



For Woman, Life, Freedom: Iran Digital Archive Coalition

Friday, September 20, 2024

2:00 – 5:30 p.m. PT

The Promise Institute for Human Rights

UCLA School of Law

Opening Remarks



Cameran Ashraf

Co-founder & Director, Azadi Archive

Cameran Ashraf is co-founder and director of the Azadi Archive, head of human rights at the Wikimedia Foundation, assistant professor at Central European University, and in 2009 co-founded AccessNow, the world's largest technology and human rights organization. As a result of Cameran's digital activist work in Iran, the European Parliament selected AccessNow as a finalist for the 2010 Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought, the EU's highest human rights honor.

Woman, Life, Freedom: A Survivor's Voice



Afsoon Najafi

Iranian Activist & Sister of Hadis Najafi

Afsoon Najafi is an internationally recognized Iranian activist. After her sister, Hadis Najafi, was killed by gunfire in 2022 by state forces while protesting in honor of Mahsa Amini, Afsoon became an outspoken campaigner for justice and accountability for those killed by the Iranian regime. Her family soon became a target for surveillance and harassment, and Afsoon was forced to leave the country in 2023. She has since spoken at the European Parliament on behalf of Mahsa Amini and the women killed by the Islamic Republic, and received the Sakharov Prize for freedom of thought. She faces 25 years in prison in Iran for her activism.



Moderated By: Azadeh Afsahi

Clinical Therapist Working with Survivors of Torture

Azadeh Afsahi is a clinical therapist for former political prisoners and survivors of torture. She holds an M.A. in Counseling Psychology and Ph.D. Industrial and Organizational Psychology. She is an outspoken activist against political and civil repression in Iran and has spoken at the 55th Session of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva to testify with survivors of the Islamic Republic on the mental impacts of torture.

Iran Digital Archive Coalition: A Pathway to Justice



Alexa Koenig

Co-Faculty Director, Human Rights Center, UC Berkeley School of Law

Alexa Koenig, PhD, MA, JD, is Co-Faculty Director of the Human Rights Center; Director of HRC's Investigations Program; and Research Professor of Law at Berkeley Law, where she teaches classes that focus on the intersection of emerging technologies and human rights; and a lecturer in the investigative reporting program at Berkeley Journalism. Alexa co-founded the Investigations Lab, which trains students and professionals to use social media and other digital open source content to strengthen human rights research, reporting, and accountability. Alexa is an advisory board member of Physicians for Human Rights, a member of the Technology Advisory Board for the Innovation Lab at Human Rights First, and a co-founder of the University of California Digital Investigations Network. She previously helped establish and co-chaired the Technology Advisory Board of the Office of the Prosecutor at the International Criminal Court; co-chaired the International Bar Association's Human Rights Law Committee; served on the American Association for the Advancement of Science's Committee on Scientific Freedom and Responsibility; and was a member of the University of California's Presidential Working Group on Artificial Intelligence, for which she co-chaired the Human Resources subcommittee. Alexa has been honored with several awards for her work, including the United Nations Association-SF's Global Human Rights Award, UC Berkeley's Mark Bingham Award for Excellence, and the Eleanor Swift Award for Public Service. She has also been honored with a residency at the Rockefeller Foundation's Bellagio Center (2019), with multiple writing residencies at Mesa Refuge, as a Woman Inspiring Change by Harvard's Women's Law Association (2020), and as one of "100 Brilliant Women in AI Ethics" by Women in AI Ethics (2022). She directed development of the Berkeley Protocol on Digital Open Source Investigations and has conducted trainings on open source investigation methods at organizations around the world. Alexa has a BA from UCLA in World Arts and Cultures summa cum laude, a JD from the University of San Francisco with a specialization in cyberlaw and intellectual property magna cum laude, and both an MA and a PhD from UC Berkeley's Jurisprudence and Social Policy Program with honors.

**Jessica Peake**

Assistant Director, Promise Institute for Human Rights, UCLA School of Law

Peake is a professor of human rights and international law at the University of California-Los Angeles School of Law, where she teaches on issues of human rights, technology, international criminal law, and digital expression. She is the co-founder of the University of California Digital Investigations Network and is the founding director of the Digital Investigations Lab at the Promise Institute for Human Rights, where she advises on the use of technology to document human rights abuses globally. She has worked in the Office of the Prosecutor at the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and in the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia, and has consulted for the United Nations.

**Nushin Sarkarati**

Deputy Director, Strategic Litigation Project, Atlantic Council

Sarkarati is the Deputy Director of the Strategic Litigation Project at the Atlantic Council, where she develops accountability measures for abuses of human rights around the world. She was previously a senior staff attorney at the Center for Justice and Accountability, where she represented victims and survivors of atrocities in US and foreign courts. She has also led the International Justice Program at Human Rights Watch. She has worked with survivor communities in Liberia, Sri Lanka, Cambodia, Somalia, and Latin America to bring cases against state officials.

**Khosro Sayeh Isfahani**

Researcher, Strategic Litigation Project, Atlantic Council

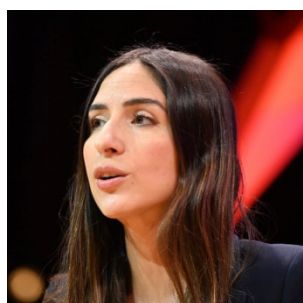
Isfahani is a researcher at the Strategic Litigation Project at the Atlantic Council, where he reports on and analyzes social movements in Iran and state violence against protesters. His research builds upon his career as a journalist, including past positions with BBC Monitoring and the Finance Tribune in Tehran. Isfahani's writing has been published in Atlantic Council's IranSource, BBC World, BBC Monitoring, Slate, and Financial Tribune. His advocacy experience includes writing for the United Nations and a human rights fellowship at the Oak Institute at Colby College.



Shahin Milani

Executive Director, Iran Human Rights Documentation Center

Milani is an international lawyer, with a J.D. from Howard University School of Law and an LL.M. from the University of Vermont Law School. He joined the Iran Human Rights Documentation Center in 2012 and currently serves as its Executive Director, leading its efforts to document human rights abuses in Iran and promote accountability for victims. He is the author of four IHRDC reports on the repression of civil and political liberties in Iran.



Moderated By: Gissou Nia

Human Rights Lawyer

Nia is an international human rights lawyer and the Founder & Director of the Strategic Litigation Project at the Atlantic Council, where she leads initiatives to promote accountability and justice for human rights abuses and atrocity crimes. In addition, she currently serves as a board member of the Iran Human Rights Documentation Center, where she previously served as Executive Director. She began her career working on war crimes and crimes against humanity trials in The Hague. Following the Women, Life, Freedom movement in Iran, Nia has led efforts to hold the Islamic Republic accountable for violence against women and protesters.

Woman, Life, Freedom: A Protester's View



Elahe Tavakolian

Iranian Activist

Tavakolian is an Iranian activist and Ph.D. student who was shot in the eye by state security forces while protesting the death of Mahsa Amini in 2022. After three surgeries, doctors were unable to remove the bullet lodged in her eye, so she traveled to Italy for further treatment. The bullet was successfully removed there and is now in the possession of the hospital. Recently, she underwent her fifth surgery in Philadelphia, but tragically, her eyesight was permanently lost. Since leaving Iran, she has been vocal about the violence and repression faced by women and protesters in the country. In 2023, she was honored with the 'Women in the World for Human Rights' award.

Moderated By: Azadeh Afsahi

A Conversation with FFMI Chair, Sara Hossain, and Actor and Activist, Nazanin Boniadi



Sara Hossain

Chair, UN Independent Fact-Finding Mission on the Islamic Republic of Iran

Sara Hossain is a barrister in the Supreme Court of Bangladesh practising in constitutional, public interest and family law. She is a partner in the law firm of Dr. Kamal Hossain and Associates and serves pro bono as the Honorary Executive Director of the Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust. In 2016, she was appointed by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights as one of the two experts on accountability to support the work of the Special Rapporteur on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Ms. Hossain serves on the Advisory Committee of the Women's International Coalition of Gender Justice and was a member of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Trust Fund for Victims of Torture between 2017 and 2023. In 2018-2019, Ms. Hossain also served on the United Nations Commission of Inquiry on the 2018 protests in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. She was educated at Wadham College, Oxford University, United Kingdom, and called to the Bar from Middle Temple in 1989. Sara is currently Professor of Practice at SOAS, University of London.



Nazanin Boniadi

Actor & Activist

In addition to being a SAG and AACTA nominated actress, Boniadi is a dedicated human and women's rights advocate with a focus on her homeland Iran. She has partnered with Amnesty International since 2008, and was appointed as an Amnesty International UK Ambassador in 2020, when she was also selected for membership in the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR), the leading think tank on U.S. foreign policy and national security. In June of that year Boniadi released a short documentary film that she produced for ATTN: called "Stateless," on the plight of Iranian refugees and other asylum seekers in northern France. Her opinions have been published in global media outlets and her advocacy work has taken her to the German Bundestag, the UK, Australian and Canadian Parliaments, the US Capitol, and the United Nations. In 2022, she became a leading figure on the global stage advocating for the people of Iran and the "Woman Life Freedom" pro-democracy movement in her homeland. She has addressed university students globally, including at the Oxford Union; and participated in international fora, including the Munich Security Conference, World Economic Forum and the Nobel Peace Prize Forum. In 2018, she was selected by People Magazine as one of their '25 Women Changing the World.' She is the recipient of the 2020 Freedom House Raising Awareness Award, and the 2022 Ellis Island Medal of Honor. In 2023, she became a Sydney Peace Prize laureate, received the Feminist Majority Foundation's 'Defending Democracy & Advancing Equality Award,' joined the steering committee for The World Movement for Democracy, and became a board director for the Boroumand Center for Human Rights in Iran.