



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Democracy in Iran, Middle East and Central Asia: Past Traditions and Future Prospects

Renowned Journalists Stephen Kinzer and Reza Deghati to Speak

Media are invited and interviews with speakers are available

CHICAGO – Northeastern Illinois University will host the 11th annual Asian American Heritage Conference April 3-8. The theme of this year's conference is "Democracy in Iran, Middle East and Central Asia: Past Traditions and Future Prospects." **The conference is free and open to the public.**

The centennial of the Iranian Constitutional Revolution of 1906, as a first democratic and peaceful revolution of its kind in the Middle East and in mainland Asia, provides this conference with a historic occasion to critically review the traditions and prospects of democracy in the Middle East and Central Asia.

This international conference will feature lectures by more than 20 speakers and academic experts including world-renowned journalists Stephen Kinzer and Reza Deghati.

Stephen Kinzer will launch his new book at Northeastern

Foreign correspondent Stephen Kinzer for the *New York Times* has covered more than 50 countries on four continents. His new book, "Overthrow: America's Century of Regime Change from Hawaii to Iraq," will be released on April 4. In the book *Overthrow*, Kinzer tells stories of the U.S. business and political leaders who took it upon themselves to depose monarchs, presidents, and prime ministers in 14 countries.

Stephen Kinzer will discuss the book on Wednesday, April 5th at 7 p.m. in Alumni Hall. A book signing will follow his talk. Books will be available for purchase at the event.

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Photojournalist Reza Deghati will share powerful images

Reza is an acclaimed *National Geographic* photojournalist who has captured the beauty and unrest of the Middle and Far East for over 25 years. His photographs have appeared in *Newsweek*, *Time* and *Geo* magazine.

Reza will show his photos and discuss the events they capture on Thursday, April 6th at 7 p.m. in Alumni Hall.

Additional conference topics include:

- Iranian Constitutional Revolution and Modernity in Iran
- Democracy in Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan and Central Asia: History and Future Prospects
- Iranian Constitutional Revolution and its legacy for the prospects of democracy in Iran and elsewhere in the region
- Islam and Democracy
- Viable Peaceful U.S. Foreign Policies in the Region

The conference will be held at Northeastern Illinois University Alumni Hall in the Student Union building. (Use campus entrance located at 3701 West Bryn Mawr, Chicago.) For a complete schedule of conference events call Yasmin Ranney at (773) 442-5441 or e-mail Y-Ranney@neiu.edu.

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