



INTERNATIONAL HEALTH AWARENESS NETWORK

Spring 2004

Empowering through Health and Education

Volume 15

Shirin Ebadi 2003 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate



In the midst of the ongoing global debate about democracy and human rights in the Middle East, the voice of an extraordinary Iranian Muslim woman has risen above the din. As a human rights attorney, Mrs. Shirin Ebadi was already well known in her native Iran for her courageous advocacy on behalf of political dissidents, women and children. Now honored with the 2003 Nobel Peace Prize, Mrs. Ebadi's heroism

is known throughout the world.

In her October 2003 acceptance speech in Oslo, Norway, Mrs. Ebadi spoke about the implications of the prize. "Undoubtedly, my selection will be an inspiration to the masses of women who are striving to realize their rights, not only in Iran but throughout the region - rights taken away from them through the passage of history. This selection will make women in Iran, and much further afield, believe in themselves. Women constitute half of the population of every country. To disregard women and bar them from active participation in political, social, economic and cultural life would in fact be tantamount to depriving the entire population of every society of half its capability. The patriarchal culture and the discrimination against women, particularly in the Islamic countries cannot continue forever."

Prior to the 1979 revolution, Mrs. Ebadi was one of the coun-

try's first female judges. However, the new Islamic Republic of Iran demoted her, claiming that women were "too emotional" to serve as judges. Undeterred, Mrs. Ebadi began her campaign for human rights.

Not only has she challenged the Islamic Republic of Iran's human rights abuses and erroneous interpretations and application of Islam, but she has called for scrutiny and accountability in Western countries that violate international human rights law. "The concerns of human rights' advocates increased when they observe that international human rights laws are breached not only by their recognized opponents under the pretext of cultural relativity, but that these principles are also violated in Western democracies, which were themselves among the initial codifiers of the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights."

Making the most of the worldwide interest in her viewpoint as a Muslim human rights advocate, Mrs. Ebadi has boldly challenged misconceptions about Islam and democracy. Her position is that Islam is not fundamentally incompatible with democracy and human rights. Rather, laws that are promulgated in the name of Islam based on inaccurate interpretations of Islam need to be changed. Moreover, Western democracies must also be held accountable for their violations of international human rights laws. "If the 21st century wishes to free itself from the cycle of violence, acts of terror and war, and avoid repetition of the experience of the 20th century- that most disaster-ridden century of humankind, there is no other way except by understanding and putting into practice every human right for all mankind, irrespective of race, gender, faith, nationality or social status."

[All quotes are from Mrs. Ebadi's October 2003 Nobel Peace Prize speech in Oslo, Norway]

Inside...

IN DEDICATION TO WORLD PEACE

President's Message.....	2	Hargesia Somaliland Field Project Update	3
Gender Equity for Leadership and Peace Building	2	IHAN's History.....	3
White Feather A Journey to Peace.....	2	Calendar of Events	4
Japan 2007.....	2		

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In partnership with Lehman College of the City University of New York and other organizations, IHAN is launching a Coalition for Peace Initiative. Despite the existence of countless entities and individuals committed to peace, death and destruction from war continues to overshadow and overwhelm our peace efforts. In order to strengthen the global peace movement, we will broaden the peace constituency by enlisting groups that have yet to play a formalized role in the peace process. This ongoing campaign will give a platform for new constituents in the peace movement: women, children, artists, civil society, athletes, doctors, lawyers and others. By drawing on the diverse contributions and enlisting the active participation of these new constituents, the number of peace makers will flourish and the culture of peace will grow stronger and eventually prevail.

We will strengthen the peace movement and broaden the peace constituency by funding and supporting various initiatives that will empower these new peace constituents to play an active role in the peacemaking process.

Our activities will include: (a) elementary school peace and conflict resolution programs; (b) collegiate scholarships to cultivate future peace makers; (c) peace education programs and seminars for civil society at the local, national, and international level; and (d) cultural, academic, and political peace building initiatives for civil society.

In honor of the first female Nobel Prize Laureate from Iran, Mrs. Shirin Ebadi, we will establish a peace scholarship at Lehman College. While we pay tribute to this remarkable human rights and peace activist, the scholarship aims to inspire students from diverse backgrounds to participate in the peace process and to help students recognize that everyone has a role to play in the peace movement. Each year, Lehman students will be invited to submit a written proposal for a new peace initiative and to identify a Peace Mentor. A scholarship committee will select the best proposal and grant a scholarship in the amount of \$5,000 to one outstanding student. Lehman College and IHAN will facilitate a mentoring relationship between the student and her/his chosen Peace Mentor in the hope that the scholarship will empower the recipient to follow in the footsteps of Mrs. Ebadi and other peace makers and broaden the peace constituency. We aspire to create a much needed international center for peace education in honor of Mrs. Ebadi and other Nobel Peace Laureates and the participating civil society.

-Sorosh Roshan-

IHAN's Side event for CSW March 2004 Gender Equity for Leadership and Peace Building

In commemoration of the United Nations Conference on the Status of Women, IHAN together with the National Council of Women (NCW), the International Council of Women (ICW) and the Medical Women's International Association hosted a briefing. Dr. Vijaya Melnick, the Senior Research Scholar at the Center for Applied Research and Urban Policy in the University of the District of Columbia in Washington, D.C., was the key note speaker.

Dr. Melnick is also one of IHAN's Vice Presidents and she spoke about biological and social issues that affect women's gender equity from birth through life. She concluded by saying that "Empowerment of Women spells national development."

Other panelists included: Dr. Anamah Tan, ICW President, Dr. Satty Gill Keswani of Medical Women International Association representative to the United Nations, Mrs. Mary E. Singletary, RN, NCW President, and Dr. Mini Murthy, IHAN's Program Coordinator. The briefing was attended by women and men from across the world who agreed to devote 60 seconds of their time every day to peace. Dr. Ra'ana Mahmood, President of Geriatrics Care Foundation Pakistan, Hissa Majed Al-Shaheen, General Coordinator for Administrative and Financial Affairs -Women Affairs Committee, Samina Naz, First Secretary Bangladesh Mission to the UN.

White Feather A Journey to Peace New Book by IHAN Vice President Suzanne Stutman

For over 23 years, Dr. Suzanne Stutman has been a Professor of English, American Studies, and Women's Studies at Penn State University (Abington). Her poems have been displayed and read at the United Nations and at locations around the world on behalf of women, children and the elimination of violence toward the human family. Her new book, "White Feather a Journey to Peace" reflects the work and devotion to peace that Dr. Stutman has nurtured for many years.

Some remarks about this book:

"Even from darkness there can be light, healing and blossoming especially from a heart so pure and full of love as Suzanne Stutman's,"

Peace
If
I
could
weave
Peace
into
the
fabric
of
the
world,
I
would
stitch
flowers
onto
its
hem,
and
shake
it
over
earth,
and
say,
"There,
now.
Rest."
-Suzanne
Stutman-

says Sorosh Roshan, M.D., and President of International Health Awareness Network.

Dr. Stutman is also the author of Broken Feather: A Journey to Healing.

She is IHAN Vice President for Educational Outreach, a board member of the Survivors Art Foundation, the Thomas Wolfe Society and the Toni Morrison Society. She is also immediate past president of the National Council of Women.



2007 Peace Summit in Hiroshima

In March 2004, IHAN President, Sorosh Roshan, traveled to Japan with the Japan Convention Bureau, JNTO with the representatives of other international organizations. This was the site visit and feasibility study for IHAN upcoming peace summit in Hiroshima. The peace summit is planned for the fall of 2007.

Hargeisa, Somaliland Field Project



After a year of planning and enormous efforts, our IHAN team of three doctors, a pharmacist and a computer consultant arrived in Hargeisa. The medical supplies which were donated by Johnson and Johnson and the Jordanian medical society were already at the Hargeisa group hospital. IHAN's mission was publicized via Radio and T.V. and after an overwhelming welcome reception, The IHAN team, which was received as VIPS in the renovated Maansour Hotel, immediately started to work.

women; over 200 women received information about the importance of drinking enough water, eating protein (especially during pregnancy) and other relevant public health information. The IHAN team worked five days, and their activities were taped by a television crew Of Somaliland. Patients were grateful and very cooperative, as reported from the team of doctors. The hospital facilities were upgraded and the improvement from last year was uplifting.



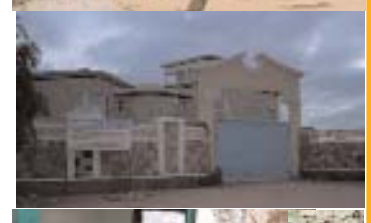
IHAN's team was assisted by the Medical staff and members of the Board of Directors of the hospital. "The preparation for our work was impressive," says IHAN's President Sorosh Roshan, "Every day Dr. Suad, Nadia, and myself treated about 250 patients and our young and energetic Pharmacist Dr. Khaloud from Jordan dispensed the medicine."

On the second day of the trip the IHAN team was invited to a traditional outdoor garden restaurant for lunch under the lush mango trees. They were served camel meat along with many other traditional delicacies and they learned that camel meat is cholesterol free and camel milk is an effective laxative.



Laura Diclementi functioned as the project coordinator, organized the patient intake and general. Laura conducted health education workshops in nutrition and hygiene for the Somali

More than 1,000 patients received evaluation and treatments. IHAN will return to Hargeisa in April of 2005, we hope to donate a mammography unit to the hospital and establish extensive educational programs on public health issues and hygiene.



IHAN's History - Selected Projects and Fund Raising Efforts

1987-89 Mundhini, Kenya: Immunized 10,000 children against infectious diseases with vaccines provided by UNICEF; also provided health screening and treatment, built a health clinic, and donated an ambulance.

1990 Brooklyn, New York, U.S.A.: Raised funds to help maintain a battered women's shelter to combat violence against women at home.

1991 New York, UN: Raised funds for a cyclone-proof shelter to equip the people of Bangladesh against natural disasters.

1992 Rutherford, New Jersey, U.S. A.: At Fairleigh Dickinson University, raised funds to establish a chair and an international scholarship to honor the late Professor Nasrollah Fatemi, founding director of the Graduate Institute of International Studies and Dean of Graduate Studies.

1994 Romania: A gala celebration and fundraiser to benefit projects for the children of Romania.

1995 New Jersey, U.S.A.: Sponsored a weekly radio program with a focus on women including issues from the Beijing Platform of Action, mid-life challenges, breast cancer, and osteoporosis.

1998 Sun City, South Africa: Participated in ECOLINK, a field project to train women in food production.

2002-Present Hargeisa, Somaliland: Renovation of the Hargeisa Group Hospital and in collaboration with Johnson & Johnson, vaccination and medical treatment of over 1,000 women and children of the region every year.

To be continued...

Look for IHAN's History - Selected Workshops and Symposiums Organized by IHAN in our next issue

IHAN BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sorosh Roshan, M.D., MPH, President
 Vijaya Melnick, PhD., Vice President
 Barbara Seaman, Vice President
 Suzanne Stutman, Ph.D., Vice President
 Purificacion Quisumbing, Esq.,
 Vice President International Outreach
 Sylvia Shapiro, Esq., Secretary
 Fedra Florence Fateh, Esq., Treasurer
 Mahnaz Sarachi, PhD., Executive Director
 Padmini Murthy, M.D., MPH, Program Coordinator

IHAN MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

The National Council of Women/U.S.A.
 The International Council of Women
 The National Council on Women's Health

IHAN ADVISORY COUNCIL

Fatemeh Aleem, M.D., USA
 Onyango Akena, M.D., Kenya
 A. Asghar-Rana, M.D., Pakistan
 Soraya Berg, Esq., USA
 Carla Chamberlin, USA
 Vivian P. J. Clarke, PhD., USA
 Clive Cummins, Esq., USA
 Anusleya Dass, M.D., India
 Suad Al Dasuqi, Jordan
 Laura DiClementi, MS, USA
 Faramarz S. Fatemi, PhD., USA
 Madame Haoua-Dieta, Niger
 Jaco Hoffman, South Africa
 Elizabeth Ward Kalb, USA
 Satty Gill Keswani, M.D., USA
 Nasrin Khazaei, PhD., Iran
 Betsy Lambert, Esq., USA
 Janet Lazarian, Iran
 Florence W. Manguyu, M.D., Kenya
 Ruth B. Merkatz, PhD., RN, FAAN, USA
 Maggie Miqueo, Esq., USA
 Paula Moynahan, M.D., USA
 Beverly Nelson, Australia
 Sucheta Panicker, M.D., India
 Nargis Rafia Rahman, Bangladesh
 Fatemeh Roshan, M.D., Iran
 Rosalinda Rubenstein, M.D., USA
 Bijan Safai, M.D., USA
 Homayra Sellier, Switzerland
 Janiz Minshew Shurr, M.D., USA
 Zohreh Tabatabai, Iran
 Karlyn Tamborlyn., Esq. USA
 Manijeh Wishart, M.D., UK
 Xing Zhaoxu, M.D., China

IHAN STAFF

Maria A. Castro, USA
 Edgar R. Santana, USA
 Ardi Abar, USA

IHAN

The International Health Awareness Network (IHAN) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the health and welfare of women and children, particularly in developing countries. Each year we adopt a needy cause related to our mandate empowering through health and education and in cooperating with other NGOs, governmental bodies and concerned citizens we make a small but important difference.

Upcoming Events

May 23

United Nations, New York
 Gala Reception to honor Shirin Ebadi

May 24

Lehman College, Bronx, New York
 The Role of Women in World Peace & The Role of Men and Boys in Gender Equity

June 10-17

South Africa
 Literacy Project for HIV Orphans
 Penn State University - IHAN- Age In Action & HEARTBEAT

July 28-August 4

Tokyo, Japan
 MWIA General Assembly

October 15

New York, USA
 New Frontiers in Modern Medicine

December 10

New York, USA
 Commemoration of Human Rights

IHAN PUBLICATIONS

1. *The Impact of Health Care Policy and Practices on Women.*
2. *The Impact of Nutrition on Women's and Children's Health*
3. *Elimination of Violence Against Women and Children.*
4. *New Millennium Strategies for Women's Health and Human Rights in the Work Place.*
5. *Improving Women's Health Throughout the Life Span: The Right to Information.*

Please contact IHAN to order a copy

Newsletter Produced by IHAN

Writer and Layout designer Maria A. Castro
 Editors: Sorosh Roshan, Suzanne Stutman

With your help, we can improve international health education and awareness.

How you can help:

IHAN depends entirely on contributions of time and money to conduct its important work. You can help by sending a tax deductible contribution to the

address below or by becoming a volunteer to assist us in our fund raising and in our health and educational missions. If you would like to know more about our work or how you can help us accomplish our mission, please feel free to contact us.

I'd like to help. Please find enclosed my tax deductible contribution to IHAN



INTERNATIONAL
 HEALTH
 AWARENESS
 NETWORK

IHAN

3 Lincoln Center
 New York, New York 10023
 Tel/Fax: (212) 579-8821
 E-Mail: info@ihan.org
 www.ihan.org

