

ଜାଗୃତି

(Awakening)

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**Rights to Life, Liberty
&
Personal Security**

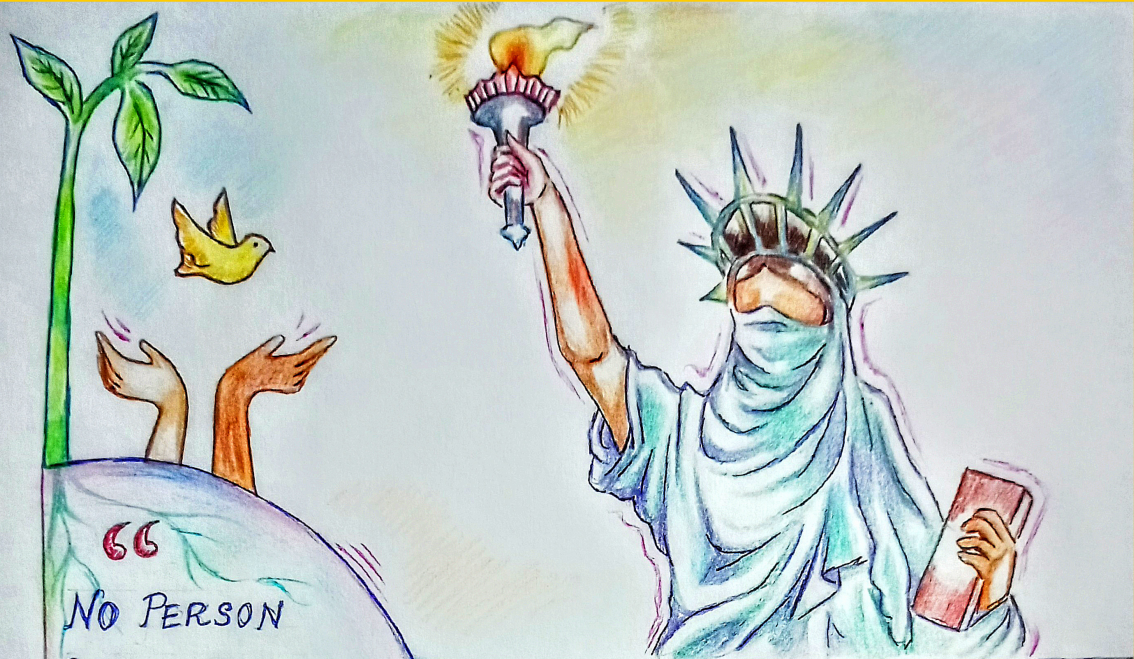
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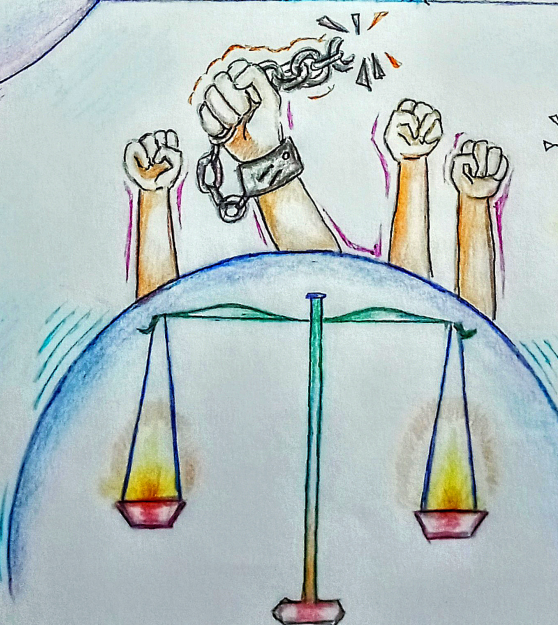


“
NO PERSON
SHALL BE
DEPRIVED OF HIS
LIFE OR PERSONAL
LIBERTY EXCEPT
ACCORDING TO A
PROCEDURE ESTABLISHED
BY LAW.
”

EVERYONE HAS
THE RIGHT TO
LIFE, LIBERTY
AND SECURITY
OF PERSON



RESPECT
HUMANITY



“
SECURE THE
PRESENT,
LIBERATE THE
FUTURE
”

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NARGES MOHAMMADI

The teenage children of imprisoned Iranian activist Narges Mohammadi accepted the 2023 Nobel Peace Prize in the Norwegian capital on behalf of their mother, whom they have not seen in years, reading out a speech she penned from a Tehran prison, as her medal rested on an empty chair. Narges Mohammadi was awarded the 2023 Nobel Peace Prize for her decades of activism despite numerous arrests by Iranian authorities and spending years behind the bars. She is renowned for campaigning for women's rights and democracy in her country, as well as fighting against the death penalty. She has been a vocal proponent of mass feminist civil disobedience against the hijab in Iran and a vocal critic of the hijab and chastity program of 2023. While in prison, she was awarded the Nobel Prize “for her fight against the oppression of women in Iran and her fight to promote human rights and freedom for all”. However, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iran condemned the decision.

Mohammadi was born on 21st April 1972 in Zanjan, Iran to an Iranian Azerbaijani family. She attended Qazvin International University, receiving a degree in Physics and became a professional engineer. During her university career, she wrote articles supporting women's rights in the student newspaper and went on to work as a journalist for several reformist newspapers. In 2003, she joined the Defenders of Human Rights Center (DHRC), founded by that year's Nobel Peace Prize laureate, Shirin Ebadi and later became the organization's vice president. In 1999, she married pro-reform journalist Taghi Rahmani and they have twin children.

In the years that followed, Mohammadi helped imprisoned activists, led a campaign against the death penalty and criticized the regime's use of torture and sexualized violence. She was arrested 13 times and sentenced to 31 years in prison and 154 lashes. In October 2023, when her selection as the Nobel Peace Prize laureate was announced, she was in locked in Tehran's notorious Evin prison. From captivity, Mohammadi stood at the forefront of major protests against the Iranian regime in autumn 2022. The unrest had been triggered by the arrest, mistreatment and death of a young Kurdish woman, Mahsa Jina Amini, at the hands of the morality police. Her crime: not adequately covering her hair. The authorities responded harshly against the demonstrators killing more than 500 people.

Mohammadi wrote a book, *White Torture: Interviews with Iranian Women Prisoners*, documenting her own and 12 other inmates' experiences of solitary confinement. She has won a string of human rights awards down the years and was recognized as one of BBC's 100 inspiring and influential women in 2022. Mohammadi commented on her Nobel Peace Prize as follows: “I will never stop striving for the realization of democracy, freedom and equality. Surely, the Nobel Peace Prize will make me more resilient, determined, hopeful and enthusiastic”. Fighting for more than 20 years for women's rights, Narges Mohammadi has become a symbol of freedom and standard-bearer in the struggle against the Iranian theocracy.

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RIGHTS TO LIFE, LIBERTY AND PERSONAL SECURITY

Malala Yousafzai (born July 12, 1997, Mingora, Swat valley, Pakistan) Pakistani activist who, while a teenager, spoke out publicly against the prohibition on the education of girls that was imposed by the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP; sometimes called Pakistani Taliban). She gained global attention when she survived an assassination attempt at age 15. In 2014 Yousafzai and Kailash Satyarthi were jointly awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace in recognition of their efforts on behalf of children's rights.

The daughter of an outspoken social activist and educator, Yousafzai was an excellent student. Her father—who established and administered the school she attended, Khushal Girls High School and College in the city of Mingora—encouraged her to follow in his path. In 2007 the Swat valley, once a vacation destination, was invaded by the TTP. Led by Maulana Fazlullah, the TTP began imposing strict Islamic law, destroying or shutting down girls' schools, banning women from any active role in society, and carrying out suicide bombings. Yousafzai and her family fled the region for their safety, but they returned when tensions and violence eased.

On September 1, 2008, when Yousafzai was 11 years old, her father took her to a local press club in Peshawar to protest the school closings, and she gave her first speech—“How Dare the Taliban Take Away My Basic Right to Education?” Her speech was publicized throughout Pakistan. Toward the end of 2008, the TTP announced that all girls' schools in Swat would be shut down on January 15, 2009. The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) approached Yousafzai's father in search of someone who might blog for them about what it was like to live under TTP rule. Under the name Gul Makai, Yousafzai began writing regular entries for BBC Urdu about her daily life. She wrote from January through the beginning of March of that year 35 entries that were also translated into English. Meanwhile, the TTP shut down all girls' schools in Swat and blew up more than 100 of them.

In February 2009 Yousafzai made her first television appearance, when she was interviewed by Pakistani journalist and talk show host Hamid Mir on the Pakistan current events show *Capital Talk*. In late February the TTP, responding to an increasing backlash throughout Pakistan, agreed to a cease-fire, lifted the restriction against girls, and allowed them to attend school on the condition that they wear burkas. However, violence resurged only a few months later, in May, and the Yousafzai family was forced to seek refuge outside of Swat until the Pakistani army was able to push the TTP out. In early 2009 *The New York Times* reporter Adam Ellick worked with Yousafzai to make a documentary, *Class Dismissed*, a 13-minute piece about the school shutdown. Ellick made a second film with her, titled *A Schoolgirl's Odyssey*. *The New York Times* posted both films on their Web site in 2009. That summer she met with the U.S. special envoy to Afghanistan and Pakistan, Richard Holbrooke, and asked him to help with her effort to protect the education of girls in Pakistan.

With Yousafzai's continuing television appearances and coverage in the local and international media, it had become apparent by December 2009 that she was the BBC's young blogger. Once her identity was known, she began to receive widespread recognition for her activism. In October 2011 she was nominated by human rights activist Desmond Tutu for the International Children's Peace Prize. In December of that year she was awarded Pakistan's first National Youth Peace Prize (later renamed the National Malala Peace Prize).

On October 9, 2012, Yousafzai was shot in the head by a TTP gunman while she was en route home from school. Fazlullah and the TTP took responsibility for the attempt on her life. She survived the attack and was flown from Peshawar to Birmingham, England, for surgery. The incident elicited protests, and her cause was taken up around the world, including by the UN special envoy for global education, Gordon Brown, who introduced a petition that called for all children around the world to be back in school by 2015. That petition led to the ratification of Pakistan's first Right to Education bill. In December 2012 Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari announced the launch of a \$10 million education fund in Yousafzai's honour. About the same time, the Malala Fund was established by the Vital Voices Global Partnership to support education for all girls around the world.

Yousafzai recovered, staying with her family in Birmingham, where she returned to her studies and to activism. For the first time since being shot, she made a public appearance on July 12, 2013, her 16th birthday, and addressed an audience of 500 at the United Nations in New York City. Among her many awards, in 2013 Yousafzai won the United Nations Human Rights Prize, awarded every five years. She was named one of *Time* magazine's most influential people in 2013 and appeared on one of the seven covers that were printed for that issue. With Christina Lamb foreign correspondent for *The Sunday Times*, Yousafzai coauthored a memoir, *I Am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban* (2013). She also wrote the picture book *Malala's Magic Pencil* (2017), which was based on her childhood. In 2014 she became the youngest person to win the Liberty Medal, awarded by the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia to public figures striving for people's freedom throughout the world. Nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 2013 but passed over that year, Yousafzai in 2014 won the prize, becoming the youngest Nobel laureate. History Department

After winning the Nobel Prize, Yousafzai continued to attend school in England—she graduated from the University of Oxford in 2020—while using her enhanced public profile to bring attention to human rights issues around the world. In July 2015, with support from the Malala Fund, she opened a girls' school in Lebanon for refugees from the Syrian Civil War. She discussed her work with refugees as well as her own displacement in *We Are Displaced* (2019).

Her life, before and after the attack she endured, was examined in the documentary *He Named Me Malala* (2015). The title referenced the fact that Yousafzai had been named for the Afghan heroine Malalai, or Malala, who purportedly led her people to victory against the British in the 1880 Battle of Maiwand.

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POLICE BRUTALITY AGAINST BLACK PEOPLE : **VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS**

Police brutality against Black people has a long and troubling history that continues to plague societies worldwide. Law enforcement has victimized communities based on colour throughout U.S. history. Originating from systemic racism and prejudice, this phenomenon has resulted in violation of right to life, liberty, and personal security, countless injustices, loss of lives, and profound social unrest.

The origin of police brutality against Black people can be traced back to the historical roots of slavery, colonialism, and segregation. These oppressive systems ingrained deeply rooted prejudices within law enforcement institutions, perpetuating the notion of Black inferiority and criminality. Even after the abolition of slavery and the civil rights movement, discriminatory practices persisted. Unfortunately, even in the 21st century, a group of white people are still clinging to the stereotypical concepts of racism and manifesting in biased policing tactics.

The results of police brutality against Black people are devastating and far-reaching. The disproportionate targeting of Black individuals for minor infractions or no reason at all has eroded trust in law enforcement and perpetuated a cycle of fear and injustice. Thus, these racially-biased tactics do not create safer, stronger society but, instead, erode trust between the communities and give rise to anger and disillusionment among affected communities which disrupts societal peace. The quest for peace and justice cannot be achieved without addressing the root causes of systemic oppression and discrimination.

In 2013, Alicia Garza, Patrisse Cullors and Opal Tometi originate the hashtag #BlackLivesMatter on social media following the acquittal of George Zimmerman in the fatal shooting of African-American teen Trayvon Martin in public. Gradually this movement has spread worldwide after the death of two more black persons. Up to May 28, 2020, there were nearly 8.8 million tweets with the hashtag, and the average had increased to 3.7 million a day. In response to these injustices, many worldwide protests have erupted, amplifying the voices of those demanding justice and systemic reform. These protests serve as a powerful reminder of the collective outrage against police brutality and institutionalized racism.

As Martin Luther King Jr. famously said, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." The global solidarity exhibited in these demonstrations underscores the universal importance of upholding human rights and dignity for all. In the words of Nelson Mandela, "To deny people their human rights is to challenge their very humanity." Police brutality against Black people not only violates their fundamental rights to life, liberty, and security but also undermines their humanity.

Department - English

In conclusion, police brutality against Black people is a grave injustice that demands urgent attention and action. It is a symptom of deeper societal problems rooted in racism, inequality, and injustice. As global citizens, we must stand together in solidarity with those affected by police brutality and work tirelessly to dismantle systems of oppression and build a more just and equitable world for future generations. It is only through collective action and unwavering determination that we can bring about meaningful change and ensure that every individual, regardless of race, can live free from fear and oppression.

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