

**BAHAREH
HEDAYAT
IRAN**

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



**FREE THE
PRISONERS OF
CONSCIENCE**



BAHAREH HEDAYAT

Campaign for Equality member Bahareh Hedayat, a student and women's rights activist, is currently serving a 10 year prison sentence after her arrest on 31 December 2009, in the midst of the unrest following the disputed presidential elections.

Bahareh Hedayat is a member of the Office of the Consolidation of Unity (OCU) and Chair of the OCU's Women's Committee, as well as a member of the One Million Signatures Campaign to stop Discriminatory Laws. As a result of her activism, Bahareh Hedayat has been arrested on numerous occasions and imprisoned several times prior to her arrest in December 2009. She was previously arrested on June 12th 2006, July 9th 2007, July 13th 2008 and March 21st, 2009.

She faced a variety of charges after her arrest in December 2009, including interviews with foreign media, insulting the Leader of Islamic Republic of Iran, insulting the President of the Republic, disruption of public order through participation in illegal protests, and illegal entry into and vandalism of Amir Kabir University's main entrance during a visit by Mehdi Karoubi.

Bahareh Hedayat was sentenced to six months in prison for "insulting the president", two years for "insulting the Leader" and five years for "acting against national security". A two year suspended prison term previously imposed for her participation in the June 2006 demonstration calling for an end to discrimination against women in law was also implemented. The nine and a half year prison sentence was submitted to her lawyer on May 2010 and upheld in the appeal court on July 2010.

On 27 December 2010, Bahareh Hedayat was sentenced to six additional months for "spreading of propaganda against the system" and "actions against national security through collusion against the system". These charges are in relation to a letter published on the occasion of Student Day 7 December 2010, written by Bahareh Hedayat and Majid Tavakoli (a student activist who is also serving a prison sentence). The letter was published broadly inside and outside Iran and received much media attention. After 81 days in solitary confinement and a gruelling interrogation process, Bahareh Hedayat was finally transferred from solitary confinement to the general ward at Evin Prison in Tehran on 20 March 2010.

On 7 November 2010 Bahareh Hedayat was transferred to Evin's Methadone Ward along with all other female political prisoners. This ward is known for incarcerating dangerous criminals and addicts and consists of a room that is 30 – 35 metres long. Prisoners held in the Methadone Ward are only provided access to fresh air for less than one hour a day. They are also deprived of books, use of the prison library and are not allowed telephone privileges. The prisoners are deprived of face-to-face visitation with their families who have to sit behind glass in a cabin during visits

While incarcerated at the Methadone Ward, Bahareh Hedayat developed gallstones making it much more difficult for her to endure the harsh prison conditions. On 18 December 2010 Bahareh Hedayat began a hunger strike in protest to the prison authorities continued ban of her visitation rights.

Bahareh Hedayat was born in 1981. She holds a Bachelor of Commerce degree from the School of Economics at Tehran University.