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HONOR VIOLENCE

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What is honor violence?

Honor violence is a form of violence against women committed with the motive of protecting or regaining the honor of the perpetrator, family, or community. Victims of honor violence are targeted because their actual or perceived behavior is deemed to be shameful or to violate cultural or religious norms. Conduct such as resisting an arranged marriage, seeking a divorce, adopting a Western lifestyle and wearing Western clothing, and having friends of the opposite sex have resulted in honor violence.

Honor violence involves systematic control of the victim that escalates over a period of time and may begin at a young age. Honor violence can be perpetrated by one individual or can be a group campaign of harassment and violence committed by an entire family or community. It can take many forms, including verbal/emotional abuse, threats, stalking, harassment, false imprisonment, physical violence, sexual abuse, and homicide.

How is honor violence different from domestic violence?

Although honor violence involves violence by one family member against another, it has characteristics that make it unique and warrant a different approach by social service providers and law enforcement. For example, a perpetrator of honor violence believes that his conduct is justified because of the victim's actions. Because this perception is supported by deeply ingrained cultural mores, he is generally not alone in this belief and often has the support of his family and community, either in planning and committing the violence or fleeing from law enforcement afterwards. Additionally, a victim of honor violence is likely to be shunned by her family and community because she is believed to have caused the violence through her own behavior. For a victim of honor violence to leave the abusive situation, she must not only part from her abuser, but often must be ready to leave her entire nuclear and extended family, and perhaps even her cultural community. She will face immense pressure to change the offending behavior so as to bring peace to the family and restore the family's honor and will be made to believe that she deserves the abuse she is suffering.

Does this happen in the United States?

Yes. There are numerous recent examples of honor violence and honor killings in the U.S., a few of which are described below.

Aiya Altameemi

In Arizona in February 2012, 19-year-old Aiya Altameemi was physically assaulted by her mother, father, and younger sister because she was seen talking to a boy. Her father put a knife to her throat and threatened to kill her, while her mother and sister tied her to a bed, taped her mouth shut, and beat her. This incident followed a previous incident in November 2011 when Aiya's mother burned her on the face with a hot spoon because she refused to consent to an arranged marriage with a man twice her age. During an interview with police, Aiya's parents stated that they had abused their daughter because her behavior violated "Iraqi culture." Aiya's mother, father, and sister are all facing charges related to these incidents.

Sarah and Amina Said

In Texas in January 2008, Yaser Said shot and killed his teenage daughters, Sarah and Amina, because he was enraged by their Western lifestyle, particularly that they each had boyfriends. During a vigil held for the girls after their deaths, their brother took the microphone and suggested that his sisters were responsible for what had happened to them, saying "They pulled the trigger, not my dad." Said fled after the murders and has not yet been apprehended.

Noor Almaleki

In Arizona in October 2009, Faleh Almaleki murdered his 20-year-old daughter, Noor, by running her down with his vehicle because he believed that she had shamed the family by becoming too Western and refusing to marry a man he had selected for her in Iraq. In February 2011, Almaleki was convicted of murder and sentenced to 34 1/2 years in prison.

Fauzia A. Mohammad

In May 2008, Waheed Allah Mohammad stabbed his 19-year-old sister, Fauzia, outside of their home in Henrietta, New York. The stabbing occurred during a heated argument between Fauzia and a number of family members over Fauzia's plan to move to New York City with a friend. Mohammad told investigators that he had stabbed his sister because she had disgraced their family by going to clubs and wearing immodest clothing and was a "bad Muslim girl." Mohammad pleaded guilty to attempted murder and assault and was sentenced to 10 years in prison.

- [Honor Violence Fact Sheet \(PDF\)](#)

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FORCED MARRIAGE

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What is a forced marriage?

A forced marriage occurs when an individual is forced, coerced, threatened, or tricked to marry without her informed consent.

How is this different from an arranged marriage?

In many cultures, it is customary for families to arrange meetings between their children in the hopes of fostering a voluntary relationship that will lead to a marriage. In such situations, while the initial meetings are arranged by the families and a marriage is encouraged, the ultimate decision regarding whether to marry remains with the couple and the choice to marry is strictly voluntary. In contrast, in a forced marriage, an individual is threatened and/or coerced by her family to enter into the marriage against her will and may suffer honor violence if she resists or refuses the marriage.

Does this happen in the United States?

Yes. Although this is generally treated as a private family matter that remains hidden from public view, there are numerous reports of girls being taken out of school in the United States in their early teenage years and returned to their parents' home countries to be forcibly married. For example, in 2007, the New York Daily News reported that a number of girls were being forced to return to Pakistan to marry men chosen by their families. One woman recalled being tricked and drugged before being put on a plane to Pakistan and, once there, being forced at gunpoint to acquiesce to a marriage to a man chosen by her father.

The Tahirih Justice Center released survey results in September of 2011 that found as many as 3,000 known or suspected cases of forced marriage within immigrant communities in the United States in the two years preceding the survey. We believe the actual number of forced marriage cases in the United States to be much higher, as the survey was directed towards service providers and other professionals. Many more existing cases are likely hidden from the view of officials.

The United Kingdom has set up a hotline specifically to handle cases of forced marriage. In 2010, there were 1,735 cases of forced marriage reported to the hotline. Of those victims, 131 were British citizens who were rescued after having been taken to Pakistan for marriage against their will.

- [Forced Marriage Fact Sheet \(PDF\)](#)

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FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION

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What is female genital mutilation?

Female genital mutilation (FGM) is any procedure involving the partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs and is often performed on girls between the ages of 4 and 14 to ensure their virginity until marriage. FGM has no foundation in Islamic scripture or law; however, in the West it is mainly practiced in Muslim communities.

Is female genital mutilation harmful?

Yes. The World Health Organization reports that FGM has no health benefits and can cause a number of health problems. Immediately following the procedure, girls are at risk for severe pain, shock, bleeding, bacterial infection, and injury to nearby tissue. In the long term, girls and women who have suffered this procedure are at risk for recurrent bladder and urinary tract infections, cysts, infertility, and complications during intercourse and childbirth.

Is female genital mutilation practiced in the United States?

Because this is a private ritual that occurs within the secrecy of the family, there is no way of knowing exactly how prevalent FGM is in the U.S. There have been few reported cases of FGM being performed in the U.S.; however, numerous authorities suspect that the actual numbers are far higher. There is also a concern that families send their daughters out of the country to suffer the procedure.

Research conducted by the African Women's Health Center of the Brigham and Women's Hospital found that approximately 228,000 women and girls in the U.S. have either suffered the procedure or are at risk of FGM, a number that increased by approximately 35% between 1990 and 2000.

Is female genital mutilation a crime?

Yes, FGM has been a crime under federal law since 1996 and is punishable by up to five years in prison. It is not a

crime to take your daughter abroad to undergo the procedure.

FGM is also a crime in the following 20 states:

- California
- Colorado
- Delaware
- Florida
- Georgia
- Illinois
- Louisiana
- Maryland
- Minnesota
- Missouri
- Nevada
- New York
- North Dakota
- Oklahoma
- Oregon
- Rhode Island
- Tennessee
- Texas
- West Virginia
- Wisconsin

However, in many states where FGM is a crime, the sentencing provisions are quite weak. For example, in New York, a person convicted of FGM may avoid a prison sentence and receive only a sentence of probation.

- [Female Genital Mutilation Fact Sheet \(PDF\)](#)
- [Female Genital Mutilation Statutes in the United States and United Kingdom \(PowerPoint\)](#)

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January 30

Trio guilty of 'honor' killings in Canada Three members of an Afghan family face prison for drowning a woman and three young sisters.

The Associated Press

KINGSTON, Ontario — A jury Sunday found three members of an Afghan family guilty of killing three teenage sisters and another woman in what the judge described as "cold-blooded, shameful murders" resulting from a "twisted concept of honor," ending a case that shocked and riveted Canadians.

Prosecutors said the defendants allegedly killed the sisters because they dishonored the family by defying its disciplinary rules on dress, dating, socializing and using the Internet.

The jury took 15 hours to find Mohammad Shafia, 58; his wife, Tooba Yahya, 42; and their son Hamed, 21, each guilty of four counts of first-degree murder. First-degree murder carries an automatic life sentence with no chance of parole for 25 years.

After the verdict was read, the three defendants again declared their innocence in the killings of sisters Zainab, 19, Sahar, 17, and Geeti, 13, as well as Rona Amir Mohammad, 52, Shafia's childless first wife in a polygamous marriage.

'COMPLETELY INNOCENT VICTIMS'

Their bodies were found on June 30, 2009, in a car submerged in a canal in Kingston, Ontario, where the family had stopped for the night on their way home to Montreal from Niagara Falls, Ontario.

The prosecution alleged it was a case of premeditated murder, staged to look like an accident after it was carried out. Prosecutors said the defendants drowned their victims elsewhere on the site, placed their bodies in the car and pushed it into the canal.

Ontario Superior Court Judge Robert Maranger said the evidence clearly supported the conviction.

"It is difficult to conceive of a more heinous, more despicable, more honorless crime," Maranger said. "The apparent reason behind these cold-blooded, shameful murders was that the four completely innocent victims offended your completely twisted concept of honor ... that has absolutely no place in any civilized society."

Defense lawyers said the deaths were accidental. They said the Nissan car accidentally plunged into the canal after the eldest daughter, Zainab, took it for a joy ride with her sisters and her father's first wife.

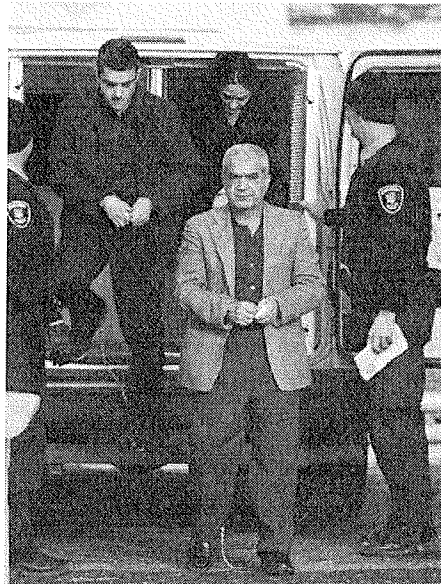
The younger Shafia's attorney, Patrick McCann, said he was disappointed with the verdict, but that his client will appeal and he believes the other two defendants will as well.

But prosecutor Gerard Laarhuis welcomed the verdict.

"This verdict sends a very clear message about our Canadian values and the core principles in a free and democratic society that all Canadians enjoy and even visitors to Canada enjoy," he said outside court.

NOT A HAPPY HOUSEHOLD

The family had left Afghanistan in 1992 and lived in Pakistan, Australia and Dubai before settling in Canada in 2007. Mohammad Shafia, a wealthy businessman, married Yahya because his first wife could not have children.



Mohammad Shafia, 58, center, his wife, Tooba Yahya, 42, and their son, Hamed Shafia, 21, arrive at the Frontenac County court in Kingston, Ontario, on Sunday. They were convicted of killing the family's three daughters and the elder Shafia's co-wife.

The Associated Press

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Shafia's first wife was living with him and his second wife. The polygamous relationship, if revealed, could have resulted in their deportation.

The prosecution painted a picture of a household controlled by a domineering Shafia, with his son meting out discipline when his father was away on frequent business trips to Dubai.

The months leading up to the deaths were not happy ones in the Shafia household, according to evidence presented at trial:

- Zainab was forbidden to attend school for a year because she had a young Pakistani-Canadian boyfriend, and she fled to a shelter, terrified of her father, the court was told.
- The prosecution said her parents found condoms in Sahar's room as well as photos of her wearing short skirts and hugging her Christian boyfriend, a relationship she had kept secret.
- Geeti was skipping school, failing classes, being sent home for wearing revealing clothes and stealing, while declaring to authority figures that she wanted to be placed in foster care, according to the prosecution.

Shafia's first wife wrote in a diary that her husband beat her, while his second wife called her a servant.

WIRETAP EVIDENCE A FOCAL POINT

The prosecution presented wire taps and mobile phone records from the Shafia family in court to support their honor killing allegation. The wiretaps, which capture Shafia calling his dead daughters treacherous whores and invoking the devil to defecate on their graves, were a focal point of the trial.

"There can be no betrayal, no treachery, no violation more than this," Shafia said on one recording. "Even if they hoist me up onto the gallows ... nothing is more dear to me than my honor."

Shafia's attorney, Peter Kemp, said after the verdicts that he believes the comments his client made on the wiretaps may have weighed more heavily on the jury's minds than the physical evidence in the case.

"He wasn't convicted for what he did," Kemp said. "He was convicted for what he said."

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Issues

SHARIA LAW

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What is Sharia law?

Sharia is Islamic law. The Sharia is based on the Quran, the Sunna (the Hadith, sayings and deeds of the Prophet), the ijma (consensus of scholars) and the qiyas (analytical deduction). It governs civil, criminal, and family matters. The provisions of Sharia are incompatible with modern Western individual rights, particularly the equal rights of women.

For example, under the sections of Sharia law civil code governing marriage and child custody, a marriage contract is between the woman's father (or other male guardian) and her husband and a man can have up to four wives. A man can divorce his wife by simple repudiation, whereas a woman must give justification for requesting a divorce and meet an extremely high burden of proof. If a woman does obtain a divorce and later remarries, she loses custody of her children, even if the father is abusive.

Sharia penal law is likewise repugnant to Western legal values and women's rights. Sharia law permits a woman to be stoned to death for having sex outside of marriage. Homosexuality and apostasy are also death penalty crimes. Failure to wear a veil can result in fines and imprisonment and can be used as a justification for honor violence.

In any proceeding governed by Sharia law, a woman's testimony is worth only half that of a man's.

Is Sharia law used in the United States?

Currently, there are no Sharia tribunals operating publicly in the United States, and U.S. judges and lawmakers have explicitly rejected the influence of Sharia law in American courts.^[1] However, there are concerns that family law proceedings and other legal disputes in the United States are being adjudicated in private tribunals governed by Sharia law. These tribunals operate outside the U.S. legal system, and are therefore not subject to the constitutional principles of due process and equal rights.

Is Sharia law used in any other Western countries?

Yes. Sharia “arbitration courts” operate in the United Kingdom and adjudicate marriage, divorce, inheritance, and guardianship matters when both parties consent to the case being handled in that forum. These courts usually operate out of mosques and the judges are not selected or supervised by any independent legal body. In these courts, parties often do not have access to legal advice and representation. Proceedings in these courts are not recorded and there is no right to appeal. In June 2011, a British member of the House of Lords proposed that Islamic courts be forced to acknowledge the primacy of English law because of “deep concerns” that Muslim women are suffering discrimination within closed sharia law councils. Sharia courts have also been proposed in Australia and Canada.

[i] In one family court proceeding in New Jersey, the judge did appear to accept elements of Sharia law. The case alleged domestic violence and rape by a husband against his wife. The husband argued that his religion permitted his conduct because “you are my wife, I c[an] do anything to you. The woman, she should submit and do anything I ask her to do.” The judge accepted this defense, finding that the husband did not have the criminal intent to rape his wife: “The court believes that he was operating under his belief that it is, as the husband, his desire to have sex when and whether he wanted to, was something that was consistent with his practices and it was something that was not prohibited.” Fortunately, this anomalous case was reversed on appeal. The appellate court specifically found that the judge erred in allowing the defendant’s religious beliefs to excuse his criminal conduct.

- [Sharia Law Fact Sheet \(PDF\)](#)

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Female Genital Mutilation in North America & Europe

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Summary:

Female Genital Mutilation is an invasive procedure that is usually performed on girls before puberty. It is occasionally performed within Aboriginal, Christian and Muslim families who have emigrated to North America or Europe from some predominately Muslim countries where it is practiced as a social tradition. It is also done at birth to some "inter-sex" infants in Europe for what are seen by some as justified for medical or psychological reasons.

Female Genital Mutilation among immigrants:

This operation is occasionally performed on children of immigrants from some Muslim countries of the Middle East, Africa, Indonesia and other Muslim countries in Asia. It is seen by some of its supporters as a religious duty, social custom, and/or a necessary operation for health reasons. It is criticized by those in opposition as a cruel mutilation of a young girl in order to reduce her sexual response after puberty.

In the West, the procedure is outlawed in

"Australia (six states), Burkina Faso, Canada, Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Ghana, Guinea, New Zealand, Nigeria (3 states), Norway, Senegal, Sweden, Tanzania, Togo, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

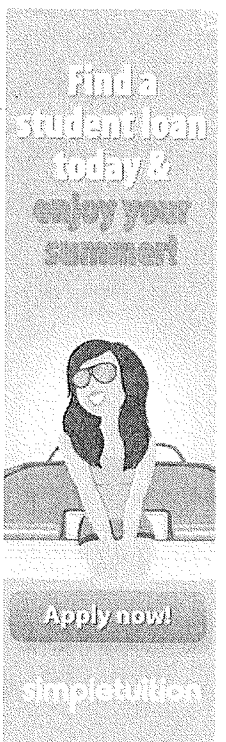
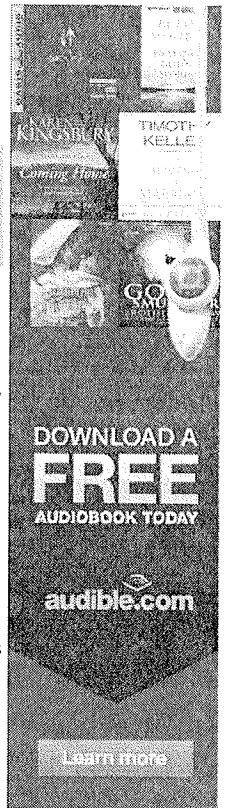
Legislation against FGM can be counter-productive in some cases. It might force the practice deeply underground. Women may not seek medical care later in life because their parents might be charged. The operation can be life threatening if performed by untrained individuals; if the operation is botched, the parents may be reluctant to take the child to a hospital out of fear of being criminally charged with child abuse. On the other hand, it does indicate that the government has taken a stand against FGM. This, and potential penalties, may well cause some parents to decide against having their daughter(s) mutilated.

- ❑ **US:** After 20 years of personal effort, Representative Patricia Schroeder (D-CO) saw a US federal bill, "*Federal Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation Act of 1995*" passed in 1996-SEP. The bill had been introduced by Sen. Harry Reid (D-Nevada). ³ The law provides for prison sentences of up to 5 years for anyone who "*circumcises, excises, or infibulates the whole or any part of the labia majora or labia minora or clitoris of another person who has not attained the age of 18.*" US representatives to the World Bank and similar financial institutions are required to oppose loans to countries where FGM is prevalent and in which there are no anti-FGM educational programs. The law took effect on 1997-MAR-30. The first charges under the law were made in late 2003 when a California couples was arrested in a FBI sting operation allegedly after having agreed to perform a FGM procedure on two fictitious girls. ⁵

FGM has also been criminalized at the state level in California, Minnesota, North Dakota, Rhode Island, and Tennessee, and other states. At least one FGM assistance, education and support group is operating in the U.S. among immigrants from countries that practice FGM. ¹

Specialists in Denver, CO, reported in 1998 that at least 6,000 immigrants have settled in the area from African countries which widely practice FGM. ² Dr. Terry Dunn, director of a women's clinic in that city commented: "*I know of one patient where it was clear it was performed in this country.*" About 4 FGM cases are seen each year at the clinic.

- ❑ **Canada:** Section 273.3 of the *Canadian Criminal Code* protects children who are ordinarily



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resident in Canada, (as citizens or landed migrants) from being removed from the country and subjected to FGM. In the US and Canada, the very small percentage of Muslims who wish to continue the practice often find it impossible to find a doctor who will cooperate. The operation may then be done illegally in the home by poorly trained persons, under less than sterile conditions.

- **France:** On 1999-FEB-3, Hawa Greou went on trial in France on charges of "voluntarily bodily injury causing mutilation or permanent disability." She is alleged to have mutilated the genitals of about 50 young girls. Also charged were 27 parents of the victims. The case was triggered by a complaint by a woman of Malian origin, Mariatou Koita. Both she and her sister were allegedly mutilated by Greou. Jean Chavaiss, the defendant's lawyer, admits that the mutilations were carried out. He said: "If the trial can help bring about an end to this custom, then it will be useful. But punishment is not as effective as education and prevention... This is an African custom that has existed for centuries. It takes a long time to change habits." Ms. Greou, known among the Malian community in Paris as "Mama Greou" had received a one year suspended sentence in 1994 for excising two girls. This time, she was given an 8 year jail sentence. Parents received sentences ranging from a 3 year suspended sentence to 2 years in prison.

- **Norway:** The Daily Mail, a UK newspaper, reports that:

"In Norway, where this brutal act is also prevalent, a young Somali woman was recently beaten, almost to death, for talking to TV documentary programme-makers." 6

- **Europe:** According to a 1977 joint statement by the WHO, UNICEF and UNFPA, 500,000 females in the European Union have either been mutilated or are at risk for mutilation. 7

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Immigration lawyers:

Sacks & Kolken is law firm that has won a number of FGM-related asylum cases. Their website is at: <http://www.sackskolken.com/>

References:

1. M. Ramsey, "Forward USA/Ethiopia: Assistance, education and support for women and girls affected by female genital mutilation." This group has disappeared from the Internet and may no longer exist. For support questions in the U.S. you might try contacting:
 - [African Women's Health Center](http://www.brighamandwomens.org/), Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston, MA, at: <http://www.brighamandwomens.org/> This is the first and only African health practice in the United State that focuses FGM.
 - [Research, Action and Information Network for the Bodily Integrity of Women \(RAINBO\)](http://www.rainbo.org/) at: <http://www.rainbo.org/>
 - [The National Women's Health Information Center](http://www.4woman.gov/), at: <http://www.4woman.gov/>

See also our list of [books](#) and [Internet resources](#) on FGM

2. Associated Press article, 1998-FEB-16, quoted in the *Feminist Majority Foundation's* web site at: <http://feminist.org/>
3. Text of the "Federal Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation Act of 1995" is online at: <http://www.fgmnetwork.org/>
4. "Legislation on Female Genital Mutilation in the United States," Center for Reproductive Rights, at: <http://www.reproductiverights.org/> This is a PDF file. You may require software to read it. Software can be obtained free from: 
5. Megan Costello, "Two in U.S. Accused of Genital Mutilation," Womensenews, 2004-FEB-19, at: <http://www.womensenews.org/>
6. Jo-Ann Goodwin & David Jones, "How the unspeakable practice of female circumcision is destroying young women's lives in 21st century Britain," Daily Mail, 2007-JAN-03, at: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/>
7. "FGM Joint Statement, WHO, UNICEF and UNFPA, (1997, Page 4)

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First Time FBI Calls Case an 'Honor Killing'

Published October 14, 2008 FoxNews.com



Amina (left) and Sarah Said

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Almost a year after two teenage girls were found dead — allegedly executed by their father — in the back seat of a taxicab in Texas, the FBI is saying for the first time that the case may have been an "honor killing."

Sarah Said, 17, and her sister Amina, 18, were killed on New Year's Day, but for nine months authorities deflected questions about whether their father — the prime suspect and the subject of a nationwide manhunt — may have targeted them because of a perceived slight upon his honor.

• [Click here for photos.](#)

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.

But the FBI held off on calling it an honor killing until just recently, when it made Yaser Abdel Said the "featured fugitive" on its Web site.

"That's what I've been trying to tell everybody all along," Gartrell told FOXNews.com. "I would say that's a victory."

But some Muslims say that calling the case an honor killing goes too far.



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KARMA NIRVANA PEACE AND ENLIGHTENMENT

'Honour-based violence happens behind closed doors, but it is there, creeping like a cancer through our society' - Jasvinder Sanghera

WHAT WE'VE ACHIEVED

Here's where we blow our own trumpet. We've come a very long way since those early days when Jasvinder was still in that tiny room in Derby with her one chair and desk.

Eighteen years, two best-sellers and a Forced Marriage Act later, and we're more confident than ever that our ambition of a society free from honour-based violence is ever more in view.

Most recently, we've managed to secure a grant from the Ministry of Justice which will keep our Honour Network help-line up and running over the next three years, meaning we now have more resources to reach victims and save lives.

A short historical timeline of us:

- 1994: Jasvinder Sanghera founds a charity for victims of honour-based violence and forced marriage and calls it 'Karma Nirvana' - 'peace' and 'enlightenment'.
- 1996: we win funding from the National Lottery
- 2007: 'Shame' is published and storms the bestseller chart
- 2008: we revise our constitution to support men, women and children.
- 2009: 'Daughters of Shame' is published and becomes another bestseller
- 2008: following years of campaigning by Karma Nirvana, the **Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Act 2007** comes into force as Justice Minister Bridget Prentice announces 'violence of any kind will not be tolerated'.
- 2011: 'Shame Travels' is published
- 2011: the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) awards Karma Nirvana funding to keep the Honour Network help-line funded for another three years

Jasvinder Sanghera

Jasvinder has continued to be the recipient of multiple coveted awards.

In 2011, she was listed in the Guardian's **Top 100** most inspirational women in the world, proudly taking her place alongside respected campaigning heavyweights **Shami Chakrabarti** and **Margaret Chan**.

She joined the ranks of Cosmopolitan's fun, fearless females when she scooped up the Ultimate Woman's Woman award in 2010. She has also been the recipient of the **Pride of Britain** award (2009), the **Asian Women Achievement Award** (2005), the **Metropolitan Police GG2 Diversity Award** (2005) – plus a whole host of others.

She won the **Woman of the Year Award 2007** – 'Saluting a woman, whose courage and determination to bring our attention to the injustices of forced marriages, has changed and shaped the way we think about the world'.

Increased Reporting, Reduce Isolation, Save Lives

BBC NEWS

MAGAZINE

PICTURE THIS

Unorthodox: Breaking away from the Hasidic community

29 February 2012 Last updated at 21:09 ET

Help

Though a large Hasidic Judaism community in Brooklyn sits just across the river from bustling Manhattan, the neighbourhood looks a century away from modern life in New York City.

The way the Satmar sect dress - the round fur hat, the long black coat, the side curls and long beard - is the only knowledge most outsiders have about this closed community.

In her recently published autobiography, *Unorthodox*, 24-year-old Deborah Feldman reveals everything she knows about the condition of women within the group and what she calls the oppression of individual freedoms of its members.

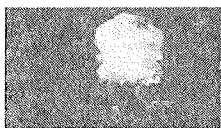
Ms Feldman tells the story of her childhood in a very religious Satmar family, where even reading English books was prohibited.

She claims she was forced into an arranged marriage at the age of 17 with a man she met 30 minutes prior to their wedding. She left the community at the age of 19, together with her newly born son.

The book has prompted angry reaction from her former community for revealing some painful secrets. She says she now worries about her personal safety. But she still says that she is proud of her origins and that her intent was not to harm or embarrass anyone, but to open a dialogue.

Produced by Anna Bressanin, Camera by Ilya Shnitser

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Honor Killings Are Hate Crimes

The FBI and Yaser Abdul Said

by Phyllis Chesler

Pajamas Media

October 17, 2008

<http://www.phyllis-chesler.com/363/honor-killings-hate-crimes-fbi-yaser-abdul-said>

On October 4, 2008, for the first time ever, the FBI described the double homicides of Sarah and Amina Said in Dallas as an "honor killing." This language accompanied the photo of Yaser Abdul Said on the FBI's Most Wanted List. On January 1, 2008, Said took his Egyptian passport, and \$9,000.00 and, with his wife Tissy's help, shot and killed both his daughters in his taxi cab. He has not been seen since then.

The Dallas representative of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) was outraged by the description of this crime as an "honor killing." He was quoted as saying: "Until motive is proven in a court of law, this is just a homicide." Great-aunt Gail Gartrell told me that an Imam also took to the airwaves in Dallas to express his outrage

By October 16, 2008, the FBI had deleted the phrase "honor killing" from their description of Yaser Abdul Said on their Most Wanted list.

I do not know why they have done so. Gartrell believes that "the Islamists are winning! I think it matters little who gets into the White House as the Islamists will do what they will and the law will back off due to legal threats! What country is this now....the USA OF Islamistan? They proved to me that the Islamists have much more power than I do! I've told truth! They just deny truth! Even so, they were able to get this recanted...just like Amina and Sarah had to recant about the sexual abuse." (The girls' grandmother witnessed her son-in-law sexually abusing her grandchildren and reported him. The children confirmed that this was true. Their mother, who also lured them to their deaths, persuaded them to recant because otherwise "Daddy will go to jail.")

I have been told that the FBI was deluged by media requests. If true, this might represent a tremendous waste of time. Also, while categorizing an "honor killing" as such might be important in terms of preventing one, I am not sure how it might help in the capture of an honor killer. On the contrary. It might tempt naive Muslim civilians to shelter someone who has been targeted as a **Muslim** murderer, and not just as a murderer.

I have no idea if the FBI yielded to any "legal threats." I would be surprised if they had. But I have a suggestion. Let's take a page from the "politically correct" handbook. Why not think about honor killings as "hate crimes" since the victims are almost always girls and women? Or, better yet, why not consider such crimes "Islamophobic" since the victims are most often Muslim? True, Sikhs and Hindus sometimes also perpetrate "honor killings" but not as frequently as Muslims do. Why not view "honor killings" as Muslim-on-Muslim violence—which, after all, constitutes the greatest violence unleashed against Muslims in the world.

Sarah and Amina: Rest in Peace. The forces of American law are pursuing your murderer and your great-aunt is holding their feet to the fire.

Related Topics: [Honor Killings](#)

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The Seattle Times

Winner of a 2012 Pulitzer Prize

Nation & World

Originally published Sunday, January 29, 2012 at 11:35 AM

Jury finds Afghan family guilty in honor killings

A jury on Sunday found three members of an Afghan family guilty of killing three teenage sisters and another woman in what the judge described as "cold-blooded, shameful murders" resulting from a "twisted concept of honor," ending a case that shocked and riveted Canadians.

The Associated Press

KINGSTON, Ontario —

A jury on Sunday found three members of an Afghan family guilty of killing three teenage sisters and another woman in what the judge described as "cold-blooded, shameful murders" resulting from a "twisted concept of honor," ending a case that shocked and riveted Canadians.

Prosecutors said the defendants allegedly killed the three teenage sisters because they dishonored the family by defying its disciplinary rules on dress, dating, socializing and using the Internet.

The jury took 15 hours to find Mohammad Shafia, 58; his wife Tooba Yahya, 42; and their son Hamed, 21, each guilty of four counts of first-degree murder. First-degree murder carries an automatic life sentence with no chance of parole for 25 years.

After the verdict was read, the three defendants again declared their innocence in the killings of sisters Zainab, 19, Sahar 17, and Geeti, 13, as well as Rona Amir Mohammad, 52, Shafia's childless first wife in a polygamous marriage.

Their bodies were found June 30, 2009, in a car submerged in a canal in Kingston, Ontario, where the family had stopped for the night on their way home to Montreal from Niagara Falls, Ontario.

The prosecution alleged it was a case of premeditated murder, staged to look like an accident after it was carried out. Prosecutors said the defendants drowned their victims elsewhere on the site, placed their bodies in the car and pushed it into the canal.

Ontario Superior Court Judge Robert Maranger said the evidence clearly supported the conviction.

"It is difficult to conceive of a more heinous, more despicable, more honorless crime," Maranger said. "The apparent reason behind these cold-blooded, shameful murders was that the four completely innocent victims offended your completely twisted concept of honor ... that has absolutely no place in any civilized society."

In a statement following the verdict, Canadian Justice Minister Rob Nicholson called honor killings a practice that is "barbaric and unacceptable in Canada."

Defense lawyers said the deaths were accidental. They said the Nissan car accidentally plunged into the canal after the eldest daughter, Zainab, took it for a joy ride with her sisters and her father's first wife. Hamed said he watched the accident, although he didn't call police from the scene.

After the jury returned the verdicts, Mohammad Shafia, speaking through a translator, said, "We are not criminal, we are not murderer, we didn't commit the murder and this is unjust."

His weeping wife, Tooba, also declared the verdict unjust, saying, "I am not a murderer, and I am a mother, a mother."

Their son, Hamed, speaking in English said, "I did not drown my sisters anywhere."

Hamed's lawyer, Patrick McCann, said he was disappointed with the verdict, but said his client will appeal and he believes the other two defendants will as well.

But prosecutor Gerard Laarhuis welcomed the verdict.

"This jury found that four strong, vivacious and freedom-loving women were murdered by their own family in the most troubling of circumstances," Laarhuis said outside court.

"This verdict sends a very clear message about our Canadian values and the core principles in a free and democratic society that all Canadians enjoy and even visitors to Canada enjoy," he said to cheers of approval from onlookers.

The family had left Afghanistan in 1992 and lived in Pakistan, Australia and Dubai before settling in Canada in 2007. Shafia, a wealthy businessman, married Yahya because his first wife could not have children.

Shafia's first wife was living with him and his second wife. The polygamous relationship, if revealed, could have resulted in their deportation.

The prosecution painted a picture of a household controlled by a domineering Shafia, with Hamed keeping his sisters in line and doling out discipline when his father was away on frequent business trips to Dubai.

The months leading up to the deaths were not happy ones in the Shafia household, according to evidence presented at trial. Zainab, the oldest daughter, was forbidden to attend school for a year because she had a young Pakistani-Canadian boyfriend, and she fled to a shelter, terrified of her father, the court was told.

The prosecution said her parents found condoms in Sahar's room as well as photos of her wearing short skirts and hugging her Christian boyfriend, a relationship she had kept secret. Geeti was becoming almost impossible to control: skipping school, failing classes, being sent home for wearing revealing clothes and stealing, while declaring to authority figures that she wanted to be placed in foster care, according to the prosecution.

Shafia's first wife wrote in a diary that her husband beat her and "made life a torture," while his second wife called her a servant.

The prosecution presented wire taps and mobile phone records from the Shafia family in court to support their honor killing allegation. The wiretaps, which capture Shafia spewing vitriol about his dead daughters, calling them treacherous and whores and invoking the devil to defecate on their graves, were a focal point of the trial.

"There can be no betrayal, no treachery, no violation more than this," Shafia said on one recording. "Even if they hoist me up onto the gallows ... nothing is more dear to me than my honor."

Defense lawyers argued that at no point in the intercepts do the accused say they drowned the victims.

Shafia's lawyer, Peter Kemp, said after the verdicts that he believes the comments his client made on the wiretaps may have weighed more heavily on the jury's minds than the physical evidence in the case.

"He wasn't convicted for what he did," Kemp said. "He was convicted for what he said."

rape is happening at the 'Occupy' movement protests. Where is the media on the stories of ACTUAL RAPE, rather than somebody not liking a comment of Herman Cain's from the 1990's?

With what these sleazy 'Journalists' let Bill Clinton get away with in the late 1990's, it's shocking and hypocritical in the extreme that they are smearing Herman Cain with this story like they are. Talk about flooding the zone! Why on earth hasn't the media been focusing on the 'Occupy' rape stories, like they would have hyped a story about a Tea Party rape (which never happened, obviously)? It seems quite clear that their radical leftist bias is at play. How else can one explain the media's relative silence on the issue of the 'Occupy' movement rapes & cover-ups?

But I digress...let's get back to the main story.

Here's Glenn Beck, from GBTV's coverage of his Talk Radio Show on this subject:

And here's a GBTV clip from Glenn Beck's TV show discussing this subject:

Here's glennbeck.com on this story:

[And here's a GBTV clip from Glenn Beck's TV show discussing this subject:](#)



GLENN BECK The Fusion of Entertainment and Enlightenment

Occupy Wall Street Urges Rape Cases To Be Handled Internally

Monday, Oct 31, 2011 at 12:57 PM EDT

Another weekend and yet another allegation of rape at an Occupy protest – but more disturbing than the allegation itself is how OWS is handling it. In the latest case, the victim was afraid to speak out about the incident at all and said OWS handles sexual assault cases 'internally' and feared she 'said too much already' about the allegation. Why not just report it to the police?

"There seems to be an increase of rapes now," Glenn said of the Wall Street protests.

"They've decided that they are just going to have to not really call them -- well, they'll call them rape, but they're not going to call the police because the police really would be a bad thing to call, you know. Why do that?"

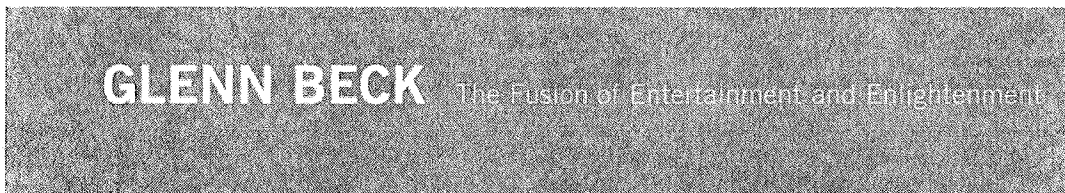
The New York Post reports "A sex fiend barged into a woman's tent and sexually assaulted her at around 6 a.m., said protesters, who chased him from the park."

The Post interviewed one woman who explained that they don't report the assaults. "We handle it internally. I said too much already," she said.

"They did shine flashlights in the face of the most recent rapist," Stu said.

"Brutality! Brutality! Brutality!" Pat jokingly chanted.

Not happy with the media coverage of the sexual assaults at the Wall Street protests? Don't worry – the media will provide non-stop coverage of the alleged Herman Cain sexual harassment until he is no longer seen as a viable candidate.



Where are the feminists?

Thursday, Oct 27, 2011 at 2:57 PM EDT

One 'Occupy' group has sent out fliers asking rape victims not to go to police but to report sexual assaults to a special committee. The committee will give counsel to the rapist! The group is now backtracking – but Glenn had the latest on radio.

"There's violence in our streets. It's not coming anymore. It's here. Violence in the streets of Oakland. How many rapes do we have now? Four rapes at these Occupy Wall Street? And here's what's really interesting. There was a flyer that was being passed around at Occupy Baltimore from the security detail that urged rape victims to, quote, report rape to the security committee that will investigate the incident and, if necessary, provide counseling to the perpetrator. A flyer saying if you've been raped, tell us about it and we'll provide counseling for the bad guy. Don't tell the police," Glenn said.

"This is an organization that is supported by all of the left and Code Pink that wanted to halt the assault against -- and calling for the harshest penalties in the military if somebody had been sexually abused, sexually harassed or raped in the military. There is no silence -- remember silence equals death? Remember that? Don't be silent; stand up? These people are now telling women to be quiet about the rape; they'll handle it all internally. You better recognize the signs of who you're standing with, gang. Recognize the signs of who you're

standing with.”

“This is the update, the security statement of Occupy Baltimore where it talks about, hey, we just want you to know, you’ve been raped, shhh, we’ll do some -- we’ll do some internal investigation. We’ll help not the victim. We’ll provide counseling for the perpetrator,” he explained.

Glenn then read the update from Occupy Baltimore: “The prior security statement drew criticism for the line that we do not encourage the involvement of the police in our community. The survivor has every right and the support of Occupy Baltimore to report the abuse to appropriate authorities. Instances of sexual abuse -- this is a new statement: Instances of sexual abuse and assault will be handled accordingly to the expressed desires of the victim. The security and medical teams are equipped with a list of resources including contact information for the police, hospital, sexual assault hot lines, women shelters. In these cases Occupy Baltimore welcomes the involvement of the Baltimore city police and encourages victims to report crimes.”

“We also recognize the U.S. justice system is flawed, especially when it comes to cases of sexual assault. If for any reason the victim feels uncomfortable with police, their wishes will be respected.”

Glenn was shocked by the hypocrisy of a group supposedly fighting for the police, who are also part of the 99%, as well as their insistence to help the perpetrator.

“I’d like to recommend that maybe we have counseling for the victim and jail for the perpetrator,” Glenn insisted.

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Service Women's Action Network



serving military women and veterans

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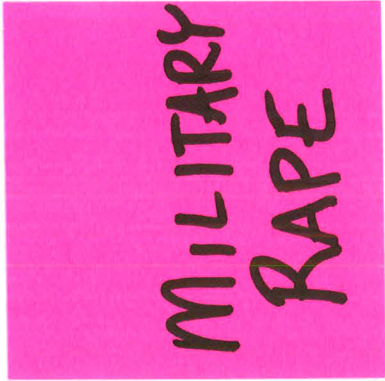
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Advocacy

SWAN advocates for all military women, in order to increase their visibility and access to equal protection, opportunities and benefits. Our public education campaign presents the human rights obstacles and realities that military women experience to both national and local audiences, and across a variety of media outlets.

Women in Combat

Despite a Congressional policy that bans women from participating in direct ground combat, the current wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have blurred the frontlines, thrusting servicewomen fully into combat roles. Additionally, commanders have rapidly realized the benefit of using servicewomen in missions that require close interaction with local Iraqi and Afghan populations. Both the Army and Marine Corps have evolved their use of women on the battlefield through the use of ad hoc Female Engagement Teams (FETs) and Lioness Teams, which are often tasked to work with combat arms units. Additionally, women are used daily in missions that entail high risk of direct fire, such as convoys with high exposure to Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs).

Over 250,000 women have served thus far in Iraq and Afghanistan (11% of the total troops deployed there). Women are fighting with distinction, earning some of the military's highest awards, including the Silver Star. Countless women return home with invisible wounds, like PTSD and major depression, and related conditions like substance abuse, homelessness, and suicide. Women are more likely to suffer from Military Sexual Trauma (MST), compounding their risk of mental illness. Despite the changing roles of women in combat, many women still struggle to receive the same military awards and veterans' benefits as their male peers. Congressional policy on banning women from direct ground combat must change in order to recognize women's actual accomplishments on the battlefield.

Military Sexual Trauma

The Department of Defense (DOD) defines Military Sexual Trauma (MST) as rape, sexual assault, and sexual harassment. MST affects both women and men in uniform, but disproportionately affects women. Even by conservative standards, MST occurs at an epidemic rate. Institutional failure to protect troops who report MST has led to gross under-reporting of abuse across the armed forces. MST often leads to long-term debilitating psychological conditions, including Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and major depression. Moreover, veterans who have experienced MST face overwhelming obstacles when applying for disability compensation from the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA). Rejection by the VBA often leads to intense feelings of betrayal, triggering further trauma and illness among veterans with MST.

SWAN provides peer support, counseling referrals, and legal referrals to both male and female veterans who have experienced MST. SWAN also conducts extensive policy work on MST at the national level. To learn more about MST,

see our [fact sheet](#). The latest DOD report, FY2009 Annual Report on Sexual Assault in the Military, is available [here](#).

Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA) Health Care and Benefits

VA Hospitals

The recent surge of women into the military has prompted the need for radical reform in VA's services for women veterans. Only 15% of women veterans use VA facilities. VA culture is still rife with male-bias, leading many women veterans to feel that the VA cannot properly attend to their gender-specific health needs. A shortage of women physicians and mental health providers, Military Sexual Trauma Counselors, and women-only clinics and support groups prevent women from receiving the assistance they need. Furthermore, VA healthcare is characterized by its "fragmentation," meaning that women are not able to access comprehensive health services from their primary providers but rather must be referred elsewhere or travel enormous distances for routine services such as gynecological exams. Additionally, VA hospitals often foster uncomfortable, unwelcoming or hostile environments for women. A supportive environment is essential for recovery, especially for servicewomen who have experienced trauma such as MST.

SWAN has advised numerous policy makers and testified before Congress on the variety of obstacles women veterans face at VA facilities.

VA Disability Claims

Women veterans face enormous hurdles in receiving "service-connected" disability compensation from the VA. The VA routinely rejects women's mental health claims, regardless of diagnoses by VA health professionals. Veterans with MST-related illnesses experience additional challenges. Because of limited understanding about the causes of PTSD in women, current legislation favors veterans whose PTSD originated in combat, rather than from MST. VA requirements place an unrealistic, unfair, and discriminatory burden of proof on veterans who suffer from MST, because service members cannot safely report MST in the current military climate. Furthermore, formal investigations of sexual harassment are destroyed two years after they are filed, making it impossible to provide original evidence to the VA for a claim.

SWAN's pro bono legal team helps women veterans appeal VA claims and receive the benefits they have earned for their sacrifices. SWAN is currently advising members of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs on removing gender-based barriers to claims awarding, and reducing discriminatory and ineffective requirements for claims submissions on survivors of MST.

Homeless Women Veterans

Women veterans are especially vulnerable to homelessness. Over 13,000 women veterans are homeless in the United States. Women veterans are more likely to be homeless than their male counterparts. One factor that increases their risk of homelessness is mental health conditions resulting from Military Sexual Trauma (MST), and VA records indicate 39% of homeless women veterans VHA users screened positive for MST compared to 22% of all women VHA users. Additionally, homeless women veterans with children have specific needs, including shelters that provide a safe and supportive environment for families. Only 60% of the VA's homeless facilities are open to women. SWAN conducts local outreach to homeless women veterans and offers experienced peer support as well as referrals for gender-specific counseling, social services, and legal services. To learn more about homelessness among women veterans, see our [fact sheet](#).

LGBT Service Members and Veterans

The "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" (DADT) policy prohibited openly lesbian, gay, or bisexual people from serving in the military. In practice, this policy disproportionately impacted women and people of color. Women make up 15% of the armed forces but accounted for over one-third of discharges under DADT in 2008. Similarly, racial and ethnic minorities made up almost half of DADT discharges in 2008. "Lesbian-baiting" affects all women in the military, regardless of sexual orientation (women who rebuke the sexual advances of men are labeled "lesbian" and thus risk being discharged from the military). Although DADT has been repealed, Current Equal Opportunity policy does not protect service members on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity. Therefore, sexual minorities have no protections from harassment or discrimination.

SWAN has changed the face of the LGBT movement by highlighting the unique voices and experiences of LGBT women veterans. SWAN educates policymakers about DADT and its effects on women, and also is taking the lead on educating the public about lack of Equal Opportunity (EO) protections for actual and perceived sexual minorities in the military. Please see our [last post](#) for more information.



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September 11, 2011

Justice for Women Veterans

Women in the military who are sexually assaulted or harassed face obstacles not seen in the civilian workplace. They can't decide to take time off or quit, often have no way to avoid a predatory colleague or supervisor, and certainly in combat zones, no way to visit the human resources department. They often work in a culture that has long tolerated misogynistic behavior. And they can be further traumatized by the indifference or hostility of the bureaucracy that is supposed to help them.

Servicewomen and veterans say they often struggle unsuccessfully to obtain health care and benefits related to sexual violence they endured while in uniform. The Service Women's Action Network, an advocacy group, last year sued the Pentagon and Department of Veterans Affairs under the Freedom of Information Act for documentation on their handling of sexual assaults. The group says the V.A.'s own data bears out the charge of unfair treatment. While the Veterans Benefits Administration approves 53 percent of all claims related to post-traumatic stress disorder, it accepts far fewer claims — only 32 percent — when the P.T.S.D. is related to sexual trauma.

Other national veterans' groups are also urging the V.A. to make it easier for survivors of sexual trauma to qualify for benefits. Last year, the V.A. enacted this reform for veterans with P.T.S.D. related to combat: It lifted the difficult requirements for documenting specifically when and where a P.T.S.D.-linked trauma occurred, bending the benefit of the doubt in the veteran's favor.

The V.A. could do the same for survivors of sexual trauma, shown in studies to be both grossly underreported and the leading cause of P.T.S.D. among servicewomen. Advocates say a medical professional's diagnosis and written determination linking P.T.S.D. to sexual trauma, along with a survivor's testimony, should be enough to meet the requirement. The V.A. could change the rule itself, or be directed to do so by legislation introduced earlier this year in both the House and the Senate.

Women's advocates have long argued that military sexual trauma is a hidden. Pentagon and Veterans Affairs have made promises to address the problem. E acknowledge that they have a long way to go to transform the culture and pro

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Making it easier for those suffering from sexual trauma to receive benefits is one step toward fairness.

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Halliburton Rape Claim Goes to Court



By MADDY SAUER
May 12, 2008

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A Houston woman who says she was gang-raped by co-workers at a Halliburton/KBR camp in Baghdad won a major court battle last week when a Texas judge ordered that she can bring her case to court instead of forcing her into secretive arbitration proceedings with Halliburton and KBR.

"We are ecstatic that [District Judge Keith Ellison] had the courage to uphold justice in this case," Jamie Leigh Jones' attorney Todd Kelly said after the decision.

KBR said late Monday that they may appeal the judge's decision. "KBR will review the judge's opinion and will continue to vigorously defend itself which may include an appeal," the company said in a statement to ABCNews.com.

Jones says that after she was raped by multiple men at a KBR camp in the Green Zone, the company put her under guard in a shipping container with a bed and warned her that if she left Iraq for medical treatment, she'd be out of a job.

Jones told ABCNews.com that she hopes other sexual abuse claims will also now be able to go before a jury rather than into arbitration. "I am hopeful that the judge's decision will open the door for other victims to seek justice against military contractors who fail to protect their employees from sexual abuse," Jones told ABCNews.com.

Jones returned from Iraq following her alleged rape in 2005. She was the subject of an exclusive ABC News report in December, which led to congressional hearings.

After months of waiting for criminal charges to be filed, Jones decided to file suit against Halliburton and KBR.

KBR had moved for Jones' claim to be heard in private arbitration, instead of a public courtroom, as provided under the terms of her original employment contract.



Jamie Leigh Jones



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Ellison, however, wrote in his order Friday that Jones' claims of sexual assault, battery, rape, false imprisonment and others fall beyond the scope of her employment contract.

"The Court does not believe that Plaintiff's bedroom should be considered the workplace, even though her housing was provided by her employer," Ellison wrote.

Ellison did, however, rule that a sexual harassment claim that Jones included in her case against her supervisor in Texas would have to be decided in arbitration.

Halliburton, which has since divested itself of KBR, has said it is improperly named in the suit and has referred calls to KBR.

In arbitration, there is no public record nor transcript of the proceedings and Jones' claims would not have been heard before a judge and jury.

KBR released a statement to ABCNews.com late Monday saying that the safety and security of all its employees remains the company's top priority. "First and foremost, KBR in no way condones or tolerates sexual harassment. Any allegation brought forth is taken seriously and investigated," said the statement.

Jones has started a nonprofit foundation called the Jamie Leigh Foundation, which is dedicated to helping people who were raped or sexually assaulted overseas while working for government contractors or other corporations.

Over the two years since she was allegedly attacked, no criminal charges have been brought in the matter.

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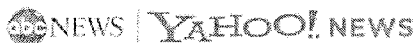
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jlchang30 4:01 PM EDT Jul 06, 2011
What's amazing is that you know she's telling the truth because Halliburton/KBR would have paid her millions to sign a confidentiality agreement during the arbitration process and she decided she wouldn't be bought at any price...at age 19. I not sure I would have been so brave and determined.

anordinaryguy 7:49 PM EST Nov 04, 2009
This is despicable behavior by Halliburton, protecting rapists, confining/kidnapping the victim. Then for a U.S Senator, Sen. Richard Burr (R-NC), to side with Halliburton, is immoral, outrageous, and shameful. North Carolina voters would do well to remember this in the next election. Send the message that this kind of neanderthal-corporate-lackey attitude at the expense of a human being's basic rights, an American citizen at that, will not be tolerated, and vote him out of office. What a creep, and what a creepy company.

snclfe 7:44 AM EDT Oct 23, 2009
"KBR will review the judge's opinion and will continue to vigorously defend itself which may include an appeal," the company said in a statement. Defend itself for what? The right to employ and harbor rapists? Is this really defending the company. To publicly side with rapists and stand against their victims and their victim's rights? You're not defending yourselves you morons! You're confirming that KBR/Halliburton et al is an evil company where evil people work to inflict evil against the innocent. I hope anyone who stood (stands) between Jamie Leigh Jones and justice gets what they deserve.

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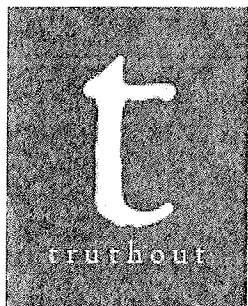
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Plight of Contractor Raped in Iraq Spurs Push in Congress

Sunday 20 December 2009

by: Maria Recio | *McClatchy Newspapers*

Washington - Four years ago, Jamie Leigh Jones, a 20-year old Texas contract employee working in Iraq, was drugged, stripped, beaten and gang-raped by her co-workers on her fourth day in country. She finally managed to get a phone call out from the shipping container where she was being detained — by her employer, KBR, then a Halliburton company.

That call to her father led to a call to her congressman, Rep. Ted Poe, R-Texas, and her rescue after Poe had the State Department locate her. But Jones' attempts at justice — and restitution — were blocked by a little-noticed compulsory arbitration clause in the contracts of private employees working for federal government contractors.

Now, a move by Congress last week, jump-started by Sen. Al Franken, D-Minn., would protect contract employees by ensuring they have legal recourse.

The provision is in the defense appropriations bill that the Senate approved Saturday after the House passed it Wednesday. It only needs the president's signature to become law.

"This amendment makes all the hard times that I have gone through, when going public with such a personal tragedy, worth every tear shed from telling and retelling my horrific experience," Jones said after the Senate first acted on the bill in October. Jones

most recently testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee in October: "I know this amendment will save so many in the future."

Jones herself is not directly affected by the amendment. But after a

hard-fought four-year battle, she won the right to sue her attackers and the company under a ruling in September by the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. Her case is expected to go to trial next year.

"The congressional amendment tracks the Fifth Circuit decision," said Poe. For Poe, a former Texas district judge who chairs the House's Victims' Rights Caucus and who has been one of Jones' strongest advocates, the new law is a milestone.

Under the congressionally approved provision, the federal government would not be able to do business with companies with \$1 million or more in contracts that deny court hearings for victims of assault, false imprisonment or emotional distress. Victims of assault would be able to sue the employers of the alleged attacker, as well as the attacker. The Defense Department can apply a waiver for national security reasons.

Jones, now married and with a child — who she named after Poe — is a teacher, lives in a Houston suburb and advocates for victims through a foundation that bears her name.

Franken was the prime mover behind the legislation, which came about this fall after he was moved by her story.

"Jamie Leigh Jones is a strong, courageous woman, who used her own horrific experience to inspire change," said Franken in a statement.

"I am honored to know her, and honored to have been a part of her cause," Franken said. "I came to Washington to stand up for folks like Jamie Leigh, and stand up to the powerful interests that too often silence their voices."

The provision had a contentious debate in the Senate, where it passed in October 68-30 — engendering a vocal critique of the 30 all white, all male "no" voters, including Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas. Cornyn, a former Texas Supreme Court judge, said that he was a strong advocate for victims but he was opposed to a provision that would benefit trial lawyers.

All 17 female senators voted for the amendment.

"This kind of violent crime should not be obscured by politics or partisanship," said Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, R-Texas. "The fact is, a Texas woman serving our country in Iraq was brutally sexually assaulted. She deserves to have her day in court."

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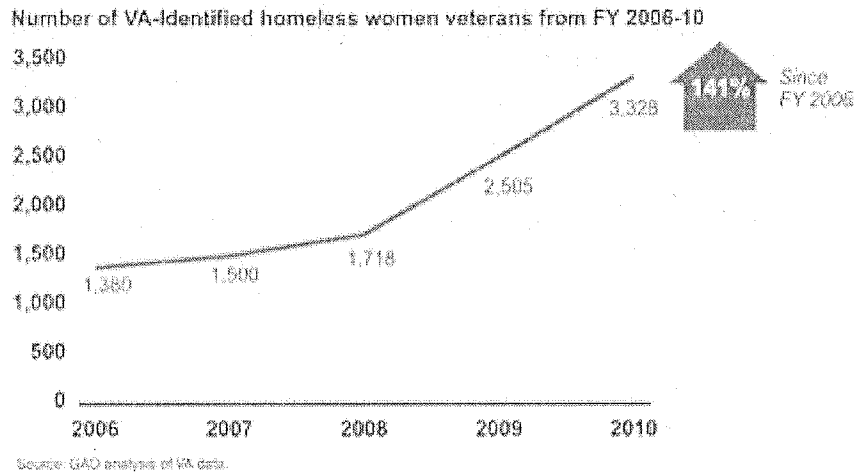


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NEWS FLASH

NUMBER OF HOMELESS WOMEN VETERANS DOUBLED BETWEEN 2006 AND 2010 | A new report from the Government Accountability Office shows that the number of homeless women veterans doubled between 2006 and 2010, with 3,328 women veterans unable to access shelter. Of these women, "almost two-thirds were between 40 and 59 years old and over one-third had disabilities." Many also have children.



Overall, about 636,000 Americans were living on the streets or in shelters last year. (HT: Kay Steiger)

By Pat Garofalo on Jan 24, 2012 at 12:15 pm

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The Military's Secret Shame

When men in the military rape other men in the ranks, no one wants to talk about it. Why the sexual assault of males in the service is finally being confronted.

by [Jesse Ellison \(/contributors/jesse-ellison.html\)](/contributors/jesse-ellison.html) | April 3, 2011 1:00 AM EDT



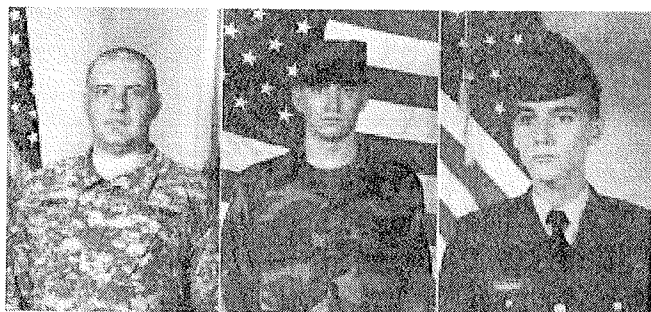
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Greg Jeloudov was 35 and new to America when he decided to join the Army. Like most soldiers, he was driven by both patriotism for his adopted homeland and the pragmatic notion that the military could be a first step in a career that would enable him to provide for his new family. Instead, Jeloudov arrived at Fort Benning, Ga., for basic training in May 2009, in the middle of the economic crisis and rising xenophobia. The soldiers in his unit, responding to his Russian accent and New York City address, called him a “champagne socialist” and a “commie faggot.” He was, he told NEWSWEEK, “in the middle of the viper’s pit.” Less than two weeks after arriving on base, he was gang-raped in the barracks by men who said they were showing him who was in charge of the United States. When he reported the attack to unit commanders, he says they told him, “It must have been your fault. You must have provoked them.”

What happened to Jeloudov is a part of life in the armed forces that hardly anyone talks about: male-on-male sexual assault. In the staunchly traditional military culture, it’s an ugly secret, kept hidden by layers of personal shame and official denial. Last year nearly 50,000 male veterans screened positive for “military sexual trauma” at the Department of Veterans Affairs, up from just over 30,000 in 2003. For the victims, the

experience is a special kind of hell—a soldier can't just quit his job to get away from his abusers. But now, as the Pentagon has begun to acknowledge the rampant problem of sexual violence for both genders, men are coming forward in unprecedented numbers, telling their stories and hoping that speaking up will help them, and others, put their lives back together. "We don't like to think that our men can be victims," says Kathleen Chard, chief of the posttraumatic-stress unit at the Cincinnati VA. "We don't want to think that it could happen to us. If a man standing in front of me who is my size, my skill level, who has been raped—what does that mean about me? I can be raped, too."

In fact, it is the high victimization rate of female soldiers—women in the armed forces are now more likely to be assaulted by a fellow soldier than killed in combat—that has helped cast light on men assaulting other men. For most of military history, there was neither a system nor language in place to deal with incidents of soldier-on-soldier sexual assault. It wasn't until 1992 that the Defense Department even acknowledged such incidents as an offense, and initially only female victims were recognized. But last year more than 110 men made confidential reports of sexual assault by other men, nearly three times as many as in 2007. The real number of victims is surely much higher. Even among civilians, sexual assault is a vastly underreported crime. In the military the silence is nearly complete. By the Pentagon's own estimate, figures for assaults on women likely represent less than 20 percent of actual incidents. Another study released in March found that just one in 15 men in the Air Force would report being sexually assaulted, compared with one in five women.



Victims speak out: (from left) Greg Jeloudov has debilitating PTSD; Blake Stephens twice attempted suicide; Jamey Michael Harding saw a drill sergeant go on to rape underage cadets. (From left: Courtesy of Greg Jeloudov; Courtesy of Blake Stephens; Courtesy of Jamey Michael Harding)

While many might assume the perpetrators of such assaults are closeted gay soldiers, military experts and outside researchers say assailants usually are heterosexual. Like in prisons and other predominantly male environments, male-on-male assault in the military, experts say, is motivated not by homosexuality, but power, intimidation, and domination. Assault victims, both male and female, are typically young and low-ranking; they are targeted for their vulnerability. Often, in male-on-male cases, assailants go after those they assume are gay, even if they are not. "One of the reasons people commit sexual assault is to put people in their place, to drive them out," says Mic Hunter, author of *Honor Betrayed: Sexual Abuse in America's Military*. "Sexual assault isn't about sex, it's about violence."

According to Hunter and others, the repeal of the military's policy of "don't ask, don't tell" might actually help the institution address the issue. Under that rule, being gay meant being fundamentally unfit to serve; it meant you didn't belong. It also meant that victims were even more reluctant to report their attacks. "I wouldn't say that the repeal is going to make it safe," says Aaron Belkin, director of the Palm Center, a think tank on gays in the military. "But male victims will be a little bit less reluctant to report their assaults." Belkin notes that it's not just the military that avoids the issue: even gay-rights organizations are wary of it. "We don't like to talk about it because it makes rape look like a gay issue," Belkin says. "The military doesn't want to talk about it because, as embarrassing as male-female rape is [from their perspective], this is

even worse. The very fact that there's male-on-male rape in the military means that there are warriors who aren't strong enough to fight back."

Blake Stephens, now 29, joined the Army in January 2001, just seven months after graduating from high school. The verbal and physical attacks started quickly, he says, and came from virtually every level of the chain of command. In one of the worst incidents, a group of men tackled him, shoved a soda bottle into his rectum, and threw him backward off an elevated platform onto the hood of a car. When he reported the incident, Stephens says, his platoon sergeant told him, "You're the problem. You're the reason this is happening," and refused to take action. "You just feel trapped," he says. "They basically tell you you're going to have to keep working with these people day after day, night after night. You don't have a choice." His assailants told him that once deployed to Iraq, they would shoot him in the head. "They told me they were going to have sex with me all the time when we were there," he says.

Stephens twice attempted suicide. His marriage fell apart. He became paranoid and explosive. In June 2003 his mother wrote a letter to Sen. Barbara Boxer, detailing her son's "continued humiliation." "Congressional inquiries have been know [sic] to jeopardize a soldier's rank and standing," Boxer's office responded. "There is no way for our office to administratively protect your son's military standing once a congressional examination is in progress." The following August, Stephens was discharged for his "physical condition."

Fear of a ruined career is a major factor preventing victims from coming forward. In 2010 the Pentagon anonymously surveyed active-duty soldiers who had been sexually assaulted about why they declined to report their attacks. Almost half the responding men said they kept silent because they didn't want anyone to know, a third said they didn't think anything would be done, and almost 30 percent said they were afraid of retaliation or reprisals.

In recent years the Pentagon has tried to show that it takes the issue seriously, defining sexual assault in broad terms as a "spectrum of offenses from rape to nonconsensual sodomy to wrongful sexual contact, as well as attempts to commit these offenses." In 2005 it established a special unit, the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office, and provided training for 1,200 officers to handle incident reports. Yet critics believe that the Pentagon has moved too slowly and that military procedures for prosecuting such crimes are far less effective than civilian laws. In February, Jeloudov and 16 other former and active-duty service members filed a class-action lawsuit against Defense Secretary Robert Gates and his predecessor, Donald Rumsfeld, charging they "ran institutions in which perpetrators were promoted... and Plaintiffs and other victims were openly subjected to retaliation."

Because reports of such crimes happen outside the reach of police and are handled by a unit's commanding officer, according to the Pentagon's own figures, last year just 15 percent of reported cases were actually prosecuted. "There's no investigatory training. They don't tell you to look for evidence," says Greg Jacob, who retired as a captain after 10 years in the Marines and is now policy director for the Service Women's Action Network. "Military justice imbued me with the ability to be judge and jury. Honestly, I had no idea what to do." Commanders often decline to take any action at all. "I have nothing bad to say about the military. There's sick bastards in all walks of life," says Michael F. Matthews, who was raped during basic training in 1972 but didn't tell anyone until 30 years later. "I get angry with the military system sometimes, but I understand it. What happens is on small levels. You take [a complaint] to your commanding officer. He doesn't want that black eye. He wants the promotion. So he tries to keep it under the carpet."

But dismissing such brutality can produce more victims. Twenty-two years ago, Jamey Michael Harding, then a baby-faced 17-year-old enlistee, says he was raped repeatedly by a drill sergeant at basic training. He attempted to report his assault, but his complaint was ignored, he says. The sergeant stayed in the armed forces, ultimately retiring as a decorated officer. Almost two decades later, the man whom Harding says raped him was arrested for raping multiple underage cadets at a junior ROTC program. He pleaded guilty to

lewd and lascivious acts on a child and is now in prison. Harding, meanwhile, struggles with an array of mental-health issues he says stem from his attacks. "Many men and women will experience symptoms like PTSD or depression after experiencing sexual assault. But the experience seems even more detrimental for men's mental health," says Amy Street, a psychologist with the Boston VA hospital who has worked with both male and female survivors. "The way I make sense of that is that women, for better or worse, live their lives with this idea that they might experience sexual assault at some point. There are public models of how to recover from rape. Men don't have any expectation that this might happen to them. It's very difficult to figure out how those experiences fit into your sense of self as a man."

What's clear is that the Pentagon has only just begun to figure out how to treat men who have been sexually traumatized. Until 2006, sexual assault was classified as a women's health issue, and even today, Pentagon awareness campaigns target women almost exclusively. Kathleen Chard, the Cincinnati VA psychologist who runs PTSD programs, says that more than 11 percent of the men she works with eventually admit that they were sexually victimized. Nationwide, there are just six programs like hers, and there is a single VA facility, in Bay Pines, Fla., that specifically treats male survivors of sexual trauma. When Matthews finally sought treatment for the PTSD caused by his rape, he says he had to wait six months for a space to open up. "I went to the group and there's all these guys from the Korean War through Desert Storm," he recalls. "And you say, 'Oh, my God.'"

Since Matthews served a full 20 years and sustained physical injuries during the course of his service, he receives 100 percent of his disability benefits. The others aren't so lucky. In order to receive full benefits for mental and physical health issues stemming from sexual assault, veterans must first prove that the assault occurred. Last year the VA loosened its rules pertaining to those who file claims for combat-related PTSD, reducing the burden of proof. But that change did not apply to sexual trauma. In March, Rep. Chellie Pingree, a Maine Democrat, introduced a bill that would make it easier for victims like Blake Stephens to get benefits and medical coverage. "It's the hardest thing we hear: people who have suffered a sexual trauma and then have to prove it," she says. "We can't leave them out there hanging. It's unconscionable." Even if the bill passes, it will likely be too late to help Jeloudov, the soldier who was raped in basic training. Shortly after his attack, with his assailants threatening to send him "back to Russia in half," his commanding officer told him to sign a document stating that he was a practicing homosexual. He was subsequently discharged under "don't ask, don't tell." Less than two years later, his wife has left him, he is unemployed, and he is racked by emotional problems. His VA doctors have prescribed him half a dozen psychotropic drugs that target, variously, his PTSD, insomnia, flashbacks, and depression. He receives a fraction of full VA benefits, which helps explain his determination to prove that he was raped. Embroiled in the bureaucracy of the VA system, he easily descends into despair. But he's insistent on telling his story. "America to me is justice, truth, and fairness," he says. "Everything that happened there, none of it had to do with any of that."

If you are the victim of a sexual assault and you're seeking assistance, go to the [National Center for PTSD \(http://www.ptsd.va.gov\)](http://www.ptsd.va.gov) to find a service provider in your area. For immediate help, contact the [Safe Helpline \(http://www.safehelpline.org\)](http://www.safehelpline.org), the Department of Defense's new crisis support service, via phone call, text, or instant message. Operated by RAINN, the nation's largest anti-sexual-violence organization, your information will be kept confidential and will not be shared with anyone on your chain of command.

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PORTLAND CITY COUNCIL
COMMUNICATION REQUEST
Wednesday Council Meeting 9:30 AM

Council Meeting Date: 8-1-12

Today's Date 7-11-12

AUDITOR 07/11/12 AM 11:34

Name MARY ENG

Address 2230 SW Vermont S

Telephone _____ Email maryeng1@gmail.com

Reason for the request: Honor Killing in Islam
and Military Rape in USA
Forces

Mary Eng
(signed)

- Give your request to the Council Clerk's office by Thursday at 5:00 pm to sign up for the following Wednesday Meeting. Holiday deadline schedule is Wednesday at 5:00 pm. (See contact information below.)
- You will be placed on the Wednesday Agenda as a "Communication." Communications are the first item on the Agenda and are taken promptly at 9:30 a.m. A total of five Communications may be scheduled. Individuals must schedule their own Communication.
- You will have 3 minutes to speak and may also submit written testimony before or at the meeting.

Thank you for being an active participant in your City government.

Contact Information:

Karla Moore-Love, City Council Clerk
1221 SW 4th Ave, Room 140
Portland, OR 97204-1900
(503) 823-4086 Fax (503) 823-4571
email: Karla.Moore-Love@portlandoregon.gov

Sue Parsons, Council Clerk Assistant
1221 SW 4th Ave., Room 140
Portland, OR 97204-1900
(503) 823-4085 Fax (503) 823-4571
email: Susan.Parsons@portlandoregon.gov

Request of Mary Eng to address Council regarding honor killing in Islam and military rape in USA Forces (Communication)

AUG 01 2012

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Filed JUL 27 2012

LaVonne Griffin-Valade
Auditor of the City of Portland

By *Susan Parsons*

COMMISSIONERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS:		
	YEAS	NAYS
1. Fritz		
2. Fish		
3. Saltzman		
4. Leonard		
Adams		