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National Strategy Urgently Needed to Support Rising Numbers of Older Prisoners

More than three and a half years have passed since a strategy was first promised by the last government in response to a House of Commons Justice Committee inquiry on the ageing prison population. The delay now means that the new government is inheriting a significant challenge. However, it also provides an opportunity to correct this and to set a new strategic focus. In just 20 years the number of people in prison aged 50 or over has nearly trebled, rising from around 5,000 in 2003 to almost 15,000 in 2023. They currently account for around one in six people currently in prison (17%).

Based on consultation with 121 men and women aged 50 and over serving these sentences in 39 prisons in the UK, it provides insights into their experience of being older and in prison, as well as proposals to ensure that their views are considered as part of the development of an older prisoners' strategy. The report reveals some of the distinct challenges faced by older people in prison. These include the disconnect between activities aimed at reducing reoffending and preparing for a life after release, whilst simultaneously facing the prospect of their own death in prison; their desire to regain purpose and to support younger prisoners; and the importance of dignity when faced with growing health and social care needs. The report also highlights existing areas of good practice, which a future strategy should build on, with adaptations that could be replicated across the estate. This includes support for the growing numbers of older prisoners with dementia. At one prison, HMP Watton, specific dementia cells with clear signage had been provided and a range of services had been developed for older prisoners in conjunction with Age UK.

Older prisoner: "I have no home, no pension and no employment hopes (I will be retired upon release). My circle of friends on the outside is now virtually non-existent, there is a possibility that the few left might be in 'homes' or even dead because they are older than me. But that is made on the assumption that I will even leave prison alive! A very sobering thought, isn't it?" Prisoners also echoed the repeated concerns raised by the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman about the inappropriate use of restraints on Older Prisoners during hospital visits. One said: "I was double handcuffed and handcuffed to an officer whilst on the operating table for a cataract operation. Many [older prisoners] are similar to myself and have no history of violence or the ability to escape—especially with only one lens while the other has been removed and is about to be replaced."

British Prisoner Among Five on Run After Escaping Portuguese Jail

A search is continuing for Mark Cameron Roscaleer and four other prisoners after they broke out of the Vale de Judeus jail about 43 miles (70km) north of the capital Lisbon on Saturday. They escaped by scaling the wall with a ladder and had "external help", the Portuguese prison service said, according to Reuters news agency. Roscaleer is serving a nine-year prison sentence for kidnapping and robbery, Portuguese media report., external Vale de Judeus is a high-security prison with a capacity of 560 inmates, according to its website. The prison service said the escape happened on Saturday morning, 8h September 10:00 local time (09:00 GMT). As well as Roscaleer, the five inmates included two Portuguese men, an Argentinian and a Georgian, Portuguese media say. The two Portuguese escapees were serving 25-year sentences for offences including drug trafficking, criminal association, theft, robbery and kidnapping, Portugal's prison service told Reuters. The

other three had been convicted of offences such as theft, kidnapping and robbery.

'Extremely dangerous' - Portugal's national union for prison guards - the Sindicato Nacional do Corpo da Guarda Prisional (SNCGP) - shared mugshots of the five on social media. Frederico Morais, the head of SNCGP, told Portugal's SIC Noticias news channel, external that the inmates were extremely dangerous and the public should not approach them. Mr Morais also said the escape happened due to a lack of prison guards, which meant the surveillance towers were not manned, the Portuguese news site Diario de Noticias reported., external The prison service said the men escaped "with external help through the launch of a ladder, which allowed the inmates to scale the wall and access the outside". Portuguese police have reportedly asked for international cooperation to capture the five inmates.

Saying Goodbye to This World Cleanly and With Dignity

Pro-euthanasia (Assisted Dying) film 'The Room Next Door' has won the Venice Film Festival's best film award. The feature film starring Tilda Swinton and Julianne Moore took the prestigious Golden Lion award on Saturday. Earlier in the week, the Pedro Almodovar-directed film received an 18-minute standing ovation after it premiered at the festival - one of the longest in recent memory. Accepting the award, 74-year-old Spanish director told the audience: "I believe that saying goodbye to this world cleanly and with dignity is a fundamental right of every human being." The film sees Swinton play a war correspondent suffering from terminal cancer. She asks her old friend, played by Moore, to be at her side as she takes her own life. Almodovar said he made the film to communicate his belief euthanasia should be available around the world. "It is not a political issue, but a human issue," the Oscar-winner Almodovar said. The film is his first feature film in English. Almodovar also thanked Moore and Swinton for their performances. "This award really belongs to them, it's a film about two women and the two women are Julianne and Tilda." President of the jury, French actor Isabelle Huppert, said the film tackled important issues thoughtfully and without melodrama. The Room Next Door is poised to be one of the most talked-about films of awards season.

Euthanasia, Assisted Suicide and Non-Resuscitation on Request In the Netherlands

In the Netherlands, euthanasia is performed by the attending physician administering a fatal dose of a suitable drug to the patient on his or her express request. The relevant Dutch legislation also covers physician-assisted suicide (where the physician supplies the drug but the patient administers it). Palliative sedation is not a form of euthanasia: the patient is simply rendered unconscious with pain reducing drugs and eventually dies from natural causes.

Parole Board's Rob McKeon: Life Among Murderers, Rapists and Career Criminals

Making decisions based on a gut feeling is a terrible way to do things – and you'll get it wrong. Once Rob McKeon had accepted that his decisions would mean some people would die in prison, it made things easier. "My job is not to get people home," he says. "Once you realise that 'life' sometimes does mean life, you can get on with the job." In the 12 years that McKeon has been a member of the Parole Board, he has made decisions about the futures of more than 5,000 prisoners who have served their minimum term. Lots of them have done horrific things, with the impacts on victims always present, but McKeon, usually alongside other panel members, only has to focus on a simple, but difficult, question: are they a risk to the public?

Get it right and somebody won't be happy – either the prisoner who remains inside until their next parole hearing in two years, or, if they are released or downgraded to an open prison, the people affected by their crime. Get it wrong, and the consequences can be horrific. The child sex offender who goes on to reoffend. The domestic abuser who then kills a partner. The person convicted of terrorism who, it turns out, hasn't changed.

Were you to find yourself sitting opposite McKeon, with him in charge of your future, you'd probably find him rigorous and fair, his emotions switched off, but not cold; a direct gaze, but a calming manner. Does McKeon ever lie awake at night and wonder, weeks later, if he made the wrong call? No, he says, when we speak over video call; he's at home in his study, a room from which even now, post-pandemic, he conducts remote hearings. At the end of a hearing, which can last several hours, "I will be fairly certain as to what I think the right decision is." Sometimes he has to sleep on it.

It seems to work. In the last year, the Parole Board recommended the release of more than 4,300 prisoners, and that about 11,300 should remain in prison. The number of people released on parole who go on to commit further serious offences is low – about 0.5%. Three prisoners McKeon released were later accused of serious offences; one was convicted. "Those decisions were explored, and you learn from them. It's whether you could have predicted [what could happen], whether you missed an element of questioning." (In each of these cases McKeon wasn't found to be at fault.)

Last year, the then-deputy chair of the Conservative party, Lee Anderson, now a Reform MP, backed the return of the death penalty, reigniting a debate that many hoped was settled. "Sometimes I worry," says McKeon, "that kneejerk reactions are 'lock them up and throw away the key'. There are some crimes where life should absolutely mean life, and we see that with whole-life orders. In others, there is the opportunity to change."

McKeon has written a book, *Parole*, about his work; he was also one of the handful of Parole Board members, of whom there are more than 300 in England and Wales, who appeared in last year's BBC Two series, also called *Parole*. It isn't, it soon becomes clear, a job for everyone. He will receive a dossier of evidence. For somebody serving a life sentence, it could be 400 or more pages including graphic details of murder, assault or sexual violence. There are common themes in prisoners' histories – abuse and neglect in childhood, and exposure to drugs and alcohol. Then he will sit opposite people who have done awful things, and try to determine if they have changed or not. Occasionally, though rarely, they will be frightening and volatile; many are expert liars. He has to ask them things few people would like to hear the answers to. To the child sex offender: how often does he masturbate in prison, and what does he think about? Sometimes the decision not to release someone is straightforward, such as the man who admitted to McKeon: "I quite like strangling people." Most are much more difficult.

McKeon wrote the book for the same reason he took part in the TV series: "transparency, and justice being seen to be done". It is only in recent years that parole proceedings have become more open. Summaries can now explain decisions, and some hearings are held in public, following the outcry after the 2018 Parole Board decision to release the serial rapist John Worboys, which was then quashed by the high court. Last year, McKeon sat on the panel of the public hearing of notorious prisoner Charles Salvador, better known as Charles Bronson (parole was refused).

McKeon didn't start out wanting to work with prisoners. At 16, he was a presenter for his local BBC station, Radio Stoke. Then, when he was about 18, he auditioned to be the presenter in the Children's BBC "broom cupboard" slot – a job that instead went to a young Zoe Ball. He started businesses, then moved to Australia and worked for a healthcare company, where he got involved in its legal side. Back in the UK, he became a magistrate, eventually in the family

court, which he found fascinating. "It wasn't about sending people to prison, it was about trying to bring about a difference to people's lives, particularly the welfare of children." That led him to the Parole Board, which he describes as "some of the most rewarding stuff I've ever done".

He grew up in a loving family in Staffordshire, where he still lives with his partner. "I was lucky that I had a family who imposed proper boundaries, but still gave me a chance to explore." So many of the prisoners he meets have had traumatic childhoods. One case in McKeon's book is of a young man who had committed a string of offences relating to violence, theft and drugs, before he was convicted of attacking his girlfriend at the age of 16. His offending started after he came home from school one day to find his mother had abandoned him. Rather than go back into care, he ended up homeless and using drugs. "Sometimes you think: 'There by the grace of God go a lot of us,'" says McKeon.

For all the horrible images he has in his head, McKeon has to believe in rehabilitation. The opportunity to change is "the whole point of parole. People do awful things, but some of those people won't do it again, and it's about being able to identify those people." Does everyone deserve a second chance? He thinks for a moment. "I think everybody deserves an opportunity to show whether they can reform or not. It's not for me to decide sentencing, and there are some crimes that attract whole-life orders. Even for people who have committed the most awful crimes, some of them will succeed [in changing] and some of them won't. There are people who don't have any intention of changing – do they deserve a second chance?" He doesn't exactly answer himself, seemingly more interested in the practicalities of the process than the philosophical argument. "If you don't change, you won't get parole."

Sometimes he likes the prisoner in front of him, sometimes he doesn't. It's irrelevant. No decision is based on instinct, he says. "Go where the evidence tells you, because making decisions based on gut feeling is a terrible way to do things, and you'll get it wrong," he says. He has sat across from people who are diagnosed psychopaths. Has he become good at spotting lies? "I think it's made me good at remembering there are two sides to every story and you always need to have proof. Don't just take anybody's word for it." Although he is looking for the chain of events that led to the crime, and whether those elements mean someone is at risk of re-offending, he says it's important not to look for "a narrative that feels comfortable. Prisoners will sometimes tell – and sometimes they convince themselves – a version of events that either they're comfortable with or they think is what people want to hear. So you've got to get an independent account of everything, and then see where the evidence takes you."

Behaviour in prison is taken into account, but again, it needs to be scrutinised. People who have been in organised criminal gangs, he says, "are usually quite well behaved in prison because they get other people to do their dirty work, and their violence is calculated". Prison is a controlled environment for those whose crimes are related to risk factors such as alcohol or gambling (though drugs are rife). "Just because somebody's behaving well, it doesn't necessarily mean that their risk is reduced."

Reading McKeon's book, it's sometimes hard to understand why those who continue to deny their crimes, and therefore never show remorse or take any steps to address their behaviour, are granted parole. One man had been convicted of abusing his daughter, including rape, over a period of seven years, since she was eight, but continued to deny it. Despite that, he was released, because it was felt he would comply with the conditions, which included not contacting his victim, having his internet use monitored and disclosing new relationships.

"Maintaining innocence is something that's quite common amongst people who've committed sexual offences, particularly against children," says McKeon. Sometimes the shame is too great, "and the fact of being convicted, in some cases, is enough to stop somebody offending again". But

denial can also be a risk factor, “because they just have no insight [into their crime and its impact] whatsoever”. In more than 5,000 cases, he has only believed that one person might actually be innocent, “but I still assessed him on the basis that he did what he was convicted of”.

McKeon constantly stresses his objectivity. The man who was convicted of abusing his daughter was sentenced to 12 years in prison, and was allowed to apply for parole after seven, a shockingly light sentence in my view. If McKeon has his own views on sentencing, might he be tempted to deny parole? “Absolutely not, because I do this without fear or favour, and I’m not influenced by the front pages of any newspapers, or what politicians may say, or what government views may be at any particular point, or what the public may be outraged by on social media. I make decisions based on risk.”

Similarly, he can empathise with a prisoner who has had an extremely difficult life, but isn’t tempted to grant parole just because he thinks they have suffered enough. “People have experienced awful trauma that you can’t imagine. I remember a case of a woman whose drug addiction started because, when she was a child, her mother used to give her tranquillisers to keep her quiet – that was her addiction route. A guy that I met was routinely physically and sexually abused by members of his family, and so is it any wonder [he went on to offend]? These things are terrible, but my focus has to be on whether the public would be safe if that person were released.”

The previous Labour government introduced a controversial new sentence of Imprisonment for Public Protection (IPP) – an indeterminate sentence for those who were considered dangerous, but whose crimes did not attract a life sentence – which was used from 2005 until 2012, when it was abolished. Nearly 3,000 people remain in prison without knowing when their sentence may end, some for fairly minor crimes. “Nobody expected, I think, that they would impose as many sentences as they did, and they didn’t expect that people would be in prison for as long as they were,” says McKeon. He has considered parole for prisoners still serving IPP sentences, and some “are very risky people. But I’ve also seen the difficulties that hopelessness and the lack of opportunity to reform brings to people – some people have got worse in prison because of that.” However he feels about the unfairness of IPPs, McKeon says his only focus is on whether those people pose a risk now.

Our prison system is in crisis, with prisons overcrowded, inhumane conditions and demoralised staff. Nick Hardwick, former chief inspector of prisons and former head of the Parole Board, has said that instead of forging ahead with Conservative plans to build huge new jails, money should be put into crime prevention, such as education and mental health. What would McKeon like to see overhauled in the current system? He says there are many prison and probation staff “who really do try and make a difference. There just isn’t the resources in a lot of cases to do that.” Rehabilitation includes courses that could help people change, “and then they find there’s a two-year waiting list, by which time motivation is gone. If you want to overhaul the prison system, and if we believe in this premise of rehabilitation, you’ve got to resource it.”

When public finances are so stretched, is there the will for money to be spent on prisoners? “I think that’s one of the points of writing a book, to give people that insight,” says McKeon. “This isn’t about being soft on crime or thinking that everybody should get a chance to be out of prison. I will see people who, at the very depths of chaos in their life, have done awful things. And sometimes you see people who then have that stability in prison where they’re staying away from drugs and they’re engaging in education, or some kind of structure, and you start to see the person that they can become.” In his 12 years on the Parole Board, he has learned, he says, “that people do awful things to each other, sometimes for little reason or sense, but I’ve learned that people can change”. Some people show no sign of wanting to, but even that doesn’t mean they’ll always feel that way. “I don’t know,” says McKeon. “We’ll find out at their next parole review.”

Statutory Inquiry Into 2,000 Deaths in Essex Mental Health Services to Open

On 9 September, a statutory public inquiry opened into the deaths of mental health inpatients in Essex. The Lampard Inquiry will be investigating the deaths of 2000 people who died while they were a patient on a mental health ward in Essex. The inquiry will be looking at deaths between 2000 and 2023. In November 2020, an independent inquiry was announced into deaths of mental health inpatients in Essex. following powerful campaigning by bereaved families, led by Melanie Leahy. Herson Matthew, aged 20, was one of six people to die at the Linden Centre in Essex over a short period. Due to concerns about the lack of candour and disclosure of information from those working at the Trust the inquiry could not proceed with its work. Following further campaigning by bereaved families, the inquiry was relaunched in October 2023 with statutory legal powers as the Lampard Inquiry. Statutory inquiries are judge led and have more powers, including to compel witnesses to give evidence.

This is the first public inquiry into mental health services that has ever been held in England and established by a Minister. They will be establishing the circumstances and arising issues in those deaths. As a result of its expertise on deaths in mental health services and their investigation in Essex and nationally, the charity INQUEST has now for the first time been given core participant status in a public inquiry. Deborah Coles at INQUEST, said: “We can all agree that when people die in the care of mental health services, their deaths must be investigated, and action must be taken to prevent further deaths. Instead, families bereaved by deaths in Essex mental health services have been denied the truth, kept in the dark and their calls for change left unanswered. Too often NHS Trusts and other providers respond to deaths with defensiveness and denial rather than candour, transparency and a genuine commitment to improving policy and practice. INQUEST’s work shows a systemic failure to tackle repeated and critical failings of mental health services. Without the courage, persistence and determination of bereaved families and survivors campaigning for the truth for so many years this statutory inquiry would not be happening. It must now finally shine a spotlight behind the closed doors of Essex mental health services and tackle the unacceptable death toll of people under their care. The value of this inquiry can only be judged by its impact in creating change. That change is long overdue.”

Sentence Inflation - Main Cause of Prison Over Crowding: A Judicial Critique

“While much of the discussion of the crisis has focused on urgent remedial measures, the primary cause of prison overcrowding in 2024 is decades of sentence inflation.

The most senior former judges in England and Wales have called on the government to reverse the trend of imposing ever longer sentences, giving warning that radical solutions are needed to address the acute crisis in prisons. In a paper published by the Howard League for Penal Reform, they outline how and why prison sentences have increased in recent decades and the impact this has had. The paper, Sentence inflation: a judicial critique, is signed by the four surviving former Lords Chief Justice of England and Wales – Lord Woolf, Lord Phillips of Worth Matravers, Lord Thomas of Cwmgiedd, and Lord Burnett of Maldon – and Sir Brian Leveson, the only surviving President of the Queen’s Bench Division who was also Head of Criminal Justice. The former judges say there is nothing to justify the fact that custodial sentence lengths have approximately doubled over the half-century that they have been involved in the law. The number of people in prison has risen from about 40,000 in 1991, the year in which the Woolf Report into the Strangeways riot was published, to more than 88,000 today. The paper explains how legislative changes, such as the introduction of statutory starting points for the minimum terms for murder in Schedule 21 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003, have been the main drivers of sentence inflation. Noting the human but also high financial costs of prison, it recommends that the government should be seeking to reduce to a minimum the amount of public money that has to be spent on imprisonment.

“If prisons are to become places of rehabilitation and restoration to citizenship, places where prisoners can receive the support and interventions needed to return safely to the community and desist from offending, there needs to be a fundamental shift in the drivers of sentencing policy. “We call for an honest conversation about what custodial sentences can and cannot achieve; their human and financial costs; and urge a return to more modest proportionate sentences across the board.”

Andrea Coomber KC (Hon.), Chief Executive of HLPFR, said: “It is extremely rare for our most senior former judges to come together to recommend action on a specific issue of public concern. With decades between them at the coalface of criminal justice and sentencing, their analysis is essential. It indicates how serious the prisons crisis, and the sentence inflation that caused it, have become. “Without urgent remedial action, England and Wales could soon experience US-style mass incarceration. Embracing the measures suggested in this paper would set us on a different path, towards a more humane and effective response to crime that provides justice to all and helps to reduce reoffending.”

Prisoner Gets 19 Years For Running Drug Ring From Cell

‘Inside Time’: A serving prisoner who played a leading role in organising the production and supply of drugs in a number of prisons has been jailed for 19 years, whilst eight others who assisted him also received lengthy sentences. The 33-year-old man was sentenced for conspiracies to produce and supply various illegal drugs both inside and outside of prison, whilst himself a serving prisoner. Between 2016 and 2019, he used a network of associates, including his own mother, to establish a commercial-scale enterprise that smuggled controlled substances including cannabis, Spice, and steroids into Swaleside, Wormwood Scrubs, and other prisons. His network also distributed heroin, cocaine, crack cocaine, and synthetic opioids across London and the South-East. He organised the whole operation using unauthorised mobile phones, many of which were purchased by his mother, and drones to fly the drugs into prison. His mother had purchased more than 73 mobile phones over a 21-month period which were used to control the distribution of the drugs. She also bought other items important to the operation, including a spare battery for a drone that was used to smuggle packages into prison, and a 20-tonne hydraulic press used to prepare blocks of heroin. Mobile phone analysis proved the man was using unauthorised mobile phones to organise various production and supply operations, including the use of drones to transport packages over prison walls.

Drones were used to transport the drugs into Swaleside, where packages were recovered using a hook attached to a mop handle that was discovered in a fellow inmate’s cell, along with several packages of cannabis, Spice, and steroids. Spice was smuggled into prison via post or during social visits, sometimes on bogus legal documents. The group also supplied other prisons around the country with Spice, and the operation became so confident that they started advertising liquid spice for sale on social media, to enable other people to impregnate their own paper with Spice before smuggling it into prisons. Whilst the police were searching the home of one of the women outside prison but in the group, a postman delivered a package containing an unopened one litre bottle of ethanol.

All the group were also convicted of the unauthorised transmission of thousands of messages and calls from prison. Robert Hutchinson, of the Crown Prosecution Service, said: “This complex and challenging prosecution, with a trial lasting more than six months, has disrupted a sophisticated and commercial-scale operation to flood prisons with a dangerous cocktail of illegal drugs. The key person was front and centre, controlling and directing his co-conspirators from his prison cell. All defendants showed a blatant disregard for the ban on mobile phones in prison on an almost daily basis. Not only did they all know they were in contact with a prisoner, but also knew they were facilitating crime, and all played their own significant part in producing and supplying drugs worth thousands of pounds and must now face substantial terms of imprisonment as a consequence.”

PAS Overturns Shocking SSJ Release Decision for Terminally Ill Prisoner

Prisoners Advice Service (PAS) recently acted on behalf of Prisoner A, a terminally ill man who had been sentenced to six years imprisonment for a drug offence, and who was considered to be low risk. Prisoner A was suffering with stage four, metastatic cancer and was desperate to spend his final months with his family. Three months prior to PAS’ involvement, Prisoner A had made an application to the Secretary of State for Justice (SSJ) requesting Early Release on Compassionate Grounds, stating that he had been given a prognosis of only months left to live. By that time, Prisoner A was already deaf, registered blind, mute, and immobile, and the prison was no longer able to manage his complex healthcare needs. Further, the prison nurses in charge of Prisoner A regularly failed to complete healthcare assessments in light of Prisoner A’s rapidly developing illness. Unsurprisingly, probation had assessed the prisoner as being of low risk to the public.

Despite the urgency of his request, the SSJ did not issue her decision on Prisoner A’s application until twelve weeks later, by which time he was back in hospital suffering sepsis and bleeding in his trachea. In a shocking move, the SSJ stated that she was not satisfied either that Prisoner A had sufficiently demonstrated that his early release would not put the safety of the public at risk, or that there was a care plan in place for his release. At this point, our Community Care Caseworker - who had previously come into contact with Prisoner A at our Outreach Clinics inside prison walls - took on his case, instructing the family to issue urgent judicial review proceedings challenging the decision. This included an application for a court order requiring further information from the SSJ and – crucially - assurances from various public authorities that Prisoner A would receive appropriate health care upon release. The court order also required that the SSJ reach a decision within 24 hours.

A Special Purpose Licence for Temporary Release was then issued on behalf of Prisoner A - but this would only have guaranteed his release for a few days. Urgent correspondence between PAS and the SSJ then followed, with Prisoner A’s family, under PAS’ instruction, finally proving that his complex healthcare needs could be safely and adequately met from home. Two days later and exactly three months on from Prisoner A’s first application, the SSJ approved his early release following the receipt of the new evidence.

At the time of his release, Prisoner A was given just six weeks to live. Without PAS’ direct involvement, he would not have been able to spend his final weeks with his family, nor receive appropriate palliative care. PAS has since lodged a formal complaint with the Nursing and Midwifery Council in light of Prisoner A’s inadequate and negligent nursing care whilst in prison. At the time of writing, it is alleged that some of the nurses in question have previously been involved in a death in custody.

34 Female Prisoners on Hunger Strike In Tehran Mark Amini’s Death Anniversary

A group of female prisoners at Tehran’s Evin Prison started a hunger strike Sunday 15th September to mark the second anniversary of the nationwide protests sparked by the death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini in police custody. An Instagram account linked to jailed Nobel peace laureate Narges Monammadi said 34 female prisoners began the strike on the anniversary of the 'Woman, Life, Freedom' movement and the killing of Mahsa [Jina] Amini." Amini died on Sept. 16, 2022, days after being detained by Iran’s morality police for allegedly violating Iran’s law requiring women to wear a hijab. Her death ignited widespread protests throughout Iran, with demonstrations erupting in the streets, universities and schools that persisted for months. During the government crackdown on the 2022 nationwide protests, hundreds of citizens were killed, and thousands more were injured or arrested.