

strate. A band on training "Cultivation of Mudroom" was also provided to the students.

When an one-on-one final at the Oval next month, Ponting expressed his desire to witness a similar approach on the

stage returning home that I've seen in world Test cricket in the last two years has been the way that England played - this

year, when an injury, England has enjoyed remarkable success, winning 10 out of 12 Tests.

Stressing the significance, a match that England have done, they played Test match cricket the best way it can be played." (Agency)

within a span of six minutes through strikes from debutant Aslam Umar (1st minute) and Maddy Fitzpatrick (27th). The Hockeyross scored two more quick

run-upfront but lacked support. India's reserve skipper Ishaan Dhruv also made some good saves but sheepared Suvita. (Agency)

Global campaign to honor 10 Baha'i women executed publicly in Iran

GENEVA, May 19: The day of 18 June 2023 marked 40 years since Islamic Republic of Iran had hanged 10 Baha'i women on a night in Chowgan Square in Shiraz city on B.O.A.S. Their crime was refusing to renounce their belief in a faith that promotes the principles of gender equality—absent and criminalized in Iran—as well as unity, justice and truthfulness.

Those executed were: 1) Mona Mahmoodejad, 17; 2) Roya Eshraqui, 23, executed along with her mother; 3) Ezzat-Jannati Eshraqui, 4; 4) Samira Saberi, 24; 5) Shohab (Shirazi) Darband, 25; 6) Akhtar Saberi, 25; 7) Mahshid Nazemian, 28; 8) Zarrin Moghimi-Abyand, 29; 9) Tahereh Arjomandi Sayavashi (her husband Jamshid Sayavashi was executed two days earlier); 10) Nosrat Ghafouri Yalilae, 46 (Her son Bahram Yalilae, Ezzat-Jannati Eshraqui, 57, her daughter Roya, 23 & her husband Ezzat-Jannati Eshraqui were executed two days earlier).

The women were hanged one by one, each forced to watch the next woman's death in a harrowing attempt to coerce them into recanting their faith. One was only 17; most were in their 20s. Human rights groups and ordinary citizens around the world were shocked and outraged at the barbaric of Iranian authorities. Global leaders then led a wave of appeals for Baha'i women and men to liberate them from death sentences, but to no avail.

The Baha'i International Commu-

nity (BIC) is now launching a global campaign, called "#OurStoryIsOne", to honor the executed women and the long struggle for gender equality lived by women of all faiths and backgrounds in Iran for many decades and which continues till date.

"The story of the 10 Baha'i women is not over. It is a chapter in an unfolding story of Iranian women's resilience and sacrifice for equality," says BIC representative Sima Fakhraei to the United Nations in Geneva. "Today, in the blood, tears and wounds of thousands of young women in Iran seeking equality, we can see echoes of the injustice suffered by the 10 women of Shiraz whose tragic death touched the lives of many. We see the same spirit, the same desire to bring justice to stand up for the principles of justice and equality with utmost effort. Though mistreated and imprisoned, today's women—just like those before them—are bravely striving for a just and prosperous Iran."

In some cases, the executed Baha'i women were arrested on charges of providing moral education to young children, both girls and boys. Since the 19th century, the Baha'is in Iran have promoted gender equality through efforts at every level, including the establishment of schools for girls. After the 1979 Islamic Revolution, Baha'is were particularly targeted for calling for full equality of women and men, which allowed women to take



part in all aspects of community life and joining other groups where men were present.

"The Baha'i community in Iran has always called for full participation of women in all spheres of life in society, including decision-making processes, and has paid a heavy price for it," Fakhraei added.

"Bearing more than 40 years of systematic persecution, which has now sadly been extended to all Iranians, the Baha'i commu-

nity has insisted on its right to serve Iran, which it regards as a sacred land, by promoting gender equality, justice and access to education, regardless of the consequences to their lives."

Following the execution of the 10 women and for four decades that have followed, hundreds more Baha'i women have been severely persecuted, facing discrimination both as women and as Baha'is. After the Revolution, Baha'i women serving in promi-

nent social positions in the country were dismissed from their jobs, arrested and imprisoned, tortured, or executed, those left to live were barred from universities, public employment and virtually all aspects of social life.

In honor of the 10 women of Shiraz and the cause of justice and equality for which they gave their lives, the BIC now invites people around the world, including artists, musicians, filmmakers, or in other creative roles, to pay tribute in their

name. Contributions can include: songs about the 10 women, short videos about their lives, a memory of the women themselves, graphics, women work, social media posts, or public events and fundraisers, to honor the longstanding struggle and efforts towards gender equality in Iran.

The campaign will start in June for a year, with its most intensive phase taking place the first three weeks of June, leading to the 40th anniversary of their execution on June 18.

"More and more Iranians are uniting in a search for social justice, and they have focused on the equality of women and men as one of the most pressing challenges facing the country," added Fakhraei. "We hope that together we can honor not only 10 Baha'i women of Shiraz, but all women across Iran who cherish the principle of the equality of women and men, and who have contributed to building a better future for the country through their perseverance in the face of oppression."

"Let us stand together, united by our shared experiences of resilience and our collective efforts and sacrifices for Iran, to show that we are unbreakably linked regardless of faith and background. We hope that remembering these 10 women will illuminate and reinforce conversations around justice and gender equality in Iran. Our story is one and we will raise our voices until our shared ideals

are realized."

More than 200 Baha'is were executed by the Iranian authorities in 1979 Islamic Revolution. The killings only paused after international outcry, but the persecution of the Baha'is in Iran continues with impunity to this day.

The 10 women were arrested in October and November 1982. Many were first held at Serpukh Detention Centre and then transferred to Adelshah Prison. They suffered harsh interrogations and torture by Revolutionary Guards in an attempt to coerce them to recant their faith. They were denied their rights to a lawyer, detained a trial in a public court, and ultimately sentenced by Sharia judge of Shiraz to execution by hanging on charges of "Zanasi", "spying for Israel," and teaching moral education classes for children. Each of these women was violently coerced several times in the effort to get them to deny their faith and to convert to Islam, to escape execution, but none of them agreed to sign the statements authorities prepared for them. On 18.06.1983, they were secretly taken to Chowgan Square and hanged. Their families were not even notified of their deaths, their bodies were not returned to their families, and they did not receive dignified burials with religious rites. It is believed that they were buried in the Baha'i cemetery in Shiraz by the authorities, which was later demolished and made into a "cultural and sports building" in 2014.