



uk & world news



14 December 2010, 13:43

Woman Whipped In Public For Wearing Trousers



Footage has emerged of a woman being publicly whipped in Sudan for wearing trousers.

The video offers a rare glimpse of the type of punishment inflicted on women who break the country's strict morality code.

The victim was punished under Sharia law for wearing trousers under her Islamic clothing.

The footage shows her crawling on the ground, raising her arm to try to ward off the attacks and screaming as the whip strikes.

The public punishment sparked protests among females against laws they said humiliated women.

Dozens of them were arrested.

The governor of Khartoum said there had been a mistake in the way the victim's punishment had been carried out.

Sky's foreign affairs editor Tim Marshall said: "It is a frequent occurrence but very rarely filmed.

"The punishment is under laws brought in 1991 for indecent behaviour - it is justice under those laws."

As well as pain and humiliation, the video also shows, how for some, it is entertainment, as a man is shown laughing at the woman after she is whipped.

Sudan's president, Omar al-Bashir is wanted for alleged war crimes.

He came to power in an Islamist-backed coup in 1989. Two years later he extended Sharia laws.

The laws are enforced by his puritanical public order police, who seek out what are known as "trouser girls".

"Despite claims of morality they have a reputation for dishonesty and demanding sexual favours," Marshall explained.

Last year, a Sudanese woman, Lubner Hussein, became an overnight heroine for many women in Africa and the Middle East, when she challenged the laws and dared the courts to flog her.

She ended up being fined for wearing the trousers to court.

"The government appears to be furious that these images were filmed, despite ordering thousands of such whippings every year," Marshall said.

"As a result, its launched an investigation saying there was a mistake in the way the filming was carried out."

However, it is unclear if this refers to the filming, the public spectacle, or the fact that on at least one occasion the woman is struck in the face.

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"the Afghan govt passed a law in 2009 that said that Afghan men could withhold food from their wives if they did not recieve sex a min of three times a week, legalised rape. The British govt under brown & deputy leader Ms Harriet Harmen stood by & did nothing but allowed British soldiers to protect the Karzi govts elections, 20 British soldiers died during that 2 week period!"

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**harry, 15 December 2010, 10:19am**

"So what do you expect from a bunch of ignorant barbarians?"

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**oldtimer, sussex, 15 December 2010, 10:15am**

"This punishment is inhuman.Those who carry out and support such punishments are not fit to be classed as members of the human race"

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**eamon, lancashire, 15 December 2010, 9:56am**

"The article mentions how some people are amused by this debacle and were laughing at this womans agony. That is the mentality of the Sudan. It is a lawless country like many similar third world countries and those on the Indian sub-continent. The only way of avoiding chaos and keeping order is by subjecting transgressors to barbaric punishments, and that is the only way the population can be made to abide by their laws. The problem is that the laws are what ever the tyrants in power dictate"

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**gordy, darwen, 15 December 2010, 9:36am**

"I bet most of the people you are being racist towards are working hard to earn a living right now while you're commenting on a news article. Do you have anything better to do?"

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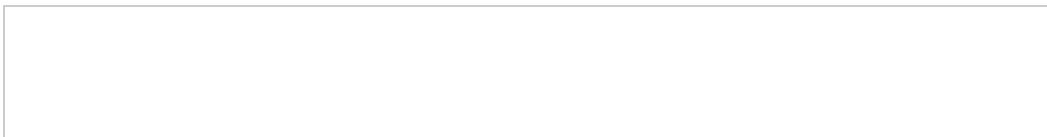
**Voice of Reason, 14 December 2010, 4:08pm**

"This is barbaric. What is it about women, that makes men in these countries so afraid? Stop hiding behind religion and stop treating women in your country like slaves."

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**Natalie, 14 December 2010, 4:07pm**

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