

# Iranians

TEHRAN (Reuters)—Athletes from 24 Islamic countries competed last December for a week of games only for women in Iran which were dominated by the host country.

Iran took first place with 58 golds, followed by Kazakhstan, Syria, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Pakistan, Sudan, Bosnia and Jordan. More than 1,000 women athletes competed in 12 sports in locations around the country during the games which were only watched by women spectators. Men were allowed to watch only the opening ceremony, where women were covered from head

to foot in headscarf, overcoat, and track suit.

Iran, which also hosted the first games in 1993, has been a main force behind the competitions promoted as a viable Islamic alternative to Western women's sports events. Iranian women, who have to follow a strict Islamic dress code are not allowed to attend most sports events. Iranian officials say the language and behavior of some fans make the events unsuitable as family outings.

Source: *Today*, 29 December 1997

## Rule

## Islamic

## Games

## for

## Women

## Spouse Rape Soon a Crime

MEXICO CITY (AP) - Women legislators and activists were exuberant over Congress' approval of a hotly debated bill that would make rape by a spouse a crime. The Law against Domestic Violence outlines prison sentences of between 8 and 14 years for those convicted.

"This bill is a victory that women have been looking for many years," independent congresswoman Carolina O'Farril said.

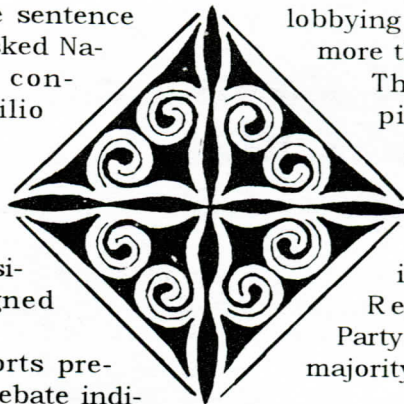
The measure, which passed

the Lower House 254-90, split the three major parties. Some members of the right-center National Action Party objected to treating husbands the same as strangers in rapes.

"Should a husband be given the same sentence as a rapist?" asked National Action congressman Emilio Gonzalez.

If approved by the Senate, the bill would go to Mexico's president to be signed into law.

Expert reports prepared for the debate indicate that domestic violence—including beatings, rape, and psychological abuse—is on the rise but is seldom reported and even more rarely punished.



For years, women's groups, the Roman Catholic Church, and other organizations have demanded stronger punishment to crack down on domestic violence. House and Senate committees have been lobbying for the bill for more than a year.

The campaign picked up momentum following 6 July elections in which the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party lost its absolute majority in Congress.

Source: <http://members.aol.com/nemdr/index.html>