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International Liberty Association Newsletter

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EDITORIAL

Earlier this month the trial of Hamid Nouri, one of the perpetrators of the 1988 massacre of prisoners in Iran, came to an end after two years and 92 hearings and the prosecutor demanded life imprisonment for him. The victory of justice in the Swedish court for the victims of the massacre is a great encouragement for us to work harder to establish justice and prevent human rights violations. The path to justice can be very long, difficult and slow at times, so we thank each and every one of you for being with us in this process.

Ukraine and other world events prove to us yet again that we cannot remain indifferent to human rights violations anywhere in the world. Simply put, abusers are emboldened with impunity. While the civilized world has responded appropriately to the attack on Ukraine, maybe that war might never have started if a more united and robust response to Putin's atrocities in Syria had been made.

In Iran, the Iranian people have been oppressed for over 40 years. During the mullahs' rule, 120,000 men and women have been sentenced to death, many in mock trials lasting just a few minutes. In one summer alone, in 1988, over 30,000 prisoners were massacred by the ruling ... *continued on p.3*

SWEDISH FOREIGN MINISTER ADVISES CITIZENS NOT TO TRAVEL TO IRAN



On 28 April 2022 near the end of the trial of Hamid Nouri, one of the perpetrators of the massacre of prisoners in the summer of 1988, when the prosecutor asked

for the maximum penalty of life imprisonment for the accused, the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced that it recommends Swedish citizens ... *continued on p.2*

MOVING REMARKS BY UKRAINIAN MP ADDRESSING A CONFERENCE ENTITLED 'UNITED AGAINST FUNDAMENTALISM AND WARMONGERING'



Ukrainian MP **Kira Rudyk** addressed a conference organised by Iranian communities for the occasion of the fasting month of Ramadan on 4 April 2022, entitled 'United Against Fundamentalism and Warmongering, for Peace and Tolerance'.

Ms Rudyk has been campaigning to gather support for the people of Ukraine. Her moving remarks focused on the atrocities committed by Russian ... *continued on p.3*



Swedish Foreign Minister advises citizens not to travel to Iran

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not to take any unnecessary trips to Iran due to changes in the security situation. The tweet in Swedish pictured on page 1 reads:

Due to changes in the security situation, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs decided on 28 April 2022 to change the advice for travel to Iran.

The following advice applies: Due to the security situation, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs advises against unnecessary travel to Iran. The advice applies until further notice.

The trial of Hamid Nouri, a former prison official in Iran, in a Swedish court, came to an end on 4 May 2022 and a verdict is due in July.

In the session on 28 April, the second day of submitting her final indictment, the prosecutor submitted a request for life imprisonment for Hamid Nouri for his involvement in the massacre of political prisoners in Gohardasht prison in 1988.

Citing clear evidence and the testimony of many eyewitnesses, the prosecutor rejected the statements of the defendant who denied the crimes committed in Gohardasht prison and his active role in the mass killings.

After months-long protesting and enduring all sorts of Iranian regime's threatening, Iranians and the victims' families who had rallied outside the court celebrated the milestone.

Hamid Nouri was apprehended in 2019 in Stockholm Airport, upon arrival in Sweden from Iran, for his role in the massacre of over 30,000 political prisoners in Iran. Nouri worked as the deputy prosecutor of the notorious Gohardasht prison.

During the session on 28 April, prosecutors presented their full indictment against the defendant and underlined his role in the genocide.

In their indictment, Swedish prosecutors confirmed that Iran is a closed country under the mullahs' regime; the mass executions happened in Iran. "Statements by the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and documents from the United Nations and Amnesty International confirm our view that the people of Iran have no rights. The rights of the people in Iran are being violated", the prosecutors expressed, adding that Iran has a "radical Islamist regime".

They also underlined that the regime's founder, Ruhollah Khomeini, established 'a tyranny' and his constitution and penal code named 'Sharia' took "backward Iran's situation and increased pressure on people".

The prosecutor also underlined that Iran's ruling theocracy is an "Islamist tyranny" and takes all measures to exterminate the opposition. "We concluded that Hamid Nouri even talks to the officials in court and wants to personally answer the thirty-three years of lies", the prosecutor said, adding that Nouri willingly, knowingly, and eagerly started working for the regime. "His repeated use of derogatory terms such as 'Monafeqin' and 'grouplet' shows his alignment with the regime, and his acknowledgment that he had seen these political prisoners [who testified against him], make the situation worse."

In the most important part of their indictment, the prosecutors confirmed the authenticity of Khomeini's fatwa, which led to the mass killing of prisoners. The official recognition of this fatwa, exposed by the opposition in 1988, could be described as a landmark in the justice-seeking campaign.

The prosecutors underlined that "Khomeini considered the MEK members as the enemies of Islam and said they should be killed as soon as possible". In this regard the prosecutor cited the reports by Amnesty International and Geoffrey Robertson QC about the 1988 genocide.

The prosecutors also referred to a leaked audiotape of Hossein Ali Montazeri, then Khomeini's heir, in which he condemned the killings during a meeting with Tehran's 'death commission' in charge of the executions.

After prosecutors demanded the maximum penalty of life imprisonment for Hamid Nouri, the Iranian regime began reporting about the court in the media and cited Iranian officials saying that the Swedish Ambassador in Tehran had been summoned and threatened. The regime media also quoted regime officials that they intend to execute a Swedish-Iranian dual national who was arrested after being invited for a conference in Iran and later sentenced to death.





Moving remarks by Ukrainian MP at conference against warmongering

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soldiers in Bucha:

Hello. Thank you so much for having me. I am Kira Rudyk, member of Ukrainian Parliament and leader of the Voice Party. I have already addressed you at the beginning of the war, when we were bearing arms to fight. Today is Day 41 of the war, and I am just back from a small town on the outskirts of the Kyiv city. The name of this town is known right now all over the world, and the name is Bucha. I want to share what I have seen there today.

I have seen mass graves of 300 people; I have never seen so many bodies at once. I have seen people killed with their hands tied behind their backs, families killed together, and sometimes people killed alone. They were peaceful people, they didn't bear arms, they didn't have any weapons with them, and yet they were killed, they were destroyed by a Russian army who decided to commit genocide on my people, and this hurts and breaks my heart. We were talking to the survivors today. We were talking to people who came in for humanitarian support, and I am so thankful to all the friends who are sending us the support that we can give to people. We have spoken to women who were raped so many times that their children had to watch it. We were talking

to mothers whose children died of pneumonia because they had to sit in the basement for 39 days without seeing any light of the day. We have talked to people who are telling us that at the very beginning, they thought that it was a good idea to show their white flags and paint a red cross on the cars where they were carrying wounded, and write the word 'children' on the side of the car where there were children. There were two boys on the back seat. The boys were carrying white flags, because they had seen in a movie about the pirates that if you don't want to fight, you have to carry the white flag; and the car was still shot, it was shot with everybody who was inside because it didn't work. We have helped the women who have faced the pain of being raped and – and I will need to stand up and tell the world what happened to them, because my decision to go to this terrible place and take this darkness inside me was made because at some point I want every war criminal to be prosecuted.

I know what happened in Ashraf, and I want to tell you that I now can understand what happened there. I want to make sure that every single war criminal will be found and will be placed upon the court, because what I have seen, this pain, this destruction that my people had to face, doesn't have any kind of forgiveness and this cannot be forgotten. I am taking this

darkness inside of me so it will not be repeated again, and right now I am talking to all the world leaders, I am talking to all the organisations: you need to act now. Forty days was enough to make all the decisions that you needed to make. Forty days was enough to make sure that you stop buying Russian gas and oil. Forty days was enough to give us the necessary weapons which we can conduct for ourselves. Forty days was enough to figure out where the red lines are. I can tell you where they are. They are in small towns on the outskirts of the city which is called Bucha, and right now while we are talking there are so many places in my country where people are still suffering, where people are still sitting in the basement, their children dying. Women are being raped and people are being killed with their hands tied behind their backs, and they want this to be stopped, and our army can be so brave, but if we don't get enough weapons we will never be able to win this war, and we want to win this war, to stop the horrifying things that we have seen.

So I would like to thank you for all your support. I would like to share the pain that your nation is also going through, and I want to make sure that at some point the organisations that were created to stop the wars, do make sure that the wars like this will not exist, that they wouldn't happen.

Thank you and glory to Ukraine.

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mullahs. The world decided to avert its eyes from these atrocities and focus more on economic opportunities and financial gain.

Fortunately, due to the extensive work of human rights activists and organisations, including our ILA, the shocking events of 1988 have gained more and more attention and

now damage the reputation of the clerical regime and its president, Ebrahim Raisi.

The Iranian regime is gradually learning that its acts of repression are increasingly likely to be challenged by both the international community and its own people.

Different sections of Iranian society, especially teachers and

workers, are currently risking their lives to hold large-scale protests and demonstrations for their basic rights and for the release of their fellows who have been unjustly imprisoned.

By highlighting these protests we hope to raise awareness of events inside Iran and encourage further action to bring these injustices to an end.



TEACHERS' WIDESPREAD PROTEST ACROSS IRAN



“If embezzlement was prevented, our problems would be solved”.

Due to the security atmosphere and the large presence of plainclothes security forces, the freedom-loving teachers in Tehran held a rally in the park and areas adjacent to the Ministry of Education. Teachers protested in front of education departments in other cities including Arak, Kermanshah, Qazvin, Shiraz, Ahvaz, Bushehr, Saqez, Nourabad Fars, Homayoun Shahr, Tabriz, Karaj, Aligudarz, Yazd, Isfahan, Harsin, Khorramabad, Yasuj, Langarud, Dehdasht, Delfan, Rasht, Shooshtar, Marivan, Dehgolan,

On Sunday, 1 May 2022, on International Workers' Day, despite severe repressive and security measures, and the arrest and intimidation of a number of teachers in previous days, teachers and pensioners held protest rallies in at least 55 cities in 21 provinces demanding answers to their requests. In some cities, workers joined teachers' protests.

The protesters chanted: “Political prisoners must be freed”, “Imprisoned teachers must be freed”, “Prison is not a place for teachers, Iran is not a place for tyrants”, “Illiterate Raisi, this is the last warning, the teachers' movement is ready to revolt”, “Liar Raisi, what happened to your empty promises”, “Workers, teachers must unite”, “Students, teachers must unite”, “Our enemy is here (state), they lie, saying its America” and referring to state-backed plundering they chanted:

Islamabad Gharb, Gachsaran, Shahreza, Pol Dokhtar, Ardabil, Kamyaran, Lahijan, Izeh, Qom, Masjed Soleyman, Mahshahr, Sanandaj, Borujerd, Qazvin, Khorrambid Fars, Torbat Heydariyeh, Tonekabon, Qir and Kazerun, Mamasani, Urmia, Neyshabur, Bojnurd and Khorrambid.

In several cities, regime repressive forces threatened and arrested protesters, especially women, beat elderly pensioners with batons, and took them away in vans. The demonstrators shouted that the era of bullying was over.

Dozens of teachers were arrested before, during, and after these demonstrations, yet they remained resolute in their demands for decent living conditions, free education for children and freedom for all detained teachers and political prisoners.



Ahvaz - May 1



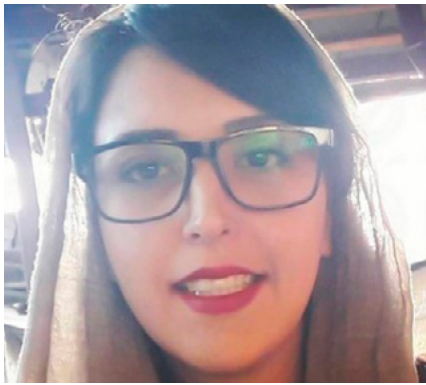
Bojnord - May 1



Torbat Heydaria - May 1



Lahijan - May 1



LABOUR ACTIVIST TO SERVE SENTENCE IN TEHRAN PRISON

The Iranian regime's judiciary has continued to make arrests and issue sentences for civil society activists. The female labour activist **Asal Mohammadi** was sentenced to one year and eight months in jail.

The 36th Branch of Tehran's Provincial Appeals Court upheld

her conviction. Her charges are "propaganda against the state and assembly and collusion against national security".

Asal Mohammadi was brutalised when arrested on 6 November 2021, while security forces searched her home.

70 INCLUDING 40 WOMEN ARRESTED DURING THE PEACEFUL GATHERING OF TEACHERS IN TEHRAN

Several dozen teachers were arrested during a peaceful gathering in Tehran on 21 April 2022.

Mohammad Habibi, the spokesman of the Teachers' League in Tehran and a member of its board of directors, announced that 40 of the teachers arrested were women and 30 were men.

Among teachers arrested in this peaceful gathering are **Ms Shahrzad Ghadiri**, a member of the Teachers' Union, and **Ms Massoumeh Zamani**.

The 30 male teachers detained in Tehran's peaceful gathering were taken to the Gisha Police Station.

The Telegram channel of the Coordination Council of Iranian Teachers' Associations published the names of 21 of the detained male teachers.

A primary demand made during the nationwide gathering of teachers on 21 April 2022, was to release imprisoned teachers.

Iran's teachers and educators took to the streets in a nationwide protest on Thursday, 21 April 2022. The rally had been previously called for and coordinated. Women teachers play an active role in virtually all the gatherings.

The Iranian teachers and educators held their protests in more than 50 cities and 24 provinces on that day, calling for the release of imprisoned teachers and an end to the fabrication of cases against activist teachers.



Teachers have continued their protests ever since and they have pledged to continue their protest until their demands, which include free education for children and a decent wage to put teachers above the poverty line, are met.

According to the news published on the Telegram channel of the Coordination Council of Iranian Teachers' Associations, which reports live on these nationwide protest rallies, plainclothes forces, guards, and police cordoned off the entire route from Ferdowsi Square to the end of Qarni Street in Tehran. They did not allow the

teachers to assemble and arrested several teachers, including women, in the very first minutes.

In recent months, in step with the escalation of teachers' peaceful gatherings, security and judicial forces have been summoning, arresting and detaining activist teachers, but their resolve has not diminished.





LETTER FROM PRISON



Hello, I am **Hossein Hashemi**, one of the detainees of the November 2019 protests. I was arrested with many others, just because we were protesting against the high price of gasoline. Many of our friends were shot dead.

The health and living conditions in Tehran's prisons, are unbearable. There is no adequate drinking water in the prison. Political prisoners are held together with thieves. All kinds of drugs, deliberately brought in by the Baban prison authority itself, are readily available. So many lives have been completely ruined since November 2019. Many people have become addicted, at first to sedatives and eventually to drugs.



Siamak Moghimi, a prisoner of the November protests, who was recently released as a result of public pressure, had attempted suicide in prison at least '20 times' because of the torture and pressure to which he had been subjected.



Vahid Babaei, another prisoner with two young children and sentenced to six years in prison, was forced to move to another location by order of the authorities. Vahid's brother and nephew died during this gruelling period, but they have not even allowed him to visit their graves.

The November trial of the detainees was inhumane. They were convicted without the presence of a lawyer or with lawyers who were too afraid of the authorities to defend a prisoner. Convictions with sentences ranging from 5 to 10 years, were decided within 5 minutes and without the presence of a jury.

There is a severe lack of health care for political prisoners, despite the fact that their families pay for their treatment and medicine. They keep us in the worst living conditions, not even fit for animals.

We were neither spies of a hostile government nor traitors. We were simply workers who were fed up with all this oppression and all this injustice. We are tired.

Two months before the November 2019 protests, I had a back surgery. At the time of my arrest, I was beaten so badly that my back pain deteriorated. Two other lumbar vertebrae in my lower back need surgery but I am not given a medical furlough.

LETTER FROM THE MOTHER OF A RESCUED PRISONER

I greet you all from afar and I pray for each and every one of you.

I do not know in what language to thank you and show my appreciation. I hugged my son today after many years. I had lost hope long ago, thinking I would never see him again. I prayed for my son, whom I love more than myself. Many times, I wished I could be in prison instead of him.

The government wants to execute as many as possible in order to intimidate the people. Executions are intended to deter the people from making demands and joining the protests.

I owe my son's freedom to you. The mobilisation of public opinion has increased international pressure on the government, which is now forced to consider the likely impact of further executions on world opinion.

You can see for yourself that the number of executions has decreased in recent years, not because the government has changed its mind, but only because of what you and other human rights organisations are doing by publically exposing their crimes.

I pray for each and every one of you. I love you.

Sarah, Ahmed's mother

A TEACHER'S LETTER

My name is Maryam. I have been a teacher for 20 years. I wanted to say how important and effective your work is and how much it gives us the warmth and strength of heart to continue our activities and protests. They are trying to turn schools into centres for the promotion of fundamentalist ideas. Of course, teachers have never submitted to this demand and will never do so. We now have a large number of teachers in prison and we are working to free them.



UN SHOULD PRESS FOR LEGAL RIGHTS OF JAILED JOURNALISTS IN IRAN



In a public statement on Wednesday 27 April, the international non-profit organisation **Reporters Without Borders (Reporters sans Frontières - RSF)** called on the United Nations to take swift action to ensure Iran followed “international human rights

law” over the treatment of jailed journalists.

“The advocacy group is alarmed about imprisoned journalists who are denied medical care when they are ill”, RSF said, referring to activist **Narges Mohammadi** and photojournalist **Alieh Motalebzadeh**, who are in

Qarchak women’s prison, also known as Shahr-e Rey, where health and sanitary conditions are poor and the infirmary ill-equipped.

“Under international human rights law, Iran’s prison authorities have an absolute obligation to ensure the health and well-being of detainees placed under their control by providing them with appropriate, adequate and timely medical care”, **Reza Moini**, head of RSF’s Iran-Afghanistan desk said.

Ms Mohammadi’s lawyer, **Mostafa Nili**, has been quoted saying that his client “had been deprived of medicine for a week, including pills prescribed after a heart operation”.

A 60-year-old journalist was also returned to his prison cell on 5 April despite respiratory problems after being hospitalised in January with a severe case of Covid-19.

REMEMBERING A FELLOW PRISONER



Soheil Arabi, a human rights activist, was recently released from prison as a result of extensive efforts and campaigns. He wrote in a recent letter about his fellow prisoner, **Gholamreza Khosravi**, who was executed by the government for collecting donations to a satellite TV channel.

Soheil wrote: In all these thirty-one years of my life, I have not seen

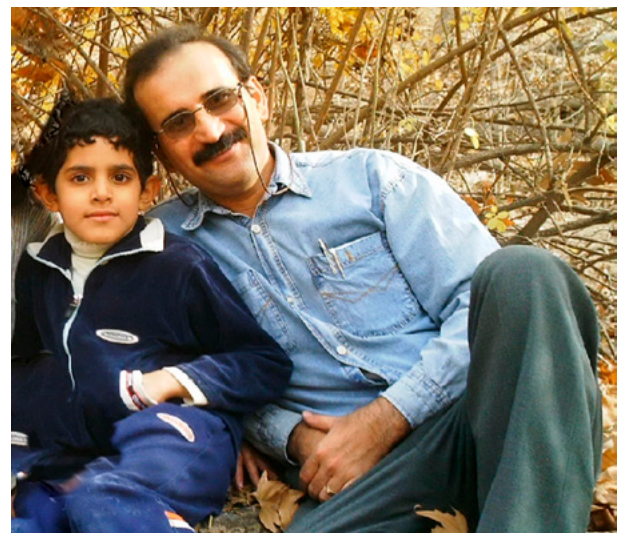
anyone who loves life as much as he does.

He loved life, he did not waste a single moment of life. The day he was summoned over a prison loudspeaker, for his death sentence to be carried out, he was reading a book.

In spite of his death sentence, he continued his studies in chemistry, playing Setar and learning French.

He used every opportunity to learn; he fed the birds every day.

Once a month we used to make food ourselves. Yet, this relatively simple food did not pass his lips. Gholamreza would secretly take it to someone a few cells away,



Gholamreza Khosravi and his son

because he knew this guy liked that food.

Every time we went to the visiting hall, I could see how he looked at his family with so much love. It was clear from his looks how much he missed them.



GHAZALEH ALIZADEH CHALLENGED OPPRESSION WITH HER PEN



Ghazaleh Alizadeh, an Iranian poet and writer, was born on 15 February 1949 in the city of Mashhad, northeast of Iran. Her mother was also a poet and writer.

Ghazaleh Alizadeh had a mysterious death on 12 May 1996.

Ghazaleh pursued a law degree at the university and began her literary career in early 1960s with the publication of a short story when she was only 13. Her first stories were published as early as 1962 in various publications in Iran.

Her first story was 60 pages long.

Her mother took the story to a magazine, and they did not believe that a 13-year-old girl had written such a story. Despite her young age, she had gained notoriety through her community.

Her first book titled *After the Summer* was published in 1977. In 1980, a collection of three stories *Unexpected Journey* was published; in 1985 a long story *Two Landscapes*; in 1992 *The Edrissis' House*, and in 1994 a collection of three stories called *Crossroads*, was published. Ghazaleh's final work *Dreams of the House and Nightmares of Decline* was published in 1997 after her death.

In addition to these books and stories, several of her interviews have also been published.

To learn more about Ghazaleh's spirit and outlook, we refer to one of her novels, *The Edrissis' House*. The first volume of this book was published in the spring of 1991 and the second volume was published in the fall of 1992.

The Edrissis' House is Ghazaleh Alizadeh's most famous novel. The story follows the adventures of a family called Edrissi in an imaginary city called Eshqabad or The City of Love.

In this story, she has created a novel by choosing new techniques depicting different angles and aspects of social conditions and life of people after the 1979 revolution in Iran, especially the situation of oppressed women under the clerical rule. Everyone who reads the novel can identify with one of the subjects mentioned in the book.

Ghazaleh Alizadeh was one of the most talented Iranian writers. An author who joined the ranks of countless Iranian writers and artists, who were exposed to tremendous suppression under the mullahs' regime, whose lives ended with suspicious death.

The official narrative was that Ghazaleh committed suicide by hanging herself in the village of Javaherdeh near Ramsar, northern Iran. Her body was found in the woods.

The misogynist clerical regime using a familiar method of applying constant pressure on artists has driven many of them towards their demise.

Ghazaleh left behind a daughter named Salma and two adopted daughters who were survivors of the 1962 Buin Zahra earthquake.

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Every Saturday 5pm to 6pm

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