


Sonita Alizadeh



Herat, Afghanistan
Fame: Rapper, activist



Sonita was inspired by Eminem to begin rapping. Before hearing his music, she was writing pop music.

Sonita's first song was about child labor, and she wrote it after hearing an Iranian rapper on the radio at her refugee camp.

“My voice shouldn't be heard as it is against Sharia. Women must remain silent. This is this city's tradition... I am perplexed by this tradition and these people... I wish you would review the Quran. I wish you knew it doesn't say women are for sale.”
From “Brides for Sale” by Sonita

Sonita became famous for her video “Brides for Sale.” This video was filmed in order for Sonita to escape an arranged marriage, even though it is illegal for women to sing publicly in Iran (where she was living at the time).

She found her love for music and poetry while learning to read and write at refugee camp in Iran.