



TV

# UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

## UN IN ACTION

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### KABUL: WOMEN BEHIND BARS

#### VIDEO

PRISON BUILDING

KRISHMA WITH CHILDREN

KRISHMA ON CAMERA

CHILDREN OUTSIDE

BADAM BAGH PRISON / KRISHMA  
AND DAUGHTER

POL-E-CHARKHI PRISON

CONSTRUCTION SITE

#### AUDIO

##### NARRATION

In Afghanistan, hundreds of women are in prison, many of them mothers. 18-year-old Krishma is one of about 90 inmates of Badam Bagh, the only women's prison in Kabul. (12")

KRISHMA: (Dari) F

*"... it's difficult to take care of a child in prison. If you have somebody at home, it's better for a child to stay with a family member than in jail. They don't learn manners here."* (12")

##### NARRATION

But Badam Bagh is an improvement for Krishma and her young daughter. Just two years ago, they lived in the female section of Pol-e-Charkhi, the notorious Afghan jail. (13.5")

Recognizing the special needs of female prisoners and their children, the UN Drugs

and Crime Office (UNODC) with the financial support of the Italian government built this prison. (11”)

#### KRISHMA AT SEWING WORKSHOP

Krishma has been found guilty of murder and sentenced to 16 years in prison for a crime she says she didn't commit. (7”)

#### KRISHMA ON CAMERA

KRISHMA: (Dari) **F**

*“My friend’s father was killed. When I went to their house, the house was broken into and the burglar killed my friend’s father. But they arrested me for the murder.”* (10”)

#### KRISHMA WITH CHILDREN SERVES FOOD

#### NARRATION

An appointed defender is fighting Krishma's conviction. With no family to care for the child, she's not sure what the future holds for her daughter. (9”)

#### CHILDREN IN PRISON FACILITIES

According to the law, children under three can stay with their mothers in prison, but those between three and seven should be placed in special facilities adjacent to the prison. Older children, however, are supposed to be integrated into regular schools in the city. (17.5”)

#### CHILDREN AND MOTHERS

But the reality is that many of these children have no other place to live. Even if they do, experts say that the separation from their mothers due to imprisonment has a traumatic effect on both. (12.5”)

FEMALE INMATES IN CLASSROOM Another young inmate at Badam Bagh, Fawzia, has seven children. She has decided against bringing them here. They live with their father. (9")

FAWZIA ON CAMERA FAWZIA: (Dari) **F**  
*"... I am a mother; I do not want to keep them in jail." (9")*

WOMEN IN STREET MARKET NARRATION  
But why is Fawzia in prison: she is charged with leaving her husband's house after an argument. (7.5")

FAWZIA ON CAMERA FAWZIA: (Dari) **F**  
*"It's been two months since my arrest. I'm here because after my husband had hit me, I got angry so I left my house and went to stay with my sister-in-law." (9")*

STREET SCENES / WOMEN IN PRISON NARRATION  
Because Fawzia's nephew went to speak to her husband on her behalf, both Fawzia and the nephew were charged with adultery. (7.5")

Michael Hartman is UNODC's criminal justice advisor in Kabul. (4")

HARTMAN ON CAMERA HARTMAN: (English) **M**  
*"...Article 4-27 of the penal code says: "A person who commits adultery shall be sentenced to long imprisonment..." (5")*

NARRATION

WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN PRISON FACILITIES

Fawzia's crime has not been proven, but she was sentenced to three years in prison. (5.5")

PRISON GROUNDS / WOMEN IN CLASSROOM

In another country, Fawzia and many of the women here would not even be in jail. They would be considered victims rather than perpetrators. (9")

CIVIL WAR – ARCHIVAL FOOTAGE

But after three decades of war, the extreme Islamic policies towards women have had a devastating impact on them. (7")

ARCHIVES – LARGE CROWD OF WOMEN OUTSIDE

Today, amid renewed attacks by the Taliban and rampant corruption, the women of Afghanistan are still struggling to get justice. (8")

HARTMAN ON CAMERA

HARTMAN: (English) **M**

*"Adultery is considered not just when married people have sex, but when unmarried people have sex. That's their definition of adultery. And that would be, I think, what you're considering, when you talk about a moral crime."* (12.5")

MOSQUE

NARRATION

According to Afghanistan's constitution, no deed is considered a crime unless made a crime by a law before the commitment of the offence. (8")

PEOPLE IN STREETS / VEILED  
WOMEN

HARTMAN: (English) **M**

*“What happens, unfortunately, is that there are certain crimes which are part of the Sharia which for the West you might call it like the common law. It’s out there. It’s part of the principles. But it’s not written down yet. And that Sharia law, unfortunately – and I say this from my cultural perspective – is enforced here...” (18”)*

HARTMAN ON CAMERA

NARRATION

WOMEN IN PRISON

As a sign of positive change, the Afghan government now recognizes the special needs of women prisoners. One of the major improvements has been employing female guards. But the issue of having children here remains. Like their mothers, they too, await their destiny behind bars. (18.5”)

CHILDREN IN PRISON

UN LOGO

This report was prepared by Saša Gorišek for the United Nations.