

## Film and Discussion

# Film and Protest: Perspectives from Iran

Saturday, February 1, 2025, 4:00 PM – 10:00 PM

**Venue:** Kino in der KulturBrauerei (Schönhauser Allee 36, 10435 Berlin)

Under the slogan "Woman, Life, Freedom," a movement emerged in Iran in 2022 that has profoundly transformed the country and garnered worldwide attention. The protests against the Iranian regime, sparked by the death of young Kurdish woman Jina Mahsa Amini in police custody on September 16, 2022, far exceeded the scale of earlier demonstrations in previous years. Iranians expressed their deep desire for freedom, equality, and democracy through these protests. The movement was significantly driven by women, young people, activists, and cultural figures who courageously stood up against the repressive regime of the Islamic Republic. Although street protests have subsided under the pressure of state violence, the movement remains a powerful symbol of the desire for change and the unbroken strength of resistance that continues to shape Iranian society today.

Against this backdrop, the Heinrich Böll Foundation and the Iranian Film Festival "Visions of Iran" invite you to a special evening of film and discussion that will shed light on the current social and political developments and challenges in Iran. Through film and conversation, we aim to make the dynamics of change in Iran tangible, focusing especially on the perspectives of women and minorities.

The evening will begin with the documentary film „*Impasse*“ by Bahman Giarostami and Rahmaneh Rabani. The film follows Rahmaneh, who comes from a deeply religious family, during the "Woman, Life, Freedom" protests. With sensitivity, the film explores the conflict between personal beliefs, family ties, and the desire for change in a society marked by repression and cultural tensions. *Impasse* premiered at the renowned documentary film festival HotDocs.

Following the main film, selected short films from Iran will be presented, showcasing various facets of social life in the country. These films address challenges of everyday life, the tensions between tradition and change, the role of art and culture in resistance, and questions of gender equality.

To conclude the evening, we will host a panel discussion with the director of *Impasse* and other experts from the fields of art, culture, academia, and media to discuss current developments in Iran. What space exists for critical films and art there today? What role do art and culture play in protest and social resistance against the regime? What processes of change have been observed since the beginning of the "Woman, Life, Freedom" movement in Iran? What challenges do activists and civil society face? What role do women and representatives of minorities play in the protest movement and ongoing acts of civil disobedience? These and other questions will be discussed with our guests and the audience.

## Program

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From 4:30 PM	Doors Open
5:00 PM – 6:05 PM	<b>Short Films from Iran</b>  My Dark City (Yasaman Hassani) Go Back to the Sky (Nina Zarabi) Meteor (Atefeh Khademolreza) Foretell (Donya Ghorbani Nejad) Inside the Skin (Maryam Mahdiye & Shafagh Abosaba) Emergency (Maryam Esmikhani) Our Uniform (Yegane Moghaddam)
6:05 PM – 6:30 PM	<b>Discussion on the Challenges of Filmmaking in Iran</b>  With: Ghasideh Golmakani (Filmmaker and Curator)
6:30 PM – 7:00 PM	Break
7:00 PM – 8:30 PM	<b>Documentary Film „Impasse“ (2024)</b>  By: Bahman Kiarostami und Rahmaneh Rabani
8:30 PM – 8:45 PM	Break
8:45 PM – 10:00 PM	<b>Discussion on Current Developments in Iran and the Role of Film and Art</b>  With: Rahmaneh Rabani (Filmmaker) – via Zoom Sanaz Azimipour (Author, Activist and Researcher) Parastou Forouhar (Artist and Activist) Amin Farzanefar (Director of the Iranian Film Festival Cologne)

## Languages:

Film: Farsi with English subtitles/ Discussion: English and German