



Memory of the heroes of Camp Ashraf

By Colonel Wesley Martin

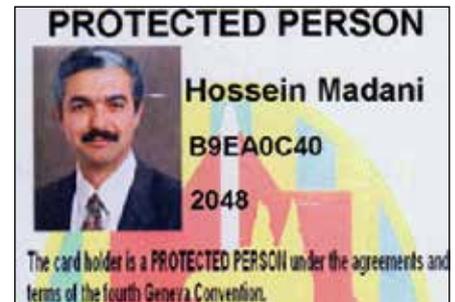
Two years ago, across thousands of miles, goodbyes had to be said to fifty-two very special friends. Having worked with the residents of Camp Ashraf while serving both as senior operations officer for Task Force 134 (Detention Operations) and later as Base Commander of Camp Ashraf, I was fortunate to work with some of the finest people I have ever known. Two people who will always stand out in my memory are Zohreh Ghaemi and Hossein Madani. Respect for Zohreh's leadership was reflected by all Americans who admiringly called her Commander Zohreh. Even though she had no authority over the American soldiers, she had earned their respect.

Hossein also had won American hearts. An extremely brilliant man with

a most dignified presence, Hossein took time to treat everyone with respect. In meetings I continually watched him shift between Farsi, Arabic, and English with perfect rhythm. Our conversations were not always business; they were frequently friendly discussions about the world and our own lives. I found Hossein knew as much as I about Washington D.C. That is understandable considering the many years he lived and worked there.

I had the same respect for all the residents of Camp Ashraf. Some evenings when I wished to get away from the details of my own work, I would go to sentry post located near one of my own. In the quiet desert air, when coolness had replaced blistering

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Editorial

This newsletter, prepared in the looming shadow of a "historic nuclear deal" with the Iranian regime, is dedicated to the heroes – men and women of all ages and backgrounds – the martyrs of the Iranian Resistance.

For over 36 years the Iranian people have suffered under the control of a brutal and barbaric religious fundamentalist regime that ever more openly spreads its pernicious influence throughout the region and, through their nuclear ambitions, which it seems this deal will do little to curb, threatens the entire world.

While the Iranian people are currently suffering under horrendous economic conditions, it is widely believed that any financial benefit from sanctions relief will be used not to alleviate their suffering, but to bolster the suppressive forces and

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Twenty seventh victim of medical blockade of Camp Liberty

Abdul Ali Ghanbari died in hospital in Albania due to delay in his treatment while in Camp Liberty. He is the 27th person who has died because of the medical siege on camps Ashraf and Liberty.

On the morning of Wednesday, 2 September, former resident of Camp Liberty Abdul Ali Ghanbari, 57, died of cancer which could have been controlled had he have access to proper medical care.

On 21 December 2012 in a letter to the Deputy UNAMI chief, four doctors expressed concerns of the risks faced by the acute patients including Abdul Ali Ghanbari due to the inhumane blockade of Camp Liberty.

The legal adviser of Camp Liberty in two separate letters to the UN refugee agency, UNHCR, in Baghdad on 21 and 24 June 2014, mentioned the names of acute patients who were

denied access to hospital for more than two weeks and Abdul Ali Ghanbari was the third name in both letters.

Abdul Ali's name was in many letters to UNAMI and UNHCR, Ms Jane Lute (appointed at that time by the UN Secretary General for overseeing the plight of the residents of Liberty), and other UN officials in Iraq as well as

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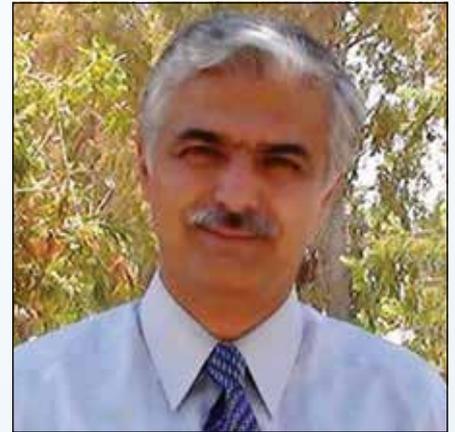
Memory of the Heroes of Camp Ashraf *continued from p.1*

heat, we would relax and enjoy each other's company. Visits to the residents' main camp were always special events whether it was a business meeting or a social event.

Suddenly on September 1, 2013, fifty-two wonderful lives were extinguished and seven others taken hostage by the brutality of a corrupt government. Their lives have been taken, but their memories will never be lost as long as we live and the spirit of democracy lives within each of us. The time will come in

the future when we are together again. We will appreciate the opportunity we had to know and work with each other in this life. We will also be proud of knowing we never gave up on each other and never gave up on striving to bring peace and stability to the world.

Retired Army Col. Wesley Martin is a former Anti-terrorism/Force Protection Officer of all Coalition forces in Iraq, a former operations chief, and a former base commander in Camp Ashraf, Iraq.



Twenty seventh victim of medical blockade... *continued from p.1*

in letters sent directly to the embassies of European countries calling for their immediate transfer.

He was finally transferred to Albania in October 2014 when his cancer had progressed beyond the point of rescue and doctors' efforts in Albania proved ineffective.

Abdul Ali Ghanbari's courage and steadfastness in the most difficult conditions reflects the will of the Iranian people for ending the dictatorship in Iran.

Please write to the US Embassy, the United Nations, and the UN refugee agency, the UNHCR, urging them to take action implementing immediate measures to end the siege of Camp Liberty.

Remembering the 52 martyrs of 1 September 2013 assault on Ashraf



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further the expansionist ambitions of the regime.

By its nature, fundamentalism countenances no opposition and the people of Iran have paid a heavy price over many years for their dedication to the goal of freedom and democratic change for Iran and exposing the regime's activities in the wider arena.

We write as the horrific murder of 52 in Ashraf on 1 September 2013, overlays in our hearts and minds with the mass slaughter of 30,000 political prisoners in Iran during these weeks of 1988.

Many of the heroes of 1988 were slaughtered in secret, their bodies tossed into mass unmarked graves, the wider world unaware. But their memory

was held deep in the hearts of the Iranian people, their spirit an inspiration for continuing the struggle. Now their stories are being told, bringing these heroes to life for freedom lovers everywhere.

The more recent heroes, the martyrs of Ashraf and Camp Liberty, as Wesley Martin's impassioned words make clear, were already in the hearts of many beyond Iran and their brutal slaughter galvanised support across the globe.

The perpetrators of the 1988 atrocities, including Ali Khamenei and Hassan Rouhani, hold high office in Iran today, continuing on their bloody path with seeming impunity, but we have no doubt that their days are numbered. Justice can be delayed but will not be denied to those who seek it with

passion and determination and are prepared to pay the heaviest price for it.

Every drop of blood spilt in the selfless pursuit of justice and freedom for the Iranian people has only served to widen and deepen the support for the cause, and created an army of truth that spans the globe.

We thank you for being a part of this great army, perhaps indeed greater by far than what can be seen. Extending Maryam Rajavi's words about the 1988 victims to all the heroes, "they will be present in the enormous waves of the movement of the Iranian people and their army of liberation, and they will put an end to fundamentalism, tyranny and oppression." We look forward to that day coming very soon.



Conference Call about the nuclear deal with Iran

In a conference call with Mr Shahin Ghobadi, a member of NCRI's foreign relations committee, ILA supporters had the opportunity to hear his views on the nuclear deal and ask questions and express their concerns about the effects of the bad deal with Iran on the fate of Liberty residents and the people in Iran who are suffering from regime repression on the one hand and the effects of sanctions on the other. The following is Mr Ghobadi's opening remarks:

I feel gratified to be able to talk to you today, and let me first express my most sincere appreciation for what you have done for my sisters and brothers in Camp Ashraf and Camp Liberty.

Regarding this nuclear agreement, there are several parties in this key development.

Let's start with the clerical regime, the ayatollahs. The key question is why the ayatollahs agreed to come to the negotiating table after all these years and after all the stalling, and why they agreed to a deal to begin with.

According to the constitution, the Supreme Leader, Ali Khamenei, is the one who has the ultimate authority to make this kind of decision. People like Rouhani and Javad Zarif, are all basically functionaries by definition.

For Ali Khamenei, a nuclear program was never energy. Iran does not need this sort of energy. For him, the objective always was to obtain nuclear weapons. That's why the regime has pushed this project for the past three decades, particularly for the past quarter-century, giving it such a massive priority. According to some estimates Tehran has spent up to 300 billion dollars on this project.

This was a strategic investment and a strategic guarantor for their survival.

In a nutshell, this regime has survived on three pillars: number one is the suppression at home. The second pillar is export of extremism, Islamic fundamentalism, transgression, whatever one would describe it, in the region, in Iraq, in Syria, in Lebanon, in Yemen and in Bahrain, and so on and so forth, to compensate for its

shortcomings at home. The third pillar was a drive to acquire nuclear weapons. Nuclear weapons, in the regime's own lexicon, were a strategic guarantor for survival.

You see, Khamenei has talked about many, many, many red lines, but there's one ultimate red line for Khamenei, one red line: he does not want to see popular, universal uprising similar to what happened in 2009. That's an absolute no-no.

Then, in 2009, with all sorts of suppressions and all sorts of killings and inhumane measures he was able to put the genie back in the bottle. He sent people in the streets back into their homes.

But he cannot afford this being repeated. So, with this in mind, he realised that the population is getting more and more restive. You know, there were signs of people being totally

fed up, particularly the young and the women were totally disenchanted, the economy was faltering. So he realised that the whole strategy was more and more untenable.

The regime was getting weaker and weaker, and he could not take the risk and gamble for the regime in its entirety. So that's why, despite all his feelings, despite all his interest in nuclear weapons, he had his back against the wall. He was caught between a rock and a hard place. The sanctions were starting to bite, the people were getting more restive, the Resistance was getting more and more conspicuous and more active and more present and more respected. So in that condition Khamenei agreed to nuclear talks and eventually conceded to a nuclear agreement.

So that's the context, and in that light he came to talks from a position of weakness, with no other choice, and he left the talks even weaker than before.

So far as Khamenei, the ultimate decision-maker, was concerned, this was a big defeat. He had no choice.

Now, the other side of the coin is the role that the Iranian resistance played. Over the last fifteen years, NCRI made some 110 revelations; secret sites, secret projects, key scientists regarding the Iranian nuclear weapons program and shedding light on them to the world, with great risks and huge resources. We [the NCRI] prevented the most dangerous regime acquiring the most dangerous weapons.

But so far as the West is concerned, particularly the Obama administration, I think they made a very, very poor deal. The Western negotiators, particularly John Kerry and his team, made many unwarranted concessions. Tehran was nowhere in a position to impose its demands. The verification should have been much more stringent. They should not have been allowed to have any centrifuges...

It was a victory for us? Yes. It was a defeat for the ayatollahs? Yes, but the West could have demanded much more...

Specially human rights should not have been forsaken.



Brave Iranians demonstrate outside Evin prison against arbitrary detentions and executions



Teachers demonstrate in Tehran



Message from Iran prison about Camp Ashraf massacre

Political prisoner Ali Moezi has sent a message from Iran's notorious Central Karaj Prison commemorating the martyrs in the second anniversary of the massacre in Camp Ashraf by agents of the Iraqi government at the behest of the regime in Iran.

Mr Moezi hailed the "heroic perseverance" of the Camp Ashraf residents and said they "propagated the value of perseverance and made Ashraf immortal."

"It is beyond me to truly understand the full extent of their honesty and sacrifice and the greatness that this event marked or to fully understand their innocence and commitment, but these are feelings which engulf any human being."

He said that the small number of people who had remained at Camp Ashraf on September 1, 2013 had "great quality", and through resisting with only their bare hands they managed to pass on the great value of perseverance through generations.

"Long live the memory of the pure and forever shining 52 Mojaheds such as Zohreh Qaemi and Jila Tolu, Giti, and Hossein and the other eternal stars. May God bless their spirits."

"It has been established in our time that no obstacle can block the path of the PMOI and its resistance for the Iranian people's inalienable rights."

"The fact that such sacrifices have to be made for genuine freedom and democracy in the 21st Century shows the irresponsibility of international bodies. Immediately after the attack, the desperate and helpless regime found itself alone with a stain which has tarnished it since."

"Undoubtedly the PMOI's honor and pride belong to the Iranian nation, and disgrace and historical defeat will belong to the people's enemies," wrote Ali Moezi from the Central Prison of Karaj.



Maryam Rajavi commemorates victims of 1988 mass executions

Excerpts from her message to Iranian people and their international supporters – August 2015:

On the 27th anniversary of the massacre of 30,000 political prisoners, let us commemorate the heroes and heroines who are the shining symbols of perseverance against religious fascism.

In 1988, following his acceptance of the ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war, Khomeini issued a fatwa to massacre groups after groups of PMOI and other political prisoners, because they refused to surrender to the religious dictatorship. They remained steadfast and dedicated a remarkable chapter to the annals of Iran's history.

Today, images of atrocities perpetrated by ISIS arouse outrage among people around the world over the brutality of religious fundamentalists. Three decades ago, however, it was Khomeini who laid the foundations of this type of barbarism by massacring thousands upon thousands of Iranian youths after issuing fanatical fatwas.

At that time, the current Supreme Leader of the regime, Ali Khamenei, was the president and he publicly condoned the 1988 massacre by saying, "We execute prisoners and have no quarrels about it." The regime's current President, Hassan Rouhani, was at the time the deputy to the acting commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces and a senior regime official.

The reality is that both factions of the regime were involved in the massacre of political prisoners.

Over the past 27 years, defending this genocide has been a litmus test of loyalty to the institution of the velayat-e faqih (absolute clerical rule).

Another part of this reality is the unjustifiable silence of Western governments appeasing the regime as well as that of the United Nations. They, too, must be held accountable.

Today, the beloved mothers and families of the victims are prevented from visiting the unmarked graves of their children. The ruling mullahs are doing their utmost to wash away the evidence of this horrific crime against humanity.

It is the Iranian Resistance's great commitment to turn every drop of blood spilled from the bodies of these martyrs into a force for freedom and victory in Iran, and to ensure the triumph of their cause.

On that day, the heroes and heroines massacred in 1988 will be present in the enormous waves of the movement of the Iranian people and their army of liberation, and they will put an end to fundamentalism, tyranny and oppression.

The struggle for liberty, the overthrow of the Caliph of Fundamentalism, free elections, and drafting of the constitution for a new republic by the National Constituent and Legislative Assembly are the inalienable rights of the Iranian people.

**Hail to the martyrs of the 1988 massacre
Hail to freedom**





Commemorating 30,000 victims of the 1988 massacre in Iran



Account of Amineh Gharaei whose father was one of the martyrs:

My father was arrested in Mashhad in 1981 when I was one year old. He was arrested along with my mother. My father was a history teacher and my mother was a math teacher. I was with my mother in prison for a few months. When her interrogations were finished, they let her hand me over to her family outside of prison.

Dad was imprisoned for 4 years, my mum 2.5 years. Dad was freed in February 1985 and was outside prison for about a year before he was arrested again in 1986 when my brother was just born. He was arrested for a regular phone call conversation with a human rights activist outside the country. They gave him a 5 year prison sentence, but in 1988 he was executed along with 30,000 others.

In the 2 years my father was in prison again, I was 6-8 years old. I remember meeting him every week. He had high spirit and talked with us with passion and gave us hope. From behind the prison bars I could see how proud and honourable he was and how deeply he believed in the cause.

My father used to send me lots of books from prison and he always wrote in front of the book that, "Child has to know..." I always thought to myself what is it that 'child has to know'? I didn't know at that time, but when I grew up I realized there are lots of things to know, like what my dad died for? What was his goal? What was his cause? And what I had to know about the past and the future.

My father would make me books of

his drawings in prison and send them to me. He would write the price on the book; "3 years imprisonment of father!!!"

Once when we went to prison to see him, he asked me what new poem I had learnt. At that time I was in second grade. There was a poem: 'so lucky of you rural person, how happy and pleasant you are.' I started to sing it, my father said: "These are lies the regime sings in the peoples' ears!" At that time, I said how is this a lie? The rural people are happy, nice and pleasant. When I grew up I realised why my father had shown such reaction to such a poem. This when I saw myself the suffering of the most deprived layers are these farmers in the rural areas who work hard morning to night, and they might not see their own work's result and their children are poor and lack vitamins and don't have the basic needs, I realized what my father meant. He always tried to inform me even in such suppressive conditions.

At the time that my father was martyred, I didn't think that his name would be mentioned again. At that time, there was such repression that we couldn't protest, and we were concerned if their names would ever become public, or will they remain unknown. Today, thanks to the resistance and the supporters all around it, I now see their names everywhere and events are organized in different places for them. With these memorials and



commemorations, their path is being continued and they expose the regime.

At that period, we never thought such a massacre was taking place. My father had 5 year sentence and 2 years of it had passed and only 3 year were left.

Three months before the massacre, me and my mother and my 2 year old brother went to visit him but they didn't let us. This continued for weeks. We would wait for hours and then return without seeing him. This continued for 3 months. After a while, rumours circulated that maybe they will be executed. It was a very frightening period to think what can happen. There were some families whose children had finished their sentences and they were waiting for their release but they were also prohibited visits.

It was in October that my grandfather received the news that his son was executed. The regime officials told us that we can't hold memorial but when the people learned they came to our house. Some even climbed over the walls. We closed one door, but they would come from another door. A beautiful memorial was held.

Regime agents would call and threaten that we will kill you all. Initially they gave no news of the burial location and it was kept a secret. Later on they said there is a place at the end of Beheshte Zahra cemetery; those who were executed in 1980's were buried there. Although none had any sign. After a while they said it was mass graves.

Any rock or stone or sign that was put to mark a grave, would be broken. Trees that were planted, after a while would be pulled out or burnt. The area would be cleared with bulldozers. But every Friday it was our usual meeting place. We would go there and it was comforting for me to go to a place where resistant and strong people were laid.

The Iranian youth are continuing this path. The impact has been seen in the struggle of the Iranian people and their resistance. The Iranian people say it has been through these sacrifices that they have been able to see the evilness of the regime and the value of resistance to it.



A MOTHER'S FIGHT FOR FREEDOM

After she hears that her only son has paid the heaviest price

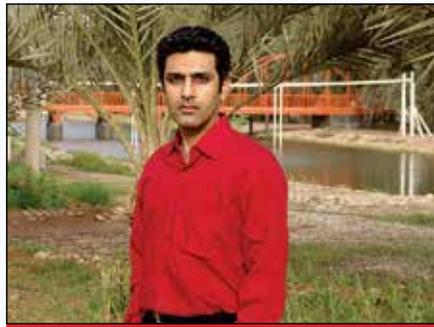
Dr Masumeh Bolurchi vividly remembers that bitter day 24 months ago. She was up early preparing for another day in Paris to mobilize the Iranian expatriate community to rally behind the organized opposition for democratic change when at 6.00am the phone rang and she heard the words that no mother should ever have to hear.

Through a sombre chord trying to mutter out the words with difficulty, a lady friend told her that Masumeh's only son Rahman, a young and aspiring man in a refugee camp in Iraq, had been handcuffed and shot in the head, execution-style by Iranian-sponsored militias.

For a moment the world stopped for Masumeh. She could not breathe, nor could her heart beat. Her head was spinning and all she could see was the image of her dear son. Her only child, such a brave and committed activist for democratic change in Iran, had been forever taken away from her. With her motherly instincts Masumeh wanted to break down in tears, when she realized the voice on the phone was also weeping in agony. Masumeh found herself having to first of all console the lady on the phone.

Moments later Masumeh thought to herself how many others who knew Rahman would be distraught by the news of his callous murder, and in those moments of overwhelming pain and sheer disbelief, Masumeh reminded herself of the thousands in Iran who have been executed and the pain of all those mothers who each day are informed that their dearest treasures are about to be or have just been sent to the gallows.

Though her heart was exploding, Masumeh said to herself "If I break down now, then the mullahs will have won; my duty, like Rahman, is to echo the voice of the oppressed and rally the international community to come to the defence of the victims of the Iranian regime's brutal daily atrocities". With that, Masumeh made a conscientious decision to gather her strengths and



Masumeh's son, Rahman Manani, in Camp Ashraf.

urgently campaign to save the other Iranian dissidents who were in the same refugee camp as Rahman in Iraq.

She immediately contacted the German Foreign Ministry, which had previously given Rahman his refugee status, as well as international media outlets and human rights groups like Amnesty International. By noon, Iranians across the globe had embarked on an ad-hoc campaign to pressure the United Nations and United States to stop the onslaught by Iraqi mercenaries of the Iranian regime in Camp Ashraf.

In reality, all the residents of Camp Ashraf had been recognized by the US as 'protected persons' under the Fourth Geneva Convention, and each had received a 'protected persons' card. The United Nations had also vowed to protect the camp residents from attacks. Yet on the day of the attack neither the US nor the UN showed any quick reaction.

As shocking mobile phone footages of the scenes of the massacre were received from survivors at the camp, hundreds of Iranians from around the world began a hunger strike and the international community demanded that Iraq allow a UN team access to the camp. Of the 101 camp residents – all of who were there as part of an agreement with the UN, US and Iraq – 52 unarmed and defenceless men and women were massacred in cold blood, while seven others including six women were kidnapped, and it is not known today if they are alive.

The Iranian regime had pressed the then-Prime Minister of Iraq Nuri Maliki to send a specialist force contingent to

Camp Ashraf to carry out the assault.

That attack on 1 September 2013 was later denounced by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and US Secretary of State John Kerry, and there was a chorus of international condemnation, but despite calls for an international investigation no one in the Iraqi government or Tehran was ever held to account.

Masumeh, a medical doctor by profession, continues to maintain her fighting spirit in Rahman's memory and she vows to remain restless until the "religious fascism" in Tehran is uprooted and replaced by a democratic government which respects human rights and believes in equality between men and women and separation of Church and State.

The Iranian regime has executed more than 120,000 political prisoners, Masumeh says. They include 10 of Rahman's close relatives, including three of his uncles and his grandmother.

"Every night many mothers wait in agony for their loved ones to come home, knowing they will never see that day. These mothers never had a chance to say goodbye to their loved ones. Many mothers don't even know where their children have been buried. They are even barred from weeping in public for their loved ones," she says.

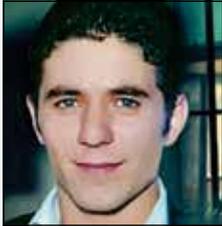
"The executions go on each day. There has been no improvement in the human rights situation since [Hassan] Rouhani took office. More than 2,000 people have been executed since he came. It is not true that the nuclear deal [between Iran's regime and the world powers] will lead to fewer executions. Sixteen were executed this week alone."

"There are protests calling for change every day in Iran. Iranian society is brimming with dissent. We will achieve freedom from the yoke of religious oppression and we will build a nation where no law is greater than the desire of the people. The hanging gallows will be nothing more than a bitter forgotten memory," she added.



• NEWS IN BRIEF •

A vicious act of cruelty by the Iranian authorities'



Behrouz Alkhani, a 30-year-old man from Iran's Kurdish minority, was executed early morning local time on

Wednesday 26 August despite the fact that he was awaiting the outcome of a Supreme Court appeal.

Said Boumedouha, from Amnesty International said: "Today's execution of Behrouz Alkhani, who was still waiting for the outcome of a Supreme Court appeal against his sentence, is a vicious act of cruelty by the Iranian authorities and a denigration of both Iranian and international law. It is appalling that they have imposed further pain and suffering on Behrouz Alkhani's family by refusing to return his body for burial."

Another 5 prisoners hanged together in Iran prison

Iran hanged five prisoners in the Central Prison of Karaj, north-west of Tehran yesterday, Wednesday 2 September. The prisoners were between the ages of 28 and 30.

On Tuesday too, the regime hanged four prisoners in Tabriz and Sanandaj. Another prisoner was hanged in public in the southern city of Bandar Abbas on Monday.

The rise in executions in Iran has been attributed to the softening relations with the west. Incapable of meeting the legitimate demands of the



people and fearful of another uprising like the ones in 2009, the regime is resorting to executions to silence the people. Hassan Rouhani, the so called 'moderate' president of Iran endorsed the executions in a public sermon in 2014 as 'sanctioned by the parliament and/or God'.

At Evin prison inmates are harassed yet again

Prison guards carried out a detailed inspection of personal belongings in two wards of Tehran's notorious Evin Prison on Thursday 27 August. The wards 7 and 8 in Evin house many political prisoners.

Numerous inspections have been carried out in these wards in recent months, and prisoners have been forced to wait for hours in the courtyard as their belongings are searched.

These inspections are an attempt to intimidate the inmates and aggravate their suffering.



Christian worshipers arrested in Iran

At least eight Iranian Christians were beaten and arrested last Friday (7 August) in the city of Karaj while gathering for worship in a house church.

Armed plainclothes agents raided the house, beat the worshipers and confiscated their bibles and pamphlets before taking them to a prison by a van,



eyewitnesses said. The security agents also confiscated satellite dishes at the premises.

Three of the arrestees were released on bail. There is no information available about the remaining prisoners.

Mothers and families of 1988 massacre victims banned from visiting graves

Forces of the Iranian Intelligence Ministry and security police confronted the relatives of victims of 1988 massacre on Friday, August 28, and prevented them from visiting the burial sites of their loved ones in Khavaran Cemetery, southeast of Tehran. A number of elderly mothers of the victims fainted in this engagement and a number of participants were arrested.



The families had been waiting outside Khavaran for a few hours to hold their annual ceremony, but faced prevention by security forces.

Public flogging in Parsian



Parsian prosecutor, Hossein Abbasi said after announcing the sentence that the 'judge has insisted on the sentence being carried out in public to intimidate other as a preemptive measure. The flogging must be viewed by people so others would learn a lesson.' The prosecutor added that the system would deal extremely harshly with those who act against the system and the public order.



The BBC has been hoodwinked by Iran's President Rouhani

By Christopher Booker

Suddenly last week, all over the BBC, we had Iran, the explanation being that it has been allowed to send a reporter into the country, a young Lebanese woman, Kim Ghattas, for the first time since there were mass-demonstrations against the regime in 2009. In between attending a pop concert and a film festival, she was allowed to interview Iran's first female vice-president, Masoumeh Ebtekar, who came to prominence shouting "Death to America" when she was a spokesperson for the captors of those US hostages in 1979.

The all-too familiar line we got was that Iran's prime minister since 2013, Hassan Rouhani, is a "moderate", fighting to "reform" his country against the "reactionaries" surrounding its Supreme Leader, the Ayatollah Khamenei. Rouhani's only wish is to spread "peace and security" across the Middle East. Naturally Ms Ghattas did not press too far the large question marks over the recent much-vaunted "nuclear deal" with the West, by which Iran got what it wanted: a promise of the lifting of the sanctions that have been crippling its economy in return for very dubious concessions over its continued nuclear programme, riddled with holes.

Nor did Ms Ebtekar have any difficulty brushing aside a couple of half-hearted questions about Iran's desire to spread "peace and security" across the Middle East, as through use

of its ruthless Revolutionary Guards to prop up the Assad regime in Syria, and to foment violence and terrorism in all directions, from Lebanon and Iraq to the Yemen and Bahrain.

Wholly off the agenda, of course, was any mention of the fact that, since the arrival of the "moderate" Rouhani, the regime has launched what Amnesty recently called "a staggering execution spree", hanging and shooting some 2,000 victims, more than at any time in 25 years, giving it the highest per capita execution rate in the world (not to mention chopping the hands and feet off scores more inmates of some of the world's most inhuman prisons).

The BBC never seems to learn that totalitarian regimes only allow its reporters into their countries on condition that they mislead their audience with exactly the false picture their propaganda purposes require.

The Sunday Telegraph, 23 August



British and Irish lawmakers denounce rights abuses in Iran

In an online conference on 3 September, members of the UK and Irish Parliaments condemned the ongoing human rights abuses in Iran, urging the international community to speak up against these atrocities

The participants also discussed the appalling situation at Camp Liberty and emphasized that the US government and the UN must act to fulfil their promises to these defenceless refugees. They called for recognizing Camp Liberty as a refugee camp while pressuring the Government of Iraq to lift all restrictions.

Conservative MP Sir David Amess, expressed his disappointment over the Obama administration's Iran policy and warned that the nuclear deal under its current text will only embolden the regime in Tehran. He promised to join colleagues in the Parliament to challenge the UK government's current position on Iran.

Pointing to the increased number of executions he said, "it is only the regime's rhetoric that has changed but the appalling atrocities are still going on."

Labour MP Steve McCabe said, "The head of Iran's so called Human Rights Council defends barbaric punishments, like stoning and hangings."

"We'll sooner or later realize that Iran is cheating on the nuclear deal and then realize our mistake," he added.

With regards to residents of Camp Liberty, Mr McCabe said, "We will not forget them and we will continue our efforts to secure their rights and their protection."

Lord Maginnis of Drumglass said, "Our officials aren't seeing through the lies coming from Tehran ... We seem to deliberately and knowingly ignore the executions and human rights abuses in Iran."

On Camp Liberty Lord Maginnis, said, "We are being lied to by the UN and UNAMI on Camp Liberty." He asked "what does our government know about the seven people who were taken hostage during the massacre [in 2013]?"

Lady Corbett expressed concern about rising executions in Iran and said, "It seems that economic interests and money is being prioritised by the Euro-

pean governments instead of speaking up against these ongoing atrocities."

Remembering the September 2013 massacre at Ashraf Lady Corbett said: "We rallied and warned about the coming atrocities in Camp Ashraf but the world refused to listen".

Peter Mathews TD, member of the Irish Parliament, urged the European governments, leaders of democratic nations and world leaders to show more courage and speak up against the Iranian regime's human rights abuses and executions.

He added, "Liberty in Camp Liberty misrepresents the reality and the naming is grotesque; the camp is a prison for the residents."



Mothers of victims continue protesting in Iran