



# KAISA KA

(Unity of Women for Freedom- Philippines) Press Statement  
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## Press Statement

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### **Iran Should Abolish Death by Stoning**

KAISA KA joins the millions of voices in the whole world in condemning the death-by-stoning sentence given by an Iranian judge against Sakineh Mohammadi Ashtiani. It calls on the Iranian government to abolish this kind of penalty as this is cruel, and, most often victimizes women.

Ashtiani, a 43 year-old mother of two, has been languishing in prison since 2005, was sentenced to 99 lashes for adultery in 2006 and was about to die by stoning until a worldwide outcry against the sentence forced the Iranian government to suspend the execution. According to reports, she endured another 99 lashes for the publication of a picture of a woman without veil mistaken for Ashtiani's.

Clearly, for Iran, what Ashtiani has endured is not yet enough because she is a woman.

Despite her having been acquitted for the murder of her husband, later government statements justify the ruthless punishment for Ashtiani by saying that she participated in the plot to murder her husband. While KAISA KA is not advocating death penalty, it has to point out its incongruity: the man who was convicted for the said murder did not receive a death sentence.

In male-dominated societies like Iran, women suffer disproportionately from this kind of punishment for adultery. More women than men do not get higher education and are more likely to sign confessions to crimes they did not commit. And factoring in other kinds of discrimination against women, they would be more vulnerable to unfair trials, to convictions.

While death by stoning is also meted out for other grave crimes, KAISA KA believes that this kind of punishment especially for adultery in Iran is a remnant of an archaic patriarchal culture that controlled women's sexuality but condoned men's philandering and even allowed men to have many wives and concubines. This should stop in a modern and humane society.

KAISA KA calls for the abolition of death-by-stoning. We also call for the elimination of other forms of death penalty or flogging or imprisonment for those convicted of adultery.

No more Soraya Manutchehris! Save about 50 more women lined-up for stoning!

Free Sakineh Mohammadi Ashtiani now!