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Rafsanjani responds to Karroubi 'jail rape' letter

Thu, 13 Aug 2009 10:01:47 GMT

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Ayatollah Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani has reportedly responded to a letter by former Iranian presidential candidate Mehdi Karroubi on 'jail rape' claims.

In a letter dated July 29 to Rafsanjani, the Chairman of Expediency Council, Karroubi, the Veteran Reformist figure, had urged a probe into reports of the sexual abuse of prisoners at the notorious Kahrizak detention center in southern Tehran, where he said several of both male and female detainees were brutally raped.

According to a report by Iranian daily *Jomhuriye Eslami*, upon receiving the letter from Karroubi, Ayatollah Rafsanjani sent it to outgoing Judiciary Chief Ayatollah Mahmoud Hashemi-Shahrudi and called for

an investigation into the issue.

Ayatollah Shahrudi reportedly responded to the letter, saying that such treatment had not happened in those detention centers that are under the supervision of the judicial branch.

The office of Ayatollah Rafsanjani then sent the letter by Ayatollah Shahrudi to Karroubi, according to the report.

"The people who informed me about these events hold sensitive positions in the country ... these officials told me of the things that happened in the detention centers that even if one count is true, it would be a tragedy for the Islamic Republic," Karroubi said in his letter.

"A number of detainees have said that some female detainees were raped savagely," he said, adding "Young boys held in detention have also been savagely raped."

Following the request to probe the issue, Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani urged an inquiry to the report and assigned a special committee to investigate the issue.

On Wednesday, Larijani dismissed the allegation as 'sheer lies', saying that a 'precise and comprehensive' inquiry found no cases of sexual abuse. Larijani, then, called on Karroubi to present strong evidence to prove his claims.

The 'non-standard' prison of Kahrizak was shut down upon a direct order by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei in July after reports surfaced about the mistreatment of detainees who protested against the result of the disputed presidential vote.

Amid controversies surrounding reports of the sexual abuse of prisoners, Majid Ansari, a member of Majma'e Rowhaniyou-e Mobarez (the Combatant Clergy Association), told IRNA that the issue was indeed verified.

"The very existence of such an issue [jail rape reports] has been confirmed and the report has been taken up with officials," former vice president said without mentioning the name of any officials.

On Tuesday, Ayatollah Rafsanjani demanded officials to respect the rights of the detainees.

"Judgment and proxy as well as (protecting) the rights of the accused can provide guarantees for the presence of justice in the final verdict."

After the shutdown, the head of Kahrizak prison was dismissed and arrested for 'dereliction of duty'.

AR/AKM

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Moderate

Thu, 13 Aug 2009 15:32:22 GMT

We all must be very careful that what we say and what we do not say in post election atmosphere will not play into hands of enemies of islam and islamic republic of iran.

Ali

Thu, 13 Aug 2009 15:31:16 GMT

This man has nothing to respond of!

Know the truth

Thu, 13 Aug 2009 15:04:30 GMT

Anything anybody says about MoUSavi,Rafsanjani, Karroubi and \$hit Khatami is not enough. These people have committed the greatest crimes against Iran and Iranians. Karroubis claim of rape and other treatment of prisoners is an absolute fabrication, designed to incite hatred and cause violence in Iran and discredit the government.

ahmad

Thu, 13 Aug 2009 14:27:00 GMT

@ ladies and gentlemen USING FOUL AND OBSCENE LANGUAGE AGAINST MR RAFSANJANI AND MR MOUSAVI IS AGAINST ALL NORMS OF MORALITY. i think presstv should not post all comments rather abuses b4 moderation stop committing more sins.

Kamel

Thu, 13 Aug 2009 13:49:35 GMT

They started with a fraud claim, and now they are claiming rape. I do not know what else is there in their agenda. They are awaiting directions from the experts in velvet coups in Washington and London to take the next step.

Thu, 13 Aug 2009 12:50:45 GMT

Yes, please investigate the rape, torture, and execution of men, women, and children by Basij. BASIJ = SS NAZI!!

Press TV the Hypocrite

Thu, 13 Aug 2009 12:39:50 GMT

We should take serious actions against Press TV, a petition should be filed and sent to the Office of Leader and President, read between the lines and see the way Press TV has helped the western propaganda, there are hypocrites sitting in PressTV, and usurpers of rights, who get paid by Islamic Republic but work for enemies.

Mulla nasreddin

Thu, 13 Aug 2009 12:17:41 GMT

We are the only country after Banana republic that all enquiries about the crimes carried out by the security forces or their shadowy affiliates take a minute and then only carried out by the same people that given the order/fatwa to do so. I know you don't afraid of Iranian people but be afraid of the almighty. The nonsense that CIA or MI6 behind this is old joke that don't wash any more Yes they would always appreciate your stupidity to use against you and you can moan about it

LEARN THE TRUTH

Thu, 13 Aug 2009 11:54:13 GMT

Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani always says lets have an inquiry but that is only talking. Latijani also urged to the Tehran University massacre by plain cloth murders belonging to Passdaran. But that was only thing we hear. Larijani is good to say lets have inquiry hoping people forget about the issue. He is a big joke. Now his brother is going to be the head of justices department. LOOOL

mbach

Thu, 13 Aug 2009 11:43:02 GMT

Sad that people make these types of allegations so lightly. Obviously they have never had a friend or relatvie who was raped, or they would be more cautious about using these types lies for political and personal gain.

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