



Ms. Bayani is an Iranian researcher, conservationist and scholar working for the protection and preservation of wildlife and the environment.

She has a degree in microbiology from McGill University in Canada and undertook further postgraduate study at Columbia University in America. Ms. Bayani then went on to work as a 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.

She later became the program manager of the Persian Wildlife Heritage Foundation which strives to ease the heavy strain on rare wildlife in Iran.

her story

Ms. Bayani was one of eight conservationists conducting fieldwork arrested on false charges of espionage. She is serving a 10-year prison sentence, one of the harshest received. Following their detention, Ms. Bayani and her colleagues were read only part of the 300-page indictment in a closed-door trial at the Revolutionary Court.

Ms Bayani stated that her confessions were forced after she had been subjected to physical and mental torture. She has since retracted these confessions following the first round of investigations.

On 18 February 2020, BBC Persian published letters Ms. Bayani wrote from Evin Prison. The letters detail psychological and physical torture, as well as threats of sexual violence that Ms. Bayani endured at the hands of her male interrogators.

Scholars At Risk x UON

Scholars at Risk (SAR) is an independent organisation, hosted at New York University. It is an international network of institutions -including the University of Nottingham- and individuals that share a mission to protect threatened scholars, promote academic freedom, and prevent attacks on higher education communities around the world.

As Nottingham Students for SAR, we support this work by creating and running advocacy campaigns on behalf of scholars unjustly targeted or imprisoned around the world.

This academic year, we are advocating for Ms Bayani's immediate release.

