



International Liberty Association Newsletter

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Editorial

As we are putting summer behind us we make a pledge not to forget the injustice of the summer of 1988 when over 30,000 prisoners of conscience were brutally executed in Iran under an order from the then 'supreme leader', Ayatollah Khomeini. The exposure of the tape-recording of a meeting between Ayatollah Montazeri, the then designated successor to Khomeini, and members of a committee that became known as the 'death commission' has brought new life into the campaign by families of the victims who want justice. The ILA sees the matter as vital since the killing spree is ongoing and over 100 people have been executed in August alone. Members of the 'death commission' continue to hold high offices in the so called 'moderate' Rouhani government. One of them is Justice Minister, Mostafa Pour Mohammadi, who, after the tape exposure, went on TV and bragged about his heinous actions in the summer of 1988. Unless the perpetrators of such crimes against humanity are held to account there is no doubt that such crimes will continue, an injustice that we, as human rights activists, cannot and will not accept.

In the forthcoming newsletters you will read more about this campaign. The imprescriptibility of justice makes us determined to follow this intolerable situation throughout the four seasons of the year until justice is served and the killings are brought to an end.

As for Camp Liberty we are delighted that, in spite of rocket attacks, medical and logistical blockades, and the presence of Iran's intelligence agents at its gates and the continuous harassment and threats, the spirit of the residents is

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Camp Liberty Report

Hundreds have been relocated to Albania

After the rocket attack on Camp Liberty on the 4th of July there were renewed efforts to expedite the process of relocations. According to a UNHCR report of 19 July 2016:

The relocation of residents of the Hurriya [Liberty] Temporary Transit Location (TTL) out of Iraq continues to maintain momentum, with more than 1700 residents having now been relocated to a situation of safety in third countries. This represents a significant milestone: more than half of the residents registered by UNHCR have now been successfully relocated.

Prospects for relocating all residents out of Iraq in 2016 are at their most buoyant since international efforts to find solutions began in 2011. UNHCR is supporting a steady and growing stream of movements out of Iraq in coming months. It is hoped that the process will be completed well before year end.

This progress has been achieved with the cooperation of the residents who

have proceeded with the relocation process despite difficult circumstances, including the attack on 4 July 2016, which fortunately did not result in any casualties.

Ongoing success in the implementation of solutions has also been assisted by the residents' commitment to meeting the bulk of the associated costs, particularly for long term support of all residents relocated out of Iraq who have no access to state-sponsored assistance. This commitment is crucial to the ongoing implementation of solutions for the group.

UNHCR deeply appreciates the measures taken by some countries to relocate residents to situations of safety and security. Albania's exceptional contribution to this humanitarian endeavour merits special note, as Albania has received a significant proportion of the residents who have been relocated. Likewise, the United States has been

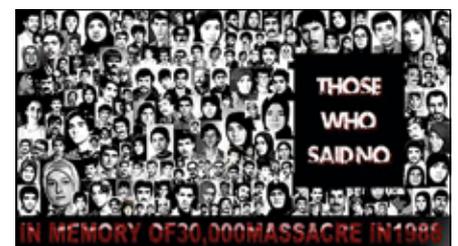
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Iran's Summer 1988 Prison Massacre Revisited

On the 28th anniversary of the massacre in Iranian prisons that has been defined as "the most heinous crime against humanity since the 2nd World War" Ahmad Montazeri, the son of the late Ayatollah Montazeri, once designated to be successor of Khomeini as Supreme Leader, exposed an audio file of a meeting between Ayatollah Montazeri and a group of regime operatives known as the "Death Commission", responsible for carrying

out Khomeini's fatwa calling for murdering opponents of the regime in particular the supporters of the main



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Camp Liberty Report *continued from p.1*

actively supporting the relocations in a number of ways, and without those sustained and concerted efforts, the progress reported here could not have been achieved.

Despite noteworthy progress made over the last two years, UNHCR maintains its call upon States to find ways to offer long term solutions for the residents in the Hurriya TTL and to do so with urgency. This appeal should be read in light of the potential for more attacks on the Hurriya TTL, as has been recently witnessed. This emphasizes the need for quick and pragmatic action on the part of States to ensure that these people are very swiftly relocated to a situation of safety and security.

UNHCR continues to call upon the Government of Iraq to take all possible

measures to ensure the safety and well-being of residents, including ensuring access to life saving medical treatment and assistance with the provision of goods and services to enable the residents to make arrangements for their own protection.

UNHCR also recalls the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Iraq and the United Nations explicitly recognizes that residents benefit from the principle of non-refoulement.



EDITORIAL *continued from p.1*

high and the relocation is continuing without hesitation. As the UNHCR report highlights, only after the latest rocket attack on 4 July 2016 was there a renewed effort by the UN and US government to speed up the process, while the burden of the costs continue to fall on the residents and their supporters. We will of course remain vigilant until the last resident has been transferred safely to Albania.

Farshid's story on the last page is a vivid reminder of the gracious spirit that engulfs the Ashrafis all through their lives. He wrote this letter to thank you while still in Camp Liberty but now we are delighted to inform you that he is in safety in Albania.

Obviously none of this would happen without your generous and heartfelt support. Your participation in these campaigns is priceless and the song that Ashrafis prepared for you and Holly sang in the 30 July event says it all. Thank you for every moment you contributed to the hope that despite the terror of the dark of the night there is a shining star. Thank you for the courage you show and in helping us to come so far. Yes, for every moment you held on, for everything you've done, we thank you. Thank you!

An update from Camp Liberty

CAMP LIBERTY SPECIAL REPORT 2 August 2016

Two hundred strong, the MOIS agents have returned to Camp Liberty embedded with members of the Qods Force. Such presence has always been followed by deadly rocket attacks. In addition to the conduct of psychological operations, these 'protests' are a cover for photographic reconnaissance missions. For example, the portion of Camp Liberty that was the focus of the last group of MOIS agents was the exact same location that bore the brunt of the rocket attack weeks after they returned to Iran.

Relocation to Albania is averaging about 100 per week. Tehran is determined that not all residents will leave. One week ago, Commander Sha'abani of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards Corps stated through its Fars News Agency mouthpiece that 830 residents have been referred to Interpol. If true, this is an attempt to administratively block departures.

Iranian MOIS and Qods Force operatives at Camp Liberty's perimeter need to be recognized as the first step in backing up administrative actions with lead and steel.

The residents of Camp Liberty remain alert and call on the UN, EU and US

to act to prevent further attacks. No independent enquiry into previous attacks has emboldened the regimes of Iran and Iraq.





Iran's Summer 1988 Prison Massacre Revisited *continued from p.1*

opposition group, the PMOI. The Death Commission is responsible for extra judicial murder of over 30,000 prisoners in a matter of months in the Summer of 1988. All four members of the commission currently hold high positions in the government of so called 'moderate' Hassan Rouhani.

The tape reignited calls for an international tribunal to investigate this mass murder.

EXCERPT OF A REPORT IN THE WASHINGTON POST ABOUT THE TAPE [12 August 2016]:

In 1988, nearly a decade after Iran's Islamic revolution, the country's leader-in-waiting faced a decision.

He could stay silent as Iran stepped up a campaign of mass executions, torture and gulag-style imprisonment against perceived internal opponents. Or he could follow his conscience and speak out.

Ayatollah Hossein Ali Montazeri chose to take a stand.

It came at a high cost. Montazeri was dumped as the hand-picked successor

to the revolution's leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. He would be declared a foe of the state and placed under house arrest for six years.

The executions and purges of the late



1980s in Iran are well known and have been examined in books and reports by rights groups such as Amnesty International. Less clear, however, is what transpired at the highest reaches of power during a pivotal period for Iran and, by extension, for the wider region and Tehran's relations with the West.

An audio file surfaced this week, posted on a website maintained by supporters of Montazeri, who died in 2009, purports to offer a new glimpse into his last, desperate attempt to limit the killings and roundups.

"In my opinion, the greatest crime committed during the Islamic Republic, for which history will condemn us, has been committed by you," Montazeri is recorded as saying on the July 1988 tape to a group of senior judicial and intelligence figures, including a domestic spymaster, Pourmohammadi, who now serves as justice minister in the government of President Hassan Rouhani.

"Beware of 50 years from now, when people will pass judgment on the leader [Khomeini] and will say he was a bloodthirsty, brutal and murderous leader... I do not want history to remember him like that," added Montazeri, who was one of Khomeini's most trusted allies for decades before they parted ways.



Hunger strike held outside Downing Street to condemn mass execution in Iran

EXCERPTS FROM METRO [6 August 2016]

The protest is being held in reaction to the death of at least 20 Sunni inmates at a prison near the capital on Wednesday [August 3], the anniversary of the state-sanctioned killing of 30,000 political prisoners in 1988.

The protest takes place 28 years after the execution of potentially tens of thousands of dissidents by Iranian authorities.

As well as achieving support from the UK government, the campaigners also hope to secure a similar missive from the UN Security Council and UN Human Rights Council.

Campaigners are seeking condemnation of Iranian mass executions by the Government.

The British Parliamentary Committee for Iran Freedom released a statement yesterday expressing its shock at this week's executions.

It also called on the government to officially recognise the 1988 executions as a crime against humanity.

The statement read: "These latest executions come as the Iranian authorities intensify pressure on political prisoners by imposing severe punishment and denying them medical care in its prisons.

"It is once again clear that the human rights situation in Iran has not changed but rather has worsened in many areas including arbitrary arrest of dual citizens, suppression of women and of Iran's religious and ethnic minorities.

"The British Parliamentary Committee for Iran Freedom (BPCIF) strongly condemns Tehran's continued use of the death penalty, which aims to silence popular dissent.

"The Iranian regime can no longer be allowed to hide behind the notion of "moderation" and the international

community must speak up against the systematic atrocities taking place on a daily basis.'





THANK YOU FOR BEING THERE AT OUR EVENT, IN PERSON OR IN SPIRIT

Since our last newsletter we have had two events: one in London and one in Bristol. Please let us take this opportunity to thank everyone who was there in person or in spirit. We felt your presence at our side and we are very proud of you all.

Below you will see a selection of the contents of the talks as well as reflections about the events enhanced with photos of the two occasions.

STRUAN STEVENSON: It is a privilege for me to have been invited to London to address you.



I was a member of the European Parliament from 1999 to 2014 and President of the Delegation for Relations with Iraq during my final 5-year mandate. That meant I was able to visit Iraq and the Middle East and see for myself the abject failure of the West's policy of appeasement in respect of the Iranian mullahs and their marionettes in Iraq. I was able to learn at firsthand about the Iraqi government's repeated attempts to annihilate the defenceless refugees in Camp Ashraf and Camp Liberty, under the guidance of the Iranian regime, while the US, UN and EU stood back apathetically and watched, in a classic act of betrayal...

As far as the mullahs are concerned they want to eliminate all of the people in Liberty or they want to make them give up and surrender. The US and the West also prefer just to sit on the sidelines and never commit themselves to any responsibility. So it is only because of your efforts and your support that we have managed to save most of the people in Ashraf and Liberty and I hope that by the end of this year or early next year at the latest we may finally



have airlifted the last of the refugees from Camp Liberty to countries of safety.

LORD CLARKE: As always, it's a great pleasure to be with those people who are working so hard to help those people in desperate need and in particular in Liberty, and before that all the work you did for the residents of Ashraf. It's a pleasure because too often in this nation of ours, we don't talk about what people do. As often as I can, I explain that the good people in this country are fairly ashamed of our government, just see the film of what Albania could do, just imagine if our nation was to do just a fraction of what the Albanian people are doing. It's a matter of great



shame that year after year, resolution after resolution about the appalling human rights record of the regime in Tehran, it goes almost unnoticed by our media. I've lost count of the number of resolutions there have been through the Security Council condemning what goes on, but it does go on, the executions go on, the persecution of youngsters, the stoning of people, the litany of appalling human rights abuses

goes on. One of the other pleasures of being here this afternoon was to hear Struan Stevenson. What a wonderful man. He gives the information as it should be given. If I had my way he'd be on the radio and television every day. Struan is a tower of strength to those of us who are privileged enough to be in Parliament...

I just wanted to conclude as I started. Thank you. You are the life-blood that beats in the hearts of those people that are being oppressed. You are the people that when they pray, they pray that you will be able to continue what you do, because what you do is a wonderful thing, and I thank you on behalf of all my Parliamentary colleagues for the work you do to make their life a bit, just a bit more bearable, and I wish you nothing but success in the future.

Thank you.

TAHAR BOUMEDRA (former head of UN Human Rights in Iraq): Friends, it's exactly four years since I left Iraq, Baghdad, and as she just told you that I left Iraq after resigning from the United Nations and after opposing the policies I witnessed that were practised against the Ashrafis, and probably those of you who visit or heard about it, Ashraf was a bit of desert when they went there in 1986, and when they left it in 2011-2012, it was the best organised city in Iraq. It just tells you, gives you an idea how hard-working these people are, how enduring these people are, how patient they are, and when they gave up



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Ashraf they went to Liberty...

Now the situation really is improving so much, thanks to your efforts, thanks to the support and the solidarity you have shown, and believe it or not, I feel that when I saw you like this, I feel that really, what I did at the United Nations, my resignation is really worthwhile, because here you are, I am not alone, a lot of people are supporting this cause and we all together work towards having the Ashrafis leaving Iraq in safety and security with their property. Let's continue putting pressure on all concerned, and thank you very much for being here today and for giving me this opportunity to talk to you.

Thank you.

LIZ CARTER: I feel that we have breathed in so much love and gratitude this afternoon, and what I've learnt about life through being with these people, through the journey that we have made and I've made especially these last seven years, is that it really is the leaven of the world, so having breathed in a whole load of love and gratitude, we kind of need to breathe it out again, and spread it right round the world. To come on to the 9th of July, that was a fantastic, amazing experience, and wonderful to have three people here today, Lord Clarke, who I know was there in spirit even though he couldn't be there in person and Tahar



Boumedra and Struan Stevenson who epitomise, it doesn't matter whether you've supported for forty years, thirty years, as people like Tony Clarke have or for four years as people like Tahar Boumedra, it is the spirit of dedication, commitment, integrity, honesty and preparedness to speak out firmly and clearly and simply and tell the truth, and for that, for that I bless my time by having met the Iranians because I have met so many personalities, not all 600 of them but quite a few, who have restored one's faith in human nature, one's faith that there are people in high places who do have integrity and honesty and speak the truth, and when you speak the truth you can speak it firmly and clearly, because it is the truth. When someone starts going round the houses, either they don't understand what they're talking about or they're trying to conceal something. When someone knows clearly and utterly what the truth is, then they can speak that, very simply, very plainly, in very few words.

ROSALIND TOPPING: I'm very pleased to be here.

I want to say a huge thank you to the International Liberty Association for their hospitality today.

I've been a supporter of the Iranian struggle for freedom for four or five years and I have attended many events of the International Liberty Association, and I've been to several Paris Grand Gatherings. I was there this year and I can attest what others have said, that it was a truly remarkable experience, and I think it showed how things have moved in the last year. I was extremely moved by the video that we saw in Paris and this evening, where the



young people presented their thoughts and their wishes and their messages symbolised in a rose. That was an act of extraordinary courage.

Yes, I have helped out a bit today and am – it has made me think, yet again, about the stature of the people with whom we are sharing this evening. The Iranian volunteers are really extraordinary people and I consider it a privilege to be able to help them.



The thought that goes into everything that they do, the integrity with which they plan and think, the sensitivity and the sheer graciousness that we're all familiar with, and they keep going, they keep walking towards their goal, nothing dissuades them and nothing appears to disillusion them or allow them one moment of despair.

I think hope is a very, very powerful force in the world, and sometimes we are tempted by the appalling news that we hear daily. We just could be tempted to despair at the state of humanity. We know that human beings are capable of the most appalling atrocities, and we receive reports of this every day, but also human nature is capable of extraordinary positive values and efforts, and the people of Iran, the volunteers here and all of you supporters, by being here, are demonstrating that there are things to be stood up for: truth and justice and love.

Faith is the essence of things hoped



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for, and I certainly believe that all of us will live to see great things, huge change and, for the people of Iran who deserve the best, I believe that they will see a transformation in their country and the rest of the world will benefit. So thank you for this evening, International Liberty Association, on behalf of the UK supporters.

HOLLY: The next song that I'm going to sing, I actually went over to Albania recently and the song that I'm about to sing to you was written by some really talented Ashrafi's who – it's theirs – I'm kind of their voice and their thanks to all of you who have supported and who have, you know, contributed to this cause in every way. So, thank you:

For every moment you shared the hope that

In the dark of the night there is a shining star

Yeah, all the times that you braved the odds and

For the courage you show and helped us come so far

Yes, for every moment you held on

For everything you've done

We thank you, thank you ...



AND YOUR COMMENTS

BARRY: My belated thanks for inviting me to the fascinating afternoon event on 30th July, – which was very informative and enjoyable. The pictures shown at Westbourne Grove were heart-warming and it is good to know of the kindness of the Albanians who have taken in residents of Camp Liberty, showing a big heart from such a small and poor country.

Congratulations on your better news



lately and all the very best for the future.

MARCIA: The recent social event in central London was wonderful, and to be greeted at the door so lovingly by two ladies who have so recently been released from Camp 'Liberty' was so moving.

This is wonderful news that 1,700 residents have now been brought out to the freedom and safety of Albania, and it is incredibly impressive that Albania has opened its heart to these oppressed and brave people.

JANET: Thank you and everyone at ILA for an excellent 'gathering' at Westbourne Park. The whole afternoon and evening was so efficiently and enjoyably organised.

DIANA: I am writing to thank you all for hosting such a superb event - the best ever, I think, though they all have been most enjoyable.

I thought the programme was very well balanced. It was (as always) a great pleasure and privilege to hear Struan Stevenson, Lord Clarke and Tahar Boumedra. Even more of a privilege, and humbling, to hear those brave Iranians thanking us for our support, at great risk to their own safety.

I was particularly interested in the video clips of the Paris Gathering as I had regrettably missed the meeting this year. It was certainly a most impressive event, which this year broke new ground, so I much appreciated the chance of seeing it.

The musical interludes were delightful, much enjoyed; and especial thanks to the young lady who provided the continuity – I thought she did an excellent job.

Familiar as we are with the high standards of Iranian hospitality, I think all the supporters would agree that you surpassed yourselves. We were looked after in every possible way, plied with delicious food and treats, by no less than an army of volunteers, while being educated, informed and entertained. Such hard work, such careful planning, such a fantastic result! Thank you All!



NEWS FROM IRAN

Iran's execution frenzy of Kurdish prisoners

Excerpts from an article by Dr Amir Sharifi, President of the Kurdish American Education Society, Los Angeles:

The execution of 20 Sunni Kurds on August 2 at Rajai Shahr prison, all charged with alleged association with a "takfiri group" (apostates), and the hanging of the Kurdish nuclear scientist Shahram Amiri on the charge of "conspiring with the great Satan" divulge a cruel retribution against Kurdish prisoners irrespective of their ideology, creed, and religion. The new litany of executions evokes not only, in the words of Sarah Leah Whitson, the director of Middle East Human Rights Watch, "a shameful low point in the human rights record" but also horrific sights of recurrent hangings of political prisoners in Iran.

As human rights organizations denouncing the recent executions have noted, there were no justifications for these tribunals in which the victims were summarily re-tried and then executed. The new executions may be distinguished from other instances in the ways in which the Islamic Republic has represented them regionally and globally as a part of the war against terrorism.

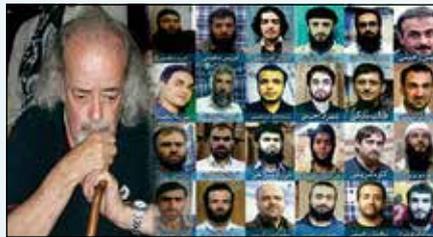
The Kurdish struggle for human and civil rights with its vicissitudes has had a lasting effect on exposing the political tyranny, ethnic persecutions, religious intolerance, and sectarianism. That is why the Islamic Republic officials are relentlessly unforgiving in inflicting incomparable punishments on Kurdish human rights activists and prisoners of conscience.



DON'T EXECUTE OUR CHILDREN!

Mass execution of Sunnis is "crime against humanity"

During an interview with Al Arabiya News, Dr Mohammad Maleki, the first chancellor of Tehran University after the 1979 Iranian revolution, strongly condemned the mass execution of Sunni political prisoners in the early days of August, and the 1988 massacre of political prisoners, describing these measures as crimes against humanity that can be prosecuted in court. In the interview, the prominent human rights advocate criticized the international community's silence in the face of deteriorating human rights conditions in Iran and called for serious action to stop "these crimes"



Iran isn't interested in the truth, law or decency

Barry Rosen, The Telegraph, 14 August

Almost 40 years ago I was taken hostage with 51 of my colleagues in Iran and held for 444 days in captivity.

Today, international captives are being held again, including the British-Iranian citizen Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe. She was captured in April when she was visiting family with her two-year old daughter. Information about her condition is scarce. We know she's frail, we know she's weak, and we know she's spent many days in solitary confinement.

She is a young mother of British-Iranian citizenship who has dedicated



her life to aid and charity work. And, simply because she was in the wrong place at the wrong time, she has been taken from her family, and is subject to the brutality of the Iranian prison regime...

Iran children at the gallows

IPS News, 12 August 2016

As Iran currently executes the highest number of juvenile offenders in the world, hundreds of Iranian minors helplessly watch their childhoods pass them by, as they await their fatal ends behind bars.

At least 160 youths under the age of 18 currently await execution in Iran.



60 arrested in Tehran for attending party

More than 60 boys and girls were arrested for attending a mixed-gender party in a park near the capital Tehran.



The arrests took place during a raid on the party which was held in Tehran's Sorkheh Hesar National Park, east of Tehran, the Fars news agency, affiliated to the regime's Revolutionary Guards (IRGC), reported on Tuesday, August 16. The raid was carried out by the IRGC's para-military Bassij force with a warrant from the regime's Judiciary signed by Tehran's deputy prosecutor.

The youngsters were caught dancing and partying, and the state-media report claimed that the young women had violated the regime's so-called Islamic dress code. Similar raids have been carried out on mixed-gender parties across Iran in recent months.



A MESSAGE FROM CAMP LIBERTY

by Farshid Varmezari

I am very happy to have the opportunity to write to you and express my feelings about you from Camp Liberty.

Let me begin by telling you who I am. My father was Fereydoon Varmezari, an Air Force pilot who was very active in the events that led to the 1979 anti



FARSHID'S FATHER

Shah uprisings. I love him dearly. I remember my last day with him very well even though I was very little then. I always waited for him to come home around 7pm. I would go behind a little window overlooking his path to the door of the house and watched him walking in. One night he did not come. For nearly two weeks I went to the window to watch him come home but there was no sign of him. Then one day my mother said there is no need to go to that window waiting for your dad, he will never come back. I was too little to



FARSHID AND HIS MOTHER FATEMEH

understand what she was saying. Years later I understood. He was killed.

But about my mum, many years later when I was in Ashraf a friend came to me and gave me a piece of stone. He said my mother had given this heart



shaped stone to me one day and she wanted me to keep it as a souvenir, as if she had sensed that she would be killed a few days later. He said when she gave it to me I was deeply saddened, cried a lot and threw away the stone but she would bring it back and put it in my hands again and again. When she went away, he said, I threw the stone away again



WITH THE LITTLE STONE IN MY POCKET I CARRY THE MEMORY OF MY MOTHER WITH ME

and he took it. And now he was giving it to me because it belonged to me. I still have that stone with me as a reminder of the love my mum had for me.

I was in Ashraf when, during the first Gulf War in 1990, I and many other children of my age were taken to European countries for our safety. I was now an orphan. As I grew up I felt missing my parents ever more. The people who were around me tried hard to make me feel at home and fill the empty space of the love of my parents.



FARSHID (2ND FROM RIGHT) AND HIS FOOTBALL TEAM IN ASHRAF

At the orphanage I felt like being with a large family. I went to Sweden after a while with my good friend Siavoush. We were together there for 8 years and studied together.

Meanwhile I tried to understand my parents' life and martyrdom. I studied history of the resistance movement until I felt I know enough to make a

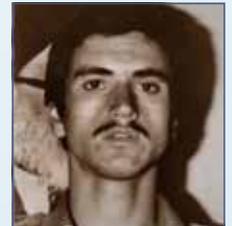


FARSHID (RIGHT) AND SIAVOUSH

decision to go back to Ashraf. Then Siavoush came to Ashraf and we were together like brothers. On 28 July 2009 when

Siavoush was killed by agents of Iranian regime in Iraq during the notorious attack on Camp Ashraf, it was very difficult for me to believe it. It felt like a heavy weight on my heart. Then I

remembered why we went back to Ashraf. We had everything a young person wants in life; good school, good and happy life, and a good opportunity to prosper. But we



FARSHID'S UNCLE ADEL WAS EXECUTED IN 1981

wanted all of these joys and freedoms for all the boys and girls in Iran. My heart was then filled with pride. Siavoush had sacrificed his own life in the path of bringing decent life to millions in Iran and the region. It was very honourable and I was very proud of him, my best friend. On saying goodbye to his body I made a pledge to remain strong and steadfast all the way.

There is a lot more to say about my life but I wanted most of all to thank you all, our beloved supporters. I see you as my parents. The things you have done for us in Ashraf and now in Liberty and Albania, is not forgettable. I want to extend my heartfelt appreciation from afar and hope and pray for the day that I will be able to see you in person to come soon.

May God bless you all.