

Activists Warn US Women of Shariah Law Threat

There's growing concern that shariah law is creeping into America, with some U.S. judges even citing Islamic law in their rulings.

Activists are now working to shine light on what they call shariah's war on women.

A vast coalition met in Washington, D.C., Thursday, to warn women of the threat Islamic law would pose to their rights if enacted in the U.S.

"Shariah takes an entirely different approach to their rights than would the American Constitution or the Declaration of Independence," explained Karen Lugo, assistant director of the Center for Constitutional Jurisprudence.

The group's national public education campaign includes women who've been affected by harsh shariah law.

Cynthia Farahat fled Egypt to avoid facing military prison for her human rights work against Islam.

"I'm almost here in America on exile for standing up for basic human rights and basic values under shariah law," she said. "I lived under shariah law all my life. I just came to America six months ago."

From her experience, Farahat summed up shariah's treatment of women as "oppressive" and "violent."

"It does not identify women as citizens. And some jurists in shariah law do not identify women as human beings," she explained. "Some jurists would go so far as defining them as livestock."

Farahat is a writer and helps with efforts by the Center for Security Policy, the group behind Thursday's panel discussion in Washington.

Participants want America's women to understand the stifling effect shariah law would have on their unalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

"The women living in shariah are often in polygamous marriages, often in marriages where they do not have freedom to pursue their education or pursue a career if that should interest them," Lugo said.

The panelists also noted that Islam is far more than just a religion, and the Koran commands the whole world must come under shariah law.

"They say Islam is religion and state," Farahat said.

"It encompasses every aspect of one's life," Lugo added.

Some 5,000 Muslim women die in honor killings every year, which Islamic extremists declare imperative.

Shariah insists women have guardians, and some Islamic countries view them legally as perpetual minors, never as adults.

Shariah law also allows husbands to divorce their wives at any time, without reason.