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Siyamak Khorrami

General Manager,
Southern California Edition

Growing Up Under a Biased Media

Dear Epoch VIP,

Pleased to meet you, and I hope you enjoy this week's paper.

My name is Siyamak Khorrami, and I serve as the Southern California region's general manager. I am also an Iranian immigrant, **who has only experienced too well the effects of a media that's willing to twist the truth.**

I was born and raised in Iran; I grew up during the war between Iran and Iraq. At that time, the Iranian media would always portray Iraqis as evil, and the U.S. and Israel as corrupt countries.

Since I had family in the U.S., I didn't believe them completely and I could tell it was propaganda. But because there was an ongoing war between Iran and Iraq, and I had seen and heard the bombings, these negative thoughts about Iraqis still stuck with me.

In the midst of this unrest, my parents decided to leave so that we could live in the free world and have a better future. We ended up moving to Mexico when I was 16 and immigrated legally to the U.S. when I turned 18. I attended university in Southern California.

While I was at university, I got the chance to meet Iraqi people here in America. Strangely enough, I found out that they were very similar to Iranians. I realized that Iraqi people not only looked like me, but they even ate similar food and have similar family values. In fact, I began to wonder why I disliked them at all.

At this point, I realized I had been brainwashed by the media in Iran, and it became clear to me just how much the media could shape people's opinions.

I later began working with a technology company, and eventually started my own business. In 2014, I started hearing more and more about how China will lead the world and replace America as the global leader. Since I'd had many business dealings in China and personally seen the extent of the corruption there, I thought there was no way this could happen. I was very surprised by this reporting from the American

media, but I trusted the mainstream media here. After all, this is a free society, so I thought that the reporters and experts just didn't know the truth.

But around the same time, I learned about forced organ harvesting by the Chinese Communist Party—a crime against humanity that was not reported in the media. I was again surprised about why the mainstream media was not covering these abuses.

After seeing this, it became clear to me that there is something wrong with the overall media landscape, and the media has lost its objectivity and independence, even in the U.S. After all, these issues are newsworthy and the public needs to know them, so why aren't we hearing about them?

When I came across The Epoch Times, and when I heard the story of the company, it was a breath of fresh air. This is what a media company in a free society should look like, I thought. The founders started with not much funding, and simply as a nonprofit with a passion to bring truthful reporting to society. They sacrificed their careers and financial rewards and fully dedicated themselves to their cause, and now The Epoch Times has a major impact—not just in the U.S., but globally as well.

I left everything behind to join The Epoch Times three years ago. I am honored to be part of this team and working with some of the founders. **Every day we are thinking about how we can serve you as our readers better and how we can reach more people with our reporting, and we hope that this sentiment reaches you.**

In Truth and Tradition,

Siyamak Khorrami
The Epoch Times

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