

## What Can You Do?

### About Political Prisoners from Iran

- If you're a journalist, writer, blogger, or even if you just have a Facebook or Twitter account, please publicize the rapidly-deteriorating human rights situation in Iran.
- Contact your member of parliament, the Department of Foreign Affairs ([engserv@international.gc.ca](mailto:engserv@international.gc.ca)), and the Prime Minister's office ([pm@pm.gc.ca](mailto:pm@pm.gc.ca)) and let them know that you're concerned about the human rights situation in Iran and that you expect them to do more to bring attention to the surge in executions in Iran.
- Contact the Secretary General of the United Nations ([sg@un.org](mailto:sg@un.org)) and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights ([npillay@ohchr.org](mailto:npillay@ohchr.org)) and tell them to support the work of the Special Rapporteur on Iran.

### About Political Prisoners Around the World

- Visit the Amnesty International website:
- Visit the Women's Organization for Political Prisoners (WOFPP) website: [www.wofpp.org](http://www.wofpp.org)
- Visit the Human Rights Watch Website: [www.hrw.org](http://www.hrw.org)  
An organization that monitors human rights and campaigns to establish an international criminal court and improved prison conditions.
- Get involved with the Toronto Anarchist Black Cross: [torontoabc.wordpress.com](http://torontoabc.wordpress.com)  
[torontoblackcross@gmail.com](mailto:torontoblackcross@gmail.com)
- Visit the Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Organization website: [www.addameer.org](http://www.addameer.org)  
Addameer is an organization that advocates for and supports Palestinian political prisoners inside Israel.
- Visit the Association for the Prevention of Torture website: [www.apt.ch](http://www.apt.ch) An organization that seeks to ensure the implementation of international laws forbidding torture.

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# LINES OF RESISTANCE

## Prison Art from the Middle East



**APRIL 9-17, 2011**

**BEIT ZATOUN GALLERY**

**612 Markham St. Toronto, Canada**



## Artistic Statement

*Lines of Resistance: Prison Art from the Middle East* is a mixed media work produced by former political prisoners from the Middle East, notably Iran, as well as artists standing in solidarity with them. The exhibition visualizes atrocities committed by the Islamic Republic of Iran and other oppressive states throughout the region.

Since June 2009, the Islamic regime has imprisoned and executed thousands of its citizens; the crimes have been surrounded in an official culture of silence. This round of imprisonments and executions is part of a continuum of state violence in Iran and other states in the region, including Turkey, Israel, Morocco, Egypt and Libya.

This exhibition is part of a larger project called *Words, Colour, Movement: Remembering and Learning Through the Arts* working with a group of former political prisoners from Iran and Turkey living in Toronto, Canada. For the last 2 years, participants have met regularly to create art as a mode of expressing resistance against authoritarian regimes.

This exhibition serves as a testament to those who resist oppressive state policies. It is also an opportunity for us to stand in solidarity with the Iranian people and demand the immediate end to imprisonment, torture and executions.



*This work is part of research conducted by Dr. Shahrzad Mojab and Bethany Osborne at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at the University of Toronto (For more information about this work, see [www.utoronto.ca/prisonmemoirs](http://www.utoronto.ca/prisonmemoirs)).*

### What are the facts about capital punishment in Iran?

- Following the post-election unrest in the summer of 2009, there has been a surge in the execution of political prisoners in Iran. According to credible international human rights organizations, the Iranian government has executed at least 86 people since the start of 2011.
- Amnesty International reported 112 executions in the eight weeks between the disputed election in June 2009 and Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's inauguration in early August.
- Since 1979, Iran's Islamic government has executed thousands of men, women, and children for non-violent political activity.
- Political prisoners who are executed in Iran are not afforded fair trials and are often subjected to gruesome torture.
- Iran continues to stone women to death for adultery.
- Iran remains one of the only countries in the world to execute juveniles. It also continues to execute adults for crimes they committed when they were under 18.

### Is the Iranian government violating international human rights law?

- Iran has a shameful record of executing activists, without trial, for peaceful exercise of their political rights is a blatant violation of international law.
- Iran violates international law by carrying out the barbaric practice of stoning.
- Iran's execution of juveniles violates its obligations under international law. Iran has signed the Convention on the Rights of the Child which prohibits execution of anyone under 18 and prohibits the use of capital punishment for crimes committed when a person was a minor.