was the last one to be cleared at many stages ... and obviously, the "Mujahideen" and their inhuman projects for the liberation are tremendously organized in that area. Unfortunately their liberation is more about the "sacred" land than it is about the people. They do not mind killing tens of Iraqis in every confrontation they hold with the "evil" Americans. Their liberation is launched through headings of whoever has dared to step into "their" sacred land... and [con.on.pg.6](#)

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# No to Islamic Regime!