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Human Rights
Institute



The Law Society
of England and Wales



The International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute (IBAHRI), the Geneva Bar Association (Ordre des Avocats de Genève), the International Observatory of Lawyers (OIAD) and The Law Society of England and Wales (LSEW) invite you to an event to mark the International Day of the Endangered Lawyer 2024:

Human Rights Violations in Iran: The Role of Lawyers

Location: The Law Society of England and Wales, 113 Chancery Lane, London, WC2A 1PL

Date and time: Wednesday 24 January 2024, 18:00-19:30 GMT. The event will be followed by a drink reception at the venue.

Co-sponsors: Centre for Human Rights in Iran, Bar Human Rights Committee, Lawyers for Lawyers, Lawyers Rights Watch Canada, Raoul Wallenberg Centre for Human Rights and CIVICUS.

Event description:

In September 2022, the death in police custody of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini, arrested for alleged non-observance of Iran's law on mandatory veiling triggered nationwide anti-government protests in the country. Challenging the actions of the morality police as well as broader limitations on people's freedom, dignity, and fundamental human rights, demonstrators have been subjected to unnecessary and disproportionate use of force, arbitrary arrests and detentions, unfair trials, extra-judicial executions, sexual and gender-based violence, torture and enforced disappearances at the hands of the regime.

According to the latest data provided by FDD, 23,557 protesters have been arrested, and 639 people have been killed by security forces, including 80 minors, since the protests began in September 2022. Some individuals have been executed following unfair trials based on forced confessions. The Revolutionary Courts of first instance have issued almost 100 protest-related death sentences, while many other individuals are facing charges that could result in the application of the death penalty. The charges against the protesters are grounded on vaguely defined national security issues and the trial proceedings lack adherence to fair trial guarantees and due process of law.

Lawyers, as guardians of the rule of law, play a vital role in upholding rights such as freedom of expression, peaceful assembly, and access to justice by holding violators accountable and seeking remedies for those whose rights are violated during peaceful assemblies. However, data indicates that lawyers defending protesters in Iran face threats, harassment, and arbitrary arrests. This fear of reprisals makes it challenging for lawyers to ensure adequate defense for their clients, the majority of whom are arbitrarily detained, limiting defendants' ability to receive a fair trial and exposing them to death sentences based on unfounded proceedings.

Despite the numerous calls of the United Nations to halt severe human rights violations against protesters and conduct thorough investigations and prosecutions for unlawful killings, summary executions, torture, and other forms of ill-treatment, little action has been taken to address these systemic issues. This discussion will bring together UN experts, legal professionals, Iranian and international human rights organizations to address ongoing human rights abuses in Iran and how to progress towards accountability for violations.

Welcome remarks:

- Richard Atkinson, Vice President of the Law Society of England and Wales.

Moderator:

- Baroness Helena Kennedy KC, Director, IBAHRI.

Speakers:

- Javaid Rehman, UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran.
- Margaret Satterthwaite, UN Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers.
- Sara Hossein, Chair, UN Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on the Islamic Republic of Iran.
- Iranian Human Rights Lawyer.
- Caoilfhionn Gallagher KC, Barrister, Doughty Street Chambers.
- Hadi Ghaemi, Executive Director, Centre for Human Rights in Iran.

Closing Remarks:

- Sandrine Giroud, Vice President, Geneva Bar Association & Member of the International Observatory of Lawyers

Register [here](#) to join this event in person or online. Contact dia.kinezou@int-bar.org for support.