



# International Liberty Association Newsletter

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## Editorial

This edition of our newsletter is a powerful testament to the living and demonstrates clearly how far we, the defenders of liberty and human rights, have come together. Through the dark days of challenge for the men and women of Ashraf, and now Camp Liberty, and for those suffering from oppression, torture and death at the hands of the Mullahs in Iran, our hearts have been opened together and we find ourselves increasingly walking hand in hand towards a common goal.

The words of passion and commitment from the non-Iranian volunteers, echo and blend with the words of appreciation and gratitude from the Ashrafis in Albania and the Ashrafis still in Camp Liberty. Just the thought of a direct telephone link from a beleaguered Camp Liberty, set in the midst of Iraq, currently one of the most precarious arenas of the Middle East, to a social event held in a quiet suburb of London, is quite overwhelming. To have been part of this occasion was very special indeed.

It is the courage of the men and women of Camp Liberty in standing firm against the brutality and oppression of a religious fundamentalist dictatorship and paying the price for maintaining their vision of freedom that inspires us all to support them and their cause. Likewise, it is our support that gives the people in Iran and those in Camp Liberty the courage and perseverance to continue to stand firm.

So a 'virtuous circle' is generated which spreads out like the ripples on a pond to touch the hearts of freedom and humanity lovers everywhere.

This ripple effect can only gain power and momentum from the actions of the current world leaders

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## #No2Rouhani

### Iranians in New York demonstrate against presence of Hassan Rouhani at the UN

The president of a regime that has been condemned 61 times by various UN bodies should not be invited to address the General Assembly, Iranians protesting outside UN headquarters in New York on Monday 28 September 2015 told reporters.

Several thousand supporters of a democratic Iran gathered in New York to tell the world that Rouhani does not represent the people of Iran. He repre-

sents a backward current that is ruling Iran with torture, imprisonment and murder. The number of executions has risen sharply during Hassan Rouhani's term and not only does he not do anything to stop them but he approves the killings as being mandated by "God".

Portraying a murderous mullah who has presided over 2000 executions in less than the two years he has been in office, as a moderate is an insult not only to Iranians but also to humanity.



## "Thank you" from Tirana

Former Liberty residents who are now in Tirana have sent messages of thanks to ILA supporters. Excerpts from these messages follow:

**SA'EEDAH SHAHROKY:** Words are not able to convey my feelings adequately; letters slip through my fingers while I try to compress those feelings, a massive undertaking, to fit this small piece of paper. First I must describe the support you give us, as vast and as beautiful to me as the blue sky of my homeland that is now captive in the hands of the most ominous phenomenon in history, i.e. the religious dictatorship. This is why it is hard to find proper words but





“Thank you” from Tirana *continued from p.1*

let me do this hard task with simple words that come from the bottom of my heart. With your selfless, unsparing support for men and women who have, for many years, sacrificed everything on the path to freedom, the freedom that will bring a glorious future for their country, you have constructed a set of humanitarian values that will undoubtedly be cherished by the people of Iran for generations to come. Your role in this path is an inspiring asset for us. We are inspired by your backing and it is obvious that your help and support has always strengthened our resolve and given us joy and vitality. Your philanthropic actions are firm proof of those high humanitarian values that make humans God-like. At a time when all humane values are trampled upon, people like you are guardians of the high values of humanity. History will judge you rightly; you are on the correct side of history. I hope to see you in Albania and hope that you will keep my best warm wishes with you forever.

My name is **SIMA BAGHERZADEH**. Along with my mother and sister we are in Albania.

I have two brothers and some other



**Sima's immediate family back in Ashraf**

relatives in Camp Liberty.

My father was killed by the mullahs in 1988 and two of my uncles were executed in 1982 and 1985 respectively.

I am very grateful to all of you for what you have done for me and for all of us in Camp Ashraf, and then in Camp Liberty, over the years.

I am sure that soon, with the help of freedom-loving people like you, the forces of evil will be defeated and replaced by democracy and peace.

**HENGAMEH HAJHASSAN:** I wanted to thank, from the bottom of my heart, the people who at a time of darkness and despair have bravely stepped forward and shown us a small opening in which



there is light, kindness and love, and have healed our wounds so that we are able to rise up once again.

Thank you to all those who did not sell their humanitarian values one bit, and did all that they possibly could to echo the cry, that light and love still exist in this world and that it can be fought for in order to overcome the darkness and hatred. We hope and believe that you are with us and that we are not alone, so we can still fight for the beauties of life.

In the hope that we will meet in a beautiful free Iran.

My name is **FOROUGH** and I came from Camp Liberty to Albania in 2013 and I have had the privilege of being the host of some of you who have visited us here in Albania.



Although my brothers and sisters in Camp Liberty haven't seen you in person, they love you all, because of your humanitarian values and what you have done over the years and during the most difficult times.

Therefore I feel privileged to thank you all on their behalf and convey their heartfelt appreciation.

You may be aware that our number has increased over the past few months

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who, in the wake of the 'historic' nuclear deal with the Iranian regime, race to send trade delegations to Tehran and so turn an even blinder eye to the Iranian regime's human rights violations at home and its active fanning of the flames of extremism throughout the region.

Extremism, fundamentalism, the velayat-e faqih of the Iranian regime, is a

throwback to the most brutal, medieval forms of religious oppression. As its roots become more exposed, by its own actions as well as by all our efforts, it is becoming much harder for world leaders to justify it as a legitimate form of government. And increasingly easy for the ordinary people of the world to see it for what it is.

And when the day comes for Iran to be free, it will not just be the 120,000

martyrs of the Iranian resistance who will be with them, but also the millions from other places and times who have died needlessly as a result of greed, cowardice and all the other evils that drive men ambitious to get or keep power and those who fear them.

This is a pivotal moment of time and we have no doubt that, with your help, truth and justice will prevail and Iran will be free.



and I am happy to say that thanks to your help some of the logistical and medical problems of these newcomers have been solved.

The unwavering support of freedom-loving people like you is a source of inspiration for us.

I believe that humanity and

humanitarian values form a common language which bonds us together like a family.

I have no doubt that today's world more than ever is in need of these values.

At a time when the Middle East is engulfed in sectarian violence and we hear the heartbreaking stories of innocent lives that have been destroyed, the only answer is to rid the world of the menace of Islamic fundamentalism the heart of which beats in Tehran.

I have no doubt that with your support we will be able to do so and bring about peace and freedom and democracy for our people.

It is in this context that I believe that what you do and what you have done so far will always be remembered in the annals of the Iranian people's history.

**MITRA ILKHANI:** Dear friends, I wanted to thank you for your help and support by writing this letter. As you know I was operated on in a hospital in Tirana

nearly 2 years ago. At that time I was not able to walk without crutches because I was severely wounded in 2011 attack, but now I am fine and it's all because of your support.



So I wanted to express my appreciation to you and I wish the best for you and your family. I wish also that I host you in a free Iran.

Please convey my greetings to all our friends and supporters.

**AZAM HAJHEDARI:** With warmest regards to my honourable friends.

My dearest friends, I do not know how I can thank you for all your sacrifice. You cannot imagine how thankful I am for all your support and hard work for our resistance.



I must say that your support and your hard work during these years have guaranteed our resistance. I cannot put your great sacrifice into words. We are all indebted to you for such excellent work.

I am sure, one day Iran will be free, and I am sure one day my people will have the taste and feeling of freedom in our country. And in that day, you and all the people like you will be in our mind and in our heart, and your name will always be well remembered in our history.

God bless you for all of your kindness and hard work, and make all your wishes come true.

## No to Rouhani

### Iranians in New York call for the UN to expel Hassan Rouhani

This caricature depicts the consequence of appeasement policy vis-a-vis the Iranian regime. The people of Iran are paying the price of Western powers appeasing "the most active state sponsor of terrorism" with their blood and suffering on a daily basis. The regime uses terror and intimidation not only outside Iran but on a daily basis against the people of the country who are also suffering from mismanagement of the economy, the environment and the work force. No to Rouhani, No to Appeasement and No to Human Rights violations were slogans that filled the streets of New York when the Iranian regime's president, Hassan Rouhani was due to make a speech at the UN General Assembly. He did not deserve this podium.





## LONDON EVENT: DIRECT PHONE CONTACT WITH CAMP LIBERTY

Our social gathering in London on 12 September was memorable and eventful. Our dear friend Jenny Carter was MC. We had the privilege of hearing Rt Hon Anna Brent former, mayor of Islington talking about her concern over Camp Liberty residents and the situation of human rights and in particular women in Iran. Mr Stephen Roche played magnificent piano, Bahman played the Persian drum and a video described how Camp Liberty was transformed from a deserted dry land looking like a garbage dump to a liveable quarter by the residents, who spent over 30 million hours of work to transform the place.

At one point during the event we had the opportunity to link to Camp Liberty by phone. It was a unique experience and many volunteers and supporters were able to communicate with the camp residents, ask questions and express their feelings. Excerpts from this conversation follow:

Hello everybody, this is **BEHZAD SAFFARI** and first of all let me thank you all on behalf of our group here. This is a privilege, and an honour, that we are able to speak directly to you today, to our very good friends, many of whom have been supporting us for many years; and we are really grateful for that and thank you for all your help. We are very much thrilled today, as I said, to be directly in touch with you and we are at your disposal for any questions that you would like to ask and we will try to answer as best as we can. I want to be very short because my other colleagues here, Dr Javad Ahmadi and the others, are very eager, first of all, to say hello to you.

Hello everybody. This is **JAVAD AHMADI**. I am the senior doctor in Camp Liberty. My specialty is urology. Actually this relation, communication, reminded me of the years when I have been in England. Tonight it's my great honour and privilege to be in touch with you. Actually I am very appreciating you for your help and protection, especially



your help and protection have given the help to some of our patients and this is really appreciated for me as a doctor responsible here for the treatment of our patients and I am ready to reply to any questions regarding the medical service in Camp Liberty. I pass to my colleague Ms Zari to talk to you.

Hello, I start with the warmest greetings and good evening to all

of you, dear friends and volunteers. My name is **ZARI HELMI** and I want to tell you how happy I am talking to you directly. I wish that one day you come to see the restrictions on us removed by our struggle and your great endeavours and support and we can meet in person here and show you how we have changed a terrible stony, sandy place into a green garden, with very hard, 35 million hours of work, of course without any equipment, even ordinary spades, forks or anything like that which is used in a small garden. I am in particular very happy talking to you since I used to live in London for years, the very good years of my life. I went to London when I was a teenager, did my A Levels in Wimbledon, my B. Sc. in Queen Mary College and my post-graduate in London School of Economics. I must tell you that we have almost the same story, all of us who are here, all sacrificing our lives for restoring freedom, democracy and human rights and women's rights in Iran. I must tell you that a third of the population here are women like me, many of them much younger than me and are like my daughters. We are encircled by many layers of military intelligence and police forces of Iraq, all being infiltrated by hirelings and militias of mediaeval rulers in Iran. We all believe that without the splendid support of you we would not be alive or able continue our struggle. The fundamentalist regime is not only the enemy of us, but your enemy, an enemy of freedom-loving people, an enemy of mankind. Therefore we are all in the same fight against a fundamentalist regime whose aim is destroying freedom and democracy. The mediaeval regime does not belong to this century. Once again I appreciate your marvellous and great support straight from this in my heart and pass to my colleague.

My name is **MOHAMMAD HOSSEINI**. I am very delighted and happy that I am speaking to you all directly. I am grateful and thank you all on behalf of



all the residents, especially the patients whom you have saved their lives. It is an honour and a privilege for me to be here and I am ready to answer your questions.

Hello, my name is **CHRIS**, and I'm in amongst a team of about 150 people, I think, for this interview today. I wanted to ask you: Liberty is a place where we have seen desert go to green, and how did you first plant your first patch of green in that desert?

**BEHZAD:** OK. This question I can answer very well, because I came to Camp Liberty with the first group that left Ashraf, and it was, you know, everything was strange to us. So the very first plant that was planted here actually was two plants. The seed was from the apple that we ate here and also a little bit of grass that one of the residents smuggled in his pocket to Camp Liberty from Ashraf. So we planted both together. And I just want to tell you, all the grass that you see on the land here, it came from that little one, that this fellow put in his pocket, the guards couldn't find it, and he brought it to Camp Liberty, because all the plants and everything was forbidden to come to the camp. So that is how they started it, and after that we had a tree here before, you know, they put the walls around the camp in a way that all the trees are placed outside the camp except one which was inside the camp. And that was a willow tree, so then six months later they took sticks from that plant, that tree as well, and planted it everywhere. That's how it happened in the beginning.

**CHRIS:** Congratulations. It's a very inspiring story of how the barren camp has been made green by hard work and by a certain amount of ingenuity in acquiring plants. We're full of admiration for this.

My name is **DAVINA** and I've been a supporter for many years now. And I just want to say how inspired I was by the stories that you told, by your courage, by your resilience, by your optimism despite of all the things that those people have put there to make you lose faith in everything. It was inspirational being able to talk to you, and I think like many people who were



listening, we wanted to know how we can help you. What can we do to make your lives easier, or to help you to get out of the camp?

**SHAHRIAR:** The most important thing is what you are doing, the financial support. Besides that, I think writing letters to the international bodies is very important.

**SALEEM:** I just wanted to explain something about our friends who have gathered here today, because I think this should be very heart-warming for you that they are the most wonderful people one could meet and have as supporters; each and every one of them, through difficult times, even difficult times of their own, standing behind

you. Personally I thank God for having such friends like them and I don't think that you could wish for better friends.

**LIZ:** As Chris said, a large number of people are here who come from all walks of life and we have become a solid team and friends over the years, united in working with you. As you've repeated now the United Nations need to be reminded, UNHCR and the United Nations, about the fact that UNAMI tells them lies and we think that actually we are getting the truth from other sources, and they should listen to our truth rather than the lies from UNAMI. I'd like to hear you say something about the medical siege and what that's doing and how difficult it is for you, and perhaps whether there's any mileage in us trying to get the Ashraf equipment brought over for you.

**DR AHMADI:** Yes, actually right now because of the inhumane restrictions and limitations which are imposed upon our patients to transfer them to outside hospitals, and limitations even to send them to the private section, to treat our patients, because of these limitations right now there are several hundreds of patients in the list, and waiting to be sent to hospitals. Besides that, there are more than 200 patients in the list of surgery, different types of surgery.

So you can imagine how is the situation of the medical services in Camp Liberty. I would like to inform you, when we were in Camp Ashraf, we had a qualified hospital with enough medical equipment and a good operating room with different types of surgical equipments; for oncology, for eye surgery and other fields. We also had instruments for brain surgery. Iraqi government did not permit these instruments and equipment be brought to Liberty.

**SALEEM:** Thank you so much Dr Javad, and we are really admiring you for persevering in this difficult situation with medical siege and we really are very indebted to you for trying your utmost day and night for the residents of Liberty. I think truly you should be awarded in this world for everything you have done selflessly without anybody knowing (applause).



# YOUR PAGE: ILA BRITISH VOLUNTEERS SPEAK

**WILLIAM:** I started volunteering for ILA four years ago. My motivation was solving the problem of fundamentalism in Iran & the Middle East and ending ‘velayat - e - faqih’ (absolute dictatorship) rule of the mullahs. You know the world is not safe until the dangerous rule of mullahs in Iran is ended, so fundamentalism & terrorism will be stopped from spreading. Freedom of speech & plurality of thought, as Madam Rajavi has envisioned can be brought back to Iran so civilization can flourish after 30 yrs of backwardness and ignorance under Khomeini’s state.



**PHILIP:** I have been with ILA since 2008 and started volunteering in 2013. My motivation was to help, in any way I can. The work is straight forward and I live nearby. It makes me feel useful and I know work is appreciated, unlike my last paid job.

Many hands make work lighter. My message to other supporters is come and join us and you will contribute more than you realize in helping ILA achieve its goals.



**HARRY:** I started volunteering for ILA 14 months ago. I saw a need to support the cause, and was made aware that my time could be usefully employed. I have always supported causes when I feel I can in terms of money. The opportunity to contribute time and commitment is less common. My message to others is

give what you can when you can. ‘Every little helps’ is a good mantra to live by. We in the West are fortunate to live in a stable, largely liberal society and should harbour a thought for those less fortunate.



**CAROLYN:** I have known ILA since 2008 and started volunteer work here in 2013. I believe in this cause and I feel I’m doing something immensely worthwhile. I also like the delicious food here.

My message to supporters and volunteers is simple, keep going, victory will be yours.



**ALLEN:** I am familiar with this cause for over 30 years. I wanted to do something beside financial support so I started volunteer work in the office in 2014. The work has given me outside interest and contacts.



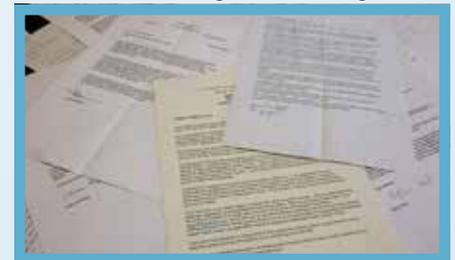
**DAVID:** I have been supporting the cause for over 20 years. I felt I can no longer provide much financial support, so working in the office is a good way to keep helping. The volunteering has also introduced me to many good friends – Iranian and British – and I enjoy the excellent dinners prepared so efficiently.

My message to others is very simple, this is a vitally important cause. Please help by giving time and / or money.



## SUPPORT LETTERS AND SIGNATURES

The response to our petition was overwhelming and many friends gathered signatures from friends and family. Even though we have not yet reached the intended target of 100,000 signatures on paper but the response was overwhelming and the signatures



gathered so far will have an immense impact in highlighting the deteriorating human rights situation in Iran. Besides the signatures many friends sent letters to ILA expressing their heartfelt support for the cause.



## HUMAN RIGHTS IN IRAN ~ A BLEAK RECORD ~

Deteriorating human rights in Iran was a subject of the report of UN Secretary General to the General Assembly on 28 September 2015.



In this regard, the mysterious death in prison of worker's union activist Shahrokh Zamani received international attention. He had told his friends in prison that the interrogators had threatened him with death under unusual circumstances.

### Shahrokh Zamani's letter to his daughter

*My lovely daughter,*

*In a country where a bunch of bloodthirsty parasites are exploiting millions of people and publicly stealing from them, one of the richest countries in the world, ranked 10th in terms of natural resources, is also a country with 80% living under the poverty line, unprecedented levels of inflation, unemployment, kids working on the streets, lack of housing, prostitution, divorce, drug addiction and depression. In such circumstances, how can I turn a blind eye to what is happening and not think about the fate of my compatriots, but only think about you and me?*

*How can I not think about the hundreds of thousands of kids who are working on the streets, the who are living in hunger, while these wealthy parasites own cars worth millions? How can I turn a blind eye to future generations of 11 million children being uneducated and poor while government officials are receiving salaries worth hundreds of millions? Can one just sit and watch while 600 officials have borrowed a quarter of the wealth of the country, which is the equivalent of 150 billion tomans, and haven't yet paid it back,*



*while 1.2 million youths queue up to receive loans of 5 million tomans [roughly £1000].*

*How can we forget about the arrest, torture and execution of thousands of freedom-loving and equality-seeking people when they stood up and fought for their rights?*

*Yes, my lovely daughter, a true human being cannot keep silent amid all this discrimination, inequality and injustice.*

*Don't be upset. There are people here who haven't been given permission to attend the funerals of their loved ones, so that the wealthy authorities can prove their loyalty to the system. You should be 100% sure and know that history will throw the tyrants in history's dust bin. Hear from your father that in such a society with many classes humanity is slaughtered and the idols of riches and deceptions inject the society with selfishness and consumption to reduce mankind to animals. The only ones who can keep themselves from this sludge and keep their human identity, are those who swim against the flow of the river. As the French revolutionaries said: one for all and all for one. Those who study the progressive revolutionary literature against tyranny and exploitation and constantly combat selfish animal mindsets; and those who help and love their fellow human beings as they struggle. Then and only then, with such a mindset, will true love of your spouse and children come and persist. Otherwise, mankind becomes an idol worshipper who is captivated by money and power*

*and social status and thus is captivated by his or her selfishness and becomes a foreigner to his human identity. Then how can one love his or her fellow human beings and sacrifice for them, including your spouse and children?*

*My daughter:*

*I wish you happiness and I hope that you pick the path of humanistic values and struggle against injustice and that you [and your fiancé] become good and sacrificing spouses for each other and that you become sacrificing and useful human beings for the society.*

*From one who loves you and all mankind.*

*Shahrokh Zamani  
Rajai Shahr Prison  
Monday, 15 September 2014*



**Shahrokh Zamani on the right with Mohammad Amirkhizi beside him.**

Many of Shahrokh's cellmates issued statements about his unexplained death including Mohammad Amirkhizi who said "Shahrokh was an ideal and a practical path to achieving that ideal".

In his funeral, prohibited by authorities, hundreds of his supporters participated defying the strict threats of arrest.





# WORLDWIDE PROTESTS AGAINST HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN IRAN AND IN DEFENCE OF PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE



**IRAN:** Iranian human rights activists and families of political prisoners have been staging demonstrations outside Evin Prison for 11 weeks. Many prisoners are denied proper medical attention while serving their prison terms.

Others have been sentenced to death and their relatives want to know why. Many have also gone missing after being arrested by Revolutionary Guards.

Inside Iran women, workers, teachers, nurses and all sectors of society have been demonstrating and demanding their basic rights, wages and decent work conditions.

The regime confronts the legitimate demands of the people with more arrests, torture and public hangings. Nevertheless the brave people of Iran continue their struggle for freedom under massive

suppression. They call on human loving people around the world to raise their voice. We at the International Liberty Association have made it a responsibility to echo their cries and focus international attention on their plight. The photos need no explanation.

**Demonstrations have also been taking place all over the world**



**Iranian workers demonstrating in front of Majlis (so called parliament) in Tehran**



**Teachers sit-in in Gilan province**

