



International Liberty Association Newsletter

Churchill House • 120 Bunns Lane • London NW7 2AS

W: www.iliberty.org.uk • **E:** info@iliberty.org.uk • **T:** 020 8452 3481

EDITORIAL

As we step boldly across the threshold of another new year, to bring you our first newsletter of 2022, we would like to extend a warm welcome for the continuing journey and express our enormous gratitude to you for remaining by our side and giving us the strength and momentum to carry on.

Despite the continuing challenges of the Covid restrictions, we were delighted to be able to be part of your Christmas and New Year via our Saturday 'hour with ILA'. We wish everyone who has been affected directly by Covid a strong recovery and a much better and brighter future.

Looking forward into 2022, we have a great sense of achievement, as we see the impact of our collective efforts over the years, keeping the memory of martyrs alive, documenting and raising awareness of the heinous crimes against humanity and human rights abuses committed by the regime over four decades, finally being rewarded with real perpetrators being held accountable, in real courts of justice.

The 2019 arrest in Belgium of a serving Iranian diplomat and his co-conspirators and their subsequent trial and conviction of a plot to bomb the 2018 Grand Gathering of the resistance in Paris was unprecedented and sent the first clear message that justice was coming to Iran. The appeal against the sentence, due to complete early in 2022 has enabled more first hand evidence to be heard, but is not expected to do anything to overturn the convictions, or stop the sentences being completed in Belgian prisons.

Meanwhile, even more far-reaching in its consequences, the on-going ... *continued on p.2*

MEPs CALL ON EU TO RECOGNISE THE 1988 MASSACRE IN IRAN AS GENOCIDE AND A CRIME AGAINST HUMANITY



On 7 December 2021, **Friends of a Free Iran (FoFI)** in the European Parliament issued a Press Release, announcing “On the eve of World Human Rights Day 100 MEPs, including 14 former ministers, including foreign ministers, call on EU and member states to recognize the 1988 massacre in Iran as genocide and a crime against humanity

and adopt a firm policy in the nuclear negotiations”

The MEPs from various political groups, include two presidents and six vice-presidents of parliamentary groups, a former prime minister and a former head of state, two deputy prime ministers and 14 former European ministers, including the foreign ... *continued on p.2*

SWEDISH COURT MOVED TO ALBANIA TO HEAR LIVE TESTIMONIES OF WITNESSES TO 1988 MASSACRE



The court in Sweden that is trying an ex Iranian prison official for his role in the massacre of prisoners in the summer of 1988 decided to go to Albania to hear first-hand testimonies of 7 witnesses who were imprisoned in Gohardasht Prison at the time. Hamid Nuri who was detained upon arrival to Stockholm in 2019, was a prison official in Gohardasht

at the time, responsible for taking the prisoners to the gallows after they were condemned to death in show trials that lasted no more than a few minutes. The prisoners were asked a question about their political allegiance. Members of the death commission tasked with purging the steadfast prisoners by a fatwa of the then Supreme ... *continued on p.3*



MEPs call on EU to recognise the 1988 massacre as Genocide and a Crime against Humanity *continued from p.1*

and defence ministers of Poland, Spain, the Czech Republic and Lithuania. Two presidents and eight vice presidents of European Parliament committees and five presidents of parliamentary delegations were among the signatories.”

The statement also urged the EU and its member states “to make the respect for human rights and the abolition of the death penalty a precondition in its relations with the Iranian regime.”

The 1988 massacre

In the summer of 1988, Ruhollah Khomeini, the founder of the Islamic Republic, issued a fatwa ordering the execution of political prisoners, particularly those affiliated with the People’s Mojahedin Organization of Iran (PMOI/MEK), who remained steadfast in defending democracy and freedom. Within weeks, nearly 30,000 political prisoners, 90 percent affiliated with the MEK, were massacred after sham trials that lasted a few minutes.

Ebrahim Raisi remains unpunished

Many of the most prominent international jurists have described the 1988 massacre as a manifest case of a crime against humanity and genocide and have called for justice and to start judicial proceedings against the perpetrators of this crime

In the statement, the MEPs condemned the impunity enjoyed by the ruling theocracy’s officials in Iran over the years. They underscored “The incumbent president, Ebrahim Raisi was a member of the so-called ‘Death Commission’ in the 1988 massacre of 30,000 political prisoners, mostly members and supporters of the PMOI/MEK, the democratic opposition to the regime. During his tenure as the Judiciary Chief, over 12,000 protesters were arrested in the November 2019 uprising and under his supervision,



prisoners were subject to torture and many disappeared while in custody.

While only four months have passed since his presidency, 150 prisoners have been executed in order to intimidate and terrify the Iranian people and prevent another nationwide uprising, like the one in November 2019.”

The MEPs, 18 of whom are members of the European Parliament’s Foreign Affairs Committee, noted that the Iranian regime’s crimes and destructive behavior were not limited to its borders, and that “The flip side to the brutal suppression of human rights in Iran is its efforts to acquire the nuclear bomb, its long-range ballistic missile production and expansion of terrorism, and warmongering in the region.”

The 100 MEPs stressed “The UN Secretary-General, António Guterres, has issued a damning report on the grave human rights violations that have occurred in Iran in which he expresses his concern over impunity from past

violations such as the 1988 massacre. The UN Secretary-General has accused the Iranian regime of “destroying evidence of the execution of political dissidents at that time (1988) and the harassment and criminal prosecution of families of victims calling for truth and accountability.”

Recently, the highest federal court in Switzerland ordered the federal prosecutor to investigate the assassination of **Kazem Rajavi** in Geneva in 1990 by the mullahs’ regime under the title of crime against humanity and genocide. Dr. Rajavi was the representative of the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI) in Switzerland and a former ambassador.”

One of the mullahs’ regime officials, Hamid Nuri, who was the deputy prosecutor in Gohardasht prison at the time of the 1988 massacre and was directly involved in the massacre of political prisoners, has been on trial in Sweden since August 2021.

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trial, in Sweden and Albania, of the former regime official, Hamid Nuri, arrested in Stockholm in 2019 for his part in the massacre of 30,000 in 1988, has elevated all the evidence relating to these systematic crimes against humanity, to a place where the facts can never again be denied, or buried.

And in London, a People’s Tribunal in 2021 took an important step to justice for the victims and those

responsible for their deaths of the November 2019 fuel price hike protests. Recommendations to be published early in 2022 will include calling 133 Iranian officials to account.

This is all great news for the cause of justice going forward.

Indeed, the practical power of the information now available was made very clear when President Raisi decided not to set foot in Scotland for climate change talks, based on a real

fear of arrest after strongly evidenced representations of his many crimes against humanity were made to the Glasgow Police.

And so, we look forward to your being with us as we redouble our efforts to bring more evidence to the tables of truth and justice through 2022, finally we trust, shredding the veil of impunity for the Mullahs’ regime and all those who continue to appease and collude with it.



Swedish Court moved to Albania to hear live testimonies of 1988 massacre

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Leader, Ayatollah Khomeini, would ask the prisoners a few questions to see if they regretted their political stance and were ready to die for the regime and its Supreme Leader. Any sign of perseverance was immediately translated into a death sentence for the inmate. In Gohardasht Prison, Hamid Nuri would then take the condemned prisoner to the gallows.

Eyewitnesses who are currently residing in Ashraf 3 in Albania described in detail the role he played in the executions. The Swedish judges spent 7 days in Albania to hear 7 witnesses. Nuri attended the hearing via satellite link.

Then the court returned back to Stockholm and Nuri was given 5 days to defend himself against the accusations. His testimony, a mix of arrogance, denial, and mocking, only strengthened the validity of accusations. For instance he claimed that if he refers to members of PMOI with their actual organisation name he would be arrested if he ever returns to Iran, implicitly confirming that members of the organisation were sent to the gallows just for identifying themselves as sympathisers of the organisation.

At one point Nuri vehemently denied such prison ever existed and referred to the massacre as a ‘made up and undocumented’ event. He blatantly denied culpability for the mass execution of political prisoners during the summer of 1988 but offered no real evidence to contradict the accounts that had been given over approximately 40 previous sessions by former political prisoners who had personal dealings with him at Gohardasht Prison.

Those witnesses recalled seeing Nuri leading prisoners to and from the “death hall” where they were interrogated



over their political affiliations before being sent to the gallows in groups of 12 or more. Many also described Nuri as enthusiastically participating in the torture and abuse of detainees for years leading up to the massacre.

Formal testimony from these witnesses was given both in Stockholm and in Durres, Albania, to which the proceedings were temporarily relocated in November based on prosecutors’ requests. The change of venue stemmed from the fact that thousands of members of Iran’s leading pro-democracy opposition group currently reside at a compound that was established in Albania following their relocation from Iraq in 2016. The PMOI members and supporters were the prime targets of the 1988 massacre and were declared guilty of “enmity against God” in a fatwa by the regime’s founder and first supreme leader, Ruhollah Khomeini.

While Khomeini’s fatwa in his own handwriting exists, Nuri called this fatwa a fabricated story. Shortly after Khomeini issued his fatwa, the so-called “Death Commissions” were formed across Iran. These commissions identified the PMOI supporters and sent them to the gallows.

Ayatollah Hossein-Ali Montazeri, Khomeini’s heir designate at the time, wrote a letter to Khomeini in the summer of 1988 inquiring about the massacre. In response Khomeini wrote, “Under Sharia law, the responsibility for issuing the decree in question is mine. So, you do not have to worry. May God rid us all of the evil of the Monafeqin.” This letter was published in Montazeri’s autobiography.

When the prosecutor asked Nuri about this letter, Nuri called Montazeri a liar and denied the existence of this letter.

In addition to the initial decree, Khomeini underlined the necessity to execute PMOI members in his letters to various regime officials. One of those officials was Mohammad Yazdi, then the regime’s judiciary chief. In his statement Yazdi emphasised to Khomeini that his decree “has condemned the entire organisation, not individuals, thus, there is no limit in punishing the members for waging war on God.”

When one of the defence lawyers asked Nuri about Yazdi’s remarks, and whether Nuri knows him or considers him a liar too, Nuri blatantly said: “No he is not a liar, you are a liar.”

Nuri also called Khavaran gravesite a “lie.” Khavaran, near Tehran, is one of many mass graves where the 1988 victims are buried.

The praise of human rights abusers is so deeply ingrained in the culture of the Iranian regime that it found clear outlet in Nuri’s trial. He blatantly applauded actions taken by Raisi, Khamenei, and other flagrant criminals.

Nuri described Raisi as the “popular president of the Iranian people” in spite of the fact that regime authorities acknowledged voter turnout in June had been lower than in any previous presidential election. That voter boycott was accompanied by protests that condemned Raisi as “butcher” and “henchman” of the 1988 massacre.





PROTESTS ABOUT ISFAHAN'S WATER CRISIS



Isfahan farmers protest water mismanagement and water shortages in their fields

On the dried Zayandeh riverbed, Isfahan's farmers started a protest rally in the middle of November 2021. They set up tents on the river bed and stayed there 24/7 for about 10 days before the people of Isfahan joined them for one of the largest rallies held there since the revolution in 1979.

Initially the regime authorities, fearful of a repeat of the November 2019 protests across the country, tried to acknowledge some of the legitimate demands of the farmers and even the State TV stations covered the protest as a sign of the regime's tolerance. But, when the crowd became larger and slogans more

directly pointing to the incompetence of the regime authorities, plain clothes agents of the regime attacked the farmers over night and burned their tents. Immediately a large crowd gathered in support of the protesting farmers. The regime's various forces who were deployed to the area from all sorts of units and places, attacked the protesters with live bullets and shotguns. Several people were killed and several dozens were blinded by shotgun bullets and many more severely injured.

Since mid-November 2021, thousands of farmers camped on the Zayandeh Rud's dry riverbed in Isfahan to voice

frustration with government policies that experts say have exacerbated the country's water crisis.

The state-owned Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting organization initially covered the large demonstrations and argued that the protesters were government supporters. However, on 24 November 2021, security agents set fire to tents belonging to the protesters and fired shotguns into the crowds. Judicial authorities announced the arrest of several people.

The Iranian government does not allow non-state media to report on the country's internal events from where they



Instead of solving the water crisis the Iranian regime crushes protests

are happening, yet assaults on protesters by Iranian military and security forces were documented by individuals with their phone cameras and shared on social media and by foreign Persian language news outlets.

The suppression of the protests was accompanied by state-controlled disruptions of the internet to prevent the free flow of information within the country and to prevent people from sending videos and photos to foreign media outlets where they could get more coverage.

Eyewitness accounts in Isfahan, as well as videos and photographs, show the farmers and other protesters were peaceful and not carrying any weapons, yet many were injured by state security forces who targeted ... continued on p.5



Protests about Isfahan's Water Crisis

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them with live bullets and shotguns.

According to Mohammad Reza Mirheydari, the military governor of Isfahan, the assault on the protesters was “a collaboration between the police, the Basij militia, the Islamic Revolutionary Guards, and the security establishment.”

Images published on social media show security forces firing directly at protesters, especially with pellet guns.

Independent reports from the scene on 29 November alone indicate at least 19 people were admitted to the hospitals

in Isfahan with eye injuries, while official sources acknowledged that two injured people were hospitalised in serious condition.

During previous protests, injured demonstrators have avoided medical treatment to protect themselves from state persecution.

The security and military forces' violent repression of the protests in Isfahan is even a violation of Article 27 of the Islamist regime's Constitution, which recognises the people's right to peaceful protest.

State media provided no information

on the condition of the detainees held in detention facilities in the city of Isfahan.

Hassan Karami, a police commander in Isfahan, claimed plainclothes security agents had detained 67 people, “some of them were armed with pistols and will face firm judicial action.”

Human rights activists and organisations have pointed to several hundred arrests and one report said that a group of detained protesters, including several injured by pellet guns and beatings, were transferred to Isfahan's Dastgerd Prison. ILA calls for the immediate release of all detainees.



POLITICAL PRISONERS RELEASED AFTER YEARS OF DELAYS

Soheil Arabi and **Saeid Sangar** were released from prison in November 2021 after their release was postponed many times by additional trumped up charges.



Soheil Arabi was imprisoned on 7 November 2013. While serving out the seven and a half year sentence, Soheil

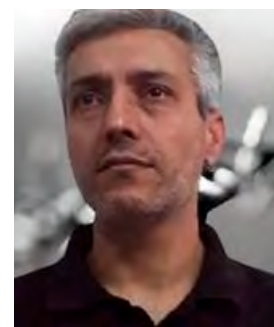
Arabi was charged with two new cases. In the first case, the Revolutionary Court of Tehran sentenced him to five years imprisonment on the charge

of “blasphemy, propaganda against the regime and an offensive statement against the Supreme Leader”. For the second case, he was sentenced to two years imprisonment, two years of exile in Borazjan City, and paying a fine of 4 million tomans on a charge of “spreading lies in the purpose to disturb public opinion and propaganda against the regime”, and one year and eight months on the charge of “the destruction of public property”.

Saeid Sangar was released after 21 years in prison. He was arrested in August 2000 and in October that year he was sentenced to death for his activities in support of the opposition. Through appeals and campaigns his sentence was reduced to 18 years and he was supposed

to be released in 2018.

By December 2020, not only had he served out two years more than his 18-years sentence, he was sentenced



again to 11 months imprisonment on the charge of “propaganda against the regime and in favour of dissident groups”.

Through international campaigns and drawing attention to their cases these prisoners of conscience have finally been released.



ABAN TRIBUNAL: A MAJOR STEP TOWARDS SEEKING JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS OF 2019 MASSACRE

On Wednesday, 10 November 2021, **International People's Tribunal on Iran's Atrocities of November 2019** (also known as the Aban tribunal) began in London with the aim of investigating the Iranian regime's crackdown on nationwide protests that took place two years ago in November 2019.

The tribunal was jointly established by organisations such as **Justice for Iran**, **Iran Human Rights**, and **Together Against the Death Penalty**, and lasted for 5 days. It ended on Sunday, 14 November, the eve of the second anniversary of the outbreak of the November 2019 anti-regime uprising.

Forty-five witnesses presented evidence at the tribunal. A public statement of the tribunal's findings is expected in early 2022 and is likely to include recommendations for the international pursuit of accountability for 133 Iranian officials who have been explicitly identified as having a role in the crackdown.

Several organisations not directly involved in those proceedings have also issued statements drawing attention to the uprising's anniversary and condemning not just the regime's initial crackdown but also its ongoing efforts to intimidate and silence eyewitnesses and the families of those killed by security forces.

The death toll from mass shooting incidents in November 2019 rose to over 1,500 over the course of just a few days. That number was later confirmed by Reuters, which cited multiple sources from within the regime's Interior Ministry. In official statements, however, authorities have spent the past two years downplaying the incident and have even attempted to claim that unspecified entities other than the security forces were responsible for many shooting deaths.

The UN Security Council has so far declined to open a formal investigation into the 2019 crackdown and to establish a mechanism for accountability. The western powers have been showing little support for this course of action while they remain preoccupied with salvaging the 2015 Iran nuclear deal. Negotiations toward that end have been going on in Vienna since 29 November 2021. Tehran has developed a strong sense of impunity in such matters, thanks in large part to a relative lack of international consequences.

In September 2020, seven United Nations human rights experts made reference to that impunity in an open letter



addressed to Iranian authorities regarding a massacre of political prisoners that took place in the summer of 1988. The letter appeared to take it for granted that Tehran would not respond in any meaningful way and that it would ultimately refuse to bring the perpetrators to justice and make up for their prior inaction. It noted that in the months following the massacre, the UN recognised that there had been an upsurge in politically-motivated killings, but neither the General Assembly nor any relevant UN institution followed up on the reports.

“The failure of these bodies to act had a devastating impact on the victims and families as well as on the general situation of human rights in Iran,” the special rapporteurs stated, adding that silence also “emboldened Iran to maintain a strategy of deflection and denial” right up to the present date.

That strategy is reflected in the regime's approach to the aftermath of the 2019 crackdown. And this is by no means the only connection between that crackdown and the 2019 uprising.

In June 2021, following the sham election that brought Ebrahim Raisi to power in Iran, Amnesty International released a statement that described that development as a “grim reminder that impunity reigns supreme in Iran.” The statement declared that instead of being elevated to the presidency, Raisi should have

been “investigated for the crimes against humanity of murder, enforced disappearance, and torture.” This assessment was built on two main foundations: Raisi's status as head of the Iranian judiciary at the time of the 2019 crackdown, and his role as one of the four officials in the Tehran “death commission” that oversaw the 1988 massacre.

The Iran Atrocities Aban Tribunal also heard from anonymous witnesses in Iran who were present at the time of the 2019 crackdown. Their anonymity is vital because of the pressure constantly being exerted by the regime's authorities upon those who speak out about the regime's conduct, as well as upon their families.

On 3 November 2021 it was reported that security forces had raided the home shared by **Gohar** and **Sahar Beheshti**, the mother and sister of the activist blogger **Sattar Beheshti** who was killed in 2012. Both Gohar and Sahar were arrested in the operation and the latter's husband was reportedly beaten in the presence of their 10-year-old child.

Although the two women were released three days later, the incident still served as a threat to those who continue criticising the regime's crimes.

The Tribunal's launch was officially announced on the first anniversary of the Iran atrocities, in November 2020, and the Tribunal's judgment is expected in early 2022.



NEWS IN BRIEF

REGIME'S FEAR OF YOUTH USING SOCIAL MEDIA



Iran's Attorney General Jafar Montazeri reflected the regime's fear of young people turning to social media, describing it as a "dangerous weapon for the enemy".

"Today, the enemy uses a much more dangerous weapon that deeply affects our lives. You have to be very careful. Social media is very dangerous," he said, according to the state-run Tasnim News Agency on 6 December 2021.

IRAN STATE MEDIA: UPRISING LIKE NOVEMBER 2019 ON THE HORIZON



The state-run Mostaghel Daily warned regime officials about another uprising on the scale of the nationwide Iran protests in November 2019 that rattled the regime's foundations, in an article published on Wed 1 December 2021.

"The hard and deplorable economic situation and rising inflation during the last four years, and the officials' negligence in solving these issues, have caused more people to be in absolute poverty. Iranian youth are under heavy financial problems," Mostaghel wrote.

'LAW MAKER' ADMITS TO HIS ROLE IN THE MASSACRE OF PROTESTERS

Hassan Norouzi, a 'lawmaker' from the city of Robat Karim, recently admitted his role in the November 2019 massacre in a press conference in response to the International People's Tribunal on Iran Atrocities of November 2019: "I was one of the people who shot at the people. We killed them. Someone set a bank on fire, and we killed him. Now, who wants to put us on trial?"

UN EXPERTS SAY EXECUTIONS OF CHILD OFFENDERS MUST STOP



UN human rights experts* strongly condemned the execution of **Arman Abdolali**, convicted for an alleged murder committed when he was 17, and demanded that Iran stop sentencing children to death.

There are currently over 85 juvenile offenders on death row in Iran, sentenced to death following processes that significantly violate international human rights law. The majority of those sentenced to death are from marginalized groups or are individuals who themselves have been victims of abuse.

Arman Abdolali was executed at dawn on 24 November. He was transferred to solitary confinement the previous evening.

In the statement published on 26 November 2021 the UN experts said: "We strongly deplore that the authorities proceeded with the execution of juvenile offender Arman Abdolali, in violation of an absolute prohibition under international human rights law," the experts said.

**The experts signing the statement include: Javaid Rehman, Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Iran; Mikiko Otani, Chair of the Committee on the Rights of the Child; Morris Tidball-Binz, Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions; Mr. Nils Melzer, Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel treatment or punishment.*

JUDO CHAMPION WHO WORKS AS STREET VENDOR



Masoud Rastegar, a deaf judoka of Iran's national team who won the bronze medal in the Paralympics competitions in 2017 in Turkey, is now working as a street vendor in Kermanshah. From daily earning work to garbage collecting, he has done everything to support himself and his family. Frustration with authorities' negligence and not being able to help the people around him with his athletic work, forced him to work as a street vendor.

About the people's support and moralities, he said: "In these few days, some people who came to buy something, looked at me and said, 'Hero, peace be upon you for working and making halal bread, we are ashamed that we cannot give you some money right now or buy you a car'; this is the grace of the people, but the officials should be ashamed that they do not take care of the athletes."

POLITICAL PRISONER IS SENTENCED TO DEATH



Political prisoner, **Abbas Shelishat**, arrested during the November 2019 uprising, has been sentenced to death. He has received the

death sentence on the alleged charge of killing a regime agent named Reza Sayyadi.

Mr Shelishat, 45, father of two is one of the residents of Jarrahi in the Port of Mahshahr. Security forces arrested him and his brother in late November 2019. Eyewitnesses say Captain Reza Sayyadi was the commander of the Revolutionary Guards who opened fire on protesters on 18 November 2019. During the mass shooting, someone shot Reza Sayyadi in the back. Abbas Shelishat has been tortured to give a false confession which is used to give him the death sentence.



IBAHRI CALLS FOR UNITED NATIONS ACTION FOLLOWING OPENING OF PEOPLE’S TRIBUNAL ON IRAN ATROCITIES

Following the opening of the **International People’s Tribunal on Iran’s Atrocities of November 2019**, the **International Bar Association’s Human Rights Institute (IBAHRI)** called for the establishment of a United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) independent mechanism to further investigate the alleged commission of atrocity crimes by Iranian authorities during and following the November 2019 crackdown in Iran.

IBAHRI Co-Chair and Immediate Past Secretary-General of the Swedish Bar Association, **Anne Ramberg**, commented: ‘It is too often the case that a lack of political will to investigate alleged atrocities committed by state actors gives rise to grassroots initiatives to provide a semblance of justice to victims and their loved ones and associates.

The IBAHRI welcomes and applauds the International People’s Tribunal on Iran’s Atrocities of November 2019 for stepping into the obvious breach.

However, with the 76th UN General Assembly in progress we urge Member States to call for an end to impunity where it is found that power is being abused and the legitimate rights of a nations’ citizens to peaceful protest have been, and continue to be, attacked.

The creation of an UNHRC independent mechanism in relation to Iran appears as such an instance and would be welcome by the IBAHRI’.

The International People’s Tribunal on Iran’s Atrocities of November 2019 was established as a response by civil society, international lawyers, experts and civilians to circumvent the lack of intention of Iran’s authorities to investigate the widely reported crimes in Iran following anti-government demonstrations. The Tribunal is comprised of six



experts in human rights law and international relations from Indonesia, Libya, South Africa, the United Kingdom and the United States of America. Leading the investigations are co-counsel **Hamid Sabi** and **Regina Paulose**.

In an opening statement, Hamid Sabi demonstrated Iran’s history of impunity for gross human rights abuses saying: ‘In the summer of 1988, the regime committed its worst atrocity, killing thousands of young political prisoners in all the prisons across the country. A matter that was investigated by the Iran Tribunal and other People’s Tribunals, condemning the Islamic Republic for crimes against humanity in its final judgment.

Thousands of young innocent prisoners whose only crime was opposing the oppressive regime of Mullahs, most of them having served excessive prison terms imposed upon them after a few minutes trial, were then brought before a committee nicknamed as the ‘death committee’ and murdered by the express fatwa of the leader. Their bodies were dumped in mass graves.’

He added: ‘Over the last 42 years that this regime has been in power, in spite of murders, tortures, gross violations of human rights, sexual abuse and embezzlement of public funds, not a single member of the ruling clique has faced prosecution or trial.’

**Join us for ‘An Hour With ILA’
Online weekly Zoom meetings**

Every Saturday 5pm to 6pm

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