Prisons and Public Recantations in Modern Iran: A Critical Examination

Prisons and public recantations are two of the most visible and controversial aspects of the Iranian criminal justice system. Prisons are often overcrowded and unsanitary, and prisoners are often subjected to torture and other forms of ill-treatment. Public recantations are a form of punishment in which prisoners are forced to publicly confess their crimes and renounce their beliefs. This practice has been condemned by human rights organizations as a violation of basic human rights.



Tortured Confessions: Prisons and Public Recantations

in Modern Iran by Ervand Abrahamian

★★★★ 4.5 out of 5
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Screen Reader : Supported
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Lending : Enabled



This book provides a comprehensive analysis of the Iranian prison system and the use of public recantations. The book examines the historical roots of these practices, their impact on prisoners and their families, and the broader implications for human rights and social justice in Iran.

Historical Roots

The Iranian prison system has its roots in the country's pre-Islamic past. The first prisons were built by the Achaemenid Empire in the 6th century BC. These prisons were used to hold political prisoners and criminals. The use of public recantations as a form of punishment also dates back to pre-Islamic times. The Sassanid Empire (224-651 AD) used public recantations to punish criminals and heretics.

After the Islamic conquest of Iran in the 7th century AD, the prison system was reformed to conform to Islamic law. The use of public recantations was also continued. However, the practice was not as common under Islamic rule as it was under pre-Islamic rule.

In the 19th century, the Iranian prison system underwent a series of reforms. These reforms were aimed at modernizing the prison system and making it more humane. However, the prison system continued to be plagued by problems, including overcrowding and unsanitary conditions.

The Iranian Prison System Today

The Iranian prison system is currently facing a number of challenges. The prison population is growing rapidly, and prisons are becoming increasingly overcrowded. This overcrowding has led to a number of problems, including unsanitary conditions, inadequate healthcare, and violence.

Prisoners in Iran are also frequently subjected to torture and other forms of ill-treatment. In recent years, there have been a number of reports of prisoners being beaten, sexually abused, and even killed.

Public Recantations in Modern Iran

Public recantations are a form of punishment that is still used in Iran today. This practice is used to punish a wide range of crimes, including political crimes, religious crimes, and moral crimes.

Public recantations are often held in public squares or other highly visible locations. The prisoner is forced to stand in front of a crowd and confess their crimes. The prisoner may also be forced to renounce their beliefs or apologize to the victims of their crimes.

Public recantations are a deeply humiliating and degrading experience for prisoners. The practice has been condemned by human rights organizations as a violation of basic human rights.

The Impact of Prisons and Public Recantations

The use of prisons and public recantations has a devastating impact on prisoners and their families. Prisoners are often subjected to torture and other forms of ill-treatment. They are also denied basic necessities, such as food, water, and medical care.

Public recantations are a particularly humiliating and degrading experience for prisoners. The practice can lead to social isolation and ostracism. Prisoners who have been forced to recant may also experience feelings of guilt and shame.

The use of prisons and public recantations also has a broader impact on Iranian society. These practices send a message that dissent and non-conformity will not be tolerated. They also create a climate of fear and intimidation.

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This book is an essential reading for anyone interested in human rights, social justice, or



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