

SUSAN MUSARRAT AKRAM
Curriculum Vitae

Clinical Professor and Director

Boston University International Human Rights Clinical Program
Boston University School of Law
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TEACHING AND RESEARCH INTERESTS

Clinical Professor of Law and Director of the International Human Rights Clinic at Boston University Law School. From 1993-2008, I taught in the full-year BU Law Civil Litigation Program and supervised students handling cases in unemployment, social security disability, housing, family, immigration and asylum/refugee law. In 2008 I co-established the Asylum and Human Rights clinic, supervising immigration and asylum cases and international refugee/human rights advocacy and projects. In 2013 I established the International Human Rights Clinic, in which I supervise students engaged in international advocacy in domestic, international, regional and UN fora. I teach or have taught Immigration Law, Comparative Refugee Law, Human Rights Lawyering and International Human Rights. I have taught Comparative Refugee Law and International Human Rights as courses or seminars at Al-Quds University in East Jerusalem, at the American University in Cairo's law department and the Forced Migration Studies Program at AUC. Since 2011, I have taught in the summer institute offered at the Refugee Studies Centre at Oxford University, and regularly teach short courses in various venues in the Middle East on refugee law.

My research and publications focus on immigration, asylum, refugee and human and civil rights issues, with an interest in the Middle East, the Arab and Muslim world. I have presented my research on Palestinian refugees in France, Switzerland, Belgium, Britain, Canada and elsewhere to general audiences as well as to committees of the United Nations, the European Union and representatives of European and Canadian government ministries and parliaments. I have presented widely on immigration-related laws and policies as well as on challenging standard interpretations of women's asylum claims from the Arab/Muslim world. I have participated in numerous conferences on invitation from the United Nations, including the High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA).

Prior to joining BU Law, in addition to individual case representation, I coordinated the consolidated cases known as the *Suffolk Downs Cases* in the late 1980's and was one of a nationwide network of lawyers defending individuals in the *Secret Evidence Cases* of the 1990's. I have also served as a cooperating attorney with the Center for Constitutional Rights and the American Civil Liberties Union on Alien Tort Claims Act and Torture Victims Protection Act cases such as *Belhas v. Ya'alon* and *Matar v. Dichter*. Working closely with the Center for Constitutional Rights, I worked on resettlement and refugee claims of Guantanamo detainees, and was co-counsel on the 20-year litigation of a case involving the exclusion bars to asylum, *In Re A-H-*.

EDUCATION

University of Oxford, MSt, International Human Rights Law, New College, Oxford, U.K. (with Distinction).

Institut International des Droits del'Homme, Strasbourg, France, *Diplome* in International Human Rights.

Georgetown University Law Center, Juris Doctor (Dean's List).

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, B.A. in Political Science/Asian Studies (with Honors).

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW, Boston, MA

Clinical Professor, January 2007-present

Associate Clinical Professor, August 1994-2007

Visiting Associate Clinical Professor, August 1993-1994

Clinical Teaching: *Pre-Trial and Trial Advocacy; Asylum Pre-Trial and Asylum and Refugee Advocacy; Human Rights Lawyering; and Human Rights Advocacy in the Inter-American System.*

Academic Teaching: *Comparative Refugee and Asylum Law, Immigration Law and Policy, and International Human Rights Law*

Clinical Supervision:

Clinical supervisor in Boston University's International Human Rights Law Clinic, supervising law students representing international non-governmental organizations and engaged in policy analysis and advocacy in domestic, regional and international venues. Projects include advocating or litigating on behalf of human rights victims in Tibet, Haiti, Western Sahara, Palestine, Cambodia, and elsewhere.

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY IN CAIRO, Cairo, Egypt

Distinguished Visiting Professor, August 2006-August 2007

Forced Migration & Refugee Studies Program/Law Department. Taught International Refugee Law and Litigating Human Rights (Research leave from Boston University)

AL-QUDS UNIVERSITY, PALESTINE SCHOOL OF LAW, East Jerusalem

Fulbright Senior Scholar and Teaching Fellow, September 1999 to June 2000

Visiting Professor, June-August, 1997

Research project on durable solutions for Palestinian refugees.

Taught *Comparative Refugee Law*.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY REFUGEE STUDIES CENTRE, Oxford, U.K.

Instructor, Program on Forced Migration (July 2011-present)

Teach RSC courses on Refugee Law every summer and spring in Oxford and in the Middle East (Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Turkey).

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

POLITICAL ASYLUM/IMMIGRATION REPRESENTATION PROJECT, Boston, MA

Executive Director, September 1989-August 1993.

Founding Director of the PAIR Project, a non-profit organization sponsored by legal service, civil rights and bar associations to provide free legal services to indigent asylum-seekers in Massachusetts. Recruited, trained and monitored the work of over 100 *pro bono* attorneys representing the Project's clients; conducted training seminars; wrote and edited training materials in political asylum and immigration law; planned and implemented strategies for major litigation.

AMERICAN COUNCIL FOR NATIONALITIES SERVICE, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Deputy Director and Interim Director, Joint Voluntary Agency

U.S. Department of State/American Council for Nationalities Service, October 1992-March 1993 (Leave from Political Asylum/Immigration Representation Project)

Responsible for resettlement processing of over 2,000 Iraqi refugees in camps in Saudi Arabia following the first Gulf War.

GREATER BOSTON LEGAL SERVICES, Boston, MA

Staff Attorney, Immigration Unit, May 1987-September 1989.

Provided legal representation in immigration matters to low-income persons at administrative hearings and appeals, and in federal court.

PUBLIC COUNSEL, Los Angeles, CA

Directing Attorney, Immigration Project, January 1986 - April 1987

Established and directed project providing *pro bono* legal representation to indigent asylum-seekers in Central and Southern California.

BARTKO, WELSH & TARRANT;

and **PAYNE, THOMPSON & WALKER**, San Francisco, CA

Associate Attorney, September 1984-December 1985; and August 1982-July 1984.

PARTIAL LIST OF LITIGATION ACTIVITIES

Lead strategist and coordinator of the 80 consolidated cases (the “Suffolk Downs Litigation”) in 1988-1991, resulting in landmark decision from the Board of Immigration Appeals that INS cannot establish *prima facie* case of deportability solely through inference drawn by a respondent’s Fifth Amendment assertion of silence. *Matter of Guevara*, Int. Dec.#3143 (BIA 1991).

Lead appellate counsel on *Matter of A--H--*, one of 24 cases nationwide in which immigration authorities sought to deport individuals based secret on evidence. Case of first impression on persecutor bar to refugee status; the allocation of the burden of proof on refugee bars; and the statutory construction and constitutionality of secret evidence in Immigration Regulations. Argued the case at the BIA, which adopted my analysis of the “persecutor of others” bar. Co-counsel on related *habeas corpus* federal court litigation, arguing the case in the Eastern District of Virginia on constitutionality of secret evidence in deportation proceedings; on the Attorney General appeal; proceedings in immigration court; and the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Co-counsel on a “1503” Petition submitted to the United Nations Human Rights Commission in Geneva charging violations of international human rights and humanitarian law in the 1996 Israeli massacre of over 100 civilians in a UNIFIL base in South Lebanon. *In Re 1503 Petition On Behalf of Victims of Massacre at UNIFIL Base in Qana, H—B and W-A-*.

Cooperating attorney with the Center for Constitutional Rights on ATCA/TVPA cases: *Belhas v. Ya’alon*; *Matar v. Dichter*; and *Corrie, et.al, v. Caterpillar, Inc.*

Principal drafter, with clinical students, on the brief *amicus curiae* in *Nadege Dorzema vs. Dominican Republic*, submitted to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in July, 2012.

PARTIAL LIST OF PUBLICATIONS AND SEMINARS

Books, Book Chapters and Editing Contributions

Susan M. Akram, “Palestinian Refugees,” chapter for Routledge Handbook on the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict (Asaf Siniver, ed) (Routledge, Taylor & Francis, 2022).

Akram, Susan Musarrat, “Palestinian Nationality and ‘Jewish’ Nationality: From the Lausanne Treaty to Today”, Book chapter for Rethinking Statehood in Palestine (Leila Farsakh, ed.) (Univ. of California Press, 2021).

Susan M. Akram, “UNRWA and Palestinian Refugees”, chapter for Oxford Handbook of International Refugee Law (McAdam, Costello and Foster, eds) (Oxford Univ. Press, 2021).

Susan M. Akram and Kevin R. Johnson, 'The Targeting of Arabs and Muslims,' book chapter for Islamophobia and the Law (Cyra Choudhury and Khaled Beydoun, eds) (Cambridge Univ. Press, 2020).

Susan M. Akram and Tom Syring, Eds., Still Waiting for Tomorrow: The Law and Politics of Unresolved Refugee Crises (Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2014).

Susan M. Akram, "UNRWA and The Great Debate: Palestinian 'Exceptionalism,' Whether it Matters, and the Role International Agencies Play," chapter in the Handbook of Refugee and Forced Migration Studies (Oxford University Press, 2014).

Susan M. Akram, "The Legal Trajectory of the Palestinian Refugee Issue: From Exclusion to Ambiguity," in Rochelle Davis and Mimi Kirk (Eds.), Palestine and the Palestinians in the Twenty-First Century (Indiana University Press, 2013).

Susan M. Akram, "The Rights of Palestinian Refugees and Territorial Solutions in Historic Palestine," in Hani Faris (Ed.), The Failure of the Two-State Solution: Prospects of One State in the Israel-Palestine Conflict (I.B. Tauris Publishers, 2013)

Akram, Susan M., and Michael Lynk, entry on "The Arab Israel Conflict," in Rudiger Wolfrum, ed., Max Planck Encyclopedia of Public International Law (Oxford University Press, 2012).

Akram, Dumper, Lynk and Scobbie, Eds, International Law and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict: A Rights-Based Approach to Middle East Peace (Routledge Publishers, 2010).

Susan Akram, "Do Constitutions Make a Difference in the Protection of Fundamental Human Rights? Comparing the United States and Israel," (Frishman and Muller, eds), The Dynamics of Constitutionalism in the Age of Globalisation (Hague Academic Press, 2010).

Akram, Susan M., "Palestinian Refugees and the Right of Return," in Cheryl Rubenberg, Ed., Encyclopedia of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict (Lynne Rienner, 2010).

Susan M. Akram and Kevin R. Johnson, "Race and Civil Rights Pre-September 11, 2001: The Targeting of Arabs and Muslims," in Elaine Hagopian, Ed., Civil Rights in Peril: The Targeting of Arabs and Muslims (Pluto Press, 2004)

Akram, Susan M., "Orientalism Revisited in Asylum and Refugee Claims," in Berta Hernandez-Truyol, Ed., Human Rights and Moral Imperialism: A Critical Anthology (NYU Press, 2002).

Akram, Susan M., "Reinterpreting Palestinian Refugee Rights Under International Law," in Naseer Aruri, Ed., Palestinian Refugees and the Right of Return (Pluto Press, U.K, 2001).

Forthcoming Publications

Akram, Susan M., ‘Crimes of Forced Displacement in Iraq and Syria: Root Causes, Impunity and the Search for Justice’, Book chapter for War, Occupation and Refugees: State Responsibility Arising out of Armed Conflict, Intervention and Prolonged Foreign Territorial Control (Richard Falk and Tom Syring, eds.)

Susan M. Akram and John Quigley, “Palestinian Refugees and International Law,” entry in Oxford Bibliographies in International Law (Oxford University Press).

Law Review, Journal and other Published Articles

Susan M. Akram and Elizabeth Ruddick, “A Comparative Perspective on Safe Third and First Country of Asylum Policies in Europe and the Americas: Legal Norms, Principles and Lessons Learned”, 40 *Boston University International Law Journal* (Spring, 2022).

Susan M. Akram, “Assessing the Global Compacts on Refugees and Migration in the Middle East,” 30 *International Journal of Refugee Law*, 691 (Feb. 2019)

Susan M. Akram, “The Past as Present, Unlearned Lessons and the (Non-) Utility of International Law,” 44 *North Carolina Journal of International Law* 389 (Aug. 2019).

Susan M Akram, “The Search for Protection for Stateless Refugees in the Middle East: Palestinians and Kurds in Lebanon and Jordan,” 30 *International Journal of Refugee Law*, 444 (2 Dec, 2018), eey044, <https://doi.org/10.1093/ijrl/eey044>.

Susan Akram, et. al., “Protecting Syrian Refugees: Laws, Policies, and Global Responsibility-Sharing,” 7 *Middle East Law and Governance* 287 (2015).

Susan Akram, “Operation Protective Edge, and Why Getting the Law Right Matters,” in *Abandoned Yet Central: Gaza and the Resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict*, *Journal of Palestine Studies* (Online MESA Proceedings Symposium Issue, Spring 2015).

Susan M. Akram, “Myths and Realities of the Palestinian Refugee Problem,” in Leila Farsakh, et al (Eds), *Commemorating the Naksa, Evoking the Nakba*, 8 *MIT Electronic Journal of Middle East Studies* (2008), <http://web.mit.edu/cis/www/mitejmes/intro.htm>.

Susan M. Akram, with A. al-Midani & M. Cabinettes, “The Arab Charter on Human Rights 2004,” English translation and Introduction, 24 *BU International Law Journal* 146 (2007).

Akram, Susan M. and Michael Lynk, "The Wall and the Law: A Tale of Two Judgements," *24 Netherlands Quarterly of Human Rights* (March 2006).

Akram, Susan M. and Maritza Karmely, "Immigration and Constitutional Consequences of Post 9-11 Policies Involving Arabs and Muslims in the United States: Is Alienage a Distinction without a Difference?" *38 UC Davis Law Review* (March 2005).

Susan M. Akram and Terry Rempel, "Temporary Protection as an Instrument for Implementing the Right of Return for Palestinian Refugees," *22 Boston University International Law Journal* (Spring 2004).

Susan M. Akram and Kevin R. Johnson, "Race, Civil Rights, and Immigration Law After September 11, 2001: The Targeting of Arabs and Muslims," *58 NYU Annual Survey of American Law* (2002) (top 10 most-downloaded articles from the Social Science Research Net).

Susan M. Akram, "The Aftermath of September 11, 2001: The Targeting of Arabs and Muslims in America," *24 Arab Studies Quarterly, Special Issue* (Spring/Summer 2002).

Akram, Susan Musarrat, "Orientalism Revisited in Asylum and Refugee Claims," *12 International Journal of Refugee Law*, No. 1 (2000).

Akram, Susan M., "Scheherezade Meets Kafka: Two Dozen Sordid Tales of Ideological Exclusion," *14 Georgetown Immigration Law Journal* 51 (Fall, 1999).

Partial List of Presentations, Conferences, Speaking Engagements

Co-organizer and panelist, International Colloquium on the Inter-American Human Rights System, presenter for two-day Colloquium hosted by the Autonomous University of Mexico-University of Massachusetts (UNAM), October 20, 2020.

Co-presenter in and organizer of series of six workshops on Statelessness, Citizenship, Nationality and Status Vulnerabilities in Iraq, Lebanon, Jordan and Egypt co-hosted by Boston University International Human Rights Clinic and the American Universities in Beirut and Cairo and the Arab Renaissance on Democracy and Development between November 2018 and April, 2021.

Training for Belgian judges on *Statelessness Determination: International and Comparative Law concerning Palestinians* for Seminar on Stateless Determinations, UNHCR, December 4, 2018.

Presentation to UN Forum on the Question of Palestine, "70 Years after 1948-Lessons to Achieve a Sustainable Peace", UN Headquarters, New York, May 17-18, 2018.

Presentation at Refugee Law Initiative, on *Protecting Syrian Refugees: Laws, Policies and Global Responsibility-Sharing*, for series on 'Refugee Law in the New World Disorder,' University of London, London, UK, March 8, 2018.

Presentation at the International Association of Refugee Law Judges World Conference, on *War Refugees in Host States: How Relevant is the 1951 Refugee Convention to Mass Conflict Refugee Flows?* Tunis, Tunisia, October 20, 2014.

Panelist on *Protection: From Concept to Practice*, at Conference, "From Relief and Works to Human Development: UNRWA and Palestinian Refugees After Sixty Years," organized by UNRWA and Issam Fares Institute, American University of Beirut, Lebanon, October 8-9, 2010.

Presentation at International Conference on the Protection of Women's Rights, *The Failure of Protection of Women and Girls under the International Refugee Regime*, Co-sponsored by the Italian Mission to the UN, the Consulate General of Italy in New York, and the Italian Cultural Institute in New York, September 24, 2010.

Presentation at Workshop on *International Law, Development and Conflict: Comparative Perspectives on Cultures of Constitutionalism*, Hague Academic Coalition, "From Peace to Justice: The Dynamics of Constitutionalism in the Age of Globalisation," Peace Palace, The Hague, Netherlands, 16 May, 2008.

Presentation at UN International Conference on Palestinian Refugees, *Palestinian Refugees as the Longest-Running Refugee Crisis: What's Law Got to Do With It?* (Plenary 1) UNESCO, Paris, April 29-30, 2008.

Speaking tour on Palestinian Refugees and International Law, Swiss Forum on Israel-Palestine; lectured at the Liberal Institute and Europa Institute, Zurich; presentations to Swiss Parliamentarians, the Swiss Foreign Ministry and Swiss Development organizations, March 11-17, 2003.

Presentation and Workshop participation, *Refugees and Host Countries in International Law*, Minster Lovell, UK, sponsored by the Royal Institute of International Affairs, Sept. 7-8, 2002.

Radio and Television Interviews

Press, documentary and online interviews include for Al-Jazeera, Al-Monitor, Maan News, Bloomberg Business, The Daily Orange, The New York Times, Vice News, Arab News, Eurasia Review, Swiss TV, the Electronic Intifada, Mondoweiss, on, among other topics, the Syrian refugee crisis, migrants in the EU, and Palestinian refugees from Syria.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS

Bar Admissions

Massachusetts and California State Bars; U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth and Ninth Circuit
U.S. District Courts for the Northern and Central Districts of California
U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia

Past and Present Memberships

American Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts, Member of Board of Directors, 2010-2014.
American Association of Law Schools, Past Chair of the Executive Committee of the
Immigration Section, and Executive Committee member of the Minority Groups Section
California Trial Lawyers Association
American Society of International Law, Co-Chair, Refugees Interest Group, Women in
International Law Interest Group
San Francisco Trial Lawyers Association
American Immigration Lawyers Association
National Lawyers Guild

PARTIAL LIST OF AWARDS, HONORS

Fulbright Senior Scholar Fellowship (2021-22) to Spain, University of Murcia
American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee-Mass. Award Recipient for “Dedication to the
Defense of Human Rights and Advocacy to Refugees” (2009)
Fulbright Senior Scholar Fellowship to Palestine, Al-Quds University (1999-2000)
Contributing author, CIVIL RIGHTS IN PERIL, recipient of the Gustavus Myers 2004 Outstanding
Book Award for promoting human rights in North America
National Coalition to Protect Political Freedom award for “secret evidence” litigation (2001)
IMMACT90 Advocacy Award from AILA (1991)
Listed in the *Directory of American Scholars* and *Who’s Who in Law Education*
Listed among Top-10 Most-Downloaded authors on Social Science Research Net

LANGUAGES

Fluent in Hindi-Urdu, Competent in Punjabi, Proficient in Spanish, basic comprehension in
modern Standard and (Levantine) colloquial Arabic.

References available upon request.