

BIG IDEAS



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BIG IDEAS: THE ISSUES OF OUR TIME

Please join us for a series of talks addressing some of humanity's shared challenges and opportunities as we work to advance an emerging global civilization. This series brings together current research, experience, contemporary discourses and Baha'i perspectives. Please publicize widely.

"Be anxiously concerned with the needs of the age ye live in and its exigences and requirements."

~ Baha'i Writings

Wednesday, November 1, 2023, 7:30 EDT

Towards Climate Justice: The Historical Initiative of Small Island Nations to Hold Major Polluters Accountable for Global Warming Before International Courts and Tribunals

With Payam Akhavan

Small island states are facing threats to their existence and some may even disappear because of sea-level rise if the major polluters don't change course. This presentation will explore legal efforts to fight this injustice. More information: [COSIS historic hearing at ITLOS: SIDS' quest for climate justice - YouTube](#)

About Payam Akhavan: Professor Akhavan SJD OOnt FRSC is Senior Fellow and Human Rights Chair at Massey College, University of Toronto (<https://www.masseycollege.ca/human-rights-chair-payam-akhavan/#:~:text=The%20Massey%20Chair%20in%20Human,before%20international%20courts%20and%20tribunals.>), Member of the Permanent Court of Arbitration, and Special Advisor to the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court. He has appeared as counsel in notable cases before international courts and tribunals, including most recently, on behalf of the Commission of Small Island States on Climate Change and International Law in a historic case on the responsibility of major polluters for greenhouse gas emissions and the catastrophic consequences of Global Warming.

Professor Akhavan delivered the 2017 CBC Massey Lectures, presented in book form as the bestselling "In Search of a Better World: A Human Rights Odyssey", a memoir on how the religious persecution of the Iranian Baha'i community inspired his human rights career.