

Nasim Khaksar

1944–

Expatriate short-story writer and political activist, Nasim Khaksar was born and raised in Abadan. He graduated from the Institute of Higher Education in Tehran with a degree in teacher education and began literary activity with the publication of short stories from the late 1960s.

His collection called *Man midānam bacheb'hā dust dārand bahār biyāyad* (I know children want spring to come) appeared in 1974. But because Khaksar was imprisoned from the early 1970s until early 1978, his writing from this period did not get published until the end of the 1970s; examples of such works are *Agar ādambā hamdigar rā dust bedārand* (If people would love one another, 1978), *Giyāhak* (The embryo, 1979), and *Rowshanfekr-e kucbek* (The little intellectual, 1981). Four of Khaksar's stories appeared in *Ketāb-e jom'eh* (1979–80) and two in *Nāmeḥ-ye kānun-e nevisandegān-e Irān* (1979–80), while his collection of three connected stories called *Gāmbā-ye paymudan* (Measured steps) appeared in 1982.

Khaksar fled Iran for Europe in the early 1980s after being imprisoned by the Islamic Republic. Consequently, from the mid-1980s on, Khaksar's stories have been published outside of Iran: *Qesseh-ye kucbeh-ye biqavāreh va chabār pīr-e zan* (The tale of the crooked alley and the four old women, 1988), *Baqqāl-e Kharzavil: majmu'eh-ye dāstānhā-ye tab'id* (The grocer: a collection of stories of exile, 1989), and *Morā'i kafer ast* (Mora'i is an infidel, 1989). *Akherin nāmeḥ; va, Bāyad haqiqat rā be-mardum guft: dunamāyeshnāmeḥ* (1990), *Qafas-e tuti-e Jahān Khānum* (1991), *Badnomāhā va shallāqbā* (1996), *Abuvān dar barf: dāstānhā-ye tab'id* (1996), *Mā va jab_n-e tab'id: majmu'eh-i maqāleh, mos_hebah, naqd va goftogu* (1999), *Māhi'hā-ye sardin: va, namāyesh'nāmeḥ'hā-ye digar* (2000), *Rāsteh-e Arizunā: majmu'ab-e dāstān'hā-ye tab'id* (2001). In addition to fiction, Khaksar also wrote a book about his travels in Tajikistan, *Safar-e Tājekestān* (1994).

In the late 1980s Khaksar served on the board of directors of the European-based Association of Iranian Writers in Exile. He also contributed articles to the London-based journal *Fasl-e ketāb* in the late 1980s and early 1990s.