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# Afghan wife, 15, locked in toilet for five months



By [Katerina Nikolas](#)  
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A fifteen-year-old Afghan girl was rescued by police from her husband's house, where she had spent five months imprisoned in a toilet.

A teenage bride who was rescued by Afghan police this week endured abuse and imprisonment by her in-laws. Officials have revealed that fifteen-year-old Sahar Gul, who was married seven months ago and taken to live with her husband's family in a neighbouring

province, was discovered in the basement of her husband's house. She had spent five months locked up in a toilet.

The [Telegraph](#) reported that district police chief Fazel Rahman said "She was beaten, her fingernails were removed and her arm was broken." The ill treatment had been meted out due to her refusal to be forced into prostitution by her in-laws.

Dr Gul Mohammad Wardak of the Pul-i-Khurmeri hospital said Gul was suffering severe shock when admitted to the hospital, and "She had injuries to her legs and face and the nails on her left had been removed." Gul's husband has fled but three women have been arrested in relation to the case, including the girl's mother-in-law.

Prostitution is a growing problem in Afghanistan even though the practice is strictly illegal. According to [Prostitution Procon](#), Afghan "prisons are full of women who have been convicted of 'fornication,' a charge that carries a penalty of from five to 15 years in jail." This could have been the fate that awaited Sahar Gul if she had complied with her in-laws demands.

The case highlights the continued lack of human rights for women in Afghanistan. A [report by Oxfam](#) released in October states that laws which criminalise child marriages and honour killings are only enforced in 10 of 34 provinces.

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