

Women rights in Iran

Tehran (Reuters) – Iran President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad in Friday's election gives new hope to end institutionalized unfairness against women in Iran. On Friday, the position of women has become a major issue during campaigning for Iran's presidential vote. Moderated's slogan is of political and social change while the opponents are seeking another four year term.

The two pro-reform candidates former Prime Minister Mirhossein Mousavi and cleric Mehdi Karoubi said, "They would seek to enhance the role of women in the conservative Islamic state if they were elected president." Sussan Tahmasebi the activist rights said, "Whoever comes to power has to respond to the demands of the women's rights movement, and we are no longer invisible." The supporter said that Iranian women are second-class citizens in divorce, inheritance, child custody, legal matters and other aspects of life.

The Tahmasebi said, "Under Ahmadinejad, there was an attempt to push women back into the private sphere and promote them as mothers and wives." Iran said women are treating better here than in the west they are usually sex symbols in west. An Iranian woman holds most jobs contrasting in Saudi Arabia across the Gulf, they can vote and oblige.

In 2006 election, most of the activist had taken in custody when they collect one million signatures on a petition demanding greater women rights. Several of them released after few days or weeks. Western diplomats said these types of arrests from part of border were showing to oppose Ahmadinejad and in response to outer stress on Tehran over its nuclear program. The leading activist Parvin Ardalan said, "Even during the election time are we under pressure."

HIJAB is not compulsory

Although to the economic suffering including high inflation and unemployment, the election campaign conquered both Karoubi and Mousavi addressed women's situation. Tahmasebi said, "We have been able to penetrate the discourse of the election with our issues, I think it is a very hopeful sign." Karoubi, seen the three opponents of Ahmadinejad said that he envisions having two or three female ministers in government. The moral codes governing women's dress to cover their hair and the shape of their bodies. These moral codes more strict after Ahmadinejad come in power in 2005 assured to restore Islamic revolution values.

At the same news conference, a female former MP who Karoubi said, he would contain in his cabinet questioned the way Iran enforces strict Islamic dress code, or "hijab," in statements unlikely to go down well within the Islamic concern. Jamileh Kadivar said hijab is not compulsory in nature it is a personal matter. She covered herself in chador from head to toe. Mousavi's wife Zahra Rahnavard had broken Iranian politics by participating in election for her husband. She said women would manipulate more if her husband nominated. She said sorry from Ahmadinejad, who asked the academic qualifications in television discussion with Mousavi.

Ali Ansari of University of St Andrews in Scotland said, "Ahmadinejad's attacks on Mousavi's wife have gone down badly, it will be seen by many people as beneath the belt, and it shored up the women's vote."