

Rahaf's Saudi family will never, ever stop coming after her

The Saudi teen remains in real and terrible danger because she has renounced Islam. She has shut down her Twitter account due to death threats.

by Phyllis Chesler



Rahaf Mohammed Alqunun, a Saudi teenager, has just tried to save her own life—and in so doing, has risked death for shaming her family and her country.

Rahaf fled her family vacation in Kuwait, took a plane to Bangkok, barricaded herself in her hotel room at the airport and began posting about her plight on social media. She demanded [cover her plight](#).

The Thai government had been about to deport her back to the family which Rahaf claimed had beaten and imprisoned her for

up to six months at a time for minor, alleged offenses. And then, it changed its mind and allowed Rahaf to meet with an official from the UN's refugee agency (U.N.H.C.R.).

Rahaf wanted asylum in either Australia or Canada and both countries considered her request even as she was being vetted for "refugee" status.

But make no mistake. She remains in real and terrible danger. She has shut down her Twitter account due to death threats. Her family will never, ever stop coming after her.

She is a disobedient woman and as such deserves constant humiliation, beatings, broken bones, solitary confinement, and, if she is lucky, a forced marriage to a man the age of her grandfather, who already has three wives and twenty children. She is also an apostate. This is a capital crime.

By now, her father and brother are probably already in Thailand. They are both her "guardians" or "minders" and she has absolutely no western-style "agency" [conducted studies](#) about honor killing [According to Ali Alyami](#), the founder of the D.C. based Center for Democracy and Human Rights in Saudi Arabia (CDHR), other Saudis have tried to save their own lives but have not been successful. He notes Hamza Kashgari (2012) and Dina Ali Lasloom, (2017) both of whom tried to escape after being labeled, respectively, a heretic and a disobedient woman. They were both sent back to the Kingdom and have not been heard from ever since. Alyami also notes how many men and women are literally rotting in prison in Saudi Arabia as dissidents and feminists.

I remember the tragic 1977 case of Saudi princess [launched the first Drive-In](#) and who were arrested, fired from their jobs, and placed under house arrest for more than a year.

Today, Eman Al-Nafjjan languishes in prison where she is being tortured and sexually assaulted as a [Israel National News](#).