

# SUSAN MUSARRAT AKRAM

## *Curriculum Vitae*

---

### ***Clinical Professor***

Boston University School of Law  
765 Commonwealth Ave., Boston, MA. 02215  
Ph :(617)353-3148; [smakram@bu.edu](mailto:smakram@bu.edu)

### ***Supervising Attorney***

Boston University Civil Litigation Program  
197 Friend Street, Boston, MA. 02114  
617)371-1270; [Sakram@gbls.org](mailto:Sakram@gbls.org)

## **TEACHING AND RESEARCH INTERESTS**

Since 1993 I have been teaching in the Boston University Civil Litigation Program, first, as a visiting clinician, then as a Clinical Associate Professor, and since 2007 as a Clinical Professor. The BU Law Civil Litigation Program is a full-year live client clinic, where I have taught Pre-Trial Advocacy and Trial Advocacy every year, and supervised students handling cases in unemployment, social security disability, housing, family, immigration and asylum/refugee law. Since 2008, I have been supervising students in a separate Asylum and Human Rights Project in the clinic, exclusively handling asylum and related humanitarian immigration cases, as well as international refugee/human rights advocacy and projects. I also teach academic classes at BU Law School: Immigration Law, Comparative Refugee Law 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.

In addition to individual case representation, I coordinated the consolidated cases known as the *Suffolk Downs Cases* in the late 1980's. I was one of a nationwide network of lawyers defending individuals in the *Secret Evidence Cases* of the 1990's. I 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 have worked on resettlement and refugee claims of the Guantanamo detainees since 2002.

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. Since September 11, 2001 I have presented widely on the USA Patriot Act and immigration-related laws and policies as well as on my work 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 High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA).

## **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

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

#### Clinical responsibilities:

Clinical supervisor in Boston University's Asylum and Human Rights Project of the civil clinic, supervising law students representing legal services clients in political asylum, trafficking, special immigrant juvenile, Convention against Torture, and other immigration cases; supervise students in handling international human rights projects. Maintain own caseload in addition to cases assigned to students, representing clients in immigration and other administrative proceedings, in Massachusetts and Federal courts, through trial and appellate levels, as well as in international refugee advocacy in the United Nations human rights mechanisms.

### ***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 for both FMRS and the Law school, and completing research on a book on Palestinian refugees and a legal framework for durable solutions. (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

Researched recommendations for durable solutions for Palestinian refugees in light of the final status talks under Oslo, and taught *Comparative Refugee Law*. (Research leave from Boston University).

*Visiting Professor*, June-August, 1997  
Taught Refugee Law.

## **EDUCATION**

*Institut International des Droits del'Homme,*  
Strasbourg, France, Diplome in International Human Rights, 1996

*Georgetown University Law Center,* J.D. 1982

*University of Michigan, Ann Arbor,* B.A. in Political Science/Asian Studies, 1979

## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

***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.

***POLITICAL ASYLUM/IMMIGRATION REPRESENTATION PROJECT,*** Boston, MA

*Executive Director,* September 1989-August 1993.

Established and directed 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 200 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.

***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, real estate litigation.

## **PARTIAL LIST OF LITIGATION ACTIVITIES**

*Lead strategist and coordinator* of the consolidated cases known as the “Suffolk Downs Litigation” of 1988-1991, in which approximately 80 individuals were arrested in an INS raid at the Suffolk Downs racetrack. The cases resulted in a landmark decision from the Board of Immigration Appeals, which dismissed all the charges against the respondents on the principle that INS cannot establish its *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 the INS sought to deport individuals based on evidence it claimed was classified and refused to disclose. Case of first impression on the appropriate analysis of the “persecutor of others” bar to refugee status; the allocation of the burden of proof of the refugee bars; and the statutory construction and constitutionality of the secret evidence provision in the Immigration Regulations. Argued the case to the BIA, which rendered a favorable opinion on all but the classified evidence issues, adopting my analysis of the “persecutor of others” bar. Co-counsel on the related federal court litigation in the Eastern District of Virginia on the constitutionality of the use of secret evidence in deportation proceedings on a *habeas corpus* petition. *In Re A--H--*, (unpublished decision of the BIA, Sept.10, 1998).

*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.*

## **PARTIAL LIST OF PUBLICATIONS AND SEMINARS**

### ***Book Chapters and Editing Contributions:***

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,” in 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) (recipient of the 2004 Myers Outstanding Book Award for promoting human rights in North America).

Akram, Susan M., “Orientalism Revisited in Asylum and Refugee Claims,” in Berta Hernandez-Truyol, Ed., Human Rights and Moral Imperialism: A Critical Anthology (New York University 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).

Akram, Susan M., “Traps for the Unwary or Major Issues on Judicial Review of Deportation Decisions Under the Immigration & Nationality Act Section 106,” Immigration and Nationality Law Handbook, Vol. II, Advanced Topics, 1995-96, (American Immigration Lawyers Assoc. Pub, May 1996).

Co-author, Medical Testimony on Victims of Torture: A Physician’s Guide to Political Asylum Cases, published by the Physicians for Human Rights, Somerville, MA. (1991).

Editor/Author of five training manuals on Political Asylum and Refugee Law, Deportation Defense and District Court Remedies (PAIR Project, 1989 and 1990; Public Counsel, Los Angeles, in 1987; and BUCLP, 1996-present); contributing author, Asylum—A Guide to Establishing Pro Bono Programs, Immigrant Legal Resource Center, Palo Alto, California (1987).

***Law Review, Journal and other Published Articles:***

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 Boston University International Law Journal* 146 (2007).

Susan M. Akram, "Are they Human Children or just Border Rats?" (Introduction to Symposium issue on Immigrant Children) *15 Boston University Public Interest Law Journal* 187 (2006)

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 M., "Palestinian Refugees and their Legal Status: Rights, Politics and Implications for a Just Solution," *31 Journal of Palestine Studies* (2002).

Akram, Susan M. and Terry Rempel, "Durable Solutions for Palestinian Refugees: A Challenge to the Oslo Process, Vol. XI, *The Palestine Yearbook of International Law* (2000/2001).

Akram, Susan M. and Goodwin-Gill, Guy, "Brief *Amicus Curiae* on the Status of Palestinian Refugees Under International Law, Vol. XI *The Palestine Yearbook of International Law* (2000/2001).

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).

***Forthcoming Publications:***

Akram, Susan M., entries on "Middle East" and "Arab Israel Conflict," in Rudiger Wolfrum, ed., Max Planck Encyclopedia of Public International Law (Oxford University Press).

***Partial List of Presentations, Conferences, Speaking Engagements:***

Panel Discussant on *Protection: From Concept to Practice*, at International Conference, "From Relief and Works to Human Development: UNRWA and Palestinian Refugees After Sixty Years," organized by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East and the Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs, the 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 Expert Meeting on Universal Jurisdiction, *Universal Jurisdiction Cases in the United States*, Co-sponsored by Leiden University and the International Institute of Social Studies of Erasmus University, the Hague, Netherlands, September 17, 2010.

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

Presentation at Workshop on Comparative Immigration Law Panel, *Sudanese Refugees in Egypt and Israel*, Immigration Law Professors Workshop, Miami, May 3, 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.

Presentation on *Law as Mechanism of Violence*, for Nakba60 Conference at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, February 16, 2008.

Presentation on *Is Sudan Committing Genocide in Darfur? Why Does it Matter?* At New England School of Law Symposium on “Complicity in International Law,” January 25, 2008.

Presentation on *Refugees in the Muslim World: Grounding Refugee Protection on Concrete Sources of Rights*, for UN Conference on ‘Global and Regional Responses to Refugee Protection in the Muslim World,’ Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, December 10, 2007.

Presented testimony on invitation to the UN Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories, Cairo, July 22, 2007.

Speaking tour on Palestinian Refugees and the Right of Return under International Law, hosted by 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 on *Changes in Immigration Law: Life After 9-11*, at American Association of Law Schools Annual Conference, Immigration Section Panel, Jan. 4, 2003.

Presentation on *Reflections on Religion-Based Persecution Claims* at UNHCR Roundtable on Religion-Based Persecution Claims, Baltimore, Oct. 30-31, 2002.

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

Presentation, *Racial Backlash and Islamophobia*, Conference on “International Terrorism, the United States and the Arab World”, at University of Exeter, U.K (and the Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies, Exeter & the Centre for Arab Unity Studies, Beirut; and the Centre for Policy Analysis on Palestine, Wash, D.C.) July 14-15, 2002.

Presentation on *Assessing the Impact of the Patriot Act on Non-Citizens: What are its Costs, and How Does it Enhance Security?* Massachusetts Appellate Judges’ Conference, Weston, MA., June 4, 2002.

Presentation at DePaul Law Review symposium, DePaul Univ. College of Law on *Temporary Protection and its Place in the Search for Durable Solutions for Palestinian Refugees*, Chicago, March 9, 2002.

Presentation on *Legal and Political Challenges to the USA Patriot Act and Selective Enforcement of the Immigration Laws*, joint program of American-Arab, Japanese-American,

Asian-American, and Islamic groups of Boston, and the MIT Program on Human Rights and Justice, MIT, March 3, 2002.

*Reinterpreting International Law on the Rights of Palestinian Refugees and Stateless Persons*, Human Rights Workshop, Orville Schell Center for International Human Rights, Yale Law School, March 31, 2001.

Presentation to the European Union Parliament, Brussels, Belgium, sponsored by EU Parliamentary Delegation to Israel and Palestine: *The Status of Palestinian Refugees Under International Law*, May 9, 2000.

Presentation at United Nations conference on Palestinian Refugees, sponsored by UN Committee on the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian people, *Reinterpreting the Palestinian Refugee Regime*, UNESCO, Paris, April 27, 2000.

Presentations at public workshops, Palestinian refugee camps (Jerusalem and Nablus) and at Al-Quds University, Palestine School of Law on Palestinian Refugee Rights and Implications for the Oslo Process, March 24, June 10&18, 2000.

Guest Lectures in Women and Law Program at Birzeit University Law Center, Ramallah: Gender and Legal Issues, and Gender Issues in Refugee Law, March 28 and May 2, 2000.

Presentation at Georgetown University, Washington, D.C: *Are Refugees From the Arab World Given Humanitarian Protection Under the World Refugee Regime?* April 13, 1999.

Presentation at Case Western Reserve Law School, Cleveland, Ohio: *International Human Rights for Refugees, Failure of Protection in the New Millenium*, April 9, 1999.

Presentation at Faculty Lecture Series, St. John Univ. School of Law, N.Y: *Refugee & Asylum Law: The New Frontiers*, November 13, 1998

Presentation on "Immigration Law and Communicable Disease Control", at a Panel Discussion on MDR-TB at Tufts University Medical School, Boston, MA, December 7, 1996.

Presentation on "Scapegoating and Immigration", at a Forum for Teachers organized by the Bill of Rights Education Project of the Mass. Civil Liberties Union, Boston Bar Association, Boston, MA, October 18, 1996.

Presentation at American Immigration Lawyers' Association national conference, on "Judicial Review under INA Section 106, Implications of Stone and *Baez*", Atlanta, Georgia, June 18, 1995.

***Partial List of Radio and Television Interviews:***

Roundtable interview for The Arabic Hour, with Noam Chomsky, Elaine Hagopian, Diana Butto and Assaf Kfoury, on “Options and Opportunities in Resolving the Palestine/Israel Conflict,” October 30, 2010 (subsequently broadcast in three parts on cable television channels and satellite), Watertown, MA.

Interview with Dan Rea, BU Law Podcast, Legal Talk Network, on Immigration and Refugee Law, July 27, 2010.

Interview with Al-Damir Magazine, Chile, on Palestinian Refugees from Iraq Settling in Chile, May 13, 2008.

Interview with Albetaren, Swedish Weekly, on Palestinian Right of Return, May 7, 2008.

Interview on TODAY with Beverly Manley, 102 FM, Jamaica Radio, on the History of the Conflict between Israel and Palestine, January 14, 2008.

Interview on Radio Islam, 1450 AM WCEV, Chicago, on the State of Emergency in Pakistan and Crisis of the Judiciary, November 9, 2007.

WBUR Interview (Boston), *Special Coverage on the Israeli Invasion of Jenin*, May 10, 2002.

Interview on WBAL Radio (Baltimore), with Bruce Eliot, on “Voluntary Interviews” of Arab/Muslim noncitizens and the civil rights implications, March 23, 2002.

Interview on KAAA/KZZZ (Arizona-California-Colorado public radio) with Richard Campenriver, on Administration Policies Targeting Muslims and Arabs, April 1, 2002.

March and July 2000 interviews on National Public Radio, on Palestinian refugees and the Camp David II negotiations.

Interviews on national radio programs, the “Beverly Smith Show” and the “Armstrong Williams Show,” July 2000.

Arabic Hour television interviews include May 25, 1995 (The Omnibus Counterterrorism Act of 1995), August 1999 (Secret Evidence Litigation in Immigration Cases).

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS**

### ***Bar Admissions***

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

### ***Past and Present Memberships***

American Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts, Member of Board of Directors, 2010-  
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  
San Francisco Trial Lawyers Association  
American Immigration Lawyers Association  
National Lawyers Guild

## **ACTIVITIES, AWARDS, HONORS**

American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee-Mass. Award Recipient for “Dedication to the  
Defense of Human Rights and Advocacy to Refugees” (2009)  
Boston University School of Law Faculty *Pro Bono* Award (2010)  
Fulbright Senior Scholar Fellowship (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)  
Mentor of the Year Award (2002) and Advocacy Award (1994) from the PAIR Project  
IMMACT90 Advocacy Award from AILA (1991)  
Honoree of the National Immigration Project for “secret evidence” litigation (1998)  
Award for Developing Pro Bono Legal Services for Immigrants from *Centro de Asunto  
Migratorios*, San Diego, CA (1986)  
Listed in the *Directory of American Scholars* and *Who’s Who in Law Education*

## **LANGUAGES**

Fluent in Hindi-Urdu, Punjabi, and Spanish  
Basic comprehension of Modern Standard and (Levantine) colloquial Arabic

## **REFERENCES**

Available upon request.