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International Liberty Association Newsletter

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EDITORIAL

Happy NoRuz

As we prepare this bulletin, the days are visibly longer and the sun begins to bring warmth along with the light, and our spirits leap as we know we are nearly out of the clutches of Winter and preparing for the revitalisation that comes with the Spring.

This promise of rebirth and rejuvenation is especially poignant this year as the rapid roll out of the Covid-19 vaccination gives people hope for a more relaxed new normal to come after the hard times of the last year.

The same is true of the approach to Noruz, the Persian New Year, with its many ancient traditions that celebrate the dispelling of darkness, welcoming in the light, symbolising the manifestation of life and happiness.

During the past 42 years of the mullahs' rule in Iran, they have done all they can to extinguish this ancient culture and its traditions, but the Iranian people have never given in and do their utmost to preserve their rich heritage.. As powerful example, on the eve of the last Wednesday of the year, the people perform the ancient rites of "Char-Shanbeh Suri" when they light fires and jump over them, while others hold hands around the fires chanting about leaving the sickness and cold of harsh times behind and welcoming the health-giving sun. No wonder the mullahs try to prevent this event every year and their failure every year due to the solidarity of the people is a great source of inspiration for continuing resistance.

The children love taking part in these events and it is to them that we dedicate this bulletin. As we look towards a better future for Iran, we are so very aware of the truth of the

... continued on p.2

CHILDREN ARE OUR FUTURE

PROTECTING CHILDREN'S RIGHTS IS WORTH EVERYTHING



Protecting children's rights is worth everything

The title of this article is the words of an ILA volunteer who was persuading the trustees to make defending children's rights the main campaign of the charity for 2021.

The mullahs ruling Iran since 1979 have abused children in every respect. They have used them as "disposable soldiers" during the senseless Iran-Iraq war in the 1980s, and in their terrorist

pursuits in the Middle East ever since.

They have deprived children of proper education and, for those who have been able to go to school, polluted their curriculum with Islamist propaganda and misinformation.

In a comprehensive study of hate and extremism in current Iranian textbooks the Anti-Defamation League has highlighted areas in which the Iranian state curriculum encourages terrorism and calls for violence ... continued on p.2

A LETTER FROM ROYA



"I am Roya. I miss hugging my dad. Please help me free my dad. My only dream is that I hear the doorbell and open the door to see my dad behind the door. At that moment I will thank God for returning my dad. Is it possible that my wish will come true in a few days?"

These are words handwritten by a little girl who is calling on us all. Roya's mother told us: "Every day my daughter wrote a letter and asked me to post it for her but I did not have time since I was running all day long to earn for feeding my children and providing for their school. I also had to run to the court and prison for my husband.

My daughter has just finished the 3rd grade. Most of the time she was writing to others asking if ... continued on p.2



Children are our future

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against Iran's neighbours as well as the West.

The Iranian government's current textbooks indoctrinate children with messages that put them on a permanent footing for war. The books teach children how to assemble assault rifles, to carry out military manoeuvres, and to learn about the importance of cyber warfare.

The books also idealize young people who sacrifice their lives to sustain or export the Iranian revolution. Often this involves glorifying child soldiers who fought and died under traumatic circumstances during the Iran-Iraq War or displaying children wielding weapons of war, including a rocket launcher.

The textbooks also teach that an ideal Basij member always yearns for martyrdom.

Iran's hate-filled

public school curriculum should be a global concern. Not only does it deny Iranian children a proper education, but also it is a method of indoctrination that will have a lasting effect on the future of the region and the world.

By glorifying terrorism and martyrdom on the one hand and instilling hate for the Jews, Christians and other Muslim denominations on the other, it perpetuates a hateful ideology that will render any peace making effort in the Middle East almost impossible.

We have to confront this by proper

education via social media and satellite TV programmes. We have to constantly highlight the root causes of these children's sufferings in the international arena and provide the education necessary to strengthen the capacity of these innocent children to protect themselves.

Also, by delivering the behind the scenes news to the international community, UN and NGOs, we should provide a secure environment in which the brave children's rights activists inside Iran can operate.



Image titled "Let's Go" from a current Iranian state textbook depicting an IRGC officer killed in Syria in order to persuade grade 10 children to join the Guards Corps.

A letter from Roya

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her father could come home. Her father's world was Roya. He loved her so much.

Roya is waiting still. I asked her to read her letter to me. She continues: My mother cries all the time when cooking. I want my dad home soon. I sleep with fear at nights. I know my mommy is under pressure. She used to play with me but now she is under so much pressure she can't tolerate it.

Roya's letter is the childish cry of a

daughter of a political prisoner. She is a 10 year old who does not know for what crime her father is not at her side, to wake her up every morning.

The story of Roya is the story of all the children who bemoan a normal life, heartrending tales from children who go to court and prison instead of going to school.

This letter from Roya ends with the words: My only wish is that when the doorbell rings I see that it is my dad. At that moment the only thing I do would

be to thank God for returning my dad. Is it possible that my wish comes true in the next few days?



Editorial *continued from p.1*

saying that the children are the future. Their lives should be untrammelled and their talents nourished as they enjoy the best education and considerations. However, this is not the reality for so many in Iran. Even the children of loving parents, who are allowed to be children and can afford to go to school, face a curriculum with so much religious fundamentalism, propaganda and deliberate misinformation included as to impact their healthful development.

And, for far too many of the rest, living way below the poverty line, we witness grim phenomena such as child brides, child labourers, and also child soldiers propagated by the ruling mullahs. The authorities not only take no action to uproot these evils, but actively promote them in its media and national TV, so institutionalizing them.

Our charity has endeavoured to highlight such miseries during the past year. We also strive to materialize the children's aspirations by taking these issues to the public domain inside and

outside Iran in order to put pressure on the Iranian regime to end the abuse and sufferings of the children in Iran.

We can together make significant changes to alter their plight and foster their desire for a better world through supporting these children, trusting that one day the issues will exist only in the dustbin of history. We can and we must continue to be their voice and with your help we will see that bright future we dream of realised for the children and all the people of Iran.

Happy NoRuz. Happy Easter.



Draconian laws particularly against women and girls, have forced many children into marriage with much older men, a form of legalised paedophilia and modern day slavery.

To report about this calamity in today's Iranian society our volunteer talked to the 42 year-old mother of Mahsa, asking for permission to speak to her daughter. "Their small house is near the sea and the sound of the waves mixes with our voices". Mahsa is 26 now and her child is 12. Her mother explains that "Mahsa agreed to the marriage

CHILD MARRIAGE - LEGALISED PAEDOPHILIA AND MODERN DAY SLAVERY

and I had to accept it because we were poor and my son-in-law was financially sound". Mahsa interrupts with deep sadness and anger: "I was only 12 years old and had studied only to 4th grade. I knew nothing about marriage and married life. I had only seen suffering and pain in life, what did you expect to hear from a 12 year old? What is the role of the parents? What is the role and responsibility of the government?"

My mother destroyed my life in order to reduce the load on her shoulder. Now she is taking me from doctor to doctor in sorrow and pain. I will never allow my daughter to get married at such a young age. What does a child know about married life? A child should play and study. When I see advertisements about child marriage in TV shows anger fills

all my cells. I think to myself, aren't we human beings? What human would do such cruelty to another human?"

Sea birds make heavy noise trying to grab pieces of bread from the hands of Mahsa's child. Even though the view of the sea becomes more interesting, Mahsa's cries become louder and she says: "Even these birds are more fortunate and happy than I am. I wish I was one of them..."

She continues: "I don't know what would happen to me and where I would be today, but I know if I did not marry at that young age and continued my education instead and pursued my interests and may be even got married with a clear vision and understanding I would not have been in so much pain today."

CONVERSATION OF A TEACHER WITH TWO CHILDREN

I am Ahmad, a teacher who chose this job to participate in the education of our children who are the most precious asset of my country. I love my country for its rich history and culture, for its people and their friendship and hospitality, and I see it as my duty to protect it. Even though the mullahs have destroyed it as much as they could during these years of their rule, I wished to return my country to its glorious rich history and culture by choosing to become a teacher.

Every child has the right to be educated and grow in a safe environment and be trained correctly to be able to carry the load of the future. It is our responsibility, as grown up individuals, to hear them and work hard to make their wishes come true.

I was thinking about these things when I came across two working children whom I had seen before. I went to them, the first one is Hamed, 10 years old, and the other one is called Alowa. They both live in the streets and work from dawn to late night with the hope of gaining some income.

It had been quite a few days since I had last seen them close to the gates of the open sports field, where fathers and mothers of neatly dressed children take their sons and daughters for recreation and learning,, having no regard to the child who, a few feet away, is looking with envy for a moment of walking in

that green and beautiful ground.

Hamed has been selling chewing gum in that spot for the past two years. He hides his dirty hands with his sleeves and tells me: "My father died a few years ago and I work to pay for my sister and mother's living expenses."

I look at him and say: Do you study too?"

He drops his head and plays with his fingers and says: "I studied until 3rd grade but I could not continue. If I work less than 12 hours a day I can't earn enough for our expenses. I am not going to school now but when I was going I liked it very much..."

I try to hide the sob in my voice and ask him; "Everybody has a wish. What is your wish?"

I can see the bright spark in his eyes. It is evident that he is swimming in his dreams.



After a little pause he said: "I want to become a footballer. They say that footballers make a lot of money. I want to make enough money so that my family would not be in grief anymore and my sister could go to school. I know all the football techniques and watching those kids I can say I am better than all of them "...

I ask Alowa if he has gone to school. He says no. He noted that I asked Hamed about his dreams and continued: "I have no wish but to have food for my sister and me, but like Hamed I don't mind to become a footballer..."

After listening to them I realised that I cannot help by just feeling sorry for them. I have to be their voice and let the world know what is going on so that humanitarian people all over the world could take a step in helping them realise their dreams.





CHILD LABOUR, A NATIONAL DISASTER IN IRAN



Child labour is a major issue in Iran. Millions of young children go uneducated and work various jobs for a minimal wage instead.

The oil-rich country, ranking third in the world in terms of energy reserves, houses around 1.7 million child labourers, according to UN data, and several million according to local activists.

While Iran is not a signatory to international conventions setting a minimum age for work, it has its laws to prevent children from working until the age of 15. The fundamental conventions of the International Labour Organization (ILO) have set 15 years as the age for normal work and 18 years for hazardous work.

There is a deliberate vagueness in the child labour law adopted by Iran as it excludes domestic work, which means children can be employed despite the child labour convention. The mechanism to oversee the implementation of the law, especially preventing young children from toiling in the sweltering summer heat or in the cold winter days, is also lacking.

Iran is seeing a steep increase in child labour. While unemployment is rampant across the country, more children are join-

ing Iran's workforce, roaming the streets of large cities, begging, or selling goods. Many of these children are exposed to physical and sexual abuse from the traffickers, and are sometimes forced into drug addiction.

"Last year in July, an NGO conducted a survey to identify all garbage collector children and announced accurate statistics in this regard. 4,600 garbage collector children were identified in Tehran according to this survey," Mahmoud Abbasi, the regime's deputy minister of justice for human rights, said in an interview with the regime's official ILNA news agency on 1 November 2020.

Referring to the abuse of these children by the looting gangs of the regime in collecting garbage in Tehran Municipality, the government official added: "Those who exploit the children are contractors who are working with the Tehran municipality. Therefore, in correspondence with the municipality, we demanded that it ends its cooperation with these contractors."

These are homeless and poor children who have no other means to make ends meet and are being exploited by regime officials to make huge financial gains.

And as the regime's corruption continues to take its toll on the economic situation, Iranian workers can't afford to send their children to school, and as a result these children are forced to leave school and many end up working on the streets. This calamity is hurting Iranian children on a mass scale and hence the future of the country.

ILA is taking this very seriously and will endeavour to change the situation by raising awareness and working with international organisations to tackle the problem and hold neglecting officials to account.



CHILDREN OF IMPRISONED MOTHERS

There is currently little talk in Iranian media about the condition of the children of imprisoned mothers. There is no clear statistic about the number of women with young children in prisons in Iran. According to regime directives children under three years of age can be kept with their mothers in prison where there is no facility to help them cope with the dire conditions of prison for a young baby. However, there are cases where children as old as six have been in prison with their mothers.

In January 2019 it was reported that at least 1,800 children



of imprisoned women were separated from their mothers and were delivered to state-owned welfare organisations. The condition of these children is not known and their destiny is in the hands of corrupt officials who often engage in abusing children for financial gain. The presence of so many small children in prisons in Iran is tragic while international laws oblige all governments to refrain from issuing prison sentences for women who have to take care of children and their prison sentences must be replaced by alternative punishments including "suspension of detention."

For political prisoners the situation is much harder since often children are deprived from visiting their mothers and the psychological pressure on both the mother and the child is unimaginable.





SENDING CHILDREN TO WAR IS A CRIME IRAN'S REGIME COMMITS!



Iran's regime is using child soldiers to fuel its military interventions in the Middle East.

According to international laws, recruitment, training and dispatching children for deployment in armed conflicts are deemed to be war crimes and can have serious international consequences for those found guilty.

"Normal governments do not employ children as soldiers to send them to conflict zones," said former US Secretary of Treasury Steven Mnuchin in 2018 "This is child abuse... countries and companies across the world must remember that in making deals with the outlaw government of Iran they are also probably giving financial support to such brutalities as well."

The Basij is a paramilitary unit affiliated to the IRGC (Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps). Its activities include indoctrinating schoolchildren and providing combat training to children as young as 12 years old. In addition to its involvement in violent crackdowns and serious human rights abuses in Iran, the Basij recruits and trains fighters for the IRGC Quds Force, including Iranian children, who are then deployed to Syria to support the Assad regime. In addition to Iranian nationals, the Basij also recruits Afghan immigrants to Iran, including children as young as 14 years old, to join the Fatemioun Brigade, a militia made up of Afghan fighters under the control of Iran's Quds Force in Syria.

Iran is a signatory to the 1989 UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, which forbids employing any person under 15 for war and armed conflicts. An "Optional Protocol" to the convention, adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2000, increases the age by three years and asks that "parties to conflict take every feasible step to ensure that children below the age of 18 years do not take part in hostilities."

In 2010 the Iranian regime signed this protocol and six years later, in 2016, Hassan Rouhani's cabinet sent a bill to the Majlis (parliament) to make the joinder official. But the bill met with opposition from members of the parliament.

"Ratification of this protocol would put an end to the activities of the Students Basij in attracting and training forces under 18 and the parliament is against it," said Hossein-Ali Haji-Deligani, a member of the parliament. And Mohammad Reza Naqdi, a former commander of the Basij, stated that

Iran's membership to the convention is "against sharia and against [our] interests."

Eventually the Iranian parliament's Research Centre also joined the opposition to approving the protocol, asking rhetorically: "Does joining this protocol also means that joining the Basij violates children's rights?"

Besides the "optional protocol to the convention on the rights of the child on the involvement of children in armed conflict," the charter of the International Criminal Court in the Hague also bans using persons under 15 in armed conflicts and considers this to be a war crime. Iran has signed this document as well, but the Majlis has not approved it. Nevertheless, Iran is obliged to refrain from gross violations of both conventions as long as it remains a signatory.

Another international document that criminalises recruiting children for armed conflict is the 2005 UN Security Council Resolution 1612 on children and armed conflict.

The UN Security Council has the power to take preventive actions against Iran. For example, according to the charter of the International Criminal Court, the Security Council can ask the court to place people on trial or prosecute them if the council believes they are guilty of war crimes and of using children in armed conflicts. The charter also gives the Security Council the power to independently investigate the cases.

The accusation is that the regime ruling Iran has been committing war crimes since the early days in power more than 40 years ago. We all remember the regime using child soldiers in the infamous Iran-Iraq war in the 1980s. Rafsanjani who was the commander of armed forces at that time called them "disposable soldiers", since they were used as a tool for cleaning minefields without any training or hope of remaining alive.

The issue of child soldiers and the fight to put an end to the practice must gain more international attention and become part of the United Nation's agenda. We must put an end to this evil practice and together we CAN!





EXCERPT FROM ILA ZOOM EVENT FOR THE OCCASION OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Lady Val Corbett:



Well, as you heard before, over a hundred years ago in this country, the suffragettes started their campaign on getting votes for women, and through their campaign they experienced personal trauma. Husbands disowned them, some of their children were taken away, they suffered imprisonment with force-feeding, and civil disobedience culminating in Emily Davison throwing herself in front of a horse and dying of horrific injuries. It took many years, as you found out, but they gained women in Britain the right to vote and eventually lots of other rights as well.

But under the mullahs, the plight of women in Iran is perilous. Through religious dogma, mullahs cracked down on women protesting, and they are protesting because they want to change restrictions about how they are allowed to dress, what they are allowed to say, and with whom they are allowed to associate.

You heard of some of the atrocities that have already occurred in Iran about women, but there's a worse incident which gives me nightmares, and it happened in January this year. Zahra Ismaili, who while protecting her daughter against a sexual predator who happened to be an intelligence officer in the regime – I just hate this story but I have to tell you because it emphasises what's happening now, not before, absolutely now. So, she was imprisoned and condemned to death and on the day of her execution she witnessed sixteen men being hanged. It created a massive stroke and she died. But if you can believe it, her lifeless body was taken to the gallows and hanged.

So what kind of men are there who can tolerate this atrocity, and then continue with their daily lives? What kind of men gave this order? What kind of men carried it out? How can they live with themselves? And how is it possible that the world's media stay silent, especially since Reporters Without

Borders say that Iran is the leading exponent of jailing female journalists. So today I send a message of solidarity with my sisters, the women of Iran. They are the bravest of the brave and they continue their non-violent fight for their right to be heard. We will never forget their struggle, and I want to thank the International Liberty Association for its tireless efforts to promote human rights in Iran and assist victims of the abuse.

Diana Blair-Fish:



Normally on this day we would be re-engaging with the ideals of equality and empowerment of women globally, but in Iran we have to consider much more fundamental aspects of women's lives under a repressive, misogynistic, theocratic regime. Under the regime, women are treated as inferior to men in almost every way, and have almost no rights. They should remain in the home and subjugate themselves for the support and benefit of the males in their family. Girls as young as nine years old can be married, usually to much older men, and be treated essentially as slaves in their husband's household.

The past forty-plus years since Khomeini's power-grab of the democratic movement that toppled the Shah have been difficult, for women especially. The authorities have clamped down hard in proposing strict rules on dress and behaviour. Even minor infractions, pounced on by the regime's guards patrolling the streets, can bring punishments including imprisonment and trouble for the family.

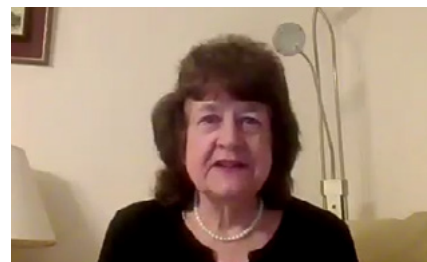
It is supremely ironic that women, denied so much in life, attain equality with men in terms of their execution by hanging or firing-squad. Attacks with acid or knives against unveiled women and stoning in the street have also been reported.

For any of you who want to know more, I can suggest three books which I obtained through ILA. They are: *Face to Face With the Beast*, *The Price of Being*

Human and Heroes and Heroines: Memories of Fallen Friends. Harrowing though these accounts are, there could be no better testament to the courage, resolve and commitment of the women they feature. They are a fitting memorial to those who pay the ultimate price in their fight for freedom from oppression.

By supporting ILA and its campaigns and initiatives, we can help address the problem of human rights violations.

Dr Davina Lloyd:



Over the years I have met many wonderful women volunteers within ILA, and I have never ceased to be in awe of how impressive they are, given everything they have been through.

Talk to Zohreh, one of the ILA people that I'm sure many of you will have met, and you hear her story. Yes it's awful, yes it can be depressing, but it is so inspirational and so moving as many of these stories are, and she will recall and tell you about her time in prison, the four years she spent there, where she saw the torture of her friends under the Revolutionary Guards, and they went to their deaths before betraying their friends, before giving them any information.

There are so many stories like this, stories of women standing up to the regime, women wanting to be counted, have their voices heard, not becoming silenced by the repression that is put upon them, and not losing hope in a better future. And it is that that we need to support them with, that hope for that better future.



Elena sang a beautiful song for the occasion at the ILA Zoom event



HAPPY NORUZ



Inside Iranian Jail - Political Prisoners Celebrate NoRuz 1394 (2015)

NoRuz or Iranian New Year falls on the Spring equinox, on March 20-21st, each year.

NoRuz is a special time of the year. The dark and cold days of winter give way to blossoming nature, bright days and refreshing air to inhale.

Iranians have been celebrating NoRuz for thousands of years and there are various stories about the origins of this national festivity, but today Iranians of any background celebrate NoRuz.

What about the prisoners? The stories you will read here are reflections of political prisoners who spent NoRuz in Iran's jails at some time during the reign of the ayatollahs in Iran. These are stories we have published before, but they are so important we felt it worth reprinting them here.

Reza:

"NoRuz celebration in prison in March 1983 is a lasting memory for me. I will never forget it. As spring was approaching, we, the prisoners of wards 5,6, and 7 in Karoon Prison of Ahvaz decided to have a NoRuz celebration similar to what we would have done if we were outside. We prepared the Haft-Seen and started a spring cleaning of the cells. Each of us took responsibility of a task and also selected members of organising committees for each cell's celebration ceremonies. I was in Room 1 of Cell Block 6. It was a torturous year. My 20 year-old brother had just been executed. Many of my friends were executed and we were suffering constant beatings and torture, yet we

decided to have a feast and laugh. It was part of our struggle. We didn't want the torturers to feel they had succeeded. Their aim was to take joy and light away from our lives but we were determined to prove them wrong. When Haft-Seen was prepared, Manouchehr, who was executed two years later, drew paintings of six mountain tops, symbolising six martyred friends, and a shining sun and rivers. The painting was put on the top of the Haft-Seen setting. For the green we used the bottom of carrots and turnips that had green sprouts. The red fish was a plastic one in a bottle of water. It was kept afloat by tying it to a pebble. There were about 15-16 of us at the Haft-Seen setup in Room 1 of Cell Block 6, including Hassan who was blind and Shahpour, the youngest father

in the room at 20. The equinox, the exact moment of the turn of the year, was around 8 in the morning that year. Hassan started singing and Manouchehr talked about his painting and what it meant. We hugged and kissed each other's cheeks. We momentarily forgot all the pain. Mahmud told us not to eat too much sweets it might harm our teeth (most of them broken under torture). We could hear the songs from other cells, the children of Abadan were singing, I am the child of the big river, I am afraid of no one...

Zohreh:

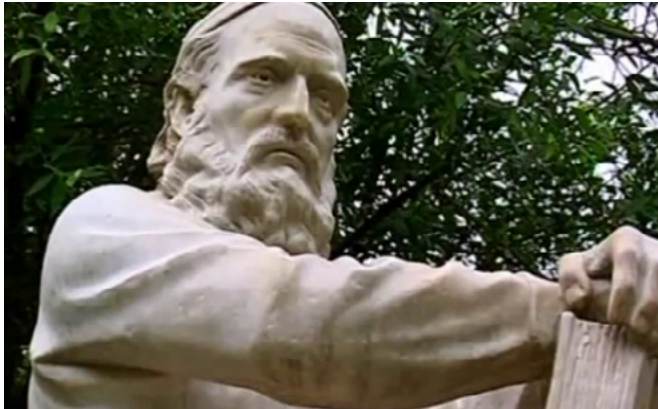
"I was arrested in October 1980. About 2 weeks to NoRuz they moved us to Ward 311 in Evin Prison and put me and two others in a 1 x 1.5 metre cell. There was a broken window and cold wind was coming inside the cell. We didn't have any blankets so we tried to protest by yelling. The guards put several loud speakers in the corridor just outside of our cell with high volume of noise. They were so loud that we could not hear each other and had to shout very loud in our normal conversations. So after two weeks we all had lost our voice. But even in that condition we celebrated NoRuz by singing traditional songs and eating the only sweet we could have, a 'cake' that we had made by sugar cubes that each of us had kept from the morning tea mixed with a little butter and bread crumbs. For Haft-Seen we did not have anything so we drew a Haft-Seen table on the cell's wall using our aluminium spoons which was working like pencil on the white concrete wall. We held each other's hand and made a wish for a day that people of Iran enjoy their NoRuz, feeling free and living in democracy with happiness."



A NoRuz table contains many elements including colourful eggs



GETTING TO KNOW IRAN'S CULTURAL HERITAGE: OMAR KHAYYAM NISHABURI



The renowned Iranian mathematician, astronomer, philosopher, and poet, **Omar Khayyam Nishaburi** was born in the city of Nishabur in north-eastern Iran on 18 May 1048. He spent most of his youth in Nishabur, a leading metropolis in Khorasan during medieval times that reached its zenith of prosperity in the eleventh century under the Seljuq dynasty.

His talents were recognised by his tutors who sent him to study under the greatest teacher of the Khorasan region who taught the children of the highest nobility. Khayyam was also taught by the Zoroastrian convert mathematician, Abu Hassan Bahmanyar bin Marzban.

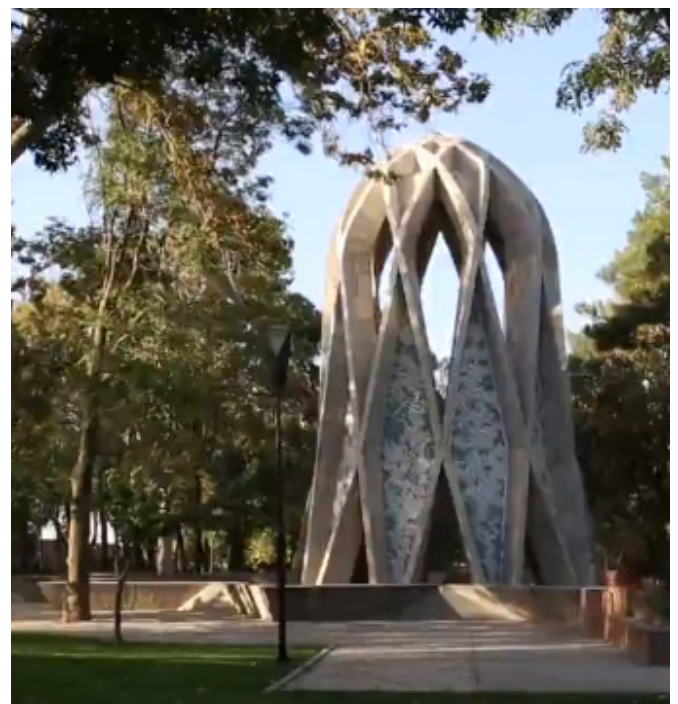
After studying science, philosophy, mathematics and astronomy at Nishabur, about the year 1068 he travelled to the province of Bukhara, where he frequented the renowned library of the Ark. In about 1070 he moved to Samarkand, where he started to compose his famous treatise on algebra.

Khayyam was subsequently commissioned to set up an observatory in Isfahan and lead a group of scientists in carrying out precise astronomical observations aimed at the revision of the Persian calendar. The undertaking began in 1076 and ended in 1079 when Omar Khayyam and his colleagues concluded their measurements of the length of the year with astounding accuracy.

The Jalālī calendar was a true solar calendar where the duration of each month is equal to the time of the passage of the Sun across the corresponding sign of the Zodiac. It is considered the most perfect calendar ever devised, more accurate than the Georgian calendar devised some 500 years later in 1582.

The poetry of Omar Khayyam, written in the form of quatrains (rubā'iyāt) became widely known to the English-reading world in a translation by Edward FitzGerald (Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam, 1859), which enjoyed great success.

Omar Khayyam died at the age of 83 in his hometown of Nishabur on 4 December 1131. His mausoleum in Nishabur is visited by countless visitors from around the world every year.



Join us for 'An Hour with ILA'

Online weekly Zoom meetings

Every Saturday 5 to 6pm

Please send an email to info@iliberty.org.uk
so that we can send you details for connection