

Chapter 1 : Rana Hussein - Wikipedia

Rana Hussein. Internationally recognized and award winning journalist and human rights defender Rana Hussein broke the silence by exposing the phenomenon of so-called crimes of honour in Jordan.

Investigative journalist and activist from Jordan. She is the author of the book *Murder in the Name of Honor*. Transcript This is a rush transcript. Copy may not be in its final form. On Sunday a man in Jordan confessed to stabbing his twenty-two-year-old daughter to death by a sword twenty-five times, because she was found to be pregnant out of wedlock. According to the United Nations, 5, women around the world are murdered each year in the name of preserving their family honor and reputation. Since that, Rana Hussein has continued to investigate and speak out about this form of violence, whether in Jordan or other parts of the world. Rana Hussein joins us now here in our firehouse studio. Well, of course, it was a series of murders that I covered when I started reporting for the Jordan Times and then going to courts and discovering that killers were getting away with very lenient sentences. There were training for judges, criminal prosecutors, people working in domestic fields, on how to detect these crimes, how to deal with the victims of domestic violence. Now in Jordan, most people know about this issue. People’s voices rejecting these sort of murders are now increasing, more than when I started. So, basically things are going to the better. Unfortunately, the number of murders is not decreasing. I think we have nineteen this year. Before I left, there were eighteen, and now, with this murder, there are nineteen. Sometimes government officials come to talk about it. And this, you did not see in the past. And Rana, you talk about honor killings as a global phenomenon. Can you expand on this? But there, you know, domestic violence or violence against women is a global phenomenon, as we said. Women get killed all over the world by their abusive partners, by their family members, by their husbands, by their sons, fathers. And there are still reports of murders going on in countries such as Italy, like in Sicily, in South America, Pakistan, Turkey. So really it has nothing to do with any religion. For example, in India, Sikh families kill their daughters. In Iraq, a woman from a Yazidi faith was stoned to death recently. And I think any killer who kills a woman should get a very high sentence, just like treated any other murder. This is part one of our conversation. Rana Hussein, I want to thank you for being with us, investigative journalist, activist from Jordan, leading advocate against so-called honor killings. Her book is called *Murder in the Name of Honor*. Please attribute legal copies of this work to [democracynow](#). Some of the work s that this program incorporates, however, may be separately licensed. For further information or additional permissions, contact us.

Chapter 2 : Abolition of Article receives local, international praise | Jordan Times

Rana Husseini is a Jordanian journalist and human rights activist who exposed honour crimes in Jordan and campaigned for stronger legal penalties against perpetrators.

A journalist in Jordan, Rana Husseini was the first reporter to bring the secretive practice of honor killings to the front pages of the daily papers. Q What does this gathering of human rights defenders over the next few days mean to you? RH These days have been marvelous. To bring humongous numbers of human rights defenders together is an excellent opportunity for all of us to get to know each others problems. And we represent the people whose rights have been violated repeatedly. This is a great opportunity for us to tell the stories. Q What will you take back to Jordan? If a friend asks you what this was all about, what will you say? The [Speak Truth to Power] book itself is a document that you can carry around and show people that there are miseries everywhere in the world. There are violations of human rights everywhere in the world and there are people who are fighting these violations. That means there is hope and Kerry brought this hope together for all of us to know that we are not in the wrong. We are not alone. There are other people taking on more serious issues, more dangerous issues. These are people who believe in what they are doing, people who believe that with their voices they will make change. Q Can you tell us about the issue of women gaining their rights throughtout the world? Women in general have not obtained their full rights in some countries. People learn; we learn from other countries who have gained more rights. We learn and we teach others, we interact together. This is the way to do it because in some countries, women still lack a lot of rights. Q What are honor killings? RH When I was younger, I would hear about these crimes. But my involvement began when I started reporting for the Jordan Times in I was struck by a certain story that really moved me and I really felt that women are really blamed for any act. They are always accused of seducing men, of being the ones who are asking for any act, and I feel that is my duty to tell the truth. I feel that I have to tell my society, my people, decision makers that these crimes do happen, not to turn a blind eye. We should admit that it happens and talk about it. Q How did you meet Kerry Kennedy Cuomo? She e-mailed me and told me that she was doing a book. I felt it was an honor for me to become a part of her book. Q How do you view this moment in the overall struggle for human rights? Is it a turning point, a moment of opportunity, a moment to re-assess where we are? RH New technology is going to help a lot in exposing many issues through the circulation of information. For now and the future, I think globalization and technology and everything that is going on will help a lot in exposing all kinds of violations against human beings. Q What keeps you going? I have received all kind of accusations. Because I know what I am doing is right. I know that I am doing something. I am speaking for the women who cannot speak for themselves. And I am doing something that I know is backed by everything: Q How are you convinced of this? RH I am convinced because this is the natural thing. People who are trying to quell these rights or these demands are afraid to lose power. People who are in power do not want to give it up. Any human being would know that we are born equal. We have the same rights, we are all entitled to a fair life. We all have our own duties.

Chapter 3 : Rana Hussein: Honor Murders in Jordan Not Just Isolated Cases - calendrierdelascience.com

Rana Hussein and her scooter are a common sight on the streets of Amman. It is, for the year-old human rights campaigner, the smartest way to negotiate the heaving traffic in Jordan's capital.

Petra Tabeling met with the committed journalist. A girl was murdered by her own brother because she had discredited the family. The girl died after a long path of suffering: The family blamed her and forced her to abort the child. Afterwards the parents married their daughter to a fifty-year-old man who cast her out after six months. The girl turned to her family and was murdered on the same day. Raising public awareness Rana Hussein was horrified when she learned about this tragic event in . The now thirty-seven-year-old journalist has since made it her task to document and make these honor murders known in her home country, for she discovered that no one spoke about such incidents. Nobody has the right to kill them. Rana Hussein was giving people a wrong image of Jordan. Not an Islamic tradition The ignorance of her own compatriots motivated the court reporter to start documenting honor murders being practiced today. This she has done since , always with the support of her editors. Rana Hussein is aware of approximately twenty to twenty-five honor murders committed in Jordan every year and assumes there are about five more cases each year that no one talks about. Honor murders of women occur after a rape, an undesired pregnancy, or for inheritance reasons. Protest against blind justice The court reporter quickly discovered with her research that Jordanian legal authorities regularly classify such serious offences as minor: Article of the Jordanian penal code permits perpetrators in such cases to go unpunished or to receive substantially reduced sentences. Thanks to her documentation non-governmental organizations have become aware of the problem, including the human rights organization Amnesty International, which awarded her a prize in , by no means the only one she has received. Initiatives against honor murders Rana Hussein has nonetheless succeeded in making honor murders a public issue in Jordan. Since she became active, numerous public debates have focused on the controversial issue of honor murders. The only protection these women have from being persecuted by their own family lies in protective custody: Over forty women live in prisons together with serious offenders for this very reason," explained the journalist, who regularly visits these women. Some women have lived under these circumstances for more than ten years. International attention and pressure on Jordanian authorities are therefore still extremely important. The good thing in Jordan is that we have a relatively open society, so that it is at least possible to talk about the problem of honor murder. Petra Tabeling Translation from German: Nancy Joyce International website of the organization Amnesty International.

Chapter 4 : How I Got There: Rana Hussein | HuffPost

Rana Hussein, I want to thank you for being with us, investigative journalist, activist from Jordan, leading advocate against so-called honor killings. Her book is called Murder in the Name of.

Entrepreneur, interviewer, founder of Vunela. She is a leading international investigative journalist whose reporting has put violence against women on the public agenda around the world. She has also been an activist on the issue of so-called honor murders for more than 23 years. Hussein also worked as a consultant and trainer for the Jordan Media Institute and the International Research and Exchanges Board IREX by conducting training workshops for local reporters, journalism students on reporting on gender, human rights and violence against women. Lan Anh Vu caught up with Hussein to learn more about her journey of investigating over the years and the lessons she has learned along the way. In June, I came across the sad story of a year-old girl who was killed by her brother. When I went to investigate I was shocked to learn more of her story. She was raped by one of her brothers, and he attempted to kill her because she told her family. She became pregnant, underwent a secret abortion, and was forced to marry a man 50 years older than her. Six months later, this man divorced her; the day he divorced her, the second brother killed her and blamed her for the rape. I spoke to the uncles, who were a part of the plot; they also blamed her for the rape and accused her of seducing her brother. I reported the story. The following day, an intellectual woman called the newspaper and started screaming and yelling at my editors, saying that they should stop me from writing and reporting these crimes because this is not us or our society. I became even more enraged and decided to show her and everyone else that this is our society, and we need to work on changing such issues. Later, I went to the courts and discovered that the killers were getting away with lenient sentences of three or six months, or a maximum of a year. I decided to document this as well because no one was really talking about it at the time. What motivates me is that those women have no voice, no value and nobody there to defend them, so this is one area where I feel I am able to make a difference. The most important thing, as I told my colleagues, is that I know I have saved lives directly or indirectly, and this is something very important. For me, that is the most rewarding thing; it is a very good feeling to be able to help someone. I think the honor crimes happen in many countries around the world. It depends on the population; the higher the population, the more you will see murders and crimes and general violence against women. This happens in countries like Pakistan, Afghanistan, India and Turkey, to name a few, so I would say that these crimes are not restricted to any society, religion or nation. Impact on the families of the victims I spoke to some families; the impacts were very bad. These crimes do not help or solve the problem, as some families might think. They actually start new problems, especially for the person who was chosen to do the killing. I have met some who regret killing the female relative they lived with. Others were too depressed to talk about it. I think that some of the killers are also victims because they do not want to kill, but societal and family pressures alter them from normal human beings into killers. Positive changes There are a lot of positive changes in Jordan. The issue is no longer taboo and is heavily discussed in the press and among citizens, government officials, NGOs and other figures in society. I can tell you that there has been a major change in the mentality of people in Jordan. People are now more open to and aware of this issue. Voices against these crimes and lenient laws are growing, and there is more acceptance towards the work that is done by the government and civil society to end these crimes. There is a major change in the way the judiciary is handling these cases. There are harsher penalties than there were in the past. Judges have become more aware that they need to hand out stricter punishments against perpetrators of such crimes. In the past, it was three months, six months, or a maximum of a year. Now, the perpetrators receive lengthy sentences; the prison punishment terms range from 7. Lessons learned You have to be very patient, because change will not come overnight. Of course, the most important thing is to always have hope. There is always hope that things will change, but it takes time, so you have to be patient. How we could end the honor crimes We have to continue to raise awareness, encourage religious and community leaders to speak up against these crimes, and encourage women and let them know they are not alone and that they can seek help. We should work on humanizing the victims and telling their stories to the

world. We should work on improving the education system. Governments should improve their services to victims, and more NGOs should be encouraged to work on targeting laws that discriminate against women. This interview has been condensed and edited for clarity. This post is part of "How I Got There" series, which features people around the world speaking about their journeys. What is the path to success? What challenges did people face and how did they overcome them? Lan Anh and her guests answer all these questions and much more. To view the entire series, visit [here](#).

Chapter 5 : Rana Hussein: Jordanian Journalist Who Exposed 'Honor Killings' Tells Story In New Book | H

Journalist, feminist, and human rights defender, Jordanian Rana Hussein is one of the world's most influential investigative journalists, whose consistent reporting of honor crimes has put violence against women on the public agenda around the world.

Her reporting helped bring further international attention to the issue and, combined with grassroots efforts, increased domestic and international pressure on the government to address the problem. Stressing the Jordanian constitution, Islamic law, and international human rights principles, the campaign gathered some 15, signatures on a petition for repeal of article . The campaign cut across the usual family, tribal, and communal divisions within the society, appealing to the national good. After the campaign was denied official permits to march in support of repeal, organizers were taken by surprise when a member of the royal family announced a march for the cause. Held in February , the march, apparently convened by the Palace, drew 5, people in Amman. In , spurred by local activists and international attention, King Abdullah established a special committee to review and amend gender-discriminatory laws. After the committee recommended the repeal of article , and the Council of Ministers, or Cabinet, 56 approved the recommendation, the measure was presented to Parliament twice, in November and January , and in both cases, though approved by the palace-appointed upper house, it failed to pass the elected lower house. And, in an apparent effort to mollify proponents of repeal, the mitigation was extended to women as well as men. The upper house twice approved the proposals, which were subsequently rejected by the lower house again. There is a common understanding that article , as it stands, does not conform to Islamic law. Jordanian officials and Islamists, including the minister for Awqaf religious endowments and Islamic Affairs and the secretary-general of the Islamic Action Front party, told Human Rights Watch that Islam does not authorize a male family member to mete out punishment to an errant female relative. They argue that the campaign is motivated by western values of which they do not approve. If the extenuating excuse is established for a crime punishable by death, 64 such as premeditated murder, article 98 provides that the penalty be reduced to a minimum of one year in prison. For other felonies, it is reducible to a minimum of six months and a maximum of two years. If a killer has served that much time awaiting trial, the sentence may be commuted to time served and he may walk away a free man. Though gender-neutral in language, article 98 in practice is applied to benefit only men. For example, a thirty-year-old man identified as Ziad H. The father of the victim, who was also the father of the defendant, dropped charges. Having served the time while awaiting trial, he was freed. The court, invoking article 98, reduced his sentence on the basis of the act being committed in a "fit of rage. The High Criminal Court ruled: He was still under the influence of extreme anger, which caused him to lose his ability to think clearly because of the unlawful act committed by his sister. He left and bought a gun. Twenty-four hours later he returned and shot her seven times at close range. Therefore, he should benefit from a reduction in penalty as stipulated in article 98 of the Jordanian Penal Code. Article 98 should not reduce sentences for pre-meditated murder, no matter what has provoked it. There shall benefit from the mitigating excuse Uthur Mukhafif whosoever surprises his wife or one of his ascendants or descendents in the crime of adultery or in an unlawful bed, and kills her immediately or kills the person fornicating with her or kills both of them or attacks her or both of them in an assault that leads to death or wounding or injury or permanent disability. Shall benefit from the same excuse the wife who surprises her husband in the crime of adultery or in an unlawful bed in the marital home and kills him immediately or kills the woman with whom he is fornicating or kills both of them or attacks him or both of them in an assault that leads to death or wounding or injury or permanent disability. The right of lawful defence shall not be permitted in regard to the person who benefits from this excuse nor shall the provisions of "aggravated circumstances" Thuruf Mushaddida apply. The exemption clause was repealed in . The author is a member of the Jordanian royal family. In October , Asma Khader became minister of state and government spokesperson.

Chapter 6 : Rana Hussein | Revolv

The latest Tweets from Rana Hussein (@Rana_Hussein). Author-Murder in the Name of Honour-Human Rights Activist/Senior Reporter for The Jordan Times All views are my own Retweets are not endorsements.

Journalist, feminist, and human rights defender, Rana Hussein broke the silence and exposed the shame of Jordan when she unveiled the common but unspoken crime of honor killings there. Honor killings happen when a woman is raped or is said to have participated in illicit sexual activity. Across the globe, women who are beaten, brutalized, and raped can expect police, prosecutors, and judges to humiliate victims, fail to investigate cases, and dismiss charges. Fathers, brothers, and sons see it as their duty to avenge the offense, not by persuading the perpetrators but by murdering the victims; their own daughters, sisters, mothers. Honor killings accounted for one-third of the murders of women in Jordan in Hussein wrote a series of reports on the killings and launched a campaign to stop them. As a result, she has been threatened and accused of being anti-Islam, antifamily, and anti-Jordan. Yet, Queen Noor took up the cause, and later, the newly ascended King Hassan cited the need for protection of women in his opening address to parliament. The conspiracy of silence has been forever broken thanks to this young journalist who risks her life in the firm faith that exposing the truth about honor killings and other forms of violence against women is the first step to stopping them. Then, after about four or five months on the job, I started coming across crimes of honor. One story really shocked me and compelled me to get more involved. In the name of honor, a sixteen-year-old girl was killed by her family because she was raped by her brother. He assaulted her several times and then threatened to kill her if she told anyone. When she discovered that she was pregnant she had to tell her family. After the family arranged an abortion, they married her off to a man fifty years her senior. When he divorced her six months later, her family murdered her. An immoral act could be that she was simply seen with a strange man or that she slept with a man. In many cases, women are killed just because of rumors or unfounded suspicions. When I went to investigate the crime I met with her two uncles. At first when I questioned them about the murder they got defensive and asked, "Who told you that? They started telling me that she was "not a good girl. Do you think we killed the wrong person? She seduced her brother. They only repeated that she had tarnished the family image by committing an impure act. Then they started asking me questions: Why had I studied in the United States? From then on I went on covering stories about women who were killed in an unjust, inhuman way. Most of them did not commit any immoral, much less illegal, act, and even if they did, they still did not deserve to die. But I want to emphasize two things. One is that all women are not threatened in this way in my country. Any woman who speaks to any man will not be killed. These crimes are isolated and limited, although they do cross class and education boundaries. The other thing is a lot of people assume incorrectly that these crimes are mandated by Islam, but they are not. Islam is very strict about killing, and in the rare instances where killing is counseled, it is when adultery is committed within a married couple. In these cases, there must be four eyewitnesses and the punishment must be carried out by the community, not by the family members involved. Honor killings are part of a culture, not a religion, and occur in Arab communities in the United States and many countries. One-third of the reported homicides in Jordan are honor killings. The killers are treated with leniency, and families assign the task of honor killing to a minor, because under Jordanian juvenile law, minors who commit crimes are sentenced to a juvenile center where they can learn a profession and continue their education, and then, at eighteen, be released without a criminal record. The average term served for an honor killing is only seven and a half months. The reason for these killings is that many families tie their reputation to the women. Related to this is the practice of protective custody. The victim goes to jail. Most of these women are held there indefinitely. They are not charged, and they cannot make bail. If the family bails them out, it is to kill them. So these women remain, wasting their lives in prison. Since I started reporting on the honor killings, things have started to change for the better. And he asked the prime minister to amend all the laws that discriminate against women. What was not included was a solution; we could begin with a shelter for women. Instead of putting women who seek haven from their families in prison, the government could have programs to rehabilitate them. Of course this kind of human rights work

has its critics. People have accused me of encouraging adultery and premarital sex. What upsets me the most is that people want to stay away from the subject by using these excuses. One woman said, "So what if twenty-five women are killed every year; look at how many illegitimate children are born every year? People try to divert the main issue by accusing the victim and portraying evil women as the main cause of why adultery takes place. Women are always blamed in my country, and elsewhere in the world. Everywhere in the world, they are blamed. We are talking here about human lives that are being wasted. It is important to realize that people who commit the killings are also victims. Their families put all the burden and pressure on their back. If you do kill, you will be a hero and everyone will be proud of you. While I was studying in the United States, I felt that there were good people who were trying to work for other people who were in need of help. I came to believe that if you want to do something or change something, you could do it. But in Jordan many people are passive. Many believe that whatever they do will not affect anything in society. But I am convinced this is wrong. I hope the day will come when I will no longer need to report on these crimes. This will happen when Jordan modernizes, not only materially, but in its awareness of human rights for women. And I am sure that day will come; and it may be closer than we think.

Chapter 7 : Rana Hussein (Author of Murder in the Name of Honor)

Rana Hussein is an award-winning journalist, senior reporter for the Jordan Times, and human rights activist. She is a leading international investigative journalist whose reporting has put.

Chapter 8 : Rana Hussein Website - Biography

Journalist, feminist, and human rights defender, Rana Hussein broke the silence and exposed the shame of Jordan when she unveiled the common but unspoken crime of honor killings there.

Chapter 9 : PBS-Speak Truth to Power-Telling Stories

Rana Hussein is an award-winning journalist for the Jordan Times and human rights defender. She has focused on the brutal crimes that are committed against Jordanian women in the name of family honor, culminating in the book Murder in the Name of Honor: The True Story of One.