



Ramani Rajendram Balendra

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It is with great sadness and regret to share the news of Ramani Balendra's passing away. Our hearts go out to Ramani Balendra's family. She died after a long struggle with cancer. Each of us grieves at the passing of a very strong, courageous and helpful lady and also for the loss her family suffers. We will all miss our colleague and friend. Our thoughts and prayers are with Ramani at this time.

On August 29th, 2016, in Montreal, Quebec, Ramani Balendra passed away at the age of 55 at the Jewish General Hospital.

She was a loving wife to her husband, Periyasamy Balendra, and a great mother to her children, Haran and Nivatha Balendra.

She also leaves in mourning her sister, Ranji Uthayashanker, her niece, Uma, her nephews, Rajen and Ravi, amongst many family members and friends.

She was the Center Coordinator for the South Asian Women's Community Center (SAWCC), and has helped the Montreal Tamil community immensely throughout the years.

The family will receive condolences on Saturday September 3rd from 2 pm to 9 pm, and Sunday September 4th from 9 am until noon at the Urgel Bourgie Funeral Complex located at 3955 Côte-de-Liesse, St-Laurent, H4N 2N6.

A funeral rites ceremony will follow from noon to 3pm on September 4th at the Funeral Complex.

<https://www.urgelbourg.com/en/necrology-obituaries/43886>

CENTRE UPDATE



Falltime Centre Hours/heure d'ouverture (starting Sept 5th)

Monday & Thursday—9am—9pm

Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday/mardi, mercredi & vendredi— 9am-5pm

The Centre is wheelchair accessible

Le centre est accessible aux fauteuils roulants.

Volunteers

If you are interested in helping out at the Centre, please contact Homa (Ext. 102 or homa@bellnet.ca) to coordinate a meeting!

Next EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING

Monday September 26th, 2016 - 6pm start (eat, read, business meeting begins)

All members are welcome and encouraged to attend and to participate.

SAWCC Bulletin – submissions guidelines

SAWCC members are encouraged to send submissions to the *Bulletin*, to share items of interest with other members.

Send submissions to: sawccbulletin@gmail.com

If using the post send to: SAWCC Bulletin, 1035 Rachel est, Montreal, Quebec, H2J 2J3

Submissions should reach by the **25th of the month**.

Submissions may be original work or reprints (with permission) and can include -- art, reports, photos, information, opinion pieces, short fiction, poetry, announcements, recipes, etc.

Publication criteria is guided by SAWCC's commitment to not negatively discriminate on the basis of physical and mental ability, religion, colour, nationality, age, sexual orientation and identity, caste, and class. Publication is further guided by the feminist ethos of sisterhood, and principles of intersectionality*, equality, equity, and transparency. As well, material that may violate confidentiality of individuals without their consent will not be published.

SAWCC reserves the right to select, reject or edit submissions.

When authorship identified, items reflect the views of the authors.

**Intersectionality -- the interconnected nature of social categorizations such as race, class, and gender as they apply to a given individual or group, regarded as creating overlapping and interdependent systems of discrimination or disadvantage.*

Volunteers Needed!

SAWCC is looking for English teachers to teach Level 1 for classes on Monday and Thursday mornings from 9:30AM—12:00PM

Please get in touch with Iram or Juvaria at 514-528-8812 ext 104

SAY/JSA UPDATE

We also have a NEW group on Facebook, check us out! Search: **South Asian Youth (SAY) Collective**



South Asian Youth (SAY) Collective invites you to our next Young South Asian Women's Support Meet-up! The meeting will be held on **Friday September 9th, 2016 from 6:00—7:30pm** at 2110 Mackay Ave.

This support space will be FREE and held for women ages 17-30 who identify as South Asian. Meet-ups will be 1.5 hours long at a time that is accessible for as many people as possible. Snacks will be provided.

Our purpose is to create a space to share our story and experiences and offer each other peer support.

If you would like to attend our support meet-ups, please e-mail sawccyouth@gmail.com

We aim to provide safe(r) spaces that are inclusive, anti-racist, sex-positive, and LGBTQ, queer and trans positive.

The Dance Troupe is meeting in two weeks! Check out our Fb page or email us to find out the exact date and time.

If you're interested in participating please get in touch with your availabilities so we can plan meetings to accommodate people's schedules as much as possible. Email us at: sawccyouth@gmail.com OR call us at: 514-528-8812 ext 105 OR get in touch via Facebook: South Asian Youth (SAY) Collective

Classes at SAWCC

All language classes at SAWCC run from September 26, 2016—December 11, 2016

Duration: 11 weeks

French classes

Level 1

Days: Every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday

Time: 9:00AM—12:00PM

English classes

Level 1

Days: Every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday

Time: 9:30AM—12:00PM

Level 2

Days: Every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday

Time: 12:30PM—3:00PM



Job opportunity: South Asian Youth (SAY) Program Co-Coordinator

The position of South Asian Youth (SAY) Program Co-Coordinator at the South Asian Women's Community Centre is a part-time (20 hours per week) permanent job subject to the availability of funds.

The program is flexible to the extent that activities are inspired by and led by the ideas that youth bring forth. Workshops are facilitated by the youth connected to SAY & SAWCC, often by the SAY program co-coordinators. Time and space is allotted during the year to facilitate a process whereby young women feel empowered to learn and practice facilitation skills. Outreaching is undertaken in schools and community centres where there is a large South Asian population and the administration/support staff have indicated an interest [on behalf of students] or need. In addition to the youth they work with, SAY program co-coordinators are responsible and accountable to fellow staff at the Centre and take part in collective activities, professional development, hangouts and meetings provided the SAY program schedule allows for this.

Job Responsibilities:

- Work in collaboration and in a spirit of partnership with the other youth program co-coordinator
- Work in a collective setting as part of South Asian Youth (SAY), which includes agreeing to SAY's Basis of Unity
- Outreach to elementary schools, high schools, CEGEPS, universities and community centres to recruit young people for programming
- Develop, plan, organize and facilitate activities both at the centre, in schools and in various neighbourhoods
- Develop and organize workshops and activities tackling issues around violence against women
- Provide opportunities and spaces in which young women of South Asian origin can explore their interests and lead projects
- Encourage curiosity, questioning, critical thinking and foster discussion amongst youth across genders
- Facilitate safe spaces and discussions for young women, free from judgment and that encourage growth and self-development
- Facilitate discussions exploring confidence and self esteem
- Provide one-on-one support to youth (this can involve tutoring, crisis management, and mentoring)
- Provide opportunities for self-expression and foster leadership
- Develop a core group of volunteers and mentors
- Work towards programming that is for LGBTQI (lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, two-spirit, queer, intersex) youth of South Asian origin
- Along with other centre staff and Executive Council (EC) members, work towards creating a non-judgmental space that promotes information around consent and sexual health. Affirming that sex (in the diversity of ways people define it) can be a healthy and enjoyable part of life.
- Send monthly program updates to the centre manager
- Prepare reports for funding agencies (subject to change from year to year)
- Prepare the youth section of the annual report
- Prepare and update a youth program budget as a function of allotted funds (to be discussed and agreed upon with centre manager at the beginning of the academic year).
- Grant writing for general programming during the year as well as future youth program funding
- Attending staff meetings and EC meetings (as per staff rotation schedule)
- Participating in intergenerational collaborations through the youth program as well as events at the centre

Requirements:

- Priority is given to women of South Asian origin
- Between the ages of 21 and 35 years old
- Speaks and writes functional English and French
- Knowledge of at least one South Asian language is an asset
- Able to work well in teams and as part of a collective decision-making body
- Believes in and upholds anti-oppression principles (i.e. fighting against racism, misogyny, homo/queer/transphobia, classism, ageism, ableism, and other types of discrimination/oppression)
- Creative and self-motivated
- Experience in youth work is an asset
- Experience in the community sector is an asset
- Available on some weekends and evenings

Work hours: 20 hrs/week, much of the programming is during school lunch hours (between 10:30-1:30), morning staff meetings, flexibility with remainder of schedule

Application deadline: September 23rd at 5:00 PM

Position start date: October 11th, 2016

Salary: \$14.00 / hour

Please send a CV and cover letter to sawccyouth@gmail.com

Press Release

PROFESSOR HOMA HOODFAR HOSPITALISED AFTER IRANIAN JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES VIOLATE DOMESTIC LAWS, TRY TO DISMISS LAWYER, REFUSE BAIL, AND KEEP HER IN SOLITARY CONFINEMENT

Montreal / London (30 August 2016) – It has been three months since Professor Homa Hoodfar was arbitrarily arrested and imprisoned in Iran. Since 6 June 2016, she has been held in solitary confinement in Evin prison on trumped up charges of collaborating with a hostile government against national security and of propaganda against the state, each of which carries a maximum sentence of 10 years. She had one brief visit with her lawyer in July but he was not allowed to discuss her legal case and has been denied all access to her case file. Disturbing details have since emerged about Professor Hoodfar's deteriorating health, compounded by the psychological pressure and isolated detention she is enduring.

The family have been informed that Professor Hoodfar was hospitalised due to her rapidly declining health. She was very disoriented, severely weakened, and could hardly walk or talk. Professor Hoodfar is 65 years old. Her health is poor and she suffers from a serious neurological condition. Requests for a check-up by an independent specialist doctor have been ignored and it is unclear whether she is receiving her medication regularly. She also suffers from chronic tension headaches that require constant hydration and rest. The continued solitary incarceration and its effect on Professor Hoodfar's health are of great concern to her family, friends, and the thousands of colleagues and activists worldwide who have signed petitions and letters of protests against the outrageous treatment of this renowned scholar.

In a brazen violation of Iran's own laws and legal procedures, the court authorities (Branch 15 of the Revolutionary Court) have tried to dismiss the lawyer chosen by Professor Hoodfar. This violates the rights of the accused under Iranian law. It also seems to demonstrate an intention to completely isolate Professor Hoodfar and bring her to a point to make a false confession. Indeed, throughout this process the Iranian judicial authorities have repeatedly ignored and violated Iranian laws. First, on 24 June 2016, the Prosecutor announced Professor Hoodfar's indictment to the mass media without having informed her or her lawyer, and without having allowed her attorney to review the case file and to be present during the interrogations. In a now notorious statement, the prosecutor accused Professor Hoodfar of "dabbling in feminism"! Second, her lawyer's numerous requests to post bail, as initially set by the court, have been ignored, and so have formal requests for independent medical specialists to examine her health. Third, she continues to be kept in solitary confinement despite Iranian laws dictating the immediate transfer of an accused to the general prison ward after the announcement of an indictment. Fourth, she has been denied regular visits by her family and consultation with her lawyer. Fifth, the court officials have no authority to dismiss a lawyer chosen by the accused. The false accusations against Professor Hoodfar and her subsequent treatment are not only a travesty of justice, but also fearfully call to mind the tragic death by beating of Zahra Kazemi, another Canadian who was imprisoned by the Revolutionary Guards in 2009.

"We were asked by the Iranian judicial authorities to tone down the media on Homa's case in order to allow the legal process to take its course. The family respected this request in good faith in the hopes that judicial authorities would, at the very least, follow their own laws and procedures and grant Homa's lawyer access to her and her case file," said Amanda Ghahremani, Professor Hoodfar's niece and legal representative in Canada. "Instead, the court has blatantly and repeatedly violated Iran's own laws, and the judicial authorities seem unwilling or unable to do anything about this. The court authorities are trying to dismiss Homa's own lawyer. Formal requests for her release on bail have been ignored, even though a bail had been set. She continues to be kept in isolation. Given the alarming news of Homa's hospitalisation and declining health, we are left with no choice but to publicise these travesties of justice widely, as it has become

Press Release (cont)

clear that the authorities are not prioritising her health and do not intend to respect Homa's due process rights under Iranian law."

Professor Hoodfar's family, colleagues, and thousands of academics and feminist activists worldwide who have been following this case closely are distraught by these disturbing developments, and they demand the Iranian authorities to immediately and unconditionally release her. They also urge the Canadian and Irish authorities to do everything within their diplomatic ambit to secure her release.

Media Contacts:

Please visit www.homahoodfar.org

Montreal: Amanda Ghahremani | amanda.ghahremani@gmail.com | +1 514 915 0920

Chicago: Kaveh Ehsani | kehsani@depaul.edu | +1 312 257 8894

London: Katayoon Hoodfar | hkatayoon@googlemail.com | +44 7729 123245

Are you interested in learning from the SAWCC Team?

We can arrange an info session/ workshop on topics of your choice for you. Learn with us about:

1. Household budgeting
2. Once a month freezer cooking
3. Organizing your days for efficient working
4. Dressing up for joining the workforce, interview preparation and CV making
5. Party planning – throwing the ultimate party!
6. Organizing drawers, shelves and cupboards in the house
7. Going on outings in a group

AND many more !!!



South Asian Women's Community Centre
Centre communautaire des femmes sud-asiatiques

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 Fax: 514-528-0896
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Sept 6—Info session on breast cancer (10:30AM)

Sept 20—Info session on security by the YWCA (10:30AM)

Sept 26—Executive Council meeting (6:00PM)

Sept 30—Potluck lunch (12:00PM)

6 sept —session d'information sur le cancer du sein (10h30)

20 sept—session d'information sur la sécurité par le Y des Femmes (10h30)

26 sept—Réunion du Conseil exécutif de CCFSA (18H00)

30 août—diner communautaire (12H00)

September 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6 	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20 	21	22	23	24
25	26 	27	28	29	30 	