

Praise for Dr. Shirin Ebadi and her memoir *Iran Awakening*

“As a lawyer, judge, lecturer, author and activist, her voice has sounded clearly and powerfully in her native country Iran, and also far beyond its national borders. She has come forward with professional force and unflagging courage, and she has defied any danger to her own safety. She is truly a woman of the people!”

—**Ole Danbolt Mjøs, Chairman of the Nobel Committee**

“Some of her admirers in Iran call her a woman of steel. Sure, the Iranian human rights champion also has a heart of gold. But it is Shirin Ebadi's unbending will that explains how she has become the conscience of the Islamic Republic.”

—**TIME Magazine, 2004 100 Heroes & Icons**

“The United States congratulates Shirin Ebadi on receiving the Nobel Peace Prize -- a first for an Iranian, and for a Muslim woman. The prize recognizes her lifetime of championing human rights and democracy.”

—**U.S. President George W. Bush**

“[Shirin Ebadi] is a distinguished judge and an individual of the highest democratic integrity.”

—**Nadine Gordimer, novelist and Nobel Prize recipient**

“At great personal risk, this mother of two became a powerful force for human rights, especially women's and children's rights. She defended free speech and opposed child abuse. . . . This remarkable woman has a story to tell. It's the story of an everyday working mother who studied her law briefs in a locked bathroom. It's the story of a brave and harassed human rights advocate in a theocracy.”

—**Ellen Goodman, syndicated columnist**

IRAN AWAKENING

A Memoir of Revolution and Hope

By 2003 Nobel Peace Prize Recipient

Shirin Ebadi

With Azadeh Moaveni

Throughout an extraordinary career as a lawyer, writer, activist, and dissident, Shirin Ebadi has spoken out clearly and strongly for her native Iran—and her voice has resonated far beyond its borders. Best known as a dedicated human rights advocate who defends women and children in politically charged cases, and winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, Ebadi has given both Iran and the world reason to hope for a better future. Now in her unforgettable memoir **IRAN AWAKENING** (Random House; On Sale May 2, 2006; \$24.95), Ebadi provides an eyewitness account of one woman standing at the crossroads of history. Ebadi recounts her public career and reveals her private self: her faith, her experiences, and her desire to lead a traditional life, even while serving as a rebellious voice in a land where such voices are muted and even silenced by brute force.

Ebadi describes her girlhood in a modest Tehran household, her education, and her early professional success as Iran's most accomplished female jurist in the mid-1970s. She speaks eloquently about the ideals of the 1979 Islamic Revolution, and of her deep disillusionment with the direction Iran has taken since. When the religious authorities declared women unfit to serve as judges, Ebadi was demoted to clerk in the courtroom she had once presided over.

In reading Shirin Ebadi's story, however, we come to see not a larger-than-life presence but a devoted daughter, wife, and mother. Ebadi is an everywoman, albeit one who has braved imprisonment, harassment, assassination, and her family's humiliation, all for the dream of a better Iran for her daughters and for generations to come. She has watched countless friends and relatives fleeing in the years since the Revolution, never to return. Yet, despite immense pressures, Ebadi remains resolute. She refuses to give up on Iran, unwilling to surrender the glories of its past and the promise of its future. For her bravery and selflessness, she has been embraced as a national hero, and as a key player in helping to forge Iran's destiny, whatever it may be.

IRAN AWAKENING is a unique memoir that blends equal parts sorrow and joy, nostalgia and hope. This is the inspiring story of a remarkable woman and her battle for the soul of a nation that is uneasily poised at the center of Middle Eastern and global events. It is also a story that has taken incredible courage to write and publish.

Shirin Ebadi will be in the United States on tour in May and available for interviews to discuss the following topics in addition to her memoir:

- The Bush doctrine of exporting democracy
- The war in Iraq
- Iranian nuclear capabilities
- The release of Akbar Ganji, who was held in an Iranian prison for 6 years

Tour Cities and Dates

New York City	Monday, May 1
	Tuesday, May 2
Washington D.C.	Wednesday, May 3
	Thursday, May 4
Detroit	Friday, May 5
	Saturday, May 6
Chicago	Monday, May 8
San Francisco	Tuesday, May 9
	Wednesday, May 10
Seattle	Thursday, May 11
	Friday, May 12
Los Angeles	Monday, May 15
	Tuesday, May 16
Denver	Wednesday, May 17
Portland	Thursday, May 18
Boston	Monday, May 22
	Tuesday, May 23

About the author:

Dr. Shirin Ebadi, a recipient of the 2003 Nobel Peace Prize, is one of the world's leading human rights activists. She continues to work as a lawyer in Tehran, while also lecturing around the world. This is her first book.

Azadeh Moaveni is the author of *Lipstick Jihad: A Memoir of Growing Up Iranian in America and American in Iran*. She has written for the *Los Angeles Times* and she is *Time* magazine's Islamic Affairs Correspondent. She lives in Tehran, but grew up in Northern California.

IRAN AWAKENING: A Memoir of Revolution and Hope
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