**What is the right thing to do when doing it could cost you to end up in jail?! (11 votes)**

[BenChida](https://courses.edx.org/courses/HarvardX/ER22x/2013_Spring/discussion/forum/users/1330541) a day ago

Posted by: sober12

Dear prof. Sandal,

I live in Iran, and its really important for me to get your opinion as an honest father and a great teacher about the right things to do in a country that people are being imprisoned and die in death penalties for perceiving the existing political and social standards unjust or for any objection or protesting against violated human rights!?

It is also important to mention, and bear in mind while looking for an answer that here these violations are taking place by claiming and justifying these actions with the exactly same ideas like: establishment of justice, morality, civic virtue, and so on that we were discussing in this course.(But this time they have been extracted and defined from the religious institutions)

(Maybe its a privilege to feel your historical suffers in the modern times in the same course.)

Thanks to everyone who are helping us to understand and live the world as one step by step.

Behzad G.D.

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(this post is about [Live Question and Answer Session with Professor Sandel, Part 2 / Top Vote-Getting Questions](https://courses.edx.org/courses/HarvardX/ER22x/2013_Spring/jump_to/i4x:/HarvardX/ER22x/discussion/6efbd5d53d5241b6bf99409448272104))

1. [0](javascript:void(0)) [MARYPA](https://courses.edx.org/courses/HarvardX/ER22x/2013_Spring/discussion/forum/users/1773889)

about 18 hours ago

The nations become conciouse of theirs during the time. Step by step they realise that only peoples can change our conditions. Sometimes who detain the power through the use of political or religion ideologies submit the masses continuing indisturbed their affaires.

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1. [1](javascript:void(0)) [milarepa](https://courses.edx.org/courses/HarvardX/ER22x/2013_Spring/discussion/forum/users/522254)

a day ago

Hi, the morality of a society/nation gives birth to it's Justice. This Justice has laws that are the dynamic expression of said Justice. In some nations, in fact, in almost all to some degree, the state controls the dynamic expression of Justice = Law. This is why there can be such a difference in Justice (what society wants/morality) and the Law (what the state express)

Yet as society is a group of individual opinions, the individual can have power to effect positive change. 'Positive Change' being whatever the majority in any single country collectively want.

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* + Hi, I think this scenario can be examined exactly or rather more precisely with that of Mahatma Gandhi under imperial British rule.

–posted about 18 hours ago by [GIRIDHARI](https://courses.edx.org/courses/HarvardX/ER22x/2013_Spring/discussion/forum/users/284152)

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1. [0](javascript:void(0)) [MoiraInMA](https://courses.edx.org/courses/HarvardX/ER22x/2013_Spring/discussion/forum/users/892941)

about 18 hours ago

I think Benjamin Franklin made a great point on this subject in his comment about the signers of the declaration of independence which I'm paraphraseing as:

We'd better hang together or we shall surely hang separately.

This is the power of civil disobedience.

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1. [0](javascript:void(0)) [destonttanner](https://courses.edx.org/courses/HarvardX/ER22x/2013_Spring/discussion/forum/users/1781016)

about 18 hours ago

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Free_range>

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* + <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pink_slime>

–posted about 18 hours ago by [destonttanner](https://courses.edx.org/courses/HarvardX/ER22x/2013_Spring/discussion/forum/users/1781016)

* + <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=33n-IS8a1S4>

–posted about 18 hours ago by [destonttanner](https://courses.edx.org/courses/HarvardX/ER22x/2013_Spring/discussion/forum/users/1781016)

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1. [0](javascript:void(0)) [vladimircobra](https://courses.edx.org/courses/HarvardX/ER22x/2013_Spring/discussion/forum/users/805876)

about 13 hours ago

the world can't be live as one, and not in any matter, the cultural differences are here, but people's right to have a virtuous society is not common to all countries due to cultural differences, but is common to all of them due to what is called human rights, now the interpretation of that differ from a country to another, countries like states, france, ..., and religions universalized it while others don't universalize because they are aware of the differences in understanding that matter, you are puuting here iran problem to have a western normative society, but the problem in iran is not in being western because it won't do you any good, and being the captive of a religion, isn't good too, you have to find a solution far from both, that kind of problems can't be solved from outsiders but from the peoples of these countries.

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1. [0](javascript:void(0)) [Christoph2](https://courses.edx.org/courses/HarvardX/ER22x/2013_Spring/discussion/forum/users/1674728)

about 7 hours ago

Behzad,

Thank you for your question. I was very pleased when Professor Sandel decided to discuss it during the Question and Answer session, and I thought he gave a valuable and valid response. These aren't simple issues.

And then he said he would be interested in talking about this face to face and visiting Iran. If it happens, I'd be very interested in being a part of such an event . Feel free to get in touch with me here if something starts to happen. For better or worse, I actually called Professor Sandel and left a message saying I would like to be involved.

By the way, congratulations on electing your new President - Hassan Rohani. I hope and believe that this change could lead to some positive developments for all of us.

Sincerely,

Chris

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