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A dark, close-up photograph of metal prison bars, with a horizontal bar in the foreground and vertical bars receding into the background.

Isolation Units within US Prisons: A Panel Discussion

Tuesday, April 5

6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

The Women's Building, Audre Lorde Room
3543 18th Street #8
San Francisco, California

Featuring:

Zahra Billoo, Executive Director, Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)-San Francisco Bay Area;

Dr. Terry Kupers, M.D.;

Keramet Reiter, JD, PhD Candidate Berkeley Law;

Nahal Zamani, Education and Outreach Associate, Center for Constitutional Rights; and

Eddy Zheng, Prisoner Rights Advocate

Moderated by **Sara Norman**, Attorney, Prison Law Office.

Speaker Biographies

Zahra Billoo strives to promote justice and understanding in the world in her role as the CAIR San Francisco Bay Area (CAIR-SFBA) chapter's Executive Director. But, her commitment to social justice and the community began long before while she was still a college student. She has been a devoted labor rights advocate for years; she started as an intern for a local chapter of the California Faculty Association, a labor union for California State University (CSU) faculty members. Zahra has also worked as Field Organizer for the Service Employees International Union, and was awarded Peggy Browning Fund Fellowship to work with the National Employment Law Project. Zahra graduated Cum Laude from California State University, Long Beach with a B.S. in Human Resources Management and B.A. in Political Science. She completed her law degree at the University of California, Hastings College of Law. Zahra joined CAIR in August 2009 and was admitted to the California Bar in December 2009.

Terry A. Kupers, M.D., M.S.P., a psychiatrist, is Institute Professor at The Wright Institute, and provides expert testimony regarding the psychological effects of prison conditions including isolated confinement in supermaximum security units, the quality of correctional mental health care, and the effects of sexual abuse in correctional settings. He is the author of *Prison Madness: The Mental Health Crisis Behind Bars and What We Must Do About It* (1999), and a Contributing Editor of *Correctional Mental Health Report*.

Sara Norman is the managing attorney of the Prison Law Office, a nonprofit that advocates for the rights of youth and adults behind bars in California. She is counsel for the plaintiff class in *Clark v. California*, a class action on behalf of thousands of California prisoners with developmental disabilities; plaintiff's counsel in *Farrell v. Cate*, a taxpayer lawsuit that has forced sweeping reforms in California's juvenile justice system; and is a member of the litigation team that won an order from a three-judge federal court panel requiring California to significantly reduce its severe prison overcrowding. Along with *Farrell* co-counsel, she was awarded a California Lawyer of the Year Award by the State Bar Foundation in 2005. She was awarded the Pacific Juvenile Defender of the Year Award in 2006; in 2008 and 2009, she was named one of the top women litigators in California by the San Francisco and Los Angeles Daily Journals.

Keramet Reiter is a Ph.D. candidate in Jurisprudence and Social Policy at the University of California-Berkeley. She also holds an M.A. in Criminal Justice from the City University of New York, and a J.D. from the University of California-Berkeley. She has more than ten years of experience in prisoner education, prison conditions research, and prisoners' rights advocacy. Her current research focuses on the supermaximum security prison boom: the explosion in the late 1980s and early 1990s of high-security, intense-deprivation-condition prisons across the United States.

Nahal Zamani is the Education and Outreach Associate for CCR's Government Misconduct and Racial Justice docket. Ms. Zamani focuses on CCR's domestic advocacy, education and outreach efforts. She joined CCR in 2010. Before joining CCR, Ms. Zamani was the Advocacy Associate with the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) Human Rights Program, where she developed domestic human rights advocacy campaigns; the International Rescue Committee, where she taught recently arrived refugee children; and Animédia, where she created and oversaw e-learning projects. Ms. Zamani is pursuing her Masters at Columbia University.

Eddy Zheng immigrated to Oakland from China when he was 12 years old in 1982. When he was 16 years old, Eddy and his friends participated in a robbery; he was arrested and pled guilty to all counts. Charged as an adult, Eddy was sentenced to seven-years-to-life in 1986. While in prison, he was a model inmate. Eddy could barely speak English when he was sentenced; in prison, he learned to speak, read, and write English fluently. He earned his GED and is one of the few inmates in California to have graduated from college while in prison, by earning his Associate's Degree in the San Quentin College Program. He has written and published articles on his experience as an Asian American inmate, the importance of Ethnic Studies classes, and Buddhism.

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Learn more about the Center for Constitutional Rights at www.ccrjustice.org.