

Dear Friends,

Last week, an Iranian woman, Sakineh Mohammadi Ashtiani, **was saved by global protests from being stoned to death.**

But she may still be hanged -- and, meanwhile, execution by stoning continues. **Right now fifteen more people are on death row awaiting stoning** in which victims are buried up to their necks in the ground and then large rocks are thrown at their heads.

The partial reprieve of Sakineh, triggered by the call from her children for international pressure to save her life, has shown that if enough of us come together and voice our horror, **we may be able to save her life, and stop stoning once and for all.** Sign the urgent petition now and send it on to everyone you know -- **let's end this cruel slaughter NOW!**

http://www.avaaz.org/en/stop_stoning/?v

Sakineh was convicted of adultery, like all the other 12 women and one of the men awaiting stoning. But her children and lawyer say she is innocent and that she did not get a fair trial -- they state her confession was forced from her and, speaking only Azerbaijani, she did not understand what was being asked of her in court.

Despite Iran's signing of a UN convention that requires the death penalty only be used for the "most serious crimes" and despite the Iranian Parliament passing a law banning stoning last year, stoning for adultery continues.

Sakineh's lawyer says **the Iranian government "is afraid of Iranian public reaction and international attention" to the stoning cases.** And after Turkey and Britain's Foreign Ministers spoke out against Sakineh's sentence, it was suspended.

Sakineh's brave children are leading the international campaign to save their mother and stop stoning. **Massive international condemnation now could finally stop this sickening punishment.** Let's join together today across the world to end this brutality. **Sign the petition to save Sakineh and end stoning here:**

http://www.avaaz.org/en/stop_stoning/?v

In hope and determination,

Alice, David, Milena, Ben and the whole Avaaz team

SOURCES:

Iranians still facing death by stoning despite 'reprieve', The Guardian:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2010/jul/08/iran-death-stoning-adultery>

Britain condemns planned Iran stoning as 'medieval', AFP:

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5hjVdkvkzicGeInqw2R10rCKrqs3A>

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