



International Liberty Association Newsletter

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EDITORIAL

As with last month's newsletter, our hearts are filled with gratitude and appreciation for all the dedicated effort over many years that has gone into creating the good harvest that we are again able to share with you in this bulletin.

As the trial of Hamid Nouri continues in Sweden, for his role in the 1988 massacre in Iran, more and more evidence is being heard relating to Nouri and other regime officials, including the President of Iran, Ebrahim Raisi, and Supreme Leader, Khamenei. This we trust will serve to convict Nouri, but can also be used as the basis for bringing other actions.

Importantly, the evidence is proving that the 1988 massacre was not 'random acts of violence', but implemented in a systematic manner, starting from a 'fatwa' (decree) from the then Supreme Leader, Khomeini, leading to the establishment and orchestration of 'death committees' throughout the country. This is sufficient to classify these killings as genocide.

As a result, calls for accountability for the 1988 massacre are becoming ever more vociferous and widespread. As are the calls to bring an end to the systematic impunity which the regime officials have enjoyed for so many years. Raisi's decision to send a videotaped speech to the UN General Assembly indicates that there are real concerns about the consequences of travel to foreign soil.

The inclusion of strong statements about the regime's involvement in the 1988 massacre and current attempts to cover up evidence of the mass graves, in the United Nations Secretary-General's

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UN SECRETARY GENERAL'S REPORT CONDEMNS SYSTEMATIC HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN IRAN

The United Nations Secretary-General, **Antonio Guterres**, submitted a report to the UN General Assembly on 3 September about the situation of human rights in Iran. The report contains information on the patterns and trends with regard to the state of human rights in Iran under the mullahs' regime.

"Some political prisoners have been in prison for years without a single day of furlough. **Maryam Akbari Monfared**, sentenced to 15 years imprisonment for participating in protests in 2009, has remained imprisoned for the past 12 years. Harassment against her increased after she filed a formal complaint, seeking an official investigation into the executions of political prisoners, including her siblings, in 1988" the report reads, raising concern



about the condition of Maryam Akbari Monfared, who has called for justice for her loved ones executed during the prison massacre in 1988.

In another part of his report, the UN Secretary-General refers to a mass grave in Khavaran where thousands of the 1988 victims are buried and criticises the regime's attempt to ... continued on p.2

25 NOBEL LAUREATES CALL FOR ACCOUNTABILITY FOR THE 1988 PRISON MASSACRE

In a letter to the UN Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres, 25 Nobel laureates expressed their solidarity and sympathy with the relatives and friends of those executed during the 1988 massacre of political prisoners in Iran.

The Nobel laureates underscored "the need to set up an international commission by the United Nations to investigate this enormous crime."

"In the absence of international accountability, genocide and crimes against humanity continue in Iran," is a central message of their letter.

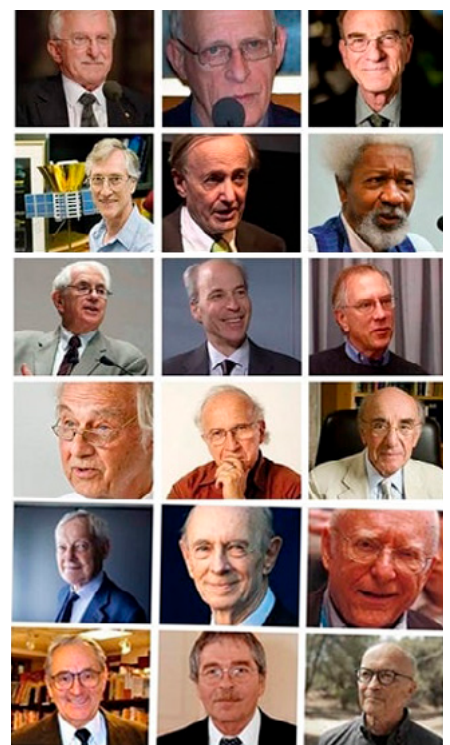
The full text of the letter follows:

His Excellency António Guterres
Secretary-General

The United Nations
New York, NY 10017

Excellency,

We, the Nobel laureates signing this letter, on the 33rd anniversary of the massacre of political prisoners in Iran, reiterate our



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UN Secretary-General's report condemns systematic Human Rights violations in Iran *continued from p.1*

destroy this mass grave.

"Impunity also prevails in relation to past violations. In April 2021, the authorities issued an order denying members of the Baha'i community the right to bury their deceased in their dedicated space in Golestan cemetery, forcing them instead to use space between existing graves or at the Khavaran mass grave site, which is believed to contain victims of enforced disappearances and summary executions in the summer of 1988," the report reads.

Dr Javaid Rehman, Special Rapporteur for the situation of Human Rights in Iran, in his recent report to the United

Nations General Assembly, also expressed concern about the regime's attempts to destroy evidence of the 1988 massacre and highlighted the fact that the regime authorities involved in human rights violations enjoy systematic impunity.

The selection of Ebrahim Raisi, one of the perpetrators of the 1988 massacre, as Iran's new president is a clear sign of systematic impunity for the violators of human rights in Iran.

The international community should investigate the 1988 massacre and hold the regime to account for this crime against humanity. This would be an important step toward ending the systematic impunity which has in turn resulted in systematic and continuous human rights violations in Iran for over four decades.

25 Nobel Laureates call for accountability for the 1988 prison massacre *continued from p.1*

solidarity and sympathy with the relatives and friends of those executed and also the Iranian people. We underscore the need to set up an international commission by the United Nations to investigate this enormous crime.

Thirty-three years ago, Khomeini, the founder of the religious dictatorship in Iran, issued a fatwa in his own handwriting, which said: All prisoners who are loyal to the Mujahedin-e Khalq (MEK – the main Iranian opposition movement) are considered Mohareb (one who wages war on God) regardless of the stage of their prison term, and should be executed.

Based on this fatwa, 30,000 political prisoners were executed over several weeks after being interrogated by the so-called Death Committee for two or three minutes. Those who refused to condemn the MEK were immediately sent to the execution hall. More than 90% of those executed were members and supporters of the MEK. Due to their "immunity" from punishment, members of those committees, who were the main perpetrators of the massacre, hold some of the highest positions in Iran's regime.

Heightening the need for the formation of an International Commission of Inquiry is the fact that Ebrahim Raisi, the new president of

Iran, was one of the main perpetrators of this massacre. According to various human rights authorities, including Amnesty International, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, and prominent international human rights experts, and according to an audiotape belonging to Ayatollah Montazeri, Khomeini's former designated successor, Ebrahim Raisi, the then-Deputy Prosecutor of Tehran, was part of the four-member Death Committee in Tehran. This committee executed thousands of prisoners who were members of the MEK along with several hundred prisoners affiliated with other groups in Evin and Gohardasht prisons.

The current Iranian leaders, including Ali Khamenei and Raisi, were directly involved in the 1988 massacre.

In the absence of international accountability, genocide and crimes against humanity persist in Iran. Among these are the continuation of political executions and the murder of at least 1,500 young protesters in November 2019. The regime's attempts to conceal the fate of the victims from their families, to minimize the number of executions, and to hide the victims' affiliation with the MEK, only add to the mullahs' criminal record.

Signatories:

- **Professor Harvey Alter**
Nobel Prize, Medicine 2020, USA
- **Professor Barry Barish**
Nobel Prize, Physics 2017, USA

- **Professor Georg Bednorz**
Nobel Prize, Physics 1987, Germany
- **Professor Thomas Cech**
Nobel Prize, Chemistry 1989, USA
- **Professor Elias Corey**
Nobel Prize, Chemistry 1990, USA
- **Professor Joachim Frank**
Nobel Prize, Chemistry 2017, USA
- **Professor Sheldon Glashow**
Nobel Prize, Physics, 1979, USA
- **Professor Roger Guillemin**
Nobel Prize, Medicine 1977, USA
- **Professor Dudley Herschbach**
Nobel Prize, Chemistry 1986, USA
- **Professor John Lewis Hall**
Nobel Prize, Physics 2005, USA
- **Professor Oliver Hart**
Nobel Prize, Economics 2016, USA
- **Professor Alan Heeger**
Nobel Prize, Chemistry 2000, USA
- **Professor Roald Hoffmann**
Nobel Prize, Chemistry 1981, USA
- **Professor Robert Huber**
Nobel Prize, Chemistry, 1988, Germany
- **Professor Roger Kornberg**
Nobel Prize, Chemistry 2006, USA
- **Professor Fynn Kydland**
Nobel Prize, Economics 2004, Norway
- **Professor John Mather**
Nobel Prize, Physics 2006, USA
- **Professor Paul Modrich**
Nobel Prize, Chemistry 2015, USA
- **Professor John Polanyi**
Nobel Prize, Chemistry 1986, Canada
- **Mr. Jose Ramos-Horta**
Nobel Prize, Peace, 1996, East Timor
- **Professor Richard Roberts**
Nobel Prize, Medicine 1993, USA
- **Professor Randy Schekman**
Nobel Prize, Medicine 2013, USA
- **Professor Danny Shechtman**
Nobel Prize, Chemistry 2011, USA-Israel
- **Professor Wole Soyinka**
Nobel Prize, Literature 1986, Nigeria
- **Professor David Wineland**
Nobel Prize, Physics 2012, USA

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report as well as that of the UN Special Rapporteur, gives great hope that the day for the establishment of an official UN International Court for the 1988 massacre is coming ever closer.

We must remain vigilant as the regime knows only repression and the spread of terror to retain its grip on power. The fundamentalist

hardline composition of the current government, President Raisi and his cabinet, indicates their intention to do whatever it takes to survive.

But the people of Iran have shown time and again that they are not afraid and will not be silenced and the growing body of undisputed truth acts as empowerment for the people who support them and a strong

barrier to appeasement by Western powers.

With you by our side, we are confident that our collective efforts to raise awareness of the realities of life for the people in Iran and to call for accountability for the regime's many violations of human rights will bear good fruit. Breakthrough is coming and justice will prevail.



A YEAR AFTER NAVID AFKARI WAS MURDERED HIS BROTHERS REMAIN IN SOLITARY CELLS

September 12, 2021, was the first anniversary of the martyrdom of Iran's wrestling champion **Navid Afkari**. He was killed ("executed") under suspicious conditions in prison at the peak of an international campaign aimed at saving his life. He was sentenced to death because he dared to protest against the theocratic state's political and economic corruption.

Navid's early morning extrajudicial killing drew global attention and major international news outlets reported the story.

A global campaign, in which ILA participated, to save Afkari's life was gathering pace in August and early September 2020.

Navid had contacted his brother, who was working tirelessly to stop his execution, telling him that he was being transferred to another prison that night. But apparently the regime's intelligence agents killed him under torture and then announced that he had been executed.

One year after the heinous killing, Iran's regime remains highly anxious about a domestic movement mobilising around Afkari's killing.

Afkari's brother **Saeed** wrote on his Twitter account on Friday 10 September that, "on the eve of my brother's anniversary [of execution], security agencies have threatened and pressured my family. We have been experiencing [the] most brutal repression for three years. We are saddened but we are still standing."

The regime's judicial officials, who were later sanctioned by the US government for their role in killing Navid Afkari, said at the time that the sportsman had killed a regime security official assigned to track protesters at the demonstration that he attended in 2018, a totally false and unjustified accusation.

"There is not one shred of evidence in this damned case that shows I'm guilty, but the regime's executioners are looking for a neck for their rope," Afkari said shortly before he was killed.

On 31 August 2020, **Ben Askren**, an enormously popular American former Olympic wrestler and mixed martial artist, tweeted the story to his more than 349,000 followers at the time, many of whom come from the combat sports community. "This is what a real authoritarian regime look[s] like," he wrote.

On 2 September 2020, ten days before the regime put Afkari to death, Askren re-tweeted the story, adding, "All of you SJWs [social justice warriors] let's go!!!! This man is being executed for showing up at an actual peaceful protest. Let's get this trending and make something happen."

Askren's tweets electrified social media and the wrestling and mixed martial arts worlds and ignited the global brush fire that became the campaign demanding that Tehran stop Afkari's execution.

Campaigners called for the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to intervene with an investigation into Afkari's case.

Had the IOC and United World Wrestling (UWW) – the international governing body for amateur wrestling – declared straight away that, if Iran's clerical regime executed Afkari Iran would be suspended from the Tokyo Olympics and other international sporting events, it is highly likely that Afkari would be alive today. Instead, both those global sports organizations attempted in vain to negotiate with Iran's rulers ahead of the execution.



Left to right: Habib, Navid and Vahid Afkari

To the acute disappointment of organizations that advocate for human rights for athletes, such as Global Athlete and United for Navid, the IOC and UWW still have not sanctioned Iran's regime for the murder of an Olympic-calibre athlete.

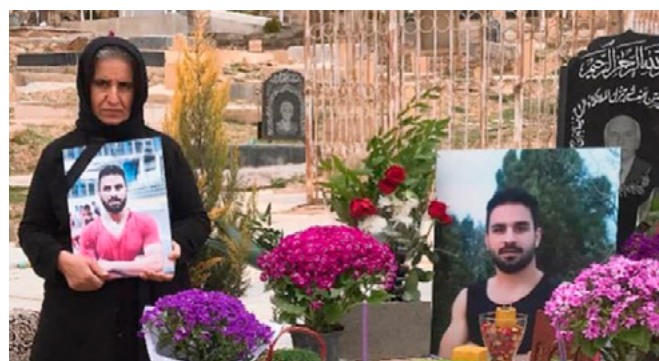
Dana White, the president of the massively popular Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC), issued a video plea to Iran's rulers not to execute Afkari. Decorated wrestlers from Germany to Canada to the US, athletes who have won Olympic and World medals, urged Tehran to stay the execution.

By executing Navid Afkari one year ago, the Iranian government wanted to intimidate the people and send a message of fear – a star athlete arrested and executed for peacefully protesting against the government. However, what happened was the exact opposite. Not only did the people not stay in their homes, but they continued their protests in various ways.

Two of Navid's brothers, **Vahid** and **Habib**, had also participated in the demonstrations against the regime in 2018. For their peaceful protests, the Iranian government sentenced Vahid to 54 years imprisonment and Habib to 27 years, as well as 74 lashes each.

On 12 September 2021, the clerical regime's security forces stopped the Afkari family in the city of Shiraz as they were going to Navid's grave for a commemoration. Security forces brutally beat **Elham Afkari**, Navid's sister, and arrested and brutalised her brother, Saeed Afkari. They also deleted Saeed's Twitter account.

A few days before, Saeed had tweeted, "As we approach the anniversary of my brother Navid Afkari's death, the security services are pressuring and threatening our family and acquaintances, in a bid to prevent us from holding a ceremony. We have been standing tall under the most brutal repressions for three years. **Although we are bereaved, we will continue to resist.**"



Navid Afkari's mother appeals to the world



IRANIANS ACROSS THE WORLD PROTEST RAISI'S SPEECH AT THE UN AND CALL FOR ACCOUNTABILITY FOR 1988 MASSACRE

On Tuesday 21 September, Iranian activists and human rights advocates held rallies in eleven cities on both sides of the Atlantic, condemning the clerical regime's systematic human rights abuses. These protests were held simultaneously with the first speech of the regime's new president, Ebrahim Raisi, to the United Nations General Assembly, which was presented in the form of a pre-recorded video message.

Protests were held in New York, Paris, London, Berlin, Rome, Vancouver, The Hague, Brussels, Cologne, Bucharest and Gothenburg.

There is incontrovertible evidence that Raisi played a key role during the massacre of over 30,000 political prisoners in 1988. The protesters condemned his address to the UN General Assembly underlining that the world community's inaction in allowing a mass murderer like Raisi to address the UN fuels the systematic impunity for the violators of human rights in Iran.

In New York, Iranians held a rally in Dag Hammarskjöld Square, near the entrance of the UN. The protesters urged the international community to refer the regime's dossier of human rights abuses to the UN Security Council and hold Raisi to account for his role in the 1988 massacre. They also urged the western powers to impose comprehensive sanctions on the regime for its systematic human rights violations and export of terrorism abroad.

In late August 2021, renowned European barristers and legal experts determined that, because the 1988 massacre of political prisoners for their religious beliefs was the direct result of a fatwa from Ruhollah Khomeini, it must be considered genocide. Thus, all

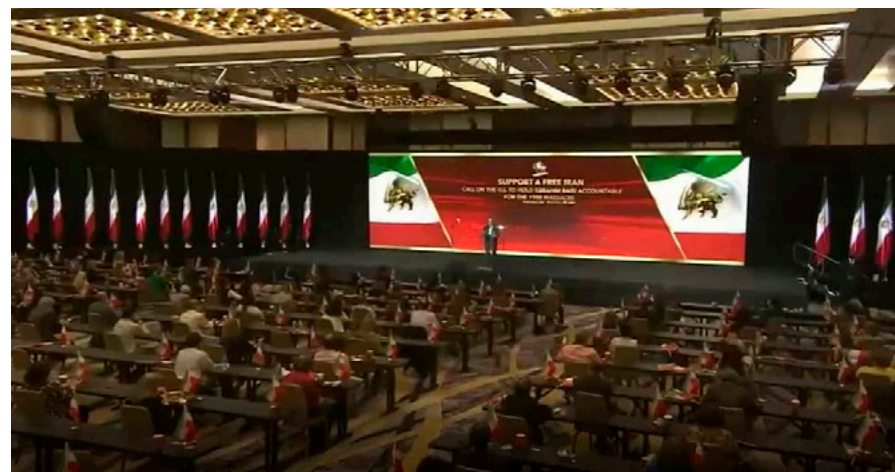


western powers are obliged under the terms of the Genocide Convention to hold the perpetrators of that genocide to account.

The protesters in New York reiterated this demand and reminded the world community of its humanitarian obligations.

Besides these protests, Iranians in the US, Canada, and Europe held photo exhibitions commemorating the martyrs of the 1988 massacre.

In Stockholm, Iranian expatriates held a large rally followed by an international conference. It is worthy of note that Hamid Nouri, who had participated in the 1988 massacre, is currently on trial in Sweden. The conference in Sweden was attended by several prominent European politicians and also dozens of former Iranian political prisoners, mostly the survivors of the 1988 massacre.



Conferences held in Stockholm and Washington called for the prosecution of Raisi.

The day before, on Monday, 20 September, the eve of Raisi's speech to the UN General Assembly, the Iranian-American Communities in the US hosted an important event in Washington DC and urged the US administration to call for his prosecution. They also called for a firm policy toward the mullahs' regime.

Several renowned American politicians from both political parties attended this event. **Mike Pompeo**, former Secretary of State, was among the speakers.

In his remarks, Mr Pompeo said:

"You know this character Ebrahim Raisi is exactly who Khamenei wants as President – someone who will do his bidding. Someone willing to brutalize and slaughter the Iranian people at his command. This is not moving forward. It is moving backward. It is only those who are resisting, both inside and out, who provide hope for Iran. That is why this gathering and the work you do today is so important.

"The United States must lead the world, starting today, on this occasion, to hold him accountable for crimes against humanity that he committed. Any dealings with Raisi would be tantamount to dealing with a mass murderer. This is not only immoral but counterproductive.

"All of us should make this crystal clear to our allies in Europe and Asia as well and hold them accountable if they deal with this man that sent thousands of his country to execution in 1988."

The former US Secretary of State also stated, that therefore "Raisi should be prosecuted, not

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Iranians protest Raisi's speech at the UN and call for accountability for 1988 massacre *continued from p.4*

tomorrow, not next week, not next year. We should prosecute him now.”

The content of Raisi's speech on Tuesday 21 September reflected a strategy of quietly escalating tension with Western adversaries while simultaneously urging those adversaries to continue reaching out for negotiations and more engagement with the regime. But participants in the Washington and Stockholm conferences warned American and European policymakers that such outreach would only embolden the Raisi administration's escalations, with serious consequences for international security as well as for the basic rights of the Iranian people.

Participants in the rallies and conferences were adamant that the international community must adopt a firm policy on Iran – something that protects the basic human rights of the people of Iran and is also vital to regional and global peace and tranquillity.

Conference speakers were in agreement that the first step towards undermining Tehran's aggressive strategy and malign activities must be holding its leaders accountable for human rights abuses and crimes against humanity.

Participants in the rallies also urged the United States and the European



Union and its member states to refer the dossier of human rights violations in Iran to the UN Security Council. Such a measure will enable the UN to arrange for the international prosecution of the Supreme Leader, Ali Khamenei, and the regime's President, Ebrahim Raisi, as well as other regime leaders, for committing four decades of crimes against humanity and genocide.

It is worth making clear again that the reference to genocide reflects the assessment offered by multiple legal scholars about the 1988 massacre of prisoners that, because it was on the basis of Khomeini's fatwa that victims were, and still are, targeted for their beliefs, the

killings must be considered genocide.

The core message of all the events and protests on both Monday and Tuesday was a call to action to the world community to hold the Iranian regime to account for decades of human rights abuses.

They called on the international community to end decades of systematic impunity in Iran and reminded world leaders that their inaction fuels this impunity and has devastating effects on Iran's general human rights situation. They urged the international community to investigate the 1988 massacre and hold its perpetrators, including Ebrahim Raisi and Ali Khamenei, to account.

“MORE BRUTAL THAN GODFORSAKEN HELL”

In a series of tweets, civil and labour rights activist and author **Sepideh Gholian** made detailed allegations of the abuse of prisoners in the women's ward of Bushehr Prison. Gholian wrote that she had received no response to reporting 20 cases to the authorities, including five she had described in tweets.

“I knew I would face a godforsaken hell when I was banished to this prison last year,” wrote 25-year-old Gholian, who was sent to Bushehr prison in early March from Evin prison in Tehran. “But I couldn't even imagine the brutality reigning in this prison.”

Gholian was first arrested in 2019 after taking part in protests in Dezful and is serving a five-year sentence for ‘disrupting public order’ and ‘assembly and collusion against national security.’ She wrote a memoir about her time in Sepidar prison in her native Khuzestan province, which was published on social media in June 2020.



In her tweets on Wednesday, 8 September 2021, Gholian changed the names of the inmates for their safety.

“When ‘Sahar’ used a shower out of hours, a warden forced her to strip, hosed her down in open space, while every-

one else was forced to watch and boo”, Gholian wrote. “You would be deprived of the right to make phone calls if you averted your eyes from the scene. Tens of eyes, in shock and anger, stared at the shivering naked woman.”



ACCOUNTS OF EYEWITNESSES TO THE 1988 MASSACRE

A court in Sweden is trying a former Iranian official who was involved in the massacre of political prisoners in the summer of 1988. Many eyewitnesses have been presenting their accounts of observations in those days to the court. Below is a sample of these statements.



Reza Shemirani, former political prisoner and an eyewitness of the 1988 massacre was arrested in 1981 and sentenced to 10 years imprisonment in a 2-minute trial without having a lawyer:

“There were lots of indications during 1987 which showed that the regime was planning a massacre and the prisoners had concluded this back then.

“In Summer 1984, an interrogator told me: ‘We have plans for the prison. If you cooperate with me, I will help you survive that plan.’

“When they brought someone out of the Death Room and sentenced him to death, they definitely did not let him go back to others and tell them about it.

“What we saw and heard indicates that Khomeini executed those prisoners in the most savage way.”



I am **Khadijeh Borhani** (left with my father), a survivor of a family of 10 people, including six of my brothers.

Two of my brothers were among the 30,000 executed in the summer of 1988 in Iran.

Ahmad was arrested in August 1981. He spent seven years in Evin Prison and was killed in 1988.

My other brother, **Mohammad Hossein Borhani**, who was 17 years old, was a math student arrested on 26 April 1981 while selling the opposition newspaper. The Revolutionary Guards raided his bookstand. A group of people were arrested in this raid and were loaded into a bus. The arrestees protested against the attack and the way they had been treated. The Revolutionary Guards started to shoot at them on the bus and **Asghar Akhavan Quds** was killed in this shooting.

Hossein was sentenced to life in prison; however, after spending seven years, he was sentenced to death by the Death Committee in Gohardasht Prison, where Hamid Nouri was facilitating the executions.

My other brother, **Mohammad Mehdi Borhani**, was in fact a prisoner of both the Shah and Khomeini regimes. He was arrested during the Shah’s reign in 1975. He was among many of the Shah’s prisoners who were released as the 1979 revolution took place. He was arrested again in 1982, and a week later he was killed under torture.

My other brother, **Mohammad Ali Borhani**, was a genius. He was studying mining at Shahroud University. In the first couple of years of his studies, he was invited to Tehran University as an assistant professor.

During the regime’s so-called Cultural Revolution, he was



Khadijeh’s martyred brothers

expelled from the university and could not continue his studies. He was arrested in August 1981, and 20 days later, after being tortured, he was executed at dawn on 9 September 1981. He had to face several mock executions during these 20 days because the regime was unsure of Ali’s political stance.

The guards burned his back with cigarettes and etched the slogan “Death to the hypocrites” on his body. On the morning of 9 September [1981], he was executed. His body was handed over to the family on the condition that no memorial service be held in his memory. My father courageously ignored the order, prepared his body for proper burial, and arranged his funeral ceremony. A large number of people attended his funeral.

My younger brother **Mohammad Hassan Borhani** was 14 years old. On 1 July 1981, he was arrested while selling the opposition publication.

I was arrested at the age of 12. During the arrest, thirty Revolutionary Guards attacked our home. They searched and destroyed many parts of the house.

My two brothers and I were taken to prison. They had no evidence or witnesses against me. Due to my father’s complaints and follow-ups, I was released on bail to the account of our house and one million tomans.

Because my family was against Khomeini’s regime, my father was under a lot of pressure and harassment. Our house was set on fire several times by the regime, and we were continuously bothered by them, day and night.

My father went to Ashraf in 2003, and when he returned, he was severely harassed and suffered a heart attack, and died due to the pressure exerted by the regime. The regime tried to prevent any burial ceremony for him. Regardless of what the regime had wanted, it is said that 100,000 people were present at his funeral.

My mother suffered a heart attack during the Shah’s time when my brother was arrested and suffered a partial stroke on one side of her body.

She was hospitalized for six months. As mentioned above, the regime had put an immense amount of pressure on our family. All this pressure and intimidation caused my mother to experience heart strokes eight times.

She was arrested a few times.

Mino Mohammadi, my brother’s wife, was martyred in the massacre of 1988 in Qazvin.



NEWS IN BRIEF

ANOTHER INNOCENT HARDWORKING FATHER KILLED



Another poor 'kulbar' (Persian for those who carry heavy freight for a living) named **Omid Mohammadzadeh**, a resident from Rabat, West Azerbaijan Province, NW Iran, was shot dead by security forces at the Sardasht border on Saturday evening, 18 September.

Omid was married and had three children. He was shot while he was carrying the freight along with a group of other 'kulbars'. Omid's body was transferred to Sardasht hospital but has not yet been handed over to his family.

KURDISH WOMEN TORTURED TO MAKE FALSE CONFESSIONS



Azimeh Nasser and **Nahid Kamangar** are two Kurdish women prisoners who have been tortured and threatened in order to force them to make false confessions. Both women were interrogated, tortured, and threatened by the IRGC in the Ministry of Intelligence's detention centres.

Civil activist Azimeh Nasser was transferred from the detention centre of

the Revolutionary Guards Intelligence Organization in Urmia to Urmia Central Prison on 26 August after a month in temporary detention.

She has been charged with acting against national security. The IRGC threatened and tortured the Kurdish civil activist to force her into making false confessions against herself.

ANTI-TALIBAN PROTESTERS IN TEHRAN ARRESTED



On Wednesday, 8 September, a number of civil activists were arrested in a protest rally related to the recent changes in Afghanistan and taken to an unknown location.

The rally was marred by violence by security and police forces. The mobile phones of several protesters were confiscated and only returned on condition of deleting the videos and photos taken. Some Afghan refugees are said to be among the detainees.

Protesters carried placards and chanted slogans in support of the Panjshir resistance and Afghan women and against the Taliban and the Islamic Emirate.

BAHA'I CEMETERY DESTROYED



Parts of a Baha'i cemetery in the village of Kata, in Dana County in the south-western province of **Kohgiluyeh** and **Boyer-Ahmad**, have been destroyed under cover of darkness.

Targeting religious minorities' burial grounds has been a consistent feature of the regime's systematic persecution of non-Shia Muslims ever since the Islamic Revolution. It has been used most frequently against Baha'is but other groups including Armenian Christians have

suffered damage and been barred by officials from restoring these important sites.

The vandalism is usually carried out either by security forces or fanatics who have been given the green light to commit these wanton acts.

TEACHERS AND EDUCATORS HELD PROTESTS IN TEHRAN AND OTHER CITIES



Since early September teachers and educators across Iran have been taking part in public protests for their most basic rights. They also call for the release of detained teachers who have been arrested in previous protests.

A group of teachers held their third day of protest in Tehran on Monday, 6 September 2021, outside the mullahs' parliament. Many protesters spent the previous night on the street to begin their rally early in the morning.

Many of the protesters are female heads of households.

PHOTOJOURNALIST ARRESTED WHILE COVERING AFGHAN REFUGEE CAMPS



Security forces in the city of Khoy, in West Azerbaijan province, arrested a photographer for the state run newspaper Shargh Daily, while he was photographing camps housing Afghan refugees.

Majid Saeedi had permission from authorities to cover the refugee camps and it is not clear why he has been arrested. No charges against him have been disclosed.



IRAN'S CULTURAL HERITAGE: ZAKARIYYA AL-RAZI



Abu Bakr Muhammad ibn Zakariyya al-Razi, also known by his Latinized name Rhazes, (864–925) was a Persian

physician, philosopher and alchemist, widely considered one of the most important figures in the history of medicine. He also wrote on logic, astronomy and grammar.

A comprehensive thinker, al-Razi made fundamental and enduring contributions to various fields, which he recorded in over 200 manuscripts. He is particularly remembered for numerous advances in medicine through his observations and discoveries.

An early proponent of experimental medicine, he became a successful doctor and served as chief physician of Ray (near Tehran) and Baghdad hospitals.

As a teacher of medicine, he attracted students of all backgrounds and interests and was said to be compassionate and devoted to the service of his patients,



Statue of al-Razi in the Scholars' Pavilion at United Nations office in Vienna

whether rich or poor.

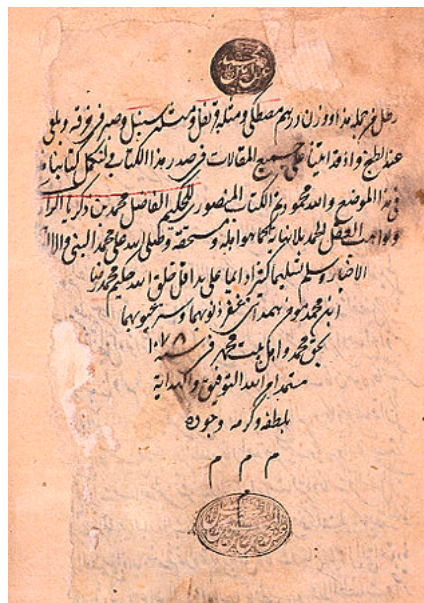
He wrote a pioneering book about smallpox and measles providing clinical characterisation of the diseases.

Through translation, his medical works and ideas profoundly influenced medical education in the West. Some volumes of his work *On Surgery* and *A General Book on Therapy* became part of the medical curriculum in Western universities. He has also been described as the father of paediatrics and a pioneer of obstetrics and ophthalmology. For example, he was the first to recognize the reaction of the eye's pupil to light.

Muhammad ibn Zakariyya al-Razi, was born in Ray and died there too.

After serving as chief physician in a Ray hospital, he held a similar position in Baghdad for some time.

With references to his Greek predecessors, Razi viewed himself as the Islamic version of Socrates in philosophy and of Hippocrates in medicine.



Colophon of al-Razi's book of medicine for Mansur



Illustration of al-Razi in a 13th century manuscript of Gerard of Cremona's work

His two most significant medical works are the *Kitab al-Manṣūrī*, which he composed for the Ray ruler **Mansur ibn Ishaq** and which became well known in the West in **Gerard of Cremona's** 12th-century Latin translation, and *Kitab al-ḥawī*, the *Comprehensive Book*, in which he surveyed Greek, Syrian, and early Arabic medicine as well as some Indian medical knowledge. Throughout his works he added his own considered judgement and his own medical experience as commentary. Among his numerous minor medical treatises is the famed *Treatise on Smallpox and Measles*, which was translated into Latin, Byzantine Greek and various modern languages.

The philosophical writings of al-Razi were neglected for centuries, and renewed appreciation of their importance did not occur until the 20th century.

Among his other works, *The Spiritual Physick of Rhazes* is a popular ethical treatise and a major alchemical study.

In total there are 53 books attributed to him of which 11 have been translated into English.

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