



Editorial

As this newsletter was getting ready the news of another terrorist attack in London shocked the world. After the carnage in Manchester security was tightened, but what could the brave soldiers and police officers do when a coward pulls a kitchen knife and attacks innocent bystanders in crowded streets?

We send our condolences to the families of the victims and wish them patience and harmony in their lives, even though we can understand the unending sadness and grief.

In analysing this situation there are those who blame the West and the liberal way of life in western countries or the wars that have been waged in the Middle East for antagonising 'Muslims'. This is of course no justification for the heinous crimes committed by these creatures against innocent women and children who have no role in such decisions. The responsibility lies entirely on those who advocate such barbarity.

The roots of such barbarity, we should not forget, were established in Iran under Ayatollah Khomeini. He encouraged and supported terrorist acts from the very day that he came to Tehran from exile. He set up the first execution chamber on the roof of his residence in Tehran and former

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FORMER VICE PRESIDENT OF EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: THE TRANSFER OF ASHRAFIS TO ALBANIA IS A GREAT RELIEF TO ALL OF US



At our NoRuz and Easter event held in Hammersmith in April, Dr. Alejo Vidal-Quadras, former Vice President of the European Parliament and President of ISJ (In Search of Justice) was the keynote speaker. Excerpts from his speech follow:

I am grateful, very much, to the International Liberty Association for organising this event.

Before being in politics, I was an academic, in fact I was a full professor of nuclear physics in the University

of Barcelona and at that time I did not follow much the situation in Iran. But when I arrived in the European Parliament I started immediately to work with the Iranian opposition movement quite closely. That was because they stood up to the Iranian regime, to the mullahs' regime. They stood up to the Iranian fundamentalism which is now the new global threat, a threat against all our democratic values, and a threat we must defeat.

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WITH ROUHANI'S SECOND TERM WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO HUMAN RIGHTS?

On 30 May the Council of Guardians (clerical watchdog who picks the candidates for President) announced that Hassan Rouhani will be reinstated as President of Iran for a second four year term. Before the so called 'election' day the same council had crossed out former President, Mahmud Ahmadi Nejad, who the Supreme Leader once said has been closest to him in action and thought. He was rejected for slight criticism of the system proving



that there is no meaningful election in Iran. No opposition is allowed. There is

a show and people are forced (election stamp on the birth certificate is essential for having a normal life in Iran; for not losing your university degree or job and to get or renew your passport) to pick between two candidates who are handpicked by the Supreme Leader (via the Council of Guardians). Of course there were the names of four candidates on the ballot papers. But everyone knew in advance that the other two were just

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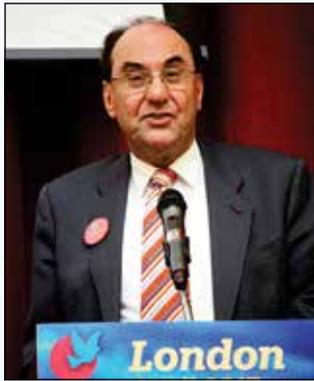
THE TRANSFER OF ASHRAFIS TO ALBANIA IS A GREAT RELIEF TO ALL OF US *continued from p.1*

I established, together with many other colleagues in the European Parliament and other friends from the United States, an NGO which is called In Search of Justice – International Committee. This Committee was initially formed in 2008 as an informal group of parliamentarians from all over the world, from Europe, the United States, from Canada, from Australia, from, even, Arab countries.

In 2014, it was registered as a non-profit NGO in Brussels, expanding its membership not only to active parliamentarians but also to former parliamentarians and other high-level former officials of different countries and dignitaries from all over the world, all interested in promoting human rights, democracy, peace and stability. Our campaigns have enjoyed the support of thousands of parliamentarians on both sides of the Atlantic.

One of the campaigns in which I personally have been very active in recent months has been the 1988 massacre of political prisoners in Iran by the orders at that time of Ayatollah Khomeini. The ISJ has produced a comparative study of that crime against humanity. I was very recently in Geneva at the United Nations with my good friend Tahar Boumedra to push the United Nations to condemn that massacre and to take the perpetrators to justice. The good

news is that the UN Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres, in his report to the UN Human Rights Council in March, made several references to that tragic event, and that means our campaign is making progress. So that it is even more important, now that our cause has been heard, that we redouble our efforts to halt the executions in Iran and bring the perpetrators of that crime to justice.



The Ashrafris had the guts and the courage to say no to the Ayatollahs, and they paid a heavy price, not just in Iran where thousands of them were brutally executed by the Iranian theocratic regime, but also in other countries such as Iraq.

I am delighted that they are now celebrating the Iranian New Year when all those brave Ashrafris have been safely transferred to Europe, mainly to Albania. This was really a great relief for all of us.

I have gone to see them in Tirana several times. The first time I went when only three hundred of them had come and the rest were still in Iraq. That was in April 2013, three years ago, when I also met the Prime Minister and the President of Albania, together with my good friend and colleague Struan Stevenson, at that time a British MEP, and we encouraged the Albanian authorities to accept the rest of the Ashrafris. I also went to Albania two more times after all of the residents were transferred. It's good that all of them



have been able to leave Iraq, but they still need help. Albania, as you know, is not a rich country, and we have to support our Iranian friends and refugees from the outside to be able to pay for all the costs of their accommodation and, especially, medical expenses. When I visited the new clinic that the Ashrafris have set up in Tirana I was very impressed and amazed by the level of the commitment of the medical team, who are working round the clock to care for those with urgent needs. Many of them were denied urgent medical needs by the Iraqi government when they were in Camp Liberty. We had patients with a normal eye infection who were almost going blind when they came to Tirana, because they were denied visiting specialists there. Many were still suffering from injuries that were inflicted on them during the brutal attacks by the mercenaries of the Iranian regime. The good news is that several hundred successful medical surgeries have been carried out already in Albania, and this thanks to the great support from all of our friends all over Europe, including of course those in the UK, who have given these people a second chance to get back to normal life.

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regime officials were being executed without trials. Then he set up the 'Islamic' Revolutionary Guards Corps, IRGC, from thugs and zealots to intimidate people into submission. IRGC was later given an external arm, the Qods (Jerusalem) force, mandated to capture Jerusalem for the mullahs. This terrorist entity has now its agents all over the world via Iranian embassies' cultural attaché. They recruit and train Muslim fanatics who are then indoctrinated and made ready for heinous crimes. The actions of Iranian backed proxy forces in the

Middle East have also been defined as the main cause of sectarian violence in the region.

In a meeting with basij paramilitary forces in Iran that was recorded on video, an Iranian official (Rahim Azghadi) was boasting that the regime has 50,000 cells ready to act in Europe and North America. As the late Elie Wiesel famously said "we should take the threat of the enemy more seriously than promises of the friends". Labelling IRGC what it actually is, a terrorist organisation, and imposing sanctions on its financial dealings would cut the

funds that are used to suppress the people of Iran on the one hand and spread terror and chaos to the rest of the world on the other.

This will certainly help improve human rights in Iran and reduce the regime's ability to export terrorism to the rest of the world.

One might not be able to link the events in Manchester and London directly to the Iranian regime but going back to the roots of this mayhem, blind terror under the name of Islam started with Khomeini in Iran in 1979, and it has to end there.



With Rouhani's second term what will happen to human rights? *continued from p.1*

jokers in the deck of cards.

A look at the record of the two main candidates shows their differences (similarities). Hassan Rouhani prides himself as being the first mullah who forced women in the Armed forces and government buildings to cover themselves in hijab (black cover). He has written this in his biography and during the 'election' campaign a video of him talking in the Majlis about the need to execute opponents publicly in Friday prayers was posted online. This video was put online after he told his audience that "you can't vote for a man who knows only murder and torture as the way to govern in the past 38 years". He was referring to Ibrahim Raisi, famously known for his role as a decisive member of the 'death committee' who purged political prisoners in the summer of 1988.

After the farce, many in the media praised the result and hailed it as a victory of a 'moderate' over a hardliner. This could not be further from the truth. During Rouhani's first term over 3000 people were executed, the highest

rate in 20 years. Some attempt to blame the judiciary for the killings and wash Rouhani's hands. Rouhani on the other hand defended the executions publicly and said they are "either sanctioned by God or are according to law passed by the parliament". The Minister of Justice in his cabinet is Mostafa Pourmohammadi, another notorious member of the 1988 death committee.

The only thing that makes Rouhani a 'moderate' is his approach to negotiations and his wide smile. Coupled with the ludicrous smiles of his Foreign Minister, Javad Zarif, they have been able to pull wool over the eyes of the world leaders and strike deals that are only helping the forces of oppression and terror.

A wolf in sheep's clothing is much more dangerous than a wolf in its own shape. What will happen to human rights and human rights defenders?

We, as human rights defenders, must be even more vigilant. It is time to hold the regime and its president accountable for the atrocities that are taking place in prisons in Iran and,



A villager explains the vote rigging in his village to a social media reporter. He said they only have about 30 eligible voters in the village but over 400 votes were cast.

through its terrorist proxies, in the rest of the Middle East. We call on all human rights organisations, the United Nations and responsible governments to force the Iranian regime, by means of sanctions and cutting ties, to abandon the death penalty in particular against minors. Hassan Rouhani is already responsible for dozens of executions that have taken place in the past few weeks since 'election' day. We cannot and should not ignore this. Human rights in Iran can only improve if we work harder. We cannot and should not pin hope on a wolf in sheep's clothing.

TAHAR BOUMEDRA: IF THE PEOPLE OF ASHRAF AND LIBERTY ARE NOW IN ALBANIA, SAFE AND FREE, IT'S THANKS TO YOU.

At the event in Hammersmith Tahar Boumedra, former UN Human Rights chief in Iran, was also a speaker. Excerpts of his speech follow:

Congratulations for what you have achieved through your support and your assistance to the people of Ashraf and later Liberty. I must confess that it's your support that pushed me to do what I did, to challenge the United Nations. I was receiving literally thousands of letters from you and from people like you all over the world to put pressure on the United Nations to protect the Ashrafis. I received thousands of telephone calls from you and people like you all over the world to tell me, "You must do something to protect", and I did challenge the United Nations in order to save the Ashrafis. I must also say that it is thanks to your efforts that lots of lives were saved. A lot of lives were saved because of the pressure that the United Nations and

the diplomatic community have felt. It's thanks to you, so if the people of Ashraf and Liberty are now in Albania, safe and free, again it's thanks to you. So I really think that every one of you, every one of you one day if you're home to sit down and reflect, you must say to yourself that: "I saved life," and this is really a great achievement to all of us. The whole thing is that those who perpetrated those crimes against the Ashrafis and against Iranians in general, they must not enjoy impunity. They must be brought to be held accountable for what they did, whether in Iran or in Iraq against the Ashrafis.

One thing that we should not forget is that the Ashrafis have left now and settled down in Albania, but there are among them many who are still suffering from the wounds, sickness, and all the suffering from Camp Ashraf and Liberty, all the persecution they went through is now showing, ill health,

and those people who were seriously injured, they still need some support, and I think we could all participate in alleviating their suffering.

I sincerely hope that we continue doing this, first to make sure that those who committed the crimes are held accountable and the victims should get our support and our assistance.





ATENA DAEMI: I BEGAN HUNGER STRIKE TO BE THE VOICE OF THE VOICELESS

Atena Daemi, the childrens' rights activist held in Evin Prison, has ended her 54-day hunger strike after her demand was granted.



Ms Daemi has written an open letter to the public addressing the reasons why she decided to go on hunger strike and what she went through during the time. In her letter, Atena has also thanked everyone who supported her during her 54-day ordeal.

Translated excerpts from her letter follow:

I went on hunger strike to be the voice of the voiceless

They first persecuted my father, and then opened a new case against my sisters and sentenced them to jail, an unfair sentence which was even against their own laws, yet issued only for persecuting me and forcing me into silence.

I had warned the officials that I would protest against taking family of a political prisoner hostage, and that I would not fear death along the way as death would be my last frontier!

I wanted to be the voice of all those who during all these years have been suffering from oppression and injustice. My sisters were an excuse so I could be the voice of Maryam and Reza Akbari Monfared, whose brothers and sisters were executed by firing squad [36] years ago and now they are jailed for their justice-seeking.

After eight years in prison while denied even a single day of furlough, Maryam (Akbari Monfared) has been recently summoned by security officials and

threatened with even more jail term; sounds as if her three teenage daughters have not had enough living under the shadow of their mother's 15 years of unfair imprisonment!

I wanted to be the voice of Fatemeh Mosana, who was imprisoned when she was only 13 while her three brothers were executed by firing squad, and now she and her husband Hassan Sadeghi have received a 15-year prison sentence.

I wanted to be the voice of Fariba Kamalabadi and Mahvash Shabriari, who have been in prison for the past ten years and couldn't even make it to their children's wedding parties.

I wanted to be the voice of Azita Rafizadeh and Payman Kushkbaghi, whose 7-year-old son 'Bashir' is wandering between Evin and Rajayeshahr, recording his childhood memories in prison!

I wanted to be the voice of the artists Mehdi and Hossein, who are brotherly serving their prison term, yet they would definitely be free today with their voice being heard everywhere in the world only if they chose to be puppet, regime-serving artists!

I wanted to be the voice of imprisoned couples like Afarin Naisari and Karen Vafadari. I wanted to be the voice of Arash Sadeghi and Golrokh Iraee; the voice of Behnoud Ramezani's parents who asked why their son was killed, and were imprisoned afterwards.

I wanted to be the voice of Masoumeh Behkish who asked why her six brothers and sisters were executed by firing squad and where their burial place were, but was responded with a heavy jail term; or the voice of Zaynali family who asked where their Saeid was held, only to be detained afterwards.

I wanted to be the voice of our mother Shahnaz, who said "you killed my son! And now instead of punishing those responsible for my son's murder, I'm asking for release of political prisoners", but she herself became one of them.

I wanted to be the voice of all and every one of Kurd prisoners who bravely

endured all sorts of torture and forced confessions to preserve their families' honour and keep them away from evil thoughts and security threats, and went to the gallows; dear ones like Dehghani brothers, and Bahram, Shabram, and Hamed Ahmadi. What an evil, the number of detentions from Panahi family in Kurdistan is on the rise by the day!!

I wanted to be the voice of Maryam Alangi, whose imprisoned husband Mohsen Dokmechi was neglected to death, and now she herself is imprisoned for caring for her [late] husband. I wanted to be the voice of Shabnam and Farzad Madadzadeh, Zhila Baniyaqub and Bahman Amoei, Nika and Nava Kholusi, Kayvan and Kamran Rahimian, and Faran Hesami, the voice of Shamis Mohajer and Shahab Dehghan. I wanted to be the voice of Parastoo Foroohar and Mashoumeh Dehghan, the voice of Siamak and Bagher Namazi who are held in solitary confinement!

I wanted to be the voice of all those who due to lack of security were forced to leave their homeland after their release.

With all my heart, I even wanted to be the sound of the breaking of the tombstone of Shahin Najafi's mother, to say that not only we the critics, dissidents, and political prisoners are living in insecurity, but members of our families are also subjected to detention and imprisonment in addition to being threatened, insulted and having to go through the pressures caused by their loved one's harassments.

I was on hunger strike for 54 days, during which the officials' indifference towards my situation was an additional torture on my family. But they bravely stood by my side and became my voice with an unparalleled resistance. They kept supporting me despite being threatened by the Intelligence Ministry. I kiss my father's exhausted feet and my mother's hands with which she was motherly writing to me. I kiss my sisters' tearful eyes who didn't want to see me getting hurt because of them. But actually they

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AHMAD MONTAZERI DEMANDS THE TRUTH AND AN APOLOGY FROM THE 4 MEMBERS OF THE 1988 DEATH COMMITTEE

In an interview on 29 May 2017, Ahmad Montazeri said that he hoped in the next cabinet of Hassan Rouhani Mostafa Pour-Mohammadi would not remain the Minister of Justice. He asked Rouhani to respect the people of Iran and remove him from this post. Mostafa Pour-Mohammadi, Rouhani's current Minister of Justice, is a member of the 'Death Committee' that was responsible for the massacre of 30,000 political prisoners in the summer of 1988.

Ahmad Montazeri had revealed a shocking audio tape on 9 August 2016, of a meeting between his father Hossein Ali Montazeri, the then designated successor to Khomeini, and the members of the "Death Committee" in August 1988. Earlier Ahmad Montazeri had described the candidacy of Ebrahim Raisi for the presidential election as an insult to the people of Iran.

About the presence of Mostafa Pour-Mohammadi in the Cabinet as Minister of Justice, he said: "In the presidential election, choosing was between two people and between two mindsets. Mr Raisi wanted to take control of the whole Cabinet and Mr Pour-Mohammadi constitutes a unit



and a percentage of the Cabinet. But the message of the people about issues related to Rouhani's rival was very clear and Rouhani himself ... several times criticized pressure methods and exclusions and executions, so I think Rouhani should not introduce Mr Pour-Mohammadi in this round."

It should be noted that during the power struggle over the regime's presidency, Hassan Rouhani attacked Ebrahim Raisi several times in this regard and referred to him as "those who only know imprisonment and execution" as the method of governance.

In the interview, Ahmad Montazeri said: "Pour-Mohammadi was one of the four member panel and it is also clear in the published file. I hope that, to respect the honourable people of Iran, in the next government he is not introduced."

In the audio file that Ahmad

Montazeri published on 9 August 2016, his father Hossein Ali Montazeri could be heard objecting to the arbitrary executions and condemning the members of the death committee. In part of the tape he called the executions of summer 1988 a crime and said: "... the greatest crime committed in the Islamic Republic, for which history will condemn us, is being committed by you. In the future your names will be etched in the annals of history as criminals." At the meeting that had taken place on 15 August 1988, four judicial authorities, Ali Nayeri, Morteza Eshraghi, Mostafa Pour-Mohammadi and Ebrahim Raisi were present and addressed by Ayatollah Montazeri.

The publication of the audio file after 28 years led to the prosecution of Ahmad Montazeri who said: "The truth must be said but unfortunately the authorities conceal the truth and this cover-up is to the detriment of all. First, people are deprived from knowing historical truth of their country and these historical events, which brought a lot of damages, must be taken as experience so that in the future they will not happen again. People need to know what happened in their country."

Atena Daemi: I began hunger strike to be the voice of the voiceless *continued from p.4*

were the ones who were targeted by the insatiable hunters because of me. I thank my sisters for standing by my side.

Yes, I wanted to be the voice of the voiceless, but in the heat of the election I was being crushed under the propaganda, and it was you the honourable people, who became my voice and stood by me and my family. You the dearest ones whom I don't know and perhaps will never get to know, and you pure friends and comrades who have always been by my side, if you were not there by my side I could have not succeeded after 54 days. I definitely should name and appreciate many others, but I can't due to security reasons!

Fifty four days have passed, and I, no



in reality it is you who won, with your widespread support, your writings, your shouts, your poems, songs, and paintings. You made the victory happen using every possible means, which is sweet for us all. I also thank all the human rights organizations.

Along with you, I succeeded to achieve my sisters' acquittal after 54 days of hunger strike, and this is only the beginning; the beginning of standing against persecution of the families of political prisoners and of those executed.

With the success made possible through the support coming from you my dearest ones, I'll put an end to my hunger strike as of today, 31 May 2017. And once again I thank all and every one of you my dearest ones.

May freedom prevail

Atena Daemi

31 May 2017

Women's section, Evin Prison



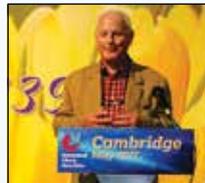
OUR EVENTS IN CAMBRIDGE AND EDINBURGH

We had two events in May, in Cambridge and Edinburgh. In both events supporters helped in the set-up of the venues and we thank everyone who took part. In both events we enjoyed the company of Iranian Maestros, Taherzadeh and Torshizi, who played with passion. In Edinburgh Elizabeth Peploe organised a rehearsal by her students which made the event much more lively. Chris Masterton talked about his heartfelt support for ILA and David Watson played guitar and sang beautiful songs that ended with “Here Comes the Sun” by George Harrison.

In Cambridge James Eisner played the guitar and we had talks from Revd Dorothy Payton-Jones, Christopher Brown and Philip Bouch while the event was managed by Jill Young.

Excerpts from some of the passionate speeches follow:

DOROTHY: We are a Christian family, and we’re very conscious of God’s blessing to us that we live in Cambridge in such a secure and peaceful environment where we can prosper and bring up our children. And so we’re very glad that we can support, from our bounty that we enjoy, by giving money to those who are so needy, because the Bible, which we regard as our holy book, which tells us what God wants us to do, speaks very strongly of God’s care for the oppressed, and challenges us to fight injustice. And in a tiny way, through our partnership with our Iranian friends, we feel we can contribute, and whenever they come we applaud their passion and their energy and commitment, and it’s inspiring to have been involved. And so we rejoice with all of you that the people from Ashraf and then Camp Liberty are now safe. For us, looking at that, it’s like a foretaste of what we imagine Heaven will be like, the reunions, the sense of safety, the sense of arrival where we’ve been longing to be. And yet we know that there is still so much work to do in Iran, because people there are suffering, and it’s a privilege to continue to stand with all those who are working



to challenge the regime in Iran, and to struggle for freedom there.

CHRIS: I’m not sure I ever really, personally, believed that they would achieve the liberty, freedom shall I say, of people living in the then misnamed Camp Liberty, and so when I heard last year that they had all been able to move to Albania I think it was one of the most

uplifting pieces of news that I have had in all my lifetime, certainly in the last twenty years or so, almost unbelievable. I’m still not quite sure how it happened. I know we all owe a great debt of thanks to the Albanian people and their leaders, and to whoever was working behind the scenes to make that happen. So it was in my, to me, it was a sort of triumph of hope over expectation, and I think it really does give us something to celebrate.

PHILIP: It was my wife Jean who was shopping in London, enjoying whatever, wherever it was, and she was approached by two lovely Iranian ladies who explained to her about Ashraf and about the atrocities and the plight of the thousands of people there, and she was moved to say this was something she wanted to look into.

We were visited quite frequently by lovely volunteers who brought data, they brought pictures, they brought stories about their families and about everybody else’s families which filled in the blanks, and we suddenly realised that this was an injustice that needed supporting.

...we were determined to tell everyone about this silent injustice. We wrote many letters, emails... and we wrote to the newspapers. Nothing was published.

Sadly, Jean died before we were invited to go to Albania. She would have loved it. But what an exciting trip that was!

These lovely people just saying “thank you, thank you,” clapping – very, very humbling... we all just cried buckets.



NEWS IN BRIEF

Two accused of theft sentenced to finger amputation

Two young men in Tehran accused of theft were sentenced by the 11th Branch of Tehran Province criminal court on Thursday to have their fingers amputated.

"I was forced to resort to stealing to come up with money for my wife's chemotherapy," one of the accused said.

The defendants are Taghi, 30, and Parviz, 31, by their first names.

The state-run Rokna news agency interviewed one of the defendants who said he stole to pay for drugs for his wife who has cancer.



What if your president has said you have been murdering people for 38 years?



Hadad Adel, the Supreme Leader's son-in-law and a member of Iran's Expediency Council, in a public speech pointed at the re-'elected' president Hassan Rouhani and said:

"If the international community says you were murderers for 38 years, and you issued execution rulings and your president has said so, that you have people issuing death verdicts, what do we say?"

He was referring to talks by Hassan Rouhani during his campaign when, pointing to the opponent Ebrahim Raisi, he told the audience, including the television audience, that you don't want to vote for someone who in the past 38 years has shown that he only knows killing and imprisonment as the way of governing.

Rouhani was then exposed himself calling for public execution of opponents in a recorded talk in 1980's.

Plans to destroy the mass graves of the victims of the 1988 prisons massacre

The clerical regime plans to demolish a mass grave in Ahvaz which is the burial place of the martyrs of the 1988 massacre of political prisoners. This location was detected by volunteers who prepare reports for Sima TV after talking to martyrs' families.

The mass grave is located next to Ahvaz's Heaven-yard cemetery. The Iranian regime intends to remove all evidence buried in this mass grave by expanding a residential plan next to this location.

Amnesty International has warned that the destruction of this cemetery containing the remains of at least 44 persons, who have been field executed, would eliminate all forensics signs, vital evidence of massacred political prisoners and opportunities to bring the perpetrators who committed the killing of prisoners across the country in 1988 to justice.



Prisoner killed under torture



Agents of Iran's Intelligence Ministry murdered a prisoner under torture in the intelligence department of Karaj.

Diyako Hashemi, 24, was born in the city of Ravansar and lived in Karaj, west of Tehran.

Hashemi had gone to Finland in 2011 and had recently returned to Iran to visit his ill father.

Intelligence officials informed his family on 25 May to collect his body. The officers prevented the transfer of the body to his hometown of Ravansar and his family was forced to bury their loved one on the same day and in Karaj.

Retired workers staged protest

A group of more than 350 retired workers from Haft Tapeh sugar cane agro-industrial complex (southern Iran), gathered and staged a protest to demand their unpaid dues on 29 May.

According to the workers who participated in the rally they have not received their pensions since March 2015 when they retired.



Municipal workers protest non-payment of their wages

A group of municipal workers in Abadan (South-West of Iran) gathered in front of the city council to protest unpaid salaries for months.

According to reports more than 200 municipal workers staged a rally in front of the city hall in Abadan on Sunday, 28 May, to protest against five months of unpaid wages.



Teacher exiled for playing music in class

Aziz Ghasemzadeh, 38, spokesman of the Gilan Teachers Guild, has been sentenced to a year in exile for playing music in class. Aziz Ghasemzadeh is a singer and caretaker for an Iranian music group named Sepehr that has conducted a number of concerts in Gilan Province, northern Iran.





MESSAGES FROM PRISON

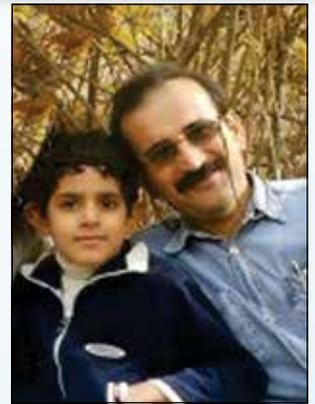


Ebrahim Firouzi is a Christian pastor who has been jailed for his faith. On the anniversary of the execution of Gholamreza Khosravi he wrote a letter to Gholamreza's son from Rajai Shahr prison. Following is the translation of the letter which has been widely distributed on social media. Gholamreza Khosravi was executed on 1 June 2014 after several years of imprisonment for the 'crime' of giving a donation to Sima TV.

of other Hessams from the oppression of clerical tyranny. When he put his hand on my shoulders I felt the current of kindness in his veins.

Dear Hessam,

I am sure that this moral and resisting man who oppressive dictators could not silence even with intimidation and torture, in the spring of 2014 walked to the gallows with solid steps and standing tall. This great man was martyr Gholamreza Khosravi, your father.



Twenty years ago, at the hour that I was expecting to see my father, they brought the news of his death to me. I still carry the desire for a last visit with him in me; just like you who did not have a chance to see your father for a last time.

These days that your youthful years are arriving you will be thinking more of him. Even though his physical absence disturbs you but you are very fortunate since martyr Gholamreza Khosravi, your father, has left you a legacy and an everlasting symbol of sacrifice, kindness, hope, faith, courage, and immense devotion and love for humankind.

My Dear Friend,

I am not of the same faith as your father and would talk of flattery because of shared values. Many times when remembering the memories of your father, I pictured the scene of him meeting you in my mind. Don't let strangers see your tears for him. Be proud of the valuable legacy your father has left for you with his action and make this pride continue to future generations by learning from his virtues.

Ebrahim Firouzi

Rajai Shahr prison, May 2017

From Ebrahim Firouzi to Gholamreza Khosravi's son, Hessam:

You and me become we

Dear Hessam,

Even though you are aware of what I am going to write to you, but I want to make sure that we would remember these words as long I am in this earthly body. It was God's will that some of the events in our lives are similar. It's good for you that the content of our shared sorrow brings honour to you now and in the future.

Dear Hessam, I used to know a man whose smiles comforted my difficult moments in prison. A man whom I tried to sit beside to hear the hopeful sound of his sitar when he was playing it. I will always adore him in my heart. This man has made me and you 'we'.

I don't feel the audacity to say I wish I had his courage. Because dealing with desolation of being away from the family, particularly knowingly and consciously for a higher goal than personal achievements, is not easy.

This great man who my words are not capable of describing, passed through earthly desires as easy as our lives passes in order to free thousands

GRAND GATHERING IN PARIS: 1 JULY 2017

PLEASE JOIN US IN BEING THE VOICE OF THE VOICELESS IRANIAN PEOPLE WHO ARE SUFFERING EVERY MINUTE OF THEIR LIVES.

PLEASE CONTACT ILA TO BOOK YOUR PLACE

