

STOP

“Honor Killings”

Sanctioned murder of women in “Honor Killings”: When women are raped or suspected of flirtations or sexual relations with men who are not their husbands, they are often murdered by relatives to preserve family “honor.” In court, the murderers get light sentences or are acquitted. This practice is widespread in the Middle East, including in Iran, Saudi Arabia, Gaza and the West Bank, Egypt, Jordan, and Lebanon.



Fifteen-year-old Rofayda Qaoud of the Palestinian village of Abu Qash was raped and impregnated by her brothers. When she refused to kill herself to save her family’s honor, her mother Amira (left) suffocated, stabbed, and beat her to death the night of January 23, 2003. She received a light sentence, as “honor killing” is a mitigating factor in the Palestinian judicial system.