

Masih Alinejad Biography

Masih Alinejad is an Iranian-American journalist, women's rights activist and author of best-selling memoir, [The Wind in My Hair](#). She has been one of the leading figures critical of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The New York Times has described Masih Alinejad, as "The woman whose hair frightens Iran." In July 2022, the law enforcement agents arrested a member of an East European criminal gang armed with an AK47 outside her house. That arrest came a year after the FBI foiled a plot by Iranian intelligence agents to kidnap Alinejad from Brooklyn and take her to Venezuela and onward to Iran.

Born and raised in northern Iran, Alinejad started her professional career as a parliamentary journalist in Tehran, where she often got into trouble for her articles on corruption and malfeasance among the lawmakers. In 2009, she was forced to leave Iran after the crackdown on the protests against the disputed presidential elections.

In 2014, Alinejad founded the **My Stealthy Freedom/White Wednesday** campaign against compulsory hijab, which is the largest civil disobedience campaign in the history of Islamic Republic. She has more than ten million followers on her social media accounts and receives thousands of messages daily from inside Iran.

Alinejad continues to write and present a weekly satirical news show on Voice of America's Persian service and is a regular contributor to publications such as Washington Post and the Wall Street Journal.

Alinejad has received many honors and awards including **Time's Woman of the Year**, **American Jewish Committee's Moral Courage Award**, the **Oxi Courage award** and **John S. McCain's Freedom Award**.