



## Kazem Radjavi | Class of 1973

Kazem Radjavi is an Iranian human rights defender. As a political opponent of the Iranian government, he fought for the prisoners of conscience's freedom. Regardless of the government – either under the Shah's rule or the Islamic regime – Mr Radjavi always remained critical and supported political detainees. This commitment cost him his life. He was assassinated in 1990 in Coppet, Switzerland. His PhD focuses on “La dictature du prolétariat et le dépérissement de l'état de Marx à Lénine”, which he published in 1975.

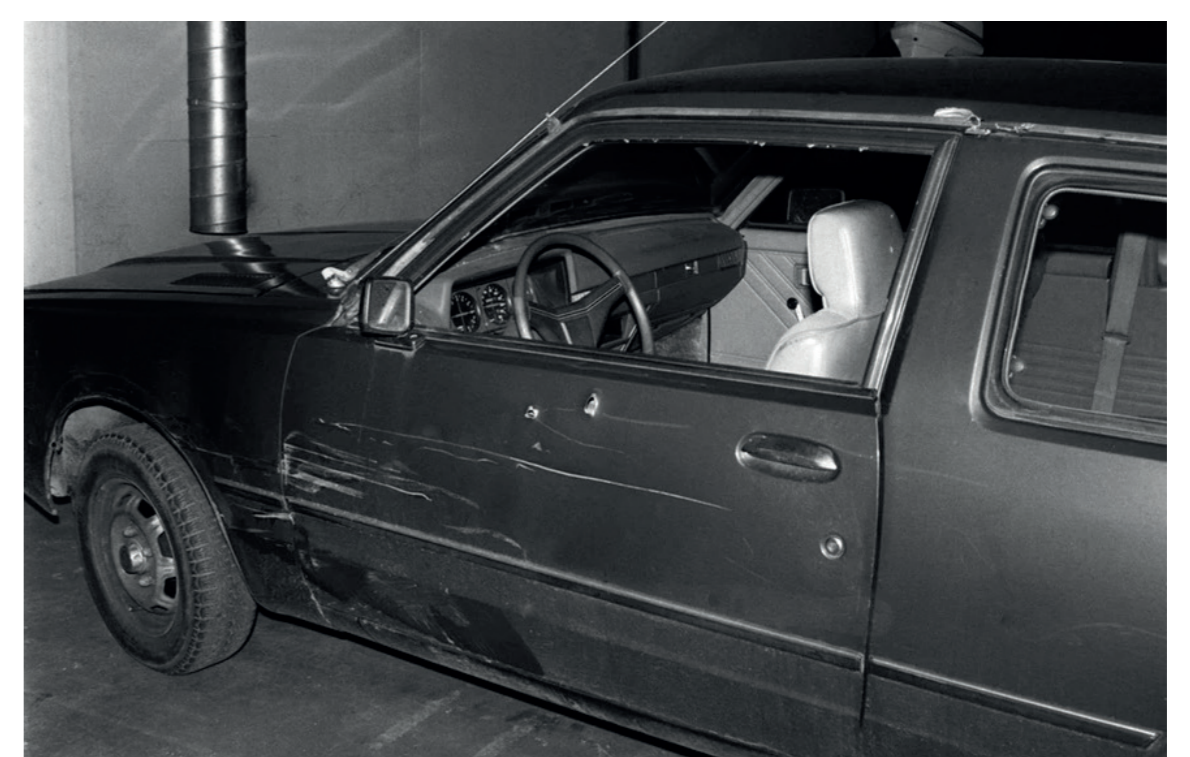


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Kazem Radjavi founded the Swiss Advocacy Association for Iranian Political Prisoners with the help of Amnesty International and the Swiss League for Human Rights. Through his movement, Mr Radjavi also fought for the freedom of his brother, Massoud. After several months of media pressure, the Shah commuted Massoud's death penalty because of his young age and for “humanitarian reasons”.



While Professor at the Geneva Graduate Institute, Kazem Radjavi was nominated as First Ambassador to the United Nations headquarters in Geneva by the next government to the Shah in 1979. Because of opposing viewpoints he had with the new theocratic government, Mr Radjavi left diplomatic affairs. He then became the Swiss representative of the armed opposition group, the National Council of Resistance of Iran, which was led by his brother.



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Kazem Radjavi was attacked and murdered in 1990 by an agent from Iran's Ministry of Intelligence and Security (MOIS). Since then, his brother and son, respectively Saleh and Stéphane, have tried to find justice for him. By naming a street after him in 2005, the city of Geneva commemorated him. Mr Radjavi's brother Massoud disappeared in 2003, decades after his death penalty was commuted.

