



PRESENTED BY UON SAR STUDENTS

NILOUFAR BAYANI

UON SAR x AMNESTY SOCIETY



Kahoot Time!

What is academic freedom

Academic freedom is the freedom of scholars and researchers to seek the truth - to carry out their research and their teachings. It is the freedom to publish and share the results of this intellectual enquiry in an academic setting or academic institutions. Academic freedom is a protection of such activities.

Academic freedom is not exactly freedom of expression, but it is connected to it. It is not political by nature, but it connects to issues that are political, including issues that concern human rights, social justice and how a society is governed.

What academic freedom contributes to society

Scholars and students around the world ask questions relating to various aspects of society such as human rights, the environment, health, justice, etc. Answers to these questions can affect all of society and lead to the discovery and unfolding of truth.

Academic freedom enables society to generate new meanings, perceptions, and solutions, ultimately serving the public good by engaging with difficult or 'undesirable' questions and ideas.

When academic freedom is in danger

However, asking questions can be dangerous and academic freedom protects the right to ask dangerous, and even sensitive questions. It is evident that any restriction on academic freedom hampers sharing of knowledge among the people and thereby interferes with national judgement and action.

The value of academic freedom to societies is undermined when scholars and research professionals face unjust restrictions, prosecution and imprisonment. It is not only an interference with their individual rights, but also an interference with that critical space of knowledge.

SAR

NETWORK

Who is SAR?

- Its dedicated to protecting scholars suffering grave threats to their lives, liberty, and well-being
- SAR provides temporary positions of refuge to threatened scholars
- They advocate, research and support academic communities.

1

Protect

2

Learning

3

Advocacy:

- Academic Freedom Monitoring Project
- Scholars in Prison Project
- Student Advocacy Seminars

NILOUFAR BAYANI

WHO?

WHAT?

WHY?

Who?

who?

Ms Bayani is an Iranian researcher, conservationist and scholar focusing on the protection of the environment and wildlife.

What did she do?

project consultant for the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) between 2012-2017 where she worked on the lack of ecosystems consideration in relation to disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation.

In the later years she went back to Iran and became the program manager of the Persian Wildlife Heritage Foundation which strives to ease the heavy strain on rare wildlife in Iran.

recent work before arrest

Project on the protection of Asiatic cheetahs as they faced a lot of issues from human interaction such as shootings and being ran over, which is why it was important that they were protected. Activities which involved setting camera traps in seven provinces to monitor them.

The Right to Fair trial

On January 24th of 2018, Nilofar was arrested alongside 7 others on charges of espionage.

Over a year after her arrest she was charged convicted and was sentenced to 10 years in prison.

Her charges were

1. Contracts with the US enemy state
2. Gaining illegitimate outcomes

- On January 30th, 2019, Ms. Bayani reportedly interrupted the reading of the indictment, objecting that she was forced to confess while she was subjected to physical and mental torture. These confessions were retracted but still became the main indictment for her trial.

- Human rights organizations report that, after the first trial on January 30th, Ms. Bayani was absent for three out of the five court sessions. Although her lawyer was present, authorities haven't provided a public explanation for Ms. Bayani's absence.

- Ms Bayani was only allowed contact with lawyers from a preselected list given by the Iranian Revolutionary Guards. There were no women or human rights lawyers on the list.

- Ms. Bayani and her colleagues, who received sentences ranging from six to ten years of jail time were informed of their verdicts verbally and denied written copies of the verdicts.

Treatment in prison

February 18th 2019

wrote from Evin Prison. The letters detail psychological and physical torture and threats of sexual violence, that Ms. Bayani allegedly endured at the hands of her male interrogators.

August 1st 2021

It was reported that Ms. Bayani was transferred to a quarantine ward after testing positive for Covid-19. According to Iran International, authorities do not provide any medical care to detainees in the quarantine ward. She has since been returned to Evin Prison.

April 2022

Kylie Moore-Gilbert, an anthropologist who spent time with Ms Bayani in which she vividly describes how women are interrogated and tortured, sexually harassed, forced into solitary confinement, and denied basic medical care. These findings were published in 'The Uncaged Sky'

June 2022

SAR reported that Ms Bayani stated that interrogators forced her to listen to descriptions of others being tortured and threatened to inject her with paralyzing or lethal substances

We would appreciate it if you could sign the petition advocating for Niloufar Bayani's release as well as following us on our socials



THANK YOU!