

Synopsis:

The Passion of A Revolutionary Cinderella (75 min.) is the story of an Iranian women's rights activist and journalist who converted to Christianity at 17. Mary Mohammadi was arrested and imprisoned for her faith at age 19. After enduring multiple arrests and sexual violence, she left Iran in 2022 to prove that no one can silence her. Under the sponsorship of a church, the American government moved her to the US. In America, Mary faced new restrictions on her activism. Resilient and determined, she didn't give up fighting for her mission and advocating for freedom in Iran and suffered for it.



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Siamak Dehghanpour is an Iranian-American award-winning independent filmmaker and TV journalist. He owned a publishing business in Iran. Siamak studied theater and film directing at Tehran's University of Art from 1991 to 1999. Siamak made a short 16 mm fiction film and several documentary projects in Iran. After finishing his bachelor's degree, he had to leave the country and couldn't complete his master's degree in film. After twenty years as an international broadcaster, he returned to film school at American University and obtained an MFA in film and media arts. Since then, he has made several films and written many screenplays. Dehghanpour has won numerous awards for his work. He spent two years following Mary's journey for this project.



Mary Mohammadi is a 26-year-old Christian convert, analyst, writer, freelance journalist, and former political prisoner from Iran, now residing in the United States. With firsthand experience of religious persecution and gender apartheid, she is a vocal human rights activist in the fields of women's rights, sexual violence, political freedom, and broader social justice for those under the dictatorship of the Islamic Republic in Iran. Mary's journey and unwavering commitment to challenging the oppressive regime fuel her work with remarkable depth and purpose. She also independently launched a campaign in Iran to defend the rights of Christians, such as the right to have official churches. Mary has been awarded the prestigious Stephanus Award for her selflessness and bravery in informing the world about the situation of Christian converts and human rights violations in Iran.

The Passion of a Revolutionary Cinderella, directed by Siamak Dehghanpour, challenges the boundaries of authentic storytelling. It follows the harrowing journey of Mary Mohammadi, whose life has not been smooth, fictional, or pleasant. Her story is a testament to resilience, facing not only the perilous conversion of faith in a land where such a choice is deemed criminal but also navigating the labyrinthine immigration system of a so-called 'progressive' and 'developed' nation. This film exemplifies how non-fiction transforms 'sob' stories into narratives of empowerment. It doesn't seek to hypnotize or comfort viewers with polished illusions; instead, it offers an unvarnished exploration of reality, inviting audiences to confront the complexities of authenticity. It doesn't invite viewers to see her as a victim, but it offers spectators to question the politics of representation through camera apparatus. That's the beauty of non-fiction that it does not hypnotize the senses of viewers, rather offers an insightful ride to the road of authenticity.