



DCI CONDEMNS CHILD HANGING IN IRAN

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Defence for Children International (DCI) expresses deep concern and outrage over the recent hanging of a fifteen year old girl, Atefeh Rajabi in the Islamic Republic of Iran. The girl was publicly executed for “offending public morality” after being found guilty of “acts incompatible with chastity”.

Executive Director of DCI’s International Secretariat, Rebecca Morton, condemned the killing, stating that it constituted a grave violation of the most basic rights of the child - including the inherent right to life - and directly contravened the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, which Iran ratified in 1994. Despite being a State Party to the Convention, Iran is one of the only States which continues to execute minors.

The killing has been denounced by a number of human rights organisations as well as the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights, Louise Arbour. Ms. Arbour met with Iranian officials during a visit to Tehran earlier this month and urged them to abide by international law which strictly prohibits the execution of children.

To access the full story please visit: <http://www.crin.org/resources/infoDetail.asp?ID=15034>