



International Liberty Association Newsletter

Rowlandson House • 289-297 Ballards Lane • London N12 8NP

W: www.iliberty.org.uk • E: info@iliberty.org.uk • T: 020 8452 3481

Editorial

GREETINGS FOR CHRISTMAS AND THE NEW YEAR

In this last newsletter of 2016 we take the opportunity to wish you a happy and successful New Year.



Let 2017 be even better than 2016.

Looking back we can easily conclude that 2016 was a very successful year for ILA since we managed, together with many of you, to bring a happy conclusion to one of our most difficult and challenging endeavours, the relocation of Camp Liberty residents to safety. Thanks to warm-hearted people of Albania, their Parliament and their audacious government, all the remaining residents of Camp Liberty were transferred to Tirana during a heartbreaking and widespread campaign that involved, other than ourselves, the US Government, the UN Secretary General, the UN refugee agency, UNHCR, and many philanthropist institutions and individuals across the globe. We take this opportunity to thank each and every one for their role in this success.

Also, the last year, like previous years, was a hard year for the people of Iran and the Middle East. The mullahs ruling Iran intensified suppression of women, followers of other religions, and different ethnicities within Iran. Executions, as a means of intimidating a restless population, also intensified under the so called 'moderate' Rouhani presidency. Iran was also actively involved in the carnage that has brought death and destruction to Syria and the Syrian people, especially the innocent children. Iran under Hassan Rouhani, which is heavily arming the Huthis, has also been identified as being responsible for the peace talks in Yemen breaking down.

... continued on p.2

Iran under Rouhani DEFENDERS AND PLAINTIFFS ARE JAILED INSTEAD OF ABUSERS

In our previous newsletter we reported that human rights defender Narges Mohammadi was given a 16 years prison term for doing her job, defending Human Rights. In a letter from her prison cell she wrote: "Apparently, the Judiciary of Iran has switched the place of the defendant and the plaintiff. The perpetrators of the economic, cultural and social problems are exempted from any interrogations or further inquiries, whereas the real victims and critics are sentenced to imprisonment and punishment."

Her letter compelled 14 members of Majlis (parliament) to write a letter to the Judiciary asking for a review of her case.

In a reaction to that letter Attorney General, Jafar Montazeri, said: "Before writing letters in support of the despicable elements like her, the representatives should check the status of their case and examine it thoroughly."



He referred to Narges Mohammadi as "a sinister existence" and stated that "if the Judiciary does not reveal the documents of infringement and violations by her and others like her, it does not mean that they are good people."

Narges Mohammadi in a public letter addressed to Jafar Montazeri asked him to disclose her indictment and defence documents page by page, as well as every moment of her personal life, so that they could be judged by the public opinion.

At the beginning of her letter, she

... continued on p.2

MPS CALL FOR ENDING IMPUNITY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSERS IN IRAN

In a meeting in the Parliament building on 20 October 2016 the British Parliamentary Committee for Iran Freedom (BPCIF) organised a conference and an exhibition highlighting gross human rights violations in Iran and commemorating the victims of executions.

The exhibition at Attlee Suite in the House of Commons showcased the Iranian authorities' past and ongoing atrocities targeting all sectors of Iranian society including activists and dissidents.

A special part was dedicated to the 1988 massacre of political prisoners in



Iran, which many prominent human rights lawyers and NGOs refer to as one of the worst forgotten and unprosecuted crimes since World War II.

The public also heard from former political prisoners and eyewitness

... continued on p.3



Iran under Rouhani: Defenders and plaintiffs are jailed instead of abusers *continued from p.1*

wrote: "I tell you with no formalities, I eagerly ask you to urgently disclose through all the media that you control any religious, legal, and human violations that I ever committed. Remember, the one who insisted on a public trial was me as the accused, and the one that stressed stealth and concealment was the Judiciary.

"I suggest if you intend to decry and expose anybody to the public, take a look at the suspects in the Kahrizak case [a prison where arrested protestors were tortured to death], the plunderers of the national treasury [referring to billions of dollars of public funds that have gone missing], the participants in the attacks on the dormitory in Tehran University

[where student activists were thrown to their death from balconies by State Security Forces] and the perpetrators of the 1988 massacre. Only then, will people realise which authorities were and are ignorant and negligent and why our society is inflicted by this great misery and tragedy."

In another part of the letter, she writes: "I explicitly state that I have seen and heard a lot of moral offenses and insults against women in solitary confinement by the security guards in the prisons. When the day of revelation comes, I will disclose all of the documents and that is when I will be in the position of warning, not others [like you]."

The political prisoner, Narges Mohammadi, continues: "I am a human being; I am a free citizen of my country. So I will not allow any aggression against my dignity, identity and humanity and I will not stay silent until I obtain my rights and justice is served. So, I am waiting to hear the words that have a legal basis.

"The Judiciary that you represent has



issued an unjust sentence against me and according to legal requirements and law I shall not bear the imprisonment. I do not intend to violate or evade anything and I am not going to retreat. Nevertheless, **be sure that my case is a proud leaf of the rightful struggle of a nation, one of the thousands and thousands of cases of righteous and honourable Iranians who do not have a proper condition but sacrifice their life for freedom and justice.**

"At the end I announce that I am ready for disclosure of every page of my indictment and defence so that all people could judge who is the despicable one and worthy of rejection and who is not", she concluded.

EDITORIAL *continued from p.1*

However, beyond all these negative attempts, the mullahs of Iran faced fierce challenges to their policies by steadfast women and youth who demand their most basic rights – to live free, think free and talk free.

The revelation of a tape relating to the massacre in 1988 shed new light on an atrocity that has been described as the most heinous since the Second World War. Steadfast prisoners and their families who are now courageously raising their voices are all well aware of the consequences of their stance, yet they, inspired by unquenchable thirst for freedom and human rights and symbols like the Ashrafis now in Albania, remain actively resolute. Letters from inside Iranian prisons to UN officials and rapporteurs are testimony to this courage.

As we march towards the New Year let's renew our pledge to remain restless until human rights are respected in Iran and the winds of freedom and justice breeze through the mountains and deserts of the Middle East.

Surely together we can and we must turn 2017 to yet another successful year, giving hope to millions of children and youths who will build the future.

Yes, we can and we must learn to live together in peace and harmony regardless of our differences. Happy New Year!

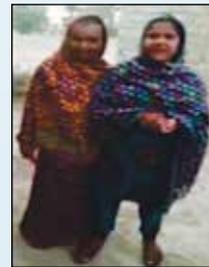
COMPLAINING FLOGGED STUDENTS WERE THREATENED

In a complete reversal of justice officials of the Ministry of Education threatened students and their families that if they did not deny that flogging had occurred, they would be expelled from school.

In an inhuman act, the principal of a school in Mokhtar Abad, a village in Kerman province, flogged a number of students because their parents were unable to pay what they called "the tuition fee".

The families of some of the students complained that their children were punished and protested against the pressure imposed by the schools to obtain money from the parents, while public schools are supposed to be tuition free. They said that their "poor economic condition does not allow them to help schools meet the costs."

According to a video clip published on the internet on 8 October 2016, several schoolgirls first introduce themselves and then reveal that they were "flogged" by the school principal.



According to state-run media, families of the students who do not even have the money to buy stationery and school supplies for their children are forced to sell their household goods or borrow money to provide the 300 thousand rials (about £10) to the school principal.

Flogging the students whose parents are financially unable to help the schools and pay arbitrary fees, is an unprecedented inhuman treatment of students that only an official in the plunderer regime of the mullahs ruling Iran can commit and get away with. The response of the 'Ministry of Education' is alarming.



MPs call for ending impunity for human rights abusers in Iran *continued from p.1*

accounts from the survivors, and family members of the victims, living in the UK. They shared their ordeals and gave tragic accounts that testified to the brutality with which the authorities carried out these executions.

Members of both Houses of Parliament also addressed the audience at the exhibition expressing their deep concern over the alarming rate of executions in Iran, the hanging of juveniles, arbitrary arrests of activists and dual citizens and the ongoing crackdown on freedom of expression.

The cross party MPs reiterated that around 3000 executions, including hanging of women and juveniles, during Rouhani's presidency show that the human rights situation has worsened in many areas during his tenure.

"The people of Iran want an end to impunity for those who committed this crime and other authorities of the regime ... I urge the British Government to recognise and condemn this massacre as a crime against humanity and act in the UN Human Rights Council and the UN Security Council in order to bring the known perpetrators to justice in an international tribunal", Dr Matthew Offord MP, who chaired the conference said. Reiterating this call, Lord Cotter



said, "The recent upgrading of our relations with Iran is most puzzling in the light of consistent human rights violations ... Looking at Iran, we see that many of those who committed the 1988 massacre of political prisoners are still very much in charge so it would be naive to think there will be any change unless the international community raises the cost for the Iranian authorities of committing these atrocities against dissidents and ordinary citizens."

Lord Clarke of Hampstead CBE reminded the audience of the successful relocation of residents of Camp Liberty to Europe and said: "I hope our success

would encourage the government to act more firmly to stop executions in Iran."

Other speakers at the conference were Jim Shannon MP and Malcolm Fowler, former member of the Human Rights Committee of the Law Society of England and Wales.



THE BIG MISTAKE ABOUT THE IRAN REGIME



Excerpts from speech by Struan Stevenson at University of California-Berkeley on 15 October 2016:

A year after the deal, no major economic problems have been solved and the money the government of Rouhani has received, has been spent on exporting terrorism in the region.

Iran's main export, now that sanctions have been lifted following the nuclear deal, will not be oil. Its main export is and always will be terror. As well as Yemen's Houthi rebels, Iran funds and supplies Hezbollah in Lebanon, Bashar al-Assad in Syria and the brutal Shi'ite militias in Iraq. This is the real Iran under the theocratic and fascist rule of the mullahs, whose so-called 'moderate'

president Rouhani the West believes it can do deals with.

We should wake up! The 'smiling', 'moderate' Rouhani is in charge of a venally corrupt government, which has executed nearly 3,000 people since he took office in 2013. Mass hangings are now the order of the day. Many are done in public, even in football stadiums. But this should come as no surprise.

Mostafa Pour-Mohammadi, a member of that 'Death Committee', is today President Hassan Rouhani's Justice Minister. None of the perpetrators of the 1988 massacre have ever been brought to justice. Indeed the West seems determined to overlook this perhaps one of the greatest human rights outrages since the end of World War II, so that it can sign lucrative commercial deals with the Iranian

regime. It is a disgrace that there has been no prosecution of the criminals who orchestrated and carried out the gruesome 1988 murders.

If the UN is to retain any shred of legitimacy it must immediately launch a full and independent investigation into this appalling crime and insist on the arrest and trial for crimes against humanity of Khamenei, Rouhani and all of the other murderers whose bloodstained hands the West continues to shake.





A LETTER FROM A POLITICAL PRISONER IN IRAN

Maryam Akbari Monfared was able to smuggle a letter out of prison. In the letter she has written about sacrificing her freedom to try and ensure a better life for her daughter and children all over Iran.

Her daughter, Sara, who is soon turning 11, was only three when Maryam was arrested accused of opposing the oppressive regime.

Sara now requires an operation and her mother would understandably want to be by her side but the regime will not allow it. Maryam was also denied temporary leave to see her daughter's first day of school in 2011.

After saying how she misses the sight of her daughter she wrote: "I feel ashamed because my dear sisters and brothers have left behind their loved ones, to free their enchained nation and to realize an exalted cause in which they believe.

"They have left their children and have not seen any of the beautiful moments of their growth. And so many of them died before even seeing their beautiful children. And now I am thinking of being by Sara's side.

"As my mind was taking me away with these thoughts, I remembered the memories of summer 1988.

"I will never forget that hot, gloomy evening in August 1988, when the call to evening prayers could be heard from the mosque.

Tired of playing, Mahnaz and I went



home, as usual. But we saw my mother weeping...

As she sobbed and tears rolled down her cheeks, she told us why she was so upset.

Yes, this time it was my sister, Roghieh's turn to be executed. And the only name, my mother kept repeating was Roghieh. *'Dear Roghieh! Oh, dear! What shall I do with your Mahnaz? What shall I tell her?'*

After an hour, I learned that my brother, Abdi, had also been executed in that summer of 1988. My parents had been informed of the executions in the visiting hall of the prison.

Before them, my other brother, Alireza had been executed in September 1981, and then, my other brother, Gholamreza in November 1985.

But Roghieh's death was more difficult for my mother since Roghieh had a small daughter. Mahnaz was only three years old when Roghieh was arrested. Almost the same age as my Sara when I was arrested.

"When I think of Roghieh, I think of what she was thinking about Mahnaz when she said no to the oppressors.

"And now here I am, Roghieh's

sister, worrying about my daughter's operation.

"Occasionally, when I'm really upset, I whisper to God, what could ever stop a mother from loving her child. There is no power in the world that could challenge a mother's love. This shows that the world with all its glory is too small compared to a mother's love for her child.

"Today, more than any other time in my life, I am filled with pain, and with love. And I feel stronger than ever that I have made the right choice, and I have done so, with all my honesty.

"I believe it is the duty of every freedom-loving human being to recognise the savagery of his/her time and stand up to it. Yes, autumn leaves fall down but a firm and resistant tree stands tall.

"Love does not fit in the cage of words, unless you have felt the suffering of captivity.

"And you, my dear Sara, in these years and days and moments, you have been full of strength and patience.

"Your strength gives me power to stand up to the cruelties, like a thunder roaring in the sky, giving life the meaning of endurance and resistance.

"And yes, this is the road, and this is the price for it. And the saviour is on her way."

Maryam Akbari Monfared
Evin Prison

THE PAPAL LEGATE CALLS FOR THE UN TO INVESTIGATE THE 1988 MASSACRE IN IRAN

The Papal Legate and the Secretary of the Conferences in the Marche region of Italy issued a statement about the necessity of prosecuting the perpetrators of the Massacre 1988. The statement reads in parts:



"In recent weeks, the days coincide with the intensification of the arbitrary executions in Iran and at the same time, the new details about the Massacre of 30 thousand activists in 1988 have been disclosed and it has given the Iranians a shock.

"Silence against such terrible massacre and the impunity of the perpetrators, in fact, encourages them to continue their crime. These perpetrators currently own the highest political, security and

judicial positions in the country.

"At first, I ask the Italian government to condemn the Massacre of 1988 strongly and to condition its relations with Iran to halting the executions.

"Secondly, I ask the High Commissioner for Human Rights Council, the UN General Assembly, and the Security Council to investigate these awful crimes and to bring the perpetrators and instigators of the Massacre to trial."



YOUR FEEDBACK

ABOUT THE LAST NEWSLETTER

KARINA (EDINBURGH): Your latest Newsletter is inspiring. I am of course profoundly glad and relieved that the Ashrafis are now all safely in Albania. I am also deeply concerned that your brave and dedicated campaign for a just Iran should prosper.

ELISABETH (EDINBURGH): Many thanks for the ILA Newsletter with the great news no one in Camp Liberty is left in harm's way following the successful relocation to Albania.

CHRISTINE (LONDON): This is wonderful news indeed about Camp Liberty and I would like to congratulate all of you for the amazing energy and thought that you have shown throughout its existence.

SEAN (STROUD): What great news! Very happy to have been of help. Let's hope the future will be bright for all those in the Middle East

JANET (SHEFFIELD): Everyone in the ILA— it was wonderful to hear of the good news of the emptying of Camp Liberty!

PETER AND MARY (CAMBRIDGE): Great news about the evacuation of Camp Liberty. Well done indeed to all those who have campaigned and persevered for so long.

STEVE (LONDON): Great News about Camp Liberty - Well done! Good luck with your future work.

DAVID (GUILDFORD): Congratulations on the safe relocation of your people from Camp Liberty to Albania — a great achievement!

MARCIA (AMERSHAM): I had already heard of the wonderful news. It seems like a miracle. Peace for them at last.

BETTY (LONDON): You cannot imagine how delighted I am to learn that the last of your very brave, courageous and shamefully treated residents in Iraq have now been safely relocated in Albania.

ABOUT THE TRIPS TO TIRANA



THOMAS (CHELMSFORD): I have just returned from a visit to Albania to meet the resettled residents of Camp Liberty. I was very impressed by what I saw and what I heard from them. It was a joy to know that they are now all safe and to have the opportunity to express my admiration of the sacrifices they have made.

DAVID AND JENNIFER (TADLEY): We were so massively impressed with the sacrifice and dedication of all those we met — highly qualified and able people who have given up the prospect of very promising (in material terms) careers to commit themselves unselfishly and whole-heartedly to the cause of freedom for all Iranians and their ingenuity in circumventing the Iraqi authorities; we also met highly intelligent and motivated young people with so much potential, we can only hope that they will be able to put that to good effect sometime in the future in Iran.

CLIVE (YORK): I would be grateful if you could send a message to our hosts in Tirana.

I think it is amazing that you can put all your

bad experiences behind you and find the positivity, energy and enthusiasm to establish such a vibrant community in Albania. You are an inspiration and I wish you every success. I look forward to being able to visit you in a free and democratic Iran.

CLIVE (LONDON): The most enlightening time I spent in Albania over the last couple of days. I had no idea that so many people were involved and that the work you do is so important to so many people. Whilst I can only speak for myself, the effort I have put in seems like nothing compared to the suffering the brothers and sisters have been through. The words, 'it is only money' still ring in my head and although it may be only money I tell myself it has served some purpose if it has put a smile back on someone's face.

STEPHEN (BASINGSTOKE): I found the trip fantastic for all sorts of reasons! Seeing what they have achieved in such a short time is humbling. I found all the workshops (including the bakery!) interesting. In particular I found the medical centre most interesting and uplifting.

SALLY (LONDON): It is always inspiring to see such courage and fortitude, such good spirits and generosity as all your people consistently show to the world and, I have no doubt, to each other. I am sure that it was and is this fine spirit that will enable you all to bring about a free and democratic Iran - and I very much hope that I will live to see and celebrate it with you!



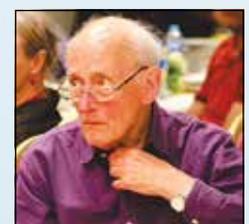
A LETTER TO THE GUARDIAN

By Stephen Plowden

The mullahs' regime in Iran is second in nastiness only to that of North Korea. People are hanged for actions which would not be regarded as offences in most countries. The rate of executions has increased under the "moderate" Rouhani. At least 200 people were put to death during the first half of

2016 in what the UN Secretary-General has described as "a new wave of oppression".

It is wishful thinking to suppose that increased contact with the West will moderate the mullahs' behaviour. *The Guardian* should not have given this deeply unpopular regime succour by helping its efforts to encourage tourism (Iran special, 29 October).





OUR EVENTS IN OXFORD AND LONDON

Since our last newsletter we had two events in Oxford (October 15) and London (October 27). Both events were well attended and inspirational. In Oxford we had the privilege of hearing first hand from Ben Ridler who had just arrived from Tirana. His presentation accompanied with photos he had taken over there, was insightful. His finishing touch with playing guitar and singing was amazing.



In London we heard the inspiring accounts of Tirana trips from Philip Brown and James Martin.



Dr Francesca Haig talked about her observations of the BPCIF meeting in Portcullis House on October 20th. Following are excerpts from her talk:

“The thing that first moved me to become involved with the ILA, and first made me choose to become a supporter,



was the story of those people trapped in Camp Liberty. Now that the camp’s residents are all safe, this is a time of huge celebration – I still remember the phone call that I received, telling me that the last group had been safely moved to Albania, as one of the happiest moments of recent years.

“But, of course, while Camp Liberty was a specific and unique situation, and one of unique urgency and poignancy, it is ultimately a symptom of the larger problem, which is the oppressive regime in Iran.

“So the ILA now has a dual task: in looking forwards, in their ongoing task of working towards a free Iran, they also find themselves faced with the task of looking backwards, to remind the international community of the historical atrocities and human rights abuses committed in Iran.

“Last week I attended a hearing at Westminster, set up by the British Parliamentary Committee for Iran Freedom, and highlighting the human rights violations in Iran, particularly the massacre of 1988. At the exhibition and hearing, it was a privilege to listen to some of the testimony of those who had survived the massacre, and those who had lost relatives and loved ones during that atrocity.

“We heard about a man who had gone for what he thought was to be a prison visit with his two jailed daughters, only to be presented with a plastic bag containing their clothes, and informed that they had both been executed. We heard from a woman whose husband had been executed, and who had never been told where he was buried, and who was forbidden to mourn him publicly. We heard story after story from people who had seen their fathers, brothers, aunts or uncles (some as young as teenagers) were taken away to be imprisoned and, in many cases, executed. We heard numerous stories of those who had already been sentenced to time in prison for their support of the resistance, and numerous people who had already completed their sentences but were still not released, and who

were then summarily executed after refusing to recant their support for the resistance. These people were steadfast even when it became clear that the consequence of their refusal to recant would be execution.

“It’s also worth noting that at least one survivor spoke not only of the horrific suffering of those years in prison, but also of the tremendous camaraderie and intellectual stimulation amongst those imprisoned.

“There are complex arguments to be made about the diplomatic and trade relationships between Iran and the west – but these relationships cannot be built on denial or disregard for the atrocities that have occurred, and especially while those who committed the atrocities not only have never been brought to justice, but are still in positions of power.

“It’s also remarkable that the ILA’s members can do their tireless work while maintaining such kindness and warmth.

“It’s this kindness and generosity that I would like to thank you for tonight; for your friendship and warmth; for the work that you have done; for sharing your stories; and for your continuing efforts.”





NEWS IN BRIEF

At least 110 Executions will be Carried Out in Karaj in the next few months

The prison authorities in the central prison of Karaj (north-west of Tehran), told the families of death-row prisoners, 110 to 120 of them, that their sentences will be implemented before the start of the Iranian New Year on 20 March 2017. The announcement caused panic and concern among the prisoners and their families.



Twenty bizarre bans on Iranian women

Deutsche Welle Farsi has collected and published in a report a list of strange prohibitions for Iranian women in Iran and they are:

- Cycling
- Women selfies with footballers
- Employment of women in coffee shops
- Iranian women are not allowed to wear boots with trousers
- Using a hat or cap instead of a scarf (veil)
- Swimming while wearing a maillot or "swimming suit"
- Women are barred from going on stage
- Women are not allowed to enter sport stadiums
- Women are not allowed to go to the men's section of the metro or bus
- Wearing support (leggings)



- Women are not allowed to let their hair come out of either or both sides of their scarf or veil
- Female students are prohibited to go camping with men
- Any contraceptive surgery
- Women's entry into coffeehouse and providing hookah to women is prohibited
- Divorce at the request of women is not allowed
- Marrying non-Muslim men
- Women are not allowed to obtain a passport or travel abroad without their husband's permission
- Wearing manteau (coat) with writing on its back
- Iranian women are also banned from education in some academic fields

Protesters Gather in Front of UN Office in Tehran

A group of protesters against imprisonment of 'Mohammad Ali Taheri', held a protest gathering in front of the UN office in Tehran on Sunday October 30, asking for his release.

The demonstrators, holding pictures of Mohammad Ali Taheri and placards, demanded that the UN officials ask the regime's authorities to put an end to his unjust and illegal imprisonment.

The gathering was held on the 33rd day of Taheri's hunger strike which has raised concerns over his state of health.



Huge gathering in Pasargadae shakes the regime

On Friday 28 October thousands of people from across Iran took part in a protest against the regime in Pasargadae, the site of the tomb of Cyrus the Great. The gathering took place on the occasion of his birthday.

The protestors described Cyrus as the pride of every Iranian and a founder figure in the establishment of human rights principles. The authorities took extensive measures to prevent people's participation. Tours of Pasargadae were called off to stop tourists seeing the demonstration.

All the roads leading to Pasargadae were sealed off and a large number of intelligence and security agents in plain clothes were stationed near the tomb and the streets leading to it. Yet none of these measures could prevent the gathering from taking place.



'I Am Very Afraid I Will Die Tonight'

If you're on Twitter, follow Bana al-Abed, @alabedbana, who with her mother's help is tweeting about the carnage around her in Syria.

One tweet shows a video clip of Bana looking out of the window and plugging her ears as bombs drop. "I am very afraid I will die tonight", she tweeted.

The Iranian regime is pushing Assad and Putin to continue the bombing of civilians while the rest of the world is watching the carnage.





UN'S ROLE IN THE 'SEEK JUSTICE' CAMPAIGN

BY GEOFFREY ROBERTSON QC

Excerpts from his speech in a demo in front of the UN: It is, ladies and gentlemen, a great privilege to be here, and here in the shadow of the United Nations, which has much work to do. Let me explain briefly why.

The killing of prisoners is the worst of all war crimes. It has been for hundreds of years. The prisoner is utterly at the mercy of the state. That is why international law, from the fifteenth century, has given a special protection to prisoners of war. The Geneva Conventions in 1949, the basis of international law, make it an international crime to kill a prisoner.

Late in July 1988, as the war with Iraq was ending in a truculent truce, prisons in Iran crammed with government opponents suddenly went into lockdown. All family visits were cancelled, televisions and radios switched off. Prisoners were kept in their cells, not allowed exercise or trips to the hospital. The only permitted visitation was from a delegation, turbaned and bearded, which came in black government BMWs; a religious judge, a public prosecutor and an intelligence chief. Before them were paraded, briefly and individually, almost every prisoner, and there were thousands of them, who had been jailed for adherence to the MEK.

Those who by their answer evinced any continuing affiliation with the



MEK were blindfolded and ordered to join a conga line that led straight to the gallows. They were hung from cranes, four at a time, or in groups of six from ropes hanging on the front of the stage of the assembly hall. Some were taken to army barracks at night, directed to make their wills and then shot by a firing squad. Their bodies were doused with disinfectant, packed in refrigerated trucks and buried by night in mass graves. Months later their families, desperate for information about their children, would be handed a plastic bag with their few possessions. They would be refused any information about the location of the graves and ordered never to mourn them in public. By mid-August 1988 thousands of prisoners had been killed in this manner by the state, without trial, without appeal and utterly without mercy.

And my report was published as a book, "Mullahs Without Mercy".

The Minister of Justice was one of the Death Committee judges, Pour-Mohammadi, Ardebili, Nayyeri, they're all in high positions. There are 50 or 60 people deeply involved in the bloody

slaughter of the innocent prisoners who are now in control of the state. The Supreme Leader was President at the time. He gave the orders. He is a mass murderer. Rouhani, what was he doing, August till October 1988? He was an assistant of Rafsanjani who was himself deeply involved.

The UN turned a blind eye. In 1988 and 1989, it knew.

Although the regime tried to cover it up, the New York Times reported the mass graves that were being filled with hundreds of prisoners' bodies. So it was known at the United Nations; the UN is at fault, the UN in 1988-89 turned a blind eye to the most wicked war crime of all. And now we have Iran, with the perpetrators of that crime still in power, which has more executions, comparatively, than any other country, which still goes on with brutality, which still has brutality at the heart of the system.

So let me finish by saying this: what happened in 1988 was a crime against humanity. Crimes against humanity are of a special hideousness. They cannot be forgotten and they cannot be forgiven. There is a duty on the world community represented by the United Nations to take action.

There must be, for crimes against humanity, a requiting. There must be an investigation. There must be punishment. Thank you.

HAVE YOU SIGNED THE PETITION?

You may know that we have initiated a petition on our website to voice the protest of people in the UK and elsewhere against executions in Iran, particularly execution of minors. If you have not already done so please sign the petition on our website by typing the following URL:

<http://iliberty.org.uk/#modalPetition>

Please remember that after signing, in order to confirm your signature you will receive an email. Only after clicking the link that will be sent to your email will your signature be added to the list of signatories.

In addition, please circulate this petition on your social media accounts and your email address book.

Also you can help promote the campaign in a coffee morning, garden party, information night, speaking time at a forum, or anything else that would help present the campaign to the general public encouraging them to sign the petition, and/or visit our website. This would create a snowball effect and would have a strong impact on the work we do.

Please send your ideas or suggestions to: info@iliberty.org.uk. We also welcome any initiative or creativity e.g. a musical piece, poetry, art, or an encouraging catchphrase to help promote the campaign.