

HOSSEIN RAEESI

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EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

Academic Credentials

Master's Degree in Criminal Law and Criminology with Highest Distinction: Class of 2010

University of Tehran, Tehran, Iran

Dissertation: Preserving Human Dignity in Pre-trial Investigation

Highest recognition received by academic jury.

Bachelor's Degree in Law with Honours: Class of 1991

Shiraz University, Shiraz, Iran

Professional Training

- **LGBT Human Rights in Muslims Countries:** Completed Jan 2013;
Sponsored by: Heath Land Alliance.
- **Juvenile Justice Workshop for Judges (32 hour course):** Completed June 2011;
Sponsored by: UNICEF & The Deputy for Legal Affairs.
- **Legal Clinics and Legal Aid Program:** Completed 2009;
Sponsored by: International Bar Association.
- **Rule of Law Program:** Completed May 2007;
Sponsored by: American University, Washington, DC & Meridian International Center.
- **Advocacy and Community Mobilization Strategic Skills for Women's Empowerment Workshop Series:** Completed 2005; *Sponsored by:* Non-Governmental Organization Training Center (NGOTC).
- **Human Rights allocated for Youth:** Completed Winter 2003;
Sponsored by: Organization for Defending Victims of Violence.

Teaching Experience

In-House Scholar at University of Ottawa and Carleton University (2015-current)

- Selected by a joint committee of uOttawa and CarletonU as their first In-House Scholar selected through the Scholar at Risk's international network.
- Taught a 4th year seminar entitled "Comparative Study in: Human Rights, Sharia Law and the Islamic Legal System". The course was comprised of both Graduate and 4th year undergraduate students of CarletonU's department of Law and Legal Studies.
- Sat on panels held in both universities throughout the school year, commenting on issues related to law and Islamic legal systems, as well as human rights generally.

Instructor and content developer (2012-current)

- Produced online video and audio podcasts to train and increase the capacity of members of Iran's Bar as well as stakeholders in the justice system. The issues canvassed were domestic abuse, women's and children's rights.

Part-time Lecturer (2006-2008)

- Taught Advanced Criminal Procedure to students of law in Azad University of Shiraz as part of a program of experiential learning with members of the Bar

Adjunct Instructor on Labour and Occupational Health and Safety law (1995-2011)

- Held several workshops per year for employees of Ministry of Energy on employment-related matters.
- Held several workshops from 1995-2008 on women's rights for female employees of the Ministry of Energy.

Resident Lecturer on Criminal Law (2001-2012)

- Selected by Iran's Bar Association to provide lectures on developments in Iranian Criminal law and human rights issues to Articling Students fulfilling their professionalism hours requirements for call to bar.

Apprenticeship (Articling) Principal (2001-2012)

- Supervised and lectured 20 Articling Students per year, providing training to them through lecture and workshop formats

Law Practice

Practicing law since 1991 in various levels of courts

- Provincial Courts (Trial and appeals), Revolutionary Courts, Supreme Court and appellate review cases

Areas of Law

- Sharia Law related issues, Political dissidents' defense, Assault, Homicide, Blasphemy and apostasy, Sexual Assault, Adultery, Crimes against the State, Social Security, and Human Trafficking.

High Profile Pro Bono Work

- Provided defense for political dissidents accused of crimes against the State, juvenile offenders sentenced to execution, battered women accused of assaulting or murdering their spouse, several cases of dissidents arrested and detained after the controversial 2009 Iranian election. *Online Link:* Detained Activist Maryam Bahrman: <http://bit.ly/1W1NJVT>

Special Projects

- Project Director, *Human Rights Lawyering in Iran* (2006-2008)
- Team Member, *The Charter of the Rights of Students*, passed as legislation in Iranian Parliament

Apprenticeships (Articling)

1992-1994

Professional Experiences in the Non-profit Sector

Facilitator:

Student Rights Defense Organization (children and students)

- Approximately 200 students, aged 13 to 19 years old, took part in workshops. The main exercise encouraged participants to state their known rights by responding in essay form to the following unfinished statement: "I have the right to..." Many were recognized for their work and given awards from the NGO, House of Culture and Sustainable Development.

Empowerment of women in local communities

- Supervised and administered several seminars for NGOs specializing in the empowerment of women at the Shiraz Azad University. Coordinated with sponsors for the delegates attending the seminars to receive full accommodations and no cost for attendance.

Instructor:

Pars Women's Organization

- Educate women in local communities regarding empowerment and rights

Family Legal Counselor:

Pars Women's Organization

- Counsel women and families on issues, advocating gender equality and self-reliance

Team Member:

The Charter of the Rights of Students

- Member of the team that wrote and presented the *Charter of the Rights of Students* to the Iranian Parliament successfully passed as legislation.

Organizer:

MAHAK Charity Organization, Children Suffering from Cancer

- Instrumental in establishing MAHAK Charity Organization's first satellite office; The office located in Shiraz, in Southern Iran, now has 800 patients and serves as the model for additional offices around the country. MAHAK has won awards for the best benchmarking NGO in the Middle East, and is affiliated with the United Nations. www.mahak-charity.org

Member of:

Project: Development of Human Rights In Iran

By: United Nations Development Program

- One of UNDP's developmental projects that focused on education of activist and NGOs in Iran to prepare them for working in their areas. As part of the project I administered 4 seminars and 3 workshops that focused on empowerment of women in rural areas.

Project: Volunteer Lawyers' Network Against Stoning

- Composed of a number of attorneys defending women's rights in critical situations in Fars province.

Related online link: <http://www.comminit.com/node/323217>

Community Involvement and Public Service

Director:

Human Rights Council of the Fars Bar Association (2004 to 2011)

Founder and Director:

Nedaye-Edalat Legal Association (Voice of Justice) (1994 to Present)

Director of Public Relations:

Fars Bar Association Board of Directors/ Elected 3 terms (1999 to 2004)

Partnerships & Cooperation

- Amnesty International,
- Scholar at Risk International Network,
- Iran Human Rights Documentations Center,
- United Nations Development Programmers (UNDP),
- Family Health International(fhi360),
- Special Reporter on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran,
- e-collaborative for civic education (ECCE) Tavaana,
- Center for International Human Rights, Northwestern University, School of Law in Chicago,
- Child Rights International Network (CRIN),
- Albany, New York Law school, Global Institute for Health and Human Rights,
- Worldwide Death Penalty,
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Publications**Master's Dissertation:**

- Preserving Human Dignity in Pre-trial Investigation.”

Manuals:

- Manual on Justice for Children. Published by [Tavaana](#),DC,2013
- Manual for LGBT's Lawyers in Iran. Published by LGBT's Human Rights Commission ,NY,2014
- Manual on Domestic violence's Cases. Published by FHI,DC,2014
- Wrote a chapter of a book on execution, will publish by Ensemble contre la peine de mort (ECPM)
- Wrote a chapter of a book on Criminal procedure law, publish by Albany Law School, Global Institute for Health and Human Rights.

Papers:

The Criminalization and Legal Consequences of Apostasy in Islam
Chronicle of an Execution, published by [IRANHRDC](#), New Haven 2014.

Published Prison Journal of a Child Bride, by [Guernica](#), 2014

Qisas: A Law for Injustice, Published by [IRANHRDC](#), New Haven 2015.

“Effects of Punishment on Offenders Rehabilitation.”

Published on Iranian State News Agency (ISNA) Web site

“Social and Legal Dilemmas of the Legislation on Protection of Family Rights.”

“The Responsibilities of Lawyers in Shaping the Legal framework of Society.”

Prison Journal of a Child Bride. Published by [Guernica](#).

Discrimination against religious and ethnic minorities in the Islamic Republic constitution. Published by [the foreign policy center](#).

Criminal Justice and Domestic Violence. Published by [Safe House](#).

“A comparative Study on Capital Punishment.” Research project and presentation,
1990, University of Shiraz, Iran

“The Responsibility of Legal Experts in Creating Social Infrastructure.” Publication, Bar Association Quarterly

vol. 37 winter 2002, Shiraz, Iran

“Capital Punishment and Retribution (Qasas) in Islamic Legal System” Op-Ed, for ISNA news agency, 2004, Shiraz, Iran

Raeesi, Hossein et. Al. (2006) *The lawyer’s quest for justice*, Publication: Barge Zeytun, Tehran, Iran. (Suspended before Print by Iran’s government.)

Raeesi, Hossein et. Al. (2007) *The primary elements of rights-based litigation*, Publication: Barge Zeytun, Tehran, Iran. (Banned for publishing by Iran government)

Raeesi, Hossein et. Al. (2007) *The importance of the independence of lawyers and the bar association in Iran*, Publication: Barge Zeytun, Tehran, Iran. (Banned for publishing by Iran government)

“The societal and legal ills of the “Protecting the Family” Act of Iran’s Parliament,” Published on www.fairfamilylaw.org April 2010, Shiraz, Iran

“The role of the attorney in public confidence, making and decreasing crime rate Iran,” Published in Law Academy Monthly, Vol. 71 June 2011, Esfahan, Iran

“The Denial of Children’s Rights in Iran’s Legal System.” Research project for Iran Human Rights Documentation Centre, Spring 2012 Toronto, Canada

“Apostasy in Iran’s Legal System.” Research project for Iran Human Rights Documentation Centre, Summer 2012 Toronto, Canada

“Homosexuality and Justice in Iran’s Legal System.” Research project for Iran Human Rights Documentation Centre, Fall 2012 Toronto, Canada

“Strategies and Tactics for Defense in Iranian LGBT Cases for Lawyers.” Research project for Gay Lesbian Human Rights Commission, Winter 2012 Toronto, Canada

“Iranian LGBT Legal Survival Guide” a manual written for Gay Lesbian Human Rights Commission, Fall 2012 Toronto, Canada

“Gender based violence (GBV) and the new Protection of the Family Act in Iran”, online training for Heartland Alliance International, June 2013