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CENTRE FOR  
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RESEARCH

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The Simons Centre for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation  
Research presents:

# **Dr. Payam Akhavan**

LL.B. (Osgoode Hall), LL.M., S.J.D. (Harvard)

Professor of International Law, McGill University  
Former UN War Crimes Prosecutor at The Hague

## **“Iran, Human Rights and the Nuclear Question: What are the connections?”**

In an original analysis of the Iranian nuclear question, Professor Akhavan examines the close inter-relationship between the threats posed by Iran’s foreign policy and the internal repression of human rights, and proposes a re-evaluation of Western policy in terms of targeted sanctions aimed at Iranian leaders responsible for atrocities against their own citizens. Canada’s specific role will also be examined, focusing on the continuing failure to bring the murderers of Canadian-Iranian photojournalist Zahra Kazemi to justice, and how accountability for such crimes would empower democratic forces and transform Iran’s foreign policy and desire to acquire a nuclear capability.

Payam Akhavan is the President and co-Founder of the Iran Human Rights Documentation Centre in New Haven, Connecticut. He has served as the Legal Advisor to the Prosecutor’s Office of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia at The Hague (1994-2000). He also served as Special Advisor to the United Nations in Cambodia, Guatemala, East Timor, and Rwanda, and represented sovereigns before international courts and tribunals.

**WHERE: Asian Centre, 1871 West Mall, University of  
British Columbia, Vancouver, B.C.**

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