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**FOR IMMEDIATE  
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## **Local Resident To Share Story of Escape from Iran**

[CASTLE PINES, CO May 15, 2023]

Local author, Dr. Mansur Nurdel, will share excerpts from his newly released book, "One More Mountain," on Saturday, June 3, 2023, at 2 pm at the Highlands Ranch Library in Highlands Ranch.

Facing religious persecution and the imminent threat of death in his homeland, Nurdel's book tells of his harrowing escape from Iran as a young man in 1988. He said, "We fled illegally, with the help of Kurdish smugglers, traversing on foot over a forbidding, snowy, mountainous landscape." After weeks of struggle and moments where he felt certain he would die, Nurdel reached the safety of the United Nations refugee center in Ankara, Turkey. Since the 1979 revolution, millions of Iranians have fled to Turkey seeking political and religious freedom.

Nurdel's book also details what it was like to be a member of the Baha'i Faith living in Iran. He said, "Iranian Bahá'ís are routinely arrested, detained, tortured, imprisoned, and executed without cause." They are also barred from higher education. The Baha'i Faith, an independent religion founded in Iran in 1844, is considered by the Islamic Republic of Iran as a blasphemous, heretical religion.

From his home in Castle Pines, he watches protesters clash with Revolutionary Guards as they call for an end to human rights violations by the Islamic Republic decrying the brutal, unwarranted deaths of young men and women whose only crimes are the desire to be recognized, heard, valued, and respected. His book provides a never-before-seen look at what life in Iran is like for those who have no power, no voice, and no freedom, and who often face death themselves.

Nurdel, a longtime resident of Douglas County, is a board-certified optometrist with offices throughout metro Denver. He resides in Castle Pines with his wife and two sons.

His book reading, sponsored by the Baha'is of Castle Pines, is a free event.