

## Iran - Senior Cleric: Promiscuous Women Affect Earthquakes" article

*Few feedback comments from BAOBAB's circulation of the article to mailing list*

**From: Asmau**

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How I wish I could be that powerful...hmm I would cause so much havoc...they would all fall in line! Hmmm

**From: Maryam**

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This is interesting, even because he believes it. Reminds me of an incident years back in Yobe, when conducting surprise visits to detentions centers. We came across an old woman in their satellite prison, that had been imprisoned for 'prostitution',...she had been caught outdoors at night by the hisbah. Her bail conditions were too steep (N10,500) for her, so she had been imprisoned for a year...she was about 3 months into serving her jail term. The NHRC paid the bail and had her released. Her story was that she had trekked a long distance from her community to file an action against her husband in the sharia court in town, as she was fed up of the beating and lack of maintenance. Being so poor, she could not afford the transport fare back to her village, and because it was so late, she had decided to sleep under a tree beside a building, when the hisbah had found her. In taking up her cause, we approached the then Grand Khadi, who after being confronted with the facts and asked to reconcile them with the ingredients of adultery, proof, etc and how the charge could not be substantiated under Islamic law, exclaimed that we had done them a favour....'no wonder there have been no rains in Damaturu. It must be because of what these people have done to this poor woman!' When we need to defend our positions, we find a 'divine' excuse to intimidate people into falling in line!

**From: Mairo**

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What do men cause? Global warming???

**In house comments:**

**From: Linda**

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This senior Iranian cleric should stop misleading his congregation. Women are always blamed for one thing or the other, now they are being blamed for the earthquakes happening in different countries, haba what else will they be blamed for? If women can cause earthquakes that means they can also control it, it therefore means that we are special species and that we are great. Thanks Wunmi for sharing.

**From: Chibogu**

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I tell you!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

**From: Wunmi**

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I laughed the first time, I saw this. This is just unimaginable. In reality, this will make some women's life a living hell. I just hope this same people won't one day, instigate the government against women all over the world and accuse them of causing some kind of disease.

**From: Bilkis**

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Should we call this ignorance or a way of making women feel unworthy? In this 21<sup>st</sup> century....