

NATIONS UNIES
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UNITED NATIONS
HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR REFUGEES

29/10-99

Iran (27)

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Sweden

15 OCT 1999

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J.N.R.

FACSIMILE MESSAGE

To: The Danish Refugee Council Att. Louise Juelskaer	Destination fax number:
From: UNHCR Regional Office for the Baltic and Nordic Countries Karin Davin, Protection Assistant	Return fax number: +46-8-457 48 87 Tel: +46-8-457 48 80 Email: davin@unhcr.ch
Date: 14 October 1999	No. of pages including this page: 2

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Subject: Information concerning Iran

Dear Louise,

Further to your fax dated 04.08.99 concerning an asylum seeking young Iranian girl, (regarding whose case we were later informed that the Danish authorities had decided to grant her residence permit on humanitarian grounds), please be informed that we have received the following information from our colleagues at Headquarters.

Quote:

The information provided in your E-mail does not provide the circumstances under which this young girl came to Denmark in 1994. It seems however that her departure was not motivated by a fear of persecution based on one of the five grounds. Your question is therefore related as to whether her loss of virginity can be considered as a *sur place* element and gives ground for persecution upon return.

The IC has put herself in a position whereby she may be punished by law. In fact, according to Islamic Penal Law, article 637, persons having committed an extra matrimonial act are due to be sentenced to lashing up to 99 strokes.

Yet, if you consider that the case was given high profile in Denmark to the extent that Iranian authorities may be aware of it, we cannot exclude a more severe and extreme sentence including death.

Notwithstanding the above, loss of virginity can constitute a dishonour for the family and jeopardise her chances to get married. She will indeed face problems with her relatives and will not be able to find protection from the authorities.

Unquote.

Best regards.

