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MURDER IN THE NAME OF HONOR

BY RANA HUSSEINI

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“Rana is utterly inspiring. She is a young woman of courage, committed to the principles of truth and justice ... If enough people read this book, maybe the next time a young woman is being stoned to death for having fallen in love, someone will intervene to save her life.” -**Jane Fonda**

“Rana Hussein has almost single-handedly brought this crime to public attention through her newspaper articles and campaigns... She has produced a brilliantly researched and passionate attack on honor killings around the world.”
-**HM Queen Noor of Jordan**

“Disturbing, Informative and readable... A call to action to everyone who cares about human rights.”
-**Kerry Kennedy**

When Rana Hussein began work on the crime beat for the *Jordan Times* covering minor stories of thefts, accidents, and fires she never expected that she would soon be reporting on some of the most controversial and horrifying crimes in Jordanian society. But after a few months on the job she encountered the case of Kifaya, a 16-year-old woman who had been murdered by her brother, Khalid. As Rana investigated the crime, she learned that Kifaya was the victim of an honor killing- a murder committed by a woman’s relatives in order to cleanse the family of acts the woman has engaged in that they deem “immoral.” In Kifaya’s case her “immoral act” was that she had been raped by her older brother, Mohammad, and had become pregnant. Her family assigned her other brother, Khalid, the responsibility of “restoring their honor.” He did so by brutally stabbing Kifaya to death.

Even though so-called honor killings accounted for one-third of the murders of women in Jordan, and Kifaya was one of 5000 women murdered every year in honor-related murders around the world, Rana discovered that the press was reporting none of these crimes and most were being totally ignored by the justice system. Despite resistance from the paper, and threats to her own safety, she persisted in covering the case, and then others like it, and went on to become a leading voice speaking out about so-called honor killings around the world.

In this new provocative first hand account, **MURDER IN THE NAME OF HONOR**, Rana chronicles the many cases of so-called honor killings that she has uncovered during years of international investigative reporting. Taking us from the narrow alleys of Old Amman to the war-torn region of Baghdad, from the bustling streets of Derby in the UK to the quiet suburbs of St Louis, USA, she uses her journalistic ability to

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Contact: Bec Zajac, Publicist, Oneworld Publications

Phone: 212 925 5455, Email: bzajac@oneworld-publications.com

ONEWORLD PUBLICATIONS, 38 Greene St, Fourth Floor NEW YORK, NY 10013

www.oneworld-publications.com

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meticulously reconstruct each crime scene, seeking not to shock but to humanize each murder, to help readers understand the multiple contradictions, which allow these horrendous crimes to occur.

Through Rana's interviews, many never before published, we hear from women who have survived their attempted murders and are now in jail, as it is the only place they can be protected from their family. We hear from convicted murderers; some of whom are repentant for their crimes, others who are not. We hear from parents who put their sons to the tasks of killing their daughters. And we hear from countless government officials, neighbors and police- those who have enabled these crimes and those who seek to stop them.

Rana's story is personal but also grounded in years of extensive research from dozens of countries, where so-called honor killings have been reported including Pakistan, Jordan, Sweden, the US and the UK. Rana describes what is being done in specific locations and what still needs to be done on a social, political and economic level to get this issue the attention it deserves. She delves into the very complicated issue of these crimes occurring in migrant communities across Europe and North America and explains the links between so-called honor crimes and other forms of discrimination occurring against women worldwide.

Along the way, Rana tells the moving story of her own personal journey from being a young journalist, stumbling across these incomprehensible crimes to becoming a powerful advocate for change.

At once chilling, gut-wrenching, inspiring, and informative, **MURDER IN THE NAME OF HONOR** is the most comprehensive and accessible resource on this issue and a call to arms to all those who believe in the equal rights of women, the power of the media to make a difference, and their obligation as citizens of an international community to fight for the justice for all.

About the Author:

Feminist and human rights defender, Jordanian **Rana Husseini** is a leading international investigative journalist, whose reporting has put violence against women on the public agenda around the world. The recipient of numerous awards for bravery in journalism, she is a regular speaker at major international events, including having spoken at the World Organization Against Torture at the 57th Commission on Human Rights in Geneva. For more information go to: www.ranahusseini.com.

Rana was interviewed, alongside Elie Wiesel and the Dalai Lama as part of the PBS series "Speak Truth to Power." To read Rana's interview, go to: <http://www.pbs.org/speaktruthtopower/rana.html>

**Rana Husseini is touring the US from October 10th until November 10th.
She is available for interview at any time, and is also available for speaking events.
For a review copy or to arrange an interview or event, please email:
bzajac@oneworld-publications.com**

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By Rana Husseini
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