Layla Rahmani

Researcher

Details

(202) 555-8720



layla.rahmani.ir@gmail.com



Washington, DC 20008

From

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Layla Rahmani

Researcher

Mr. Kenneth Roth

Human Rights Watch

Dear Mr. Roth,

I am writing to apply for the Researcher position in the Middle East and North Africa Division at Human Rights Watch. I recently completed a PhD in International Relations at Johns Hopkins SAIS, where I focused on the intersection of state violence, displacement, and refugee governance in North Africa.

My dissertation investigated the treatment of sub-Saharan migrants along Tunisia's coastal border. I conducted fieldwork in Sfax and Zarzis, interviewed over 80 individuals, and analyzed the role of EU-Tunisian migration partnerships. The resulting policy recommendations were presented at the Center for Strategic and International Studies and cited in Foreign Affairs. I have also contributed op-eds to Al Jazeera and The Washington Post on migration policy and human rights violations.

I admire Human Rights Watch for its integrity, independence, and influence on global policy. Your report on refugee detention conditions in Libya influenced my own fieldwork and affirmed my commitment to justice-oriented research. I would be honored to bring my regional expertise, language fluency (Arabic and French), and policy experience to your team.

Thank you for your time and consideration. My résumé and writing samples are enclosed, and I would be grateful for the chance to speak further about how I might contribute to your mission.

Sincerely,

Layla Rahmani