

Al-Azhar University's Reputation Under Question

A Shia Muslim student is under investigation in al-Azhar University. A female student of the most important university of Egypt could face legal action and be expelled from school if proven to be Shia Muslim. Students of the university filed a complaint against a female student, accusing her of being Shia Muslim.



Recently Egypt has been showing more and more discrimination toward Shia Muslims. SRW found it unfortunate to see anti-Shi'ism growing so rapidly in Egypt that citizens believe it is a crime to practice Shia faith. Salafi and Wahhabi extremists have been encouraging anti-Shi'ism in Egypt through social media and media outlets, as the result discrimination and hatred toward Shia Muslims are increasing among the public.

According to the International Bill of Human Rights and Egyptian constitution, a student cannot face legal action because of her faith. Al-Azhar must not ruin its reputation by engaging in human rights violation and acquiescing to Salafi ideologies.

SRW invites Al-Azhar University to keep its reputation by stopping the illegal investigation and recognizing Shia Muslims. Such a University is expected to educate people and increase their acceptance, not spread extremists' ideologies.

Extremist Favoritism in Indonesian Court

Surabaya District Court acquitted the suspect of the largest attack to Shia Muslims community. The court acquitted

Rois Al-Hukama on Tuesday, April 16th.

Roise is one of the main suspects of the

attack to Shia community on August 26th,

2012 that burned down 30 homes. Tens of

Shia Muslims were displaced due to the

burn down. The government authorities asked the Shia to convert to Sunni so

they can go back to their residents. The Indonesian government took very minor

steps toward investigating the crime. Out of 500 Anti- Shia people who were

involved in the attack only few were arrested and the court found irrational

reasons to acquit them. Sources revealed that the attack was carried on under

Roise's order; however the Surabaya District Court concluded they did not have

enough evidence to persecute Roise and released him.



Shia Rights Watch contacted the Indonesian embassy in US and asked them to investigate the crime. The embassy did not respond to the organization's request.

SRW believes Indonesian authorities are supporting human rights violations

toward Shia Muslims in this country and it is a crime itself. The government must

care for the rights of its entire citizen and has responsibility to protect all,

regardless of their faith. Once again, SRW asks the Indonesian government to

investigate the situation and deliver justice instead of spreading discrimination

and hatred.

Faith Cleansing in Syria

Although western media advocates the conflict in Syria as a civil war with the goal of freedom, evidences prove Syria has become a land where religious extremist head to kill the perceived enemy. Wahhabi extremists from Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan, Libya and Tunisia turned to Syria with a primary mission to cleanse the area from Shia Muslim. Shia Muslims and Alawis are being killed even if they are not pro- Assad regime; they are being killed because of their faith. Anti- Shia terrorist groups found conflict in Syria a perfect cover up for their terror acts. They target Shia Muslim populated areas such as Edlib, Az-Zahra, Kafaria, fawa, Halab, Nubbul, Homs and Zayinabia and kill Shia. Arabian news outlets such as *alraimedia*, *gulfmedia*, and *elaph* report 2450 Shia Muslim have been killed in Syria. Shia Rights Watch, however, believe many more Shia have lost their lives in Syria since the start of conflict. Two Shia cities of Az-zahra and Nubbul are still under siege and the residents have no access to food and medical supplies. Shia areas have repeatedly faced cases of rape, siege, and slaughter and many flee from their resident to protect their families.

SRW believes the battle for freedom should be free from violence and targeted faith cleansing. Even if the origin of the conflict in Syria was for the sake of freedom, most killings do not fall under the freedom umbrella. Killing innocent civilians cannot speed the freedom process, but it is against human rights and opposes the freedom concept.

SRW calls on all groups in Syria to focus on the mission of freedom and peace instead of using the situation for their religious extremist's goals.

Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia, April 2013

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The Honorable Adel A Al-Jubeir

Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia
601 New Hampshire Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20037
Dear Adel A Al-Jubeir

On behalf of Shia Rights Watch we are writing to highlight our concerns regarding the safety and security of the Shia Muslims in Saudi Arabia since more and more discriminations and restrictions are enforced every day. Shia Muslims have a long history in Arabia yet Saudi government denies their rights as citizen. Increasing arrests and restrictions are violating Shia's basic human rights and the government must stop them.

S.R.W was informed recently that a Shia Muslim woman accused of spreading Shi'ism via "what's up" program was sentenced by the Qatif court. A Saudi Shia woman, Y.H. 30 years old, sent a "what's up" message to another Saudi woman by error. The husband of the receiver saw the message and reported it to the local court. He believed the sender was pursuing her wife to convert to Shi'ism. Judge Dawood Muhammad AlDawood, sentenced the woman to eight lashes. Y.H denied the accusation and requested reconsideration. However the judge did not change his decision. Oddly, none of the lawyer and the person filing the lawsuit were present in the court sessions and the court does not reveal who actually filed the lawsuit.

Judge AlDawood is known for his discriminatory and hatred actions toward Shia Muslims. It is illegal to sentence someone without the presence of his/her self and lawyer in the court. SRW believes in a fair and just judicial system, a judge with a strong history of Anti-Shi'ism is not suitable for the presented case.

Saudi Arabian authorities have declared open dialogue between religions but in action, Shia Muslims are being oppressed even more than before.

SRW advises the Saudi government to respect its citizen rights and recognize Shia Muslims as lawful citizens in order to reach peace in the country.

Sincerely,

Mustafa Akhwand

Director of the Shia Rights Watch

شعبة راييس ووتش تدين قيام النظام السعودي

بجلد امرأة شيعية

تدين منظمة شيعة رايتس ووتش القرار الاخير لاحدى محاكم النظام السعودي والقاضي بجلد امرأة شيعية، في تعدي خطير ذو خلفية انتقامية طائفية تنتهك جميع القوانين والاعراف.

فقد علمت المنظمة من مصادر موثوقة اصدار ما يسمى قاض المحكمة الجزائية في القطيف بجلد سيدة سعودية بتهمة "الدعوة للتشيع" في رسالة بعثتها خطأ لرقم مجهول عبر برنامج المحادثة الفورية.

وبينت المصادر ان القاضي بالمحكمة داود محمد آل داود حكم على السيدة "ي. ح. ا" (30 عاما) بالجلد ثمان جلدات لاتهامها بالدعوة للتشيع في رسالة بعثتها خطأ عبر برنامج "واتس آب".

وأبدت تلك المصادر استغرابها من مجريات المحاكمة التي لم يحضر المدعي العام أي من جلساتها كما لم يمثل فيها الطرف صاحب الدعوى ولم يفصح عن رقم الهاتف المتلقي للرسالة محل الشكوى.

لذا تدعو منظمة شيعة رايتس ووتش النظام السعودي الحاكم الى التراجع عن تلك الاجراءات الطائفية، والكف عن الممارسات التعسفية والانتقامية التي تسعى الى النيل من شيعة البلاد والتنكيل بهم.

Error Message, a Reason to Punish a Saudi Shia Woman



A Shia Muslim woman accused of spreading Shi'ism via "what's App" program was sentenced by the Qatif court. A Saudi Shia woman, Y.H. 30 years old, sent a "what's App" message to another Saudi woman by error. The husband of the receiver saw the message and reported it to the local court. He believed the sender was pursuing her wife to convert to Shi'ism. Since Saudi Arabia does not provide for freedom of religion, the Judge, Dawood

Muhammad AlDawood, sentenced the sender to eight lashes. Y.H denied the accusation and requested reconsideration. However the judge did not change his decision.

Judge AlDawood is known for his discriminatory and hatred actions toward Shia Muslims. Oddly, none of the lawyers and the person filing the lawsuit were present in the court sessions and the court does not reveal who actually filed the lawsuit.

The husband of the accused woman is concerned about his wife's safety and believes this case was a set up for his wife.

ثمانية أشهر وشيعة اندونيسيا يعانون حرب ابادة



منذ اكثر من ثمانية أشهر على طرد سكان القرى الشيعية في جزيرة مادورا الإندونيسية من منازلهم على أيدي الجماعات التكفيرية المدعومة ماديا ومعنويا من قبل مشايخ السعودية، لا يزال المئات من السكان الشيعة يعانون التشريد والمطاردة وما يصاحب ذلك من جرائم قتل ونهب غير مسبوقه، فضلا عن اوضاع معيشية متردية.

فيما تقف السلطات الاندونيسية مكتوفة الايدي امام تلك الجرائم والانتهاكات بحق مواطنيها، مكتفية بدور المتفرج ازاء الاعمال الارهابية التي تقوم بها الجماعات الوهابية والسلفية في البلاد.

لذا تدعو منظمة شيعة رايتس ووتش جميع الحكومات والمنظمات الانسانية والحقوقية الى التدخل المباشر لمساعدة المدنيين العزل من شيعة اندونيسيا، وهم يواجهون سيناريو حرب ابادة، مما يستدعي تحرك جدي وعاجل لإنقاذهم.

وتلقت المنظمة الى ان المجتمع الدولي لا يخلو من مسؤوليته القانونية والاخلاقية ازاء استمرار تلك الجرائم والعمل على وقفها، حسب قوانين الامم المتحدة وميثاق حقوق الانسان المتفق عليها.

Shia Oppression in Egypt: Now More than Before

Egypt, a home country of many scholars and place birth of civilizations is threatening its brilliant history by targeting Egyptian Shia.



Home to the Fatimid Empire, one of the most important imperials that was established and lead by Shia Muslim leaders, is publicly fighting the Shia faith. Change of government in Egypt was meant to bring much needed democracy and freedom to the country. Shia Muslims, as any other Egyptian, hoped the new government would keep its promises for freedom and democracy. It would become a place where Shia could peacefully practice their faith. However, now, more than before Shia Muslims are being arrested, suppressed, and advertised as Non-Muslim.

Although the Egyptian Constitution, under Article 46, provides for freedom of belief and the practice of religious rights, Shia Muslims are a minority group that is not allowed to practice their faith in public or in private Islamic centers. Salafi's and government backed clerics speared hate messages among the public to the point where most Egyptians think Shia are not even Muslim even though they believe in the same God, Quran, practice Hadj, daily prayers and Ramadhan fasting. Every day, more and more pictures, webinars and ads are posted on the internet in display of the anti-Shi'ism is growth in Egypt.

Sheikh Muhmmad Hassa, a well-known Salafi cleric, states in his TV interview that Hussainyas, or Shia Islamic Centers are not welcome in Egypt. He insists Egypt should be cleansed from Shia. Salafi clerics clearly and openly forbid Shia practices in this country.

As the result of anti- Shia movements in Egypt, many Shia- Muslims were arrested and detained for practicing their faith. Muhammad Asfour and Seyed Muhammd are among those arrested in an Ashura commemorations last year. The judge told Muhammad Asfour he had two options: to go to jail or to change his faith. In another incident, a Shia man was arrested for teaching Shia faith. His wife was divorced by court and forced to marry another man. The Egyptian government is violating many human rights articles by forcing Shia to change faith, interfering with Shia private lives, arresting and detaining them and also spreading hate messages in media and public.



Shia rights Watch is concerned about Shia rights violations in Egypt, especially since the beginning of the Mursi government. SRW insists Shia Muslims, just like any other citizen, are entitled freedom of religion and thought. No government, religion or organization can take away any other groups' rights. Human rights have been reported poor in Egypt and Shia rights violations are adding to the problem. SRW believes the Egyptian government must protect and defend Shia Muslims' rights. The foundation of the new government should not be based on discrimination and hate, but on freedom and respect.

Lebanese Shia Struggling



Increasing bomb explosions threatening the Shia Muslims in Lebanon as four people were killed and 103 injured in two car explosions in Beirut today.

Shia populated area of Beirut has been attacked and all who lost their lives are civilians. According to some sources the bombings are to threaten stability of Iranian backed Hezbollah. In November 2013 explosions nearly 2 dozen people were killed.

SRW believes any bombing is against human rights. Even if the goal and target of explosions is to threaten Hezbollah, civilians are paying the price and losing their lives.

SRW condemns any violence and believes even fight with terror should be carried with nonviolence strategies.

دیدبان حقوق شیعیان جهان، اقدام حکومت عربستان سعودی در بازداشت جمعی از علمای شیعه آن سامان را محکوم کرد

دیدبان حقوق شیعیان جهان (سازمان shia rights watch) طی بیانیه ای اقدام مخاطره آمیز دولت عربستان سعودی در برخورد با شخصیت های شیعی این کشور، به ویژه بازداشت شماری از روحانیون شیعی را محکوم کرد و نسبت به رفتارهای ظالمانه آن رژیم و اقامت اجباری بزرگان شیعه ابراز نگرانی کرد.

در این بیانیه آمده است: این سازمان از سوی پاره ای منابع موثق مطلع شده است که یکی از نهادهای امنیتی ریاض، به بهانه ی دیدار با وزیر کشور، شماری از شخصیت های روحانی شیعی را فراخواند و در اقدامی غیر اخلاقی آنان را در یکی از هتل ها به مدت چندین روز بازداشت خانگی نمودند. از نگاه این سازمان، اقدام های سرکوبگرانه ی رژیم سعودی به منظور هدف قرار دادن آشکار شیعیان است تا از این رهگذر و بدون هیچ دستاویز اخلاقی، شرعی یا قانونی، شیعیان را آماج آزار و شکنجه ی خود قرار دهند.

دیدبان حقوق شیعیان، نسبت به ادامه یافتن این رفتارهای استبدادی رژیم حاکم و پیامدهای آن هشدار داده و سازمان های حقوقی بین المللی را به برخورد قاطع و محکوم کردن اقدامات پیش گفته بر ضد شیعیان و دیگر عناصر تشکیل دهنده ی جامعه ی سعودی فرا می خواند.

سازمان shia rights watch، همچنین از صاحبان قدرت در عربستان سعودی به بازنگری در رفتار تحریک آمیز خود و نیز اقدام فعال برای اصلاحات در نظام حاکم دعوت می کند.