



Iranian
political prisoner

Bahareh Hedayat

Born April 5, 1981 in Tehran, Iran

Bahareh Hedayat is a student and women's rights activists. She has served as a member of the Central Council of *Daftar-e Takhim-e Vahdat* (Office for Consolidating Unity), Iran's pro-democracy student movement, and was active in the One Million Signatures Campaign that seeks to end legal discrimination against women.

Bahareh was active at the School of Economics of Tehran University, where she had received a Bachelor of Commerce degree.

Bahareh was arrested on December 31, 2009 and has not been allowed out of custody since. She was initially placed in solitary confinement in Ward 209 of Evin prison. Her husband has been turned back from the prison when he attempted to visit her, and Bahareh remained in solitary confinement until March 20, 2010. Her interrogation lasted from January 1, 2010 until February 23rd, 2010.

The authorities laid 16 charges against her. She was brought before Branch 28 of the Revolutionary Court presided over by Judge Moghiseh on May 5, 2010. The court sentenced her on to nine and a half years imprisonment on May 19, 2010. Bahareh was sentenced to serve 5 years for activities against state security, 6 months for insulting President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, and 2 years for insulting so-called Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. A further two years were added to Bahareh's prison sentence because she already had a suspended sentence from 2006. Bahareh had been arrested on June 12, 2006 for joining in a protest for women's rights in Haft-e Tir square in Tehran. She received a two-year suspended prison sentence. Bahareh's activism has led to her being arrested on two other occasions: July 13, 2008 and March 21, 2009.

Bahareh was transferred from solitary confinement on November 7, 2010. She was put in a ward with drug addicts and common criminals. Bahareh went on hunger strike on December 18, 2010 to protest her imprisonment and maltreatment by the authorities.

On December 27, 2010, Bahareh appeared before Branch 4 of Evin Prison's Court alongside fellow student leader Majid Tavakkoli to face additional charges of "propaganda against the system" and "acting against national security by conspiring against the system." The new charges relate to letters by Bahareh and Majid that were critical of the authorities, letters that were published in advance of Iran's Student Day (which commemorates the murder of three students of University of Tehran on December 7, 1953). Following publication of the letter, Bahareh was transferred to the "methadone ward" of Evin Prison, where she was interrogated while being denied contact with her family. She undertook a week long hunger strike in protest. She was allowed a family visit on January 5, 2011. She has developed a gall stone while in prison, but is not known to have received adequate treatment for this condition.

On February 2, 2011, she appeared before Branch 28 of the Revolutionary Court in Tehran with Majid Tavakkoli and Mahdiah Golrou, in relation to the Student Day letters. All three refused to participate in the proceedings on the grounds that their lawyers were not present. From January 2011 to March 2011, Bahareh was denied visits by her family. On March 17, 2011, her husband was able to visit her for the first time in three months.