

The University of Chicago Institute of Politics
5707 S Woodlawn Ave,
Chicago, IL 60637.
USA

17.10.2022

Ref: Guest speaker Ms Negar Mortazavi.

Dear Sir, Madam;

The above-named is to deliver a speech to the university regarding the current issues in Iran and in particular about Iranian women in Iran and their rights.

Ms. Mortazavi is a journalist and political analyst at the National Iranian-American Council (NIAC).

NIAC and its founder have links to the theocratic dictatorship in Iran and they have long been recognized as an apologist and a mouthpiece for the Islamic regime in Tehran.

In 2020, United State senators petitioned the Justice Department to investigate NIAC as it is thought that this non-profit organization had violated the foreign agents registration act.

Historically, NIAC has defended the Islamic Republic and with regret, their lobbyist 'dilute' the severity of the Human Rights issues in Iran. They also provide a false hope to Western democracies that the Islamic Republic has the potential to reform.

After four decades of mass executions, murder, and rape of any political opponent as well as the total subjugation of the population, it is doubtful that such a theocratic dictatorship ever will reform.

Iranian women are subjected to inequalities and discrimination in personal matters, such as marriage and divorce, child custody, and inheritance laws, as Iranian law only recognizes a man as the head of the household. Male siblings also have an upper hand and are entitled to twice the inheritance as their sisters. A husband has the right to decide, if he so chooses, to prevent his wife from seeking employment if he deems it to be against his values.

The inequality of Iranian women within the framework of the Islamic Republic has created a second-class tier for nearly half of the population. Iranian women cannot sing or dance in public and are banned from attending sports stadiums, and the simple pleasure of riding a bicycle in a park or a street has also been denied for Iranian women.

The current uprising in Iran was sparked by the murder of an innocent 22-year-old Iranian girl by the 'morality' police. The brave women in Iran led the movement, but the entire country is now united in calling for the removal and downfall of the Islamic Republic. The mandatory Islamic 'hejab' is not the driving force behind this nationwide movement. The opportunity to have freedom and equality is the only driving force, despite further tragic losses.

The Islamic Republic has confronted the demonstrators with a severe and violent crackdown, resulting in many hundreds of deaths. Most are teenagers and young adults.

Such has been the severity of this inhumane crackdown that the European Union has extended sanctions against the Islamic Republic on Monday 17th October 2022.

An opportunity for a NIAC member to represent the Iranian women, who are fighting and dying for freedom, liberty, equality, and democracy is an insult to every Iranian woman and is reprehensible.

The Association of Iranian Human Rights and Allies respectfully requests that your university senate reconsiders her attendance as a speaker at your university.

Yours Sincerely,

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