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Witness: Iran, Where Your Shoes Can Get You Deported



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In the end, the family was deported to Afghanistan over pink sneakers and platform sandals.

Zohrah, 17, and her sister Hasina, 15, sounded furious, in a teenager kind of way, when they talked about their arrest and how it led them, their father, and Zohrah's boyfriend to a dusty reception center on the Afghan side of the Iran-Afghanistan border.

They were waiting for a bus to drive them across the arid land further into Afghanistan, a country neither girl had ever seen – Hasina was born in Iran, and their parents had settled in Iran when Zohrah was still an infant. But because their parents were Afghans, none of the family had Iranian citizenship.

Dozens of other Afghans sat with them in the hangers of the reception center. Like Zohran and Hasina's family, a number of them had papers showing they lived in Iran legally, but this didn't stop Iranian officials from deporting them.

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By Iain Levine

What were they thinking?

Someone, somewhere in the depths of luxury magazine Elle thought it was a good idea to feature "North Korea chic" in September's edition of the magazine (the page was subsequently replaced). "Some iteration of the military trend stomps the runways every few seasons," the article purred. "This time, it's edgier, even dangerous, with sharp buckles and clasps and take-no-prisoners tailoring."

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By Laura Pitter

Two years ago, jazz bassist, composer, and singer Esperanza Spalding shocked the music world by besting pop sensation Justin Bieber in the battle for top new artist at the Grammy awards. Today, she is taking on a different kind of battle, one to try and inspire Americans to take part in a campaign to close the Guantanamo Bay detention center.

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