

Stoning Penalty in Islam and Christianity: A comparison study with reference to the Islamic penal code in Islamic Republic of Iran

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Abstract

The death penalty is a matter which it has been addressing by Human Rights activists in recent years and there are many activities around the world to stop this form of punishment. Currently, many countries have completely eliminated this penalty and many other countries by changing the rules prevent this punishment. But still some countries continuously use the stoning as a death penalties including the Islamic Republic of Iran. Despite the Human Rights activists campaign to eliminate the stoning as a death penalty and it is part of their struggle to humanize the form of these punishments because in Iran and few other Muslim countries the various painful methods are still used and stoning is one of that which they enforcing this form of punishment and it has stopped and violated in many of religious shariah, especially in Christianity. This article examines the form of executions with stoning in the Islamic Republic of Iran and comparing with Christianity.

Keywords: Iran, stoning, conviction, Islam, Christianity

Introduction

Under Islamic law, the stoning (Rajm in Arabic) is enforced punishment in case of adultery perpetrated by a married person. The judge requires an evidence or confession from adulterers or few witnesses should give testimony after the completion of this process the conviction stoning order will be exported.

Objectives:

The objectives of this article are:

1. To discuss about the stoning according to the Islamic rule.
2. To survey the stoning order in Christianity.
3. To analyse the stoning as a legal order in Iran.

Stoning

At the time of executive of stoning the organized group of people will gathering and throws stones at the convicted person until death. The sentenced person to stoning will be placed in a stoning pit and the women will be buried till neck and men till waist.

The stoning to death had become as a legal Islamic punishment rule (Penal Code) by Khomeini's order supreme leader of Iran in 1981. According to the Islamic Penal Code, the stoning is sharia of Islam.

Stoning in Christianity

According to the Holy Book of Bible at the Gospel of John in the chapter of Eight (The Adulterous Women), a day Jesus Christ was in the temple for teaching to the people, then the teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in women who had caught in the act of adultery. They said the law of Moses orders that such women should be stoned to death. They asked the opinion of Jesus Christ and wants to test him. So they could have some charge to bring against him, then Jesus has said to them " let anyone among you who has no sin and offense be the first person to throw a

stone at her". When they heard this, they went away one by one and Jesus Christ was left alone with the woman standing before him. Then Jesus said to her " Neither do I condemn you, go and do not sin again". Jesus Christ has forgiven her.

Stoning at Islamic Rule

According to the Holy Book of Quran in chapter of Nur, Verse Four which has narrated and described by judges of Islamic courts in Iran the above-mentioned verse in Quran has declared that the stoning and whiplashing is the order of God, and they added this punishment and conviction to the Islamic Republic of Iran punishment rule (Penal Code) and regulation book for executive.

Stoning in Iran

After Iran's revolution, the supreme leader of Iran in the year 1981 has issued the order of stoning. Around fifteen Muslim countries in the world has mentioned that the stoning is legal punishment but their legal courts have not issued this kind of conviction order from last many years but in only two countries the conviction is executed by ordering people outside without the legal order of the court in those countries which is Pakistan and Somalia. But in the Islamic Republic of Iran the stoning order is according to the Islamic Penal Code and regulation act and is a legal punishment which is mentioned in the law book clearly and the judge in the court will issue legal permission for executive of stoning in public at the case of adultery. The Islamic Republic of Iran is the only country in the world which the conviction of enforcing of stoning is legal and it is under the executive. Therefore stoning in term of Islamic religion is legal religious order and is approved and endorsed.

Discussion

As explained before the stoning in Islam is legal religious

order and usually, in Iran, the judges for trial at the court issuing this conviction for women in case of adultery for enforcing which is discriminatory order and it is discrimination against women. Obviously, in Iran's constitution, the stoning is Islamic legal punishment and it's the order of God which is mentioned in the holy book of Quran as is described many times by the highest authorities concerned in the country.

But in Christianity, Jesus Christ has repealed this conviction order which is clearly mentioned in the holy book of the Bible. Jesus always has taught forgiveness, mercy to the people once a person has asked Jesus Christ " Lord, how many times must I forgive the offenses of my brother? seven times? Jesus answered, "No, not seven times, but seventy times seven." and is visible that Christ is the symbol of kindness and affection.

In today's world majority of countries are stopped this kind of unhumanize punishment and they are acting according to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights but we are seeing in Reality the Islamic Republic of Iran do not believe this Declaration and what they did in most of the cases after revolution till today Islamic Republic of Iran are violating the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Conclusion

Human Rights Advocate in the Islamic Republic of Iran believe that propaganda, advertising, and international pressure can help in supporting domestic efforts for change. The United Nations and Amnesty International know that the fight can save lives and hopes to eventually persuade the Iranian authorities to abolish the death penalty by stoning and to harmonize in legal procedures with obligations under international law. The international organization for the defense of women's rights has to try to repeal the stoning order but unfortunately in Iran still this brutal punishment is going on.

At the end; in two thousand years ago when the world was governed with blind laws, it was Jesus who opened the eyes of irrational people to open their eyes towards rational thinking by doing away with the capital punishment of stoning to death. Today why is still in practice?

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