

At least 12,000 people killed in recent days in Iran

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zI_Pr4MLZE

46 mín.

Do you have any idea of how many have been killed in the past 2 weeks?

It is more than 12,000 people during this uh 10 days.

Wow. What about your family? Do you have family in Iran?

Yes, I have.

Are you in in contact with them?

No, they block the internet and we can't even call directly. They block the phone too. There's a deep feeling of uncertainty. You you don't know about your people. That must be terrible.

You have nightmares right now. What is the worst outcome of this in in your mind? The numbers of killer will be rising. Yeah. Rising that make uh my people so disappointed and they can't make the changes.

You are saying that the people in Iran really need some backup, some they need some someone to step in.

Yeah, exactly.

Do you feel welcome in Iceland?

Good question. Before the protest has started, yes. Mhm. Some people are thinking we are we want to bring is Islam to this country or making chaos to Iceland. Honestly, we don't want to bring Islam to Iceland. Iranian the majority of Iranian community here even are not Muslim most of them converted their religion from Islam to Christianity. Mhm. And if you want to know about it Iranian woman never wear the hijab.

You are actually trying to get away from Islam completely because you don't want to import it with you. You're getting away from it.

Yeah. Exactly.

Samira Hosani. Yeah. Thank you very much for coming to my program here. You are an Iranianborn citizen living in Iceland as a refugee and we have all taken notice that there's something uh what do you call it? Um uh there there has been some uh developments in Iran which uh where the world is is looking at closely uh huge gathering of protests all around the country against the the Islamic regime of the Ayatollah and uh and I I know that you are

following closely what's happening down there. So I thank you very much for coming here to to fill us in a little bit on your perspectives and and what is actually going on down there. Uh in the beginning I would like to ask you about your background. Uh when did you leave Iran and and how did you come to Iceland?

Uh I came to Iceland four years ago. Before I moved to Iceland, I was a political activist, LGBTQ activist and kind of animal rights activists in my country. From starting my uh young age uh I knew that I'm not a kind of Muslim because the rules in the Islam so because they want to keep us very behind the society. Mhm. And fortunately, I had a a very open-minded father to introduce the religions to me. So that's why I started uh to read about Islam and converting my religion and then I became as a a political activist. Those days most of Iranian even uh had hope by you know some kind of reforming in Islamic Republic they can maybe made some changes uh but we knew that it will never happen because the base of the government uh were founded on the Islam so they couldn't never uh but even by reforming develop something

the the fact that this is an Islamic rule has a very much say in how the country is run.

Yeah, exactly.

Mhm. And then you know it is very important to know uh because I see uh most of European people cannot make difference between Iranian people and Arab people. You know before Islam attacked to my country we were Zorastrian not Arab people not Muslim people. So they conquered uh conquered our country and their religion came to our country by sword.

Yeah. When is this is this back in the days of Muhammad or later?

I think uh 40 Yeah. 40 years after Muhammad. Yeah. Yeah. some 700 uh year 700 something or something. Uh yeah, we were forced to accept this actually uh this religion and but

you you said you you mostly are in the in the beginning was Soratian Sorian.

Sorian. Yeah,

that is a religion.

Yeah, it's uh Asian kind of even um very uh older than Christianity somehow like uh Jews uh religions. Yeah.

Yeah. And and Iranians are of course Persians, not not Arabs.

No, completely different.

Yeah. Exactly.

Uh but this Islamic rule has been for a long time. But but before 1979, Iran was a relatively uh moderate society with uh with almost western like traditions the situation you know

because I haven't uh lived those days but I hear so very much about those days from my family from my father from my father friends and uh you know and not just in the books or you know uh read it in the TV or TV or Yeah.

So as much but but we have all seen the the pictures from TV of of the women you know just wearing their hair down and wearing bikinis at the beach or so that that's a very very different Iran.

Yeah it was. And actually uh the sha was trying to developing country in every ways. But unfortunately those days the country had uh two very dangerous uh situation from left side and Islamic groups. And as I hear that from uh as I said not uh just from the western um um books or something like that as the people of Iran. It was like really big propaganda in my country all the time. BBC was showing the advertising about humi and uh they make and unific and united between Islamic people and actually uh their radical left and finally they did it and my generation and younger generation now we are so angry about those generation

they overthrew the SAR in a in a revolution in 1979 and uh it has been controlled with an iron fist ever since.

Yeah.

But uh we have been seeing like a chain of uh protests in the recent years. I think 2008 and 2009 or something and again 2018. Uh but this is uh something different now, isn't it?

Yeah. Completely closer to the mic. Yeah. uh it's completely uh uh different because as I told you uh like five even uh five years ago most of protesting it was demanding for reforming or some changes but now finally the new generation my generation and younger they want completely changes of Islamic Republic uh from that time they my people asking they don't uh what they don't want but now they say what they do not want and what they want. Mhm. Uh you know uh they are asking uh our crowns our crown prince Raza to come back to Iran.

Okay. That's very interesting. Yeah. Is that really the the will of the people in Iran?

Yeah. they calling uh his name and say Javi Sha that means uh long live the king.

So there's some nostalgia for the old days and and even with the younger generation that didn't live those days they they have heard enough about it that they want they want that to return.

Yeah. Exactly.

Mhm. It's very interesting.

Yeah. He had a very close communication with Iranian people after uh the social medias has come, you know, because um western again western government wanted to somehow uh block his communication with us. uh even so many times he tried to make uh communication in some uh European countries with meetings and uh they didn't let him

but now why why do you think western governments and western actors wanted to block his communications with the Iranian people

I think it's not beneficial for some European countries to kingdom will return to Iraq run as much as it it didn't have benefit for them like the revolution 1979.

Mhm. um you get you heard I hear a theory being thrown around that u it's in the western hemisphere and the westerners they have a problem with have a difficulty criticizing an Islamic regime like kinesia because mainly just because of the of the concept of Islam because because of the concept of Islamophobia they don't want to criticize something that is Islam do you think that has something to do with it.

I am not Muslim phobia person. M but as a person uh who converted my religion, I know what will Islam do to the people. M especially for the woman. I think for not I it can be the best answer of mine.

Mhm. Yeah. But there it's like especially western activists they they don't like to criticize Islam. That's I find it strange and I I'm sure you do too because like you say you you know how Islam is treating women and and uh and the rule back home in Iran.

And um one other thing is really make uh strange for me. You know I see um political activists uh want uh to not be Islamic phobia even they are protecting LGBTQ's rights. So I I it's it's very uh you know kind of paradox for me how they can uh not be Islamophobia uh not have Islamophobia and protect LGBTQ you use because in Islam completely they are senior and in Islamic uh country their life are risking.

Mhm. I mean that's right. It's very strange. It's hard to really get your head around it because it's a paradox like like you say but uh um from your perspective uh because at first in December it was like this was an protest against economic matters at like you know uh the currency had had devalued and uh but this has become just more widespread u and like you say it's it's just like a widespread reform protest of everything. How do you think how did that uh evolve so quickly from being a protest against economic matters to to just wanting to um reform everything with a revolution?

We were expected because it's uh you know and it has started because of economic situation but uh it was just like uh uh burning the fire you know we uh we had lots lots of other uh problems there and uh that's why we expected that to even it happen sooner

And the economic matters sparked the flame to a bigger fire.

Yeah, exactly. Uh during last year as I hear 900 900 political activists even have been executed before this protest

started only last year to 2025. Yeah. And we have all heard and some seen some footage from Iran where people are are hanged. They're hung up in cranes in squares. Yeah. In all these years that you lived there, did you ever uh become aware of I mean is this just widespread public knowledge that people are hanged in out in the squares?

No, they are improving more. They're improving. Yeah. and uh and and it has risen you know as I told you uh so many years um even uh from Islamic government they try to filter uh crown prince razi uh we couldn't get his messages very directly he tried to send his messages but u Iranian couldn't catch his messages so uh he tries to made so many groups in the Instagram, in Facebook, uh Twitter. So people understand about him and what he have done and during this 47 years for us. So that's why now they are ready for changes because they start to uh know about him.

Mhm. Yeah. And uh was he was just a little boy or something when when they left in 1979 or how old was he?

Uh he was I 17 when he he left the um country and um after that the revolution uh had happened and when he was 21 uh he owed his kingdom even u he read his oath of kingdom for people of Iran. I can send you the video of that uh that for you too.

But the the things that are happening there right now uh it's I mean there have been some media blackouts and internet has been shut down and and we have some uh uh vague estimations of death tolls that protesters have been killed. Do you do you have any idea of how many have been killed in the past two weeks or you know when while these protests have been climaxing?

Before I came here, I just got uh received a message. Um it is more than 12,000 people during this uh 10 days.

Wow. That's a massacre, slaughtering. What about your family? Do you have family in Iran?

Yes, I have.

And are you in in contact with them?

No, they block the internet and we can't even call directly. They block like the phone too.

So there's a there's a deep feeling of uncertainty. You you don't know about your people. That must be terrible. And how are you getting the information like 12,000 people?

Uh there are two different type of uh um Iranian channels. Uh Iran International and Manoto we got the news from them and they have uh their people to in Iran inside the Iran they can get the news from them somehow. uh in some part of countries as I hear that uh a starling is working but not as much as all people can work with that a starling satellites.

Yeah, I I saw some news of of uh they they were uh letting some people have contact recently the regime eased some restrictions like allowing international calls. Yeah. Is that true?

Yeah. And do you see that as a genuine concession or or is it just a tactic to ease the pressure on the Islamic regime or what do you think?

It's from their fears Islamic regime.

Mhm. Yes. U recently you I think you were there and other Iranian people that gathered in solidarity for the people back home in front of the the government house downtown. It was a very beautiful moment and you even played the Icelandic anthem there. Uh what are you hoping is is there anything you're hoping that the Icelandic government can do?

Um you know even um they can uh put IRGC in the terrorist list. This is the most important part of IRGC. Yes. Army of Islamic Republic. they are doing terrorist actions around the world and even um if you know in Nordic countries we know Charlie Wymer's very well he was he is the member of SW parliament and I think and now he is working for European parliament also uh and every time I read about him he's trying to put this IRGC in the uh terrorist list, you know, and even if Iceland can uh find the people of IRGC who are living in Iceland or people who are connected in Republic Islamic who are living in Iceland because we know they have uh they aspires in all countries.

M do do you believe do you believe that we have Iranian terrorists living in Iceland?

Not exactly terrorists but I believe that we have uh uh Islamic Islamic aspires in Iceland. They have their aspires in all of the world. Mhm. So uh and uh if they can uh help us to find them uh and put this IRG in the terrorist list and even they try to spread the voice of Iranian people not filter it just directly what are they wanting and what are they asking not just not see them as a oil source. Just see them as a people, as a human race. If they are asking for their kingdom back, so they need that.

Mhm. Um what do you think about President uh Donald Trump uh statements on the protest? He has said that he would come in with with gigantic force if the uh the Islamic regime would hurt the people or start killing the people in masses which they obviously have started doing. What what do you think about u what Donald Trump has said about this?

personally as a person um war is not suitable things for me. Mhm. And uh attacking to my country is not something suitable for me. But somehow I see Islamic government are murdering

my people. Mhm. If someone can release my country from this madness, I really appreciate that.

Now you would appreciate it if the United States government would step in United States or everyone or any other country. Mhm. Because as I told you, my people are more than the source uh source of oil. They are humans and they need finally have a normal life.

Mhm. What did you think about last year when when uh United States army flew over Iran and and uh drop bombs on some nuclear facilities there?

It was very t and not dangerous I a stressing time for us especially for people uh who who were out of country because those days even and again we didn't have any contact with our country and family member

and you were afraid of escalation and total war maybe. Yeah, exactly. As I told you, we hate war and and the only thing we are looking after is make friendship with all the world, not just United Stateates or like uh just I mean all the world. So, but uh when they did to nuclear actually um I forgot about anyway and I I wasn't surprised

I must to say that uh we never uh please to have this development nuclear development in our country. We we purified to use this investment and to make our country great, not make nuclear not nuclear nuclear development. Uh-huh. And we don't need that.

Um these protests that are ongoing right now, how how big of a factor do you think that women's rights uh play in in these protests? Do you think that Iranians are very aware of uh the rights of women could be much better than they are?

Yes, sure. Even um the mo the majority of men want uh to prep uh to give the equal rights to women in Iran. But uh the direct law don't let them. Mhm. So that's why one of the reason they are fighting uh for the woman and as you see most of the people are uh being killed are uh men they are fighting for my rights for my sister rights. So it's not just about a female or you know feminist revolution. It's about all gender are standing beside each other.

Can I ask you about what what do you think about uh it is said that the Iranian government or the this Islamic regime of Kmeni uh has always been a big supporter of both Hezbollah in Lebanon and uh Hamas in in Gaza. Uh is is this a common knowledge with Iranian people or completely?

We know that.

And what do you how how do you feel about that? What do you think about that?

We hate that. You know when um I used to go to a school every morning they forced us uh to burn the uh US government US uh flags and actually Israel flags.

You you were forced to burn US and Israeli flags in school.

Yeah. Mhm. And uh even they forced us in the line very early in the morning. We called them to America, dead to Israel, dead to United States.

And how how old were you children?

Seven years. And um even my u uh my uncle wife is an American and I love her so very much. And when they uh in a school they forced me to say um dead to United say I was crying and saying that uh my auntie Nela is very clever person is very kind. Why I should uh ask uh die for her? So we especially my generation we grow with uh growth on this way. So and u I I personally I was witnesses this 47 years all the time Islamic government saying that we want to clear the map from Israel.

Clear Israel off the map.

Yeah. Exactly. which is the same thing that Hamas say. Yeah, exactly.

And and do you believe that uh the backing of Iran uh uh is a big factor in the the situation we have in Israel and Gaza and Palestine. It's like uh because Hamas is a revolutionary force that's that keeps on attacking Israel again and again and again. Do you think that that comes a lot from the Islamic regime in Iran?

Completely. Completely. I am sure about it.

Mhm. So if you believe that if we if you could get the Islamic regime away that it would diffuse the situation in the Middle East.

Uh I'm not just uh saying um from my words actually Muhamad Zasha the um the last kings before he went out of Iran told that if I go Iran will go and if Iran will go middle east will go.

Mhm. And then we the whole of the world will go and see what what was happened for us.

Yeah. It's been uh Yeah. It's it's been very uh what do you call it? Just out of control.

Yeah.

For decades now. Mhm. But uh what do you hope for uh Iran to be be like in the future if if I mean you you are hoping for a regime change total change of governance and hopefully Balavi would come back and the monarch. How how would you if that would happen how how would you wish for Iran to become like in a few years? describe it to me

as a as an Iranian woman that can uh which have just one vote. Mhm. Because it's really clear that the prince the crown princes of uh told us we will have a voting democracy.

Democracy. Yeah. Mhm.

So as a Iranian woman who has one vote, my imagine is monarchy in Iran, secular democrat uh democratic uh um uh ruling in Iran and actually as Iranian are uh you know we multicolor society different type of religion, different type of family and even nation.

multicultural.

Yeah, completely multicultural. We need a you know kind of uh um united uh government. That's why we need monarchy right now to make this culture united again. Mhm. And um as we have background from pahavi because they they were they were so very open-minded dynasty they every time they try development to the country if you compare it to other dynasties and so yeah that that's why we try to follow him and we want him back and bring back the monarchy to Iran with him not other people not other people who wants to make monarchy in country you know

and are you optimistic that this could happen in the near near future? How I mean these turn of events in Iran right now do you and your people here in Iceland do you do you feel like now is something really happening and and maybe this is going to turn out uh like you wish?

Yeah, but it happens to international uh helps now because as I told you uh and I'm trying to find a uh very stand out source to show you as I hear that 12,000 has been murdered. So if it it is going to happen there is nobody to fight in the street.

You are saying that the people in Iran really need some backup, some they need some someone to step in.

Yeah, exactly.

And without it, uh, the the regime is just going to trample all over them. Yeah, exactly.

How these 12,000 you hear have that have fallen, are they just shot down in the streets protesting?

Yeah. Yeah.

And these are horrific numbers, 12,000 people. It's um and I have seen actually seen some footage of um people trying to find their their loved ones uh and in some centers where they they just have piled up the bodies and people can go and look. Have you seen this?

Yeah.

How how does this make you feel?

Personally, I'm just using anti-anxiety medication and something like that to but I can say most of Iranian even can't have uh rest enough. We have nightmares right now and it's it's a big trauma for us.

Yeah. This is really affecting you emotionally and and like very stressful time right now.

Yeah.

Who is who is in your uh your near close family? Uh which ones are are still there left in Iran?

My mother. her mother. Mhm. And so many close friends. Mhm. Who are uh grow up uh with them?

Mhm. But uh your mother is hopefully not uh protesting out in the streets. Do you know when did you last speak to with her?

Three days uh before they blocked the internet.

Mhm. Okay. But uh you hope that she's safe at home or something, right?

Hopefully. Uh yeah. Uh you know, because they cut the internet, she's kind of disabled. Mhm. And she needs some uh professional helps. Oh, without internet, I don't know what will happen for her even for paying the money in the card in the banks, you know. Now world is working by the internet.

Yeah, that's right. Even in Iran.

Yeah. Internet.

So, so you still have reasons to worry about your mother even though she's not out protesting?

Yeah.

Yeah. This is a very hard situation. Um, so, uh, do you believe that this can possibly uh develop into some kind of a conflict where where the United States step in in the next days or weeks? I mean, it's it's most likely them. I mean, we we don't see any other parties likely to step in into this conflict in Iran. Donald Trump has talked like on the lines that that they would step in if if they start murdering people which they already have. So, so isn't it uh your hope is mostly on that America does something.

Yeah. And uh I hope uh they act in instead of just saying. Yeah. Because too much are dying.

Mhm. Because words are cheap. It's you need to have actions. Yeah. Um just tell me a little bit about um how has the Iceland Icelandic community uh been welcoming you or do you feel welcome in Iceland?

Good question. Before the protest has started. Yes. Mhm. Um actually um majority of Icelandic people are so very uh kind and we were every time uh so welcome in Iceland. But uh after the pro our protest has started uh something is going to change and I want to make it very clear

Iranian people not protesting because they want to bring chaos in Iceland. Mhm. We want uh to just spread the voice of our camp protesters around the world.

Have you felt uh some uh backlash against your protest in Iceland?

Yeah. Okay. Last week we have been attacked by a person and uh a guy uh an Icelandic guy himself defended us actually and that uh one attacked us uh uh were carrying a knife.

Really?

Yeah. He tried to attack us but uh one other very brave Icelandic person uh defended us and and they called to the police. But I I'm receiving this uh comments and feedbacks on the Facebook in uh uh uh the news um comments. Some people are thinking we are being paid by Musad or CIA and this is a very ridiculous you know the most ridiculous thing that uh I have here that

so so this is coming from uh what uh supporters of Palestine and enemies of Israel and that they They think you are being paid by Mossad.

Yeah. And uh and other side think we we want to bring as Islam to this country or making chaos to Iceland. Honestly, we don't want to bring Islam to Iceland. Iranian the majority of Iranian community here even are not Muslim. Most of them converted their religion from Islam to Christianity. Mhm. And if you want to know about it, Iranian woman never wear the hijab. You can compare it with other people are coming from Islamic countries. So this is the very big difference.

You are actually trying to get away from Islam completely.

You don't want to import it with you. You're getting away from it.

Yeah, exactly. And on the other hand, we are trying to defend our country, our countrymen, not so that doesn't mean we are being paid by Musad or CIA or something like that. No, we want my h our country finally find peace. That's the only thing that we want.

I understand that. So uh in the before we end this what what what are your biggest fears of what will happen now? What what what is the worst outcome of this in in your mind?

The numbers of uh killer will be rising.

Yeah. Rising.

that make uh my people so disappointed and they can't make the changes.

You are afraid uh that the Islamic regime could just trample down the protest and uh keep on going with with her iron fist. Yeah. And if it happen it uh the uh this danger is not just including the people inside the Iran it's included the people outside of Iran too all the im Iranian immigrant immigrants out of Iran too because uh if uh you know that they even uh Islamic Republic uh has been thor killed uh four Iranian um activists during this 47 years and three in France and one in Germany.

Mhm. They just hunt them down and kill them.

Yeah. Mhm. So it will happen if uh they can uh keep their rule

Yeah. ongoing.

Yes. Um but you didn't tell me in the beginning why did you decide to leave Iran four years ago? What what was it that uh sparked the that you you decided to pack up and leave?

Those days most of people were trying for reforming the uh government. Mhm. And I was uh and and and I was just disappointed about to changing.

Mhm. Uh was it after some of these protests that we had a few years ago?

Yeah. Oh yeah. And um some uh several things was happened in my personal life. I uh I lost my uh younger brother and uh I was in a very deep depression. Uh and uh my father uh who I told you he was so very open-minded person. Mhm. He told me that's enough for you. You must move on, find yourself

Yeah. a better life.

Yeah. Somewhere else. And um you you deserve to you like to go to church. You deserve to go Yeah. And you deserve you want to keep your dog uh free. you deserve to have it.

He just he he he felt you deserved more freedom.

Yeah.

But um how did you think of coming to Iceland? What what gave you that idea?

It was in co time. Mhm. Uh and uh we were planning uh to go to Germany actually. Uh we had embassy interview to um appointment too. Then COVID came and the embassies got uh closed and uh so I was applied uh for the university in Iceland very by the chance. I didn't know anything about Iceland but I saw documentaries in the National Geography something like that and before that it's 3 years before that and one time I told I was watching the northern lights and I said oh my god I wish I go to Iceland one day and see the northern lights and I think somehow it was very strong praying. Mhm. And when I came to Iceland and I was just so surprised one time my praying was accepted so strongly like that.

Mhm. You've seen the northern lights. Yeah. In Iceland, of course.

Yeah.

Well, I all I can say it's on my behalf. You are very welcome in Iceland. I hope you feel welcome and uh I hope that for you and your people back home in Iran, you will see some changes. And this obviously is a situation that that's uh good for no one except for the elite regime back in in Iran. But we'll see. We'll we'll keep on following closely and and I thank you Samira very much for coming and uh good luck with everything.

Thank you for inviting me. Thank you.

Thank you.