

Middle East

# Apartheid

# Today



**Neda Soltani**

Killed on June 20, 2009, for opposing  
Ahmadinajad's repressive regime

**Produced by StandWithUs**

# Apartheid

**Definition:** Apartheid (“separation”) was the name for South Africa’s legal system of segregation, discrimination, and domination based on race.



# Apartheid South Africa:

## Legally Enforced Segregation



These signs, in public spaces all over South Africa, were a constant reminder of white legal domination and control over South Africa's black population.<sup>1</sup>

# Apartheid South Africa:

## Legally Enforced Segregation

By apartheid law, South Africans of color were segregated in every aspect of daily life—train stations, beaches, restrooms, schools, and restaurants—except for churches.





Segregated seating at a sports event

Apartheid law prohibited sexual relations and marriage between whites and non-Europeans in the "Prohibition of Mixed Marriages Act" (1949) and the "Immorality Act" (1950).

# Apartheid South Africa:

## Denial of Civil and Social Rights



A black South African displays his passbook. It designated him a "colored" and denied him access to white schools, hospitals, and even entire cities.<sup>2</sup>

# Apartheid South Africa:

## Denial of Political and Civil Rights



South Africans of color were legally denied the right to vote and denied equality before the law.

# Apartheid South Africa:

## Enforcing Inequality Through Violent Repression



South African blacks who protested and demanded equal political and civil rights met police violence, indefinite detention, torture, and even execution.

# Apartheid Today:

**Definition:** Legal systems that institutionalize segregation, discrimination, and oppression on the basis of political views, race, gender, sexuality, or religion.



Women are the most vulnerable members of Palestinian society as the law and order in the region does not provide them with a safe and comfortable environment.<sup>3</sup>

# Apartheid Today:

## Gender Apartheid

**Definition:** A system of legally sanctioned segregation and/or oppression based on gender.

Women in Arab League countries “suffer from unequal citizenship and legal entitlements, often evident in voting rights and legal codes [and] from inequality of opportunity, evident in employment status, wages and gender-based occupational segregation.” Their “political and economic participation remains the lowest in the world.”  
–UN Human Development Report, 2002 p. 22<sup>4</sup>

Saudi women and men walk on separate sidewalks. Women in Saudi Arabia are not allowed to drive. Iran, Jordan, Syria, and Egypt are some of the Middle Eastern countries that restrict women’s right to travel without “permission” from a male guardian.<sup>5</sup>



Women in many Islamic countries are forced to cover their faces.

# **Apartheid Today:**

## **Gender Inequality**

**No laws protect women against domestic violence.**

**Rape is blamed on women, even if they are young children. Rapists can escape legal punishment by marrying their victims. In Iran and Saudi Arabia, the female victims are often punished for "immorality."**

**Women's court testimony is worth less than men's, especially in cases of rape and domestic violence.**

**Family law requires wives' "obedience" to husbands, who are legally "heads of the household."**

**Women can be forced into arranged marriages.**

# Apartheid Today:

## Honor Killings Under the Palestinian Authority

**Definition:** Sanctioned murder of women. When women are raped or suspected of flirtations or sexual relations with men who are not their husbands, they are often murdered by relatives to preserve family “honor.”



Fifteen-year-old Rofayda Qaoud from the Palestinian village of Abu Qash was raped and impregnated by her brothers. When she refused to kill herself to save her family’s honor, her mother Amira (left) suffocated, stabbed, and beat her to death the night of January 23, 2003.<sup>6</sup>

She received a light

sentence, as “honor killing” is a mitigating factor in the Palestinian judicial system.

## **Gaza 2009: Mother of five bludgeoned to death with an iron chain.**

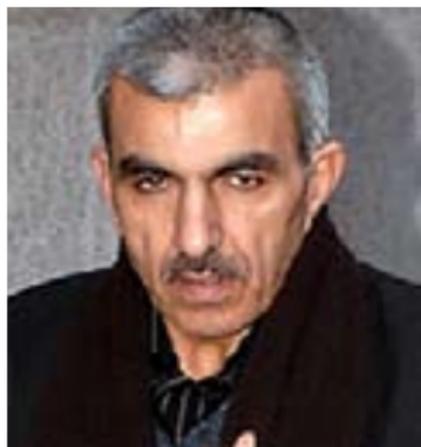
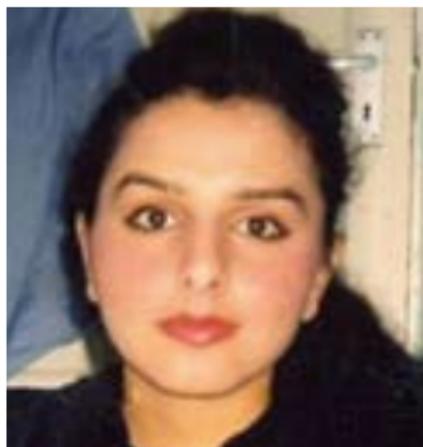


In Gaza, a 27-year-old mother of five was bludgeoned to death with an iron chain. According to police in Gaza, her father, Jawdat al-Najar, heard his daughter Fadia, who had divorced in 2005, speaking on the phone with a man. He believed she was having a relationship with him. Police say al-Najar became enraged and beat her to death.

Source: [www.cnn.com/2009/WORLD/meast/07/30/mideast.honor.killings/](http://www.cnn.com/2009/WORLD/meast/07/30/mideast.honor.killings/)

# Apartheid Today:

## Honor Killings Outside of the Middle East



Murdered in 2005:  
20-year-old Banaz Mahmud  
was "let down by police"  
despite begging for help.

Guilty father: Mahmod  
Mahmod ordered his  
daughter's death.

Banaz Mahmud was raped, tortured, and murdered, and her body was found buried in a suitcase in a garden in Birmingham, UK, three months after she contacted police.

Read more: [www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-554588/Police-let-honour-killing-victim-face-sack.html#ixzz0fMUPYjFy](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-554588/Police-let-honour-killing-victim-face-sack.html#ixzz0fMUPYjFy)



October 2008, Amina (left) and Sarah Said,  
allegedly murdered by their father

Sarah Said, 17, and her sister Amina, 18, were found dead in the back seat of a taxicab in Texas. The girls' great-aunt, Gail Gartrell, says the girls' Egyptian-born father killed them both because he felt they disgraced the family by dating non-Muslims and acting too Western, and she called the girls' murders an honor killing from the start.

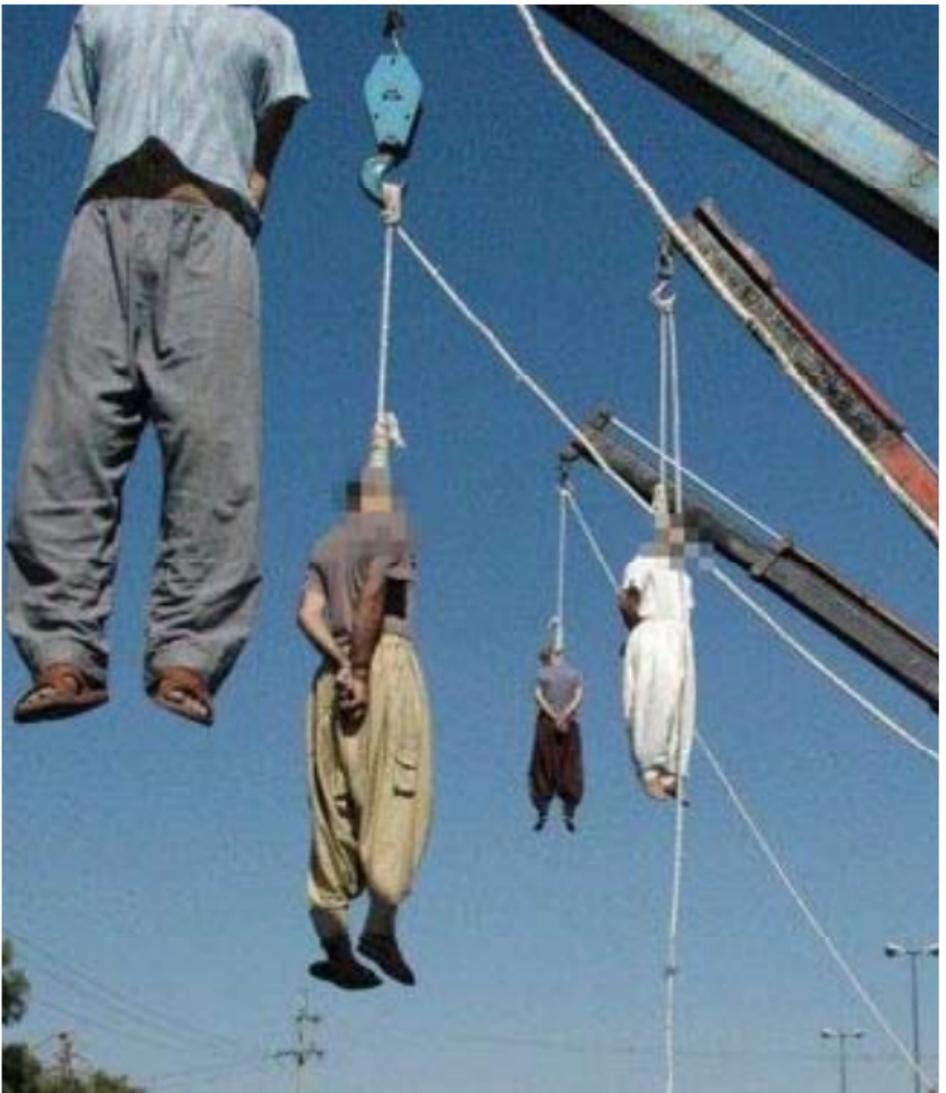
# Apartheid Today:

## Sexual Apartheid

**Definition:** A system of legally and culturally enforced discrimination and/or persecution against people based on their sexual behaviors, with severe repression of sexual freedom.



Homosexuality is a crime punished by imprisonment, flogging, stoning, hanging, or beheading in Iran, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, and others.



In Iran, practicing homosexuality is a capital offense. Those “convicted” of homosexuality are publicly executed, usually hanged.

A reported 4,000 homosexuals were executed in Iran between 1979 and 1999.<sup>7</sup>

# Apartheid Today:

## State-sanctioned Discrimination and Persecution of Homosexuals

In most Middle Eastern countries, no laws prevent anti-gay discrimination, and gays face severe ostracism. Though homosexuality is not illegal everywhere, gays are often arrested under laws against "lewd conduct" (Egypt) and experience police harassment and torture (Egypt and the Palestinian Authority). Recent reports indicate that murderers of gays may be prosecuted under the lenient category of "honor killings."<sup>8</sup>



# Apartheid Today:

## Religious Apartheid

**Definition:** A system of legal repression, segregation, and persecution based on religion.

**Public practice of non-Muslim religions prohibited:** Saudi Arabia.<sup>9</sup>

**Conversion from Islam is punishable** by death (Iran, the Palestinian Authority, and Saudi Arabia) or by loss of civil and inheritance rights, imprisonment, or torture (Jordan, Egypt, Oman, and northern Sudan).<sup>10</sup>

**Blasphemy of Islam prohibited or punishable by death:** Saudi Arabia and Oman.

**Special religious police persecute Muslims and non-Muslims:** Saudi Arabia and Iran.

**Legal, social, and economic discrimination against non-Muslims and minority Muslim sects:** Saudi Arabia,<sup>11</sup> Egypt,<sup>12</sup> and Iran.

**Christian numbers have dwindled as a result of religious persecution:** Palestinian Authority.

**Persecution, violence, property expropriations, and intimidation of Christians, Ba'hai, or other minority religions:** the Palestinian Authority, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Iran.<sup>13</sup>

**Anti-Jewish persecution, discrimination, and/or incitement:** Palestinian Authority, Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Libya, Sudan, UAE, and the Gulf States.<sup>14</sup>



*"Christians are being persecuted not only in Iraq, but in most Arab countries.... They are subjected to every possible kind of discrimination, as well as expulsion."*

*—Abd Al-Nasser Al-Najjar, Palestinian daily Al-Ayyam, October 25, 2008.*

A Christian in Saudi Arabia is publicly flogged after being "convicted" of practicing Christianity, 2007.<sup>15</sup>

## Saudi Police Stopped Rescue of 15 Girls



The Governor of Mecca looks at the charred remains of the school fire.

In 2002 fifteen girls burned to death when Saudi police refused to allow them to evacuate because their clothes violated the Kingdom's "decency" laws (no headscarves/black robes).



One witness said he saw three policemen "beating young girls to prevent them from leaving the school because they were not wearing the abaya."<sup>16</sup>

# Apartheid Today:

## Racism

**Definition:** A system of legally or culturally enforced discrimination and/or persecution based on a person's race or national or ethnic identity.

*"I'm sad to say that we Arabs are the epitome of racism....If Obama was in an Arab country...under no circumstances ... would they have given him citizenship. They'd say to him: You are a slave, you are black, you need a 'guarantor, ' you are a Kenyan, and your origins are unknown."*

–Abd Al-Bari 'Atwan, editor-in-chief of the London daily *Al-Quds Al-Arabi*, BBC interview, November 7, 2008

**Enslavement of blacks:** Sudan.

**Persecution and discrimination against native Berber tribes and their culture:**

Morocco and Libya.<sup>17</sup>

# Persecution of Jews

In 1948, 850,000 Jews lived in Arab lands. Today only a few thousand remain because of persecution, discrimination, and expulsions.

Selling land to Jews was a capital offense in Jordan until 1995. It remains illegal in Jordan and in the Palestinian Authority.

Clerics and government-controlled schools and media continually demonize Jews and recycle in print and film anti-Semitic forgeries such as *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*.<sup>18</sup>



## Examples of Declining Jewish Population in Middle Eastern Countries

	1948	2004
Algeria	140,000	Less than 100
Egypt	75,000	Less than 100
Libya	38,000	0

# Apartheid Today:

## Based on National Identity

**Definition:** A system of legally or culturally enforced discrimination and/or persecution based on a person's race or national identity.

Arab League states continue to discriminate and exclude Palestinians because of their national identity.

Palestinian refugees have been denied citizenship for two generations or more (Syria, Egypt, Lebanon, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Iraq).

Palestinians have been expelled from many Middle Eastern countries (Kuwait, Jordan, Libya, and Iraq).

Palestinians must live in designated areas, cannot own homes, and are barred from 70 occupations (Lebanon).

## **Misuse of the Term “Apartheid”**

Israel and the Palestinians do not have an apartheid relationship.

Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza are self-governing. The Palestinians have never been Israeli citizens and do not wish to be. They have their own national movement and formed their own government, the Palestinian Authority (PA), after signing the Oslo Accords with Israel in 1993. The PA has its own elections and legislative council and runs all aspects of civil society, from education to police forces, law courts, and health care.

Unfortunately, the PA still uses many of the apartheid practices described in the booklet on their own people.



Palestinian honor guard escorts Mahmoud Abbas, president of the Palestinian Authority.



The Palestinian police force.

# Apartheid Today:

## Enforcing Inequality Through Violent Repression

Peaceful demonstrators opposed to the regime face imprisonment, torture, and execution.



2009: Baton-wielding Iranian police fired tear gas and arrested protesters mourning Neda Soltani, the young woman (pictured on the cover of this booklet and to the right) who was killed in post-election violence and has become a symbol for the opposition to Iran's hardline leaders.



**Neda Soltani**

Killed on June 20, 2009, for opposing Ahmadinajad's repressive regime.

Neda has become a symbol of the struggle for human rights in Iran.

# The Struggle to End Apartheid in the Middle East

Today, many groups throughout the region are trying to end this system of oppression and apartheid and embark on a future of freedom and human rights.



Palestinian women demonstrate against violence directed at women.



Copts demonstrate in the US against repression in Egypt.



Copts demonstrate in Cyprus against Egyptian persecution.



First Lady Suzanne Mubarak at Cairo conference to protect children.

# **Apartheid in the Middle East Causes Untold Suffering.**

**Here are ways you and your friends  
can help:**

**Educate yourself and others  
about apartheid in the Middle East.**

**Publicize the little-known facts  
about conditions in the region.**

**Encourage the US to support  
the courageous few who challenge  
the oppression.**

**Support policies that encourage reform.**

**Start activist campaigns  
that educate the public  
and demand reforms.**

**Learn more at various Web sites,  
including [www.freedomhouse.org](http://www.freedomhouse.org),  
[www.cddc.vt.edu/feminism/mid.html](http://www.cddc.vt.edu/feminism/mid.html)  
[www.nohonor.org](http://www.nohonor.org)**

# Sources

- <sup>1</sup> [www.gre.ac.uk/\\_data/assets/image/0003/82974/Apartheid-sign.jpg](http://www.gre.ac.uk/_data/assets/image/0003/82974/Apartheid-sign.jpg)
- <sup>2</sup> [home.mindspring.com/~katrap/LAGAI/passbook.jpg](http://home.mindspring.com/~katrap/LAGAI/passbook.jpg)
- <sup>3</sup> [www.wethewomen.org/entry/rights-group-law-and-order-doesnt-protect-palestinian-women-from-violence/](http://www.wethewomen.org/entry/rights-group-law-and-order-doesnt-protect-palestinian-women-from-violence/)
- <sup>4</sup> [www.pogar.org/publications/other/ahdr/ahdr2002e.pdf](http://www.pogar.org/publications/other/ahdr/ahdr2002e.pdf)
- <sup>5</sup> [www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=163](http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=163)
- <sup>6</sup> [www.worldnetdaily.com/news/article.asp?ARTICLE\\_ID=35663](http://www.worldnetdaily.com/news/article.asp?ARTICLE_ID=35663)
- <sup>7</sup> [www.iranian.com/BTW/2005/August/London/index.html](http://www.iranian.com/BTW/2005/August/London/index.html)
- <sup>8</sup> [www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?reportid=26110](http://www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?reportid=26110)
- <sup>9</sup> [www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/irf/2008/108492.htm](http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/irf/2008/108492.htm)
- <sup>10</sup> [anselmic.wordpress.com/2007/08/29/egyptian-muslim-seeks-legal-right-to-convert-to-christianity/](http://anselmic.wordpress.com/2007/08/29/egyptian-muslim-seeks-legal-right-to-convert-to-christianity/)
- <sup>11</sup> [www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/irf/2006/71431.htm](http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/irf/2006/71431.htm)
- <sup>12</sup> [www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/irf/2008/108481.htm](http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/irf/2008/108481.htm)
- <sup>13</sup> [news.bahai.org/story/681](http://news.bahai.org/story/681)
- <sup>14</sup> Dr. Meir Litvak, "The Development of Arab Anti-Semitism," Institute for Global Jewish Affairs, Feb. 2003 at [www.jcpa.org/JCPA/Templates/ShowPage.asp?DRIT=3&DBID=1&LNGID=1&TMID=111&FID=624&PID=0&IID=741&TTL=The\\_Development\\_of\\_Arab\\_Anti-Semitism](http://www.jcpa.org/JCPA/Templates/ShowPage.asp?DRIT=3&DBID=1&LNGID=1&TMID=111&FID=624&PID=0&IID=741&TTL=The_Development_of_Arab_Anti-Semitism) and "MKs Study Arab Anti-Semitism," *Jerusalem Post*, May 23, 2000 at [www.pmw.org.il/getresults/media/i208521.html](http://www.pmw.org.il/getresults/media/i208521.html)
- <sup>15</sup> [www.holycrime.com/images/ChristanFlog.jpg](http://www.holycrime.com/images/ChristanFlog.jpg)
- <sup>16</sup> [news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle\\_east/1874471.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/1874471.stm)
- <sup>17</sup> Morocco–Nick Pelham, "Berbers Demand Native Rights," BBC, May 2, 2000 at [news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/733403.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/733403.stm). Libya–"Libya's Berbers Come in from the Cold?" Aug. 27, 2007 at [www.ordoesitexplode.com/me/2007/08/libyas-berbers.html](http://www.ordoesitexplode.com/me/2007/08/libyas-berbers.html)
- <sup>18</sup> Palestinian Media Watch: [www.pmw.org.il](http://www.pmw.org.il)

Order more of these booklets:  
**[shipping@standwithus.com](mailto:shipping@standwithus.com)**

---

Check out our other materials at:  
**[www.standwithus.com](http://www.standwithus.com)**

---

Teachers! Get curricula at:  
**[www.learnisrael.org](http://www.learnisrael.org)** and at  
**[www.standwithus.com/TEACHINGTOOLS/  
il101lp.asp](http://www.standwithus.com/TEACHINGTOOLS/il101lp.asp)**

---

Students! Check out the StandWithUs  
student community at:  
**[www.standwithusCampus.com](http://www.standwithusCampus.com)**

---

Learn more at various websites, including  
**[www.Freedomhouse.org](http://www.Freedomhouse.org)**  
**[www.cddc.vt.edu/feminism/mid.html](http://www.cddc.vt.edu/feminism/mid.html)**  
**[www.nohonor.org](http://www.nohonor.org)**

**StandWithUs**

StandWithUs, P.O. Box 341069  
Los Angeles, CA 90034-1069  
[info@standwithus.com](mailto:info@standwithus.com) • 310.836.6140

StandWithUs (a.k.a. Israel Emergency Alliance) is a  
tax-exempt organization under section 501(c)(3)  
of the Internal Revenue Code.