



Iranian Queer Organization

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IRQO News

New bill in the Iranian Parliament affecting LGBT bloggers.



Last year, a new by-law was introduced in the Iranian parliament which states that bloggers that spread atheism and prostitution in their weblogs will be executed. This bill is dangerous for LGBT bloggers who communicate about their

homosexual identity and their rights as a homosexual and simply express their ideas through their weblogs. In the eyes of the law this is considered inappropriate and comparable to prostitution and will cause unfair persecutions on LGBT bloggers. If this bill is passed a judge can rule capital punishment, without consulting a higher court. In March 2009, government media in Iran reported the arrest of a number of bloggers who were accused of conducting a "velvet" revolution (activity conducted by a group that promotes their agenda in a peaceful manner). This arouses deep concern for gay bloggers who are not protected or supported by any group including human rights groups in Iran.

Issues faced by Iranian LGBT's in Turkey.



IRQO was asked by LGBT refugees in Turkey to request UNHCR to send all asylum seekers to a few major cities in Turkey. In the small towns, being few in number, LGBT refugees suffer from isolation and loneliness. One refugee came

up with the idea of a community centre with a small library to hold meetings, learn English and host recreational activities. If most LGBT refugees are housed in a few major cities, such a centre is possible. Following our communications with the Ministry of Immigration in Canada, the minister has written to the UNHCR expressing concern

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Cheraq to publish books on the internet.

Cheraq will publish E-books from LGBT writers on the internet in April. The project called "Second Birth" will coincide with Tehran Book Festival. The editorial board of *Cheraq* now is proud to include lesbian and gay writers based in Iran and Turkey.

about homophobic attacks on LGBT refugees in Turkey. The minister also contacted the Canadian embassy to speed the process of transferring LGBT refugees to Canada.

At Present, Iranian LGBT Refugees are facing a time up to 3 years before they are transferred to safe country. This period is unbearably harsh and painful. Refugees request Embassies, especially Canadian Embassy to step in and shorten the waiting time for resettlement. Below you'll read a letter translated from Farsi sent to IRQO.

Europe still refuses to believe in "honor killing."



In Turkey, UNHCR lawyers are familiar with the concept of honor killing, however in Germany a judge refused to believe that a person's own family could kill him because of being an LGBT. An Iranian LGBT refugee when faced with deportation explained to

the judge that he would be killed by his own uncle, but the judge did not believe him. This means that European judges and immigration authorities are unfamiliar with Iranian culture and Sharia law.

Letter from a Refugee



Greetings Dear Ms. Salimi

I hope you are fine. I would like to take this chance and express No-Rooz greetings to you. I am waiting for financial assistance from your organization. I was wondering if you can send me any money. I am not in a good shape that's why I am writing to you again. Another issue that I wanted to tell you is that I am very sick. My gums bleed constantly. When I sleep bleeding becomes more. I can't sleep. I haven't told anyone for fear that they force me to see a doctor. I can't pay for dentist's charges. I am trying to cope with it, but I can't take it anymore. It's been a few months since it started. I am afraid the infection affects my heart. I am not sure but this worries me sick. I don't receive any financial assistance from UNHCR. The Embassy hasn't called me for the medicals yet. I have taken your letter, and my own letter to the Embassy but I haven't heard from them yet.

Dear Ms. Salimi Please see if it is possible to send me some money to pay my rent and see a dentist. I am waiting for your response.

I hope you are able to help me
Thank you in advance

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IRQO is growing and needs your help and support.

IRQO now has six volunteers to help with communications which includes editing and composing material based on news from Iran, and all the countries where refugees end up. IRQO has also been working with an MD who is available for refugees in Turkey for consultation and prescription of medicine.

Contributions are crucial for the well being of LGBT refugees in Turkey and other countries. IRQO is working to help all Iranian LGBT refugees and relies on your kindness to ensure the safe passage of these refugees to Canada. For donations and support contact us at:

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