



## June 20, 1981: In Commemoration of the Victims of an Islamic Holocaust

20 June 1981 is the beginning of an Islamic holocaust. It is the date when the Islamic Republic of Iran began an all-out assault and genocide against the people of Iran to establish its rule and suppress the people's revolution. From that date on, more than a hundred thousand were executed, and over two decades of sexual apartheid, misery and rightlessness was imposed. The Islamic Republic was not a product of the 1979 revolution but rather this extensive suppression. 20 June 1981 was also the starting point of one of the largest refugee

flows of the past two decades.

Under the leadership of Khomeini, personalities of today's Right wing and Reformist (2<sup>nd</sup> Khordad) factions organised one of the most atrocious crimes against humanity in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Both actively took part in this genocide.

The International Federation of Iranian Refugees (IFIR) commemorates the beloved who were slaughtered by the Islamic regime and the



Executed for resisting against Khomeini's repression: the man on the ground was dragged out of hospital to be executed.

innumerable others who were crushed under torture and repression. The leaders of this regime must be held accountable for their crimes. They must be prosecuted. Relations with this regime must be severed. Those fleeing this brutal regime

must be granted protection. The people's movement to oust this regime must be supported.

Anything less is a disservice to the victims of this Islamic holocaust.

## Bogus Arguments for a Bogus Policy, Part II *A Critique of UK Asylum Policy*

Maryam Namazie



The UK government says not all these Iranians coming are genuine refugees; we say they are. Living under sexual apartheid, Islamic laws and

an Islamic regime provides a well-founded fear of persecution for anyone who is unable or unwilling to live under those conditions, just as all Jews had a right to protection from the Nazis (though at the time, many Western governments turned back fleeing refugees) or just as a black South Africans had the right to protection from racial apartheid.

It says there aren't enough resources to support asylum seekers. We say they are.

The Government's own report for 1999 -2000 shows that the cost of supporting asylum seekers, including legal aid, welfare benefits, housing, health and education was £597 million or £10.15 per head of population per year or 0.17% of total Government spending. The UK government is going to double this by building detention centres. It's going to increase it many-fold if it implements the plans mentioned above. Eurotunnel has spent more than £6m

improving security at its French terminal. Asylum seekers only get 70% of what UK citizens get. It would cost practically nothing if they were treated like everyone else. There are resources; they just don't want to use them properly. There is enough to drop bombs on Iraq and Afghanistan, upkeep the millennium dome and refurbish Prince Charles' home. They have money to pay the Islamic regime £2.68m (\$3.9m) in aid for

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Iran's anti-drugs programme, with Mo Mowlam praising Iran's 'heroic' efforts in the war against drugs when the sentence for drug dealing is death and human rights monitors have stated that political opponents are often executed under the guise of drug dealers. On 20 May, five reported drug dealers were hanged in Mashad. On May 17, seventeen-year-old Ramin was sentenced to 20 lashes for possession of heroin. Also noteworthy is the fact that aid is linked to countries taking deportees back. There is, therefore, money to give to persecuting governments. But talking costs takes away from the real issue. Should we stop providing cancer treatment, shut down schools or clinics because they cost too much? Rights are not dependant on costs.

The UK government says there is a 'flood' of asylum seekers. On the one hand, it

is trying to stop asylum seekers from coming, but on the other hand needs a work force. The European population is greying and immigrants are needed to sustain the economy. According to a United Nations report, Germany must import about half a million foreign workers each year for the next 50 years in order to maintain the size of its current labour force. The home secretary, David Blunkett, is to announce two new schemes which will open the door for unskilled and semi-skilled economic migrants to come to Britain legally to fill labour shortages in key areas of the economy. When it comes to persuading the public on this they say the latest research shows that migrants do not compete for jobs with existing workers. They say, 'the idea that there are only a fixed number of jobs in the economy has been discredited. Migrants can also expand sectors, create

new businesses and jobs.' But asylum seekers are not given the blanket right to work because it helps keep wages down.

Detention, substandard living accommodations, including housing people in a place where 100000 carcasses were buried in the foot and mouth crisis, and segregation are deterrents to further this policy which stops people from reaching safety, just as pressure to close down Sangatte is. But there is no logic to these arguments. You cannot stop homelessness by shutting down homeless shelters. You cannot stop domestic violence by refusing women access to protection. You cannot stop asylum seekers by shutting down Sangatte and closing down borders or treating people like animals. They come because they have to.

There is of course a rational solution to all this. Instead of

attacking asylum seekers, the UK government should end political relations with and support of Islamic regimes which cause mass refugee flows; this will enable people in Iran to overthrow this brutal regime. It should protect those who are fleeing political Islam by allowing them to live and work as equal citizens; this will hardly cost anything and will in fact save money which can be used on services rather than repressing and restricting people. It should promote universal rights rather than justifying violations as culturally relative. It should, but whether it does or not depends solely on pressure from below.

*(The above is the second part of a speech given at the IFIR-UK Branch conference held in London during 24-25 May 2002. Other speakers included Imran Khan, Bruce Burson, Chris Randall, Dashty Jamal and Saeed Arman.)*

# **Why is the Islamic Republic of Iran Unsafe?** *Conference on the Swedish Government's Policy of Dialogue with the Islamic Regime*

The International Federation of Iranian Refugees - Sweden Branch is holding a two-day conference during **28-29 June 2002** entitled 'Why is the Islamic Republic of Iran unsafe? On the Swedish Government's Policy of Dialogue with the Islamic Regime.'

The Conference will be held in Spån gatan 37B, **Malmö**.  
Friday 28 June: 13.00 – 18.00; Saturday 29 June: 09.00- 19.00.

For more information on the Conference, please contact: Ismail Moloodi, +46 0704920349 / 040-6116109.

# Join UK Refugee Week of Action 15 - 23 June

The Refugee Week of Action is supported by the International Federation of Iranian Refugees and the International Federation of Iraqi Refugees.

Saturday 15 June, midday-2.00pm

Protest at Harmondsworth detention centre, Heathrow

Sunday 16 June

Protest at Dover Removals Centre 1.00pm, Western Heights, Dover, Kent

Sunday 16 June, 1.00pm

Scotland: Protest at Dungavel detention centre, 1pm, Ayrshire

London: Celebrating Sanctuary

On the South Bank on Sunday 16 June - a day long cultural festival with music, food, dance and theatre from professional refugee performers.

Monday 17 June, 7.00pm

Public meeting: Asylum Seekers are Welcome Here, Friends Meeting House, Euston Road, W1

Tuesday 18 June

London

6.00pm, Picket the Daily Mail, Derry Street, London W8

Liverpool: Film show of "Bread and Roses" and social Tuesday 18 June from 7pm onwards in The Casa / Dockers (Hope St.).

Wednesday 19 June, Edinburgh: Picket of Group 4

11.00am

3 Quality Street, Edinburgh EH4

Bristol: Wednesday 19 June, 9.30am - 4.00pm, The Council House, College Green.

Liverpool: Wednesday 19 June

"Refugees Are Welcome Here"

Demo outside the Home Office (Reliance House) in Liverpool, 12.30.

Thursday 20 June, 7.00pm

Public meeting in Lancaster, Gregson Institute

Glasgow: "Salsa in the Square" celebration for International Refugee Day

Thursday 20 June, 12 noon at George Square

Saturday 22 June

National demonstration

Assemble midday, Malet Street, London, WC1

Saturday 29 June, 10.00am

Lobby of Bev. Hughes MP (new Home Office Minister)

Old Trafford Library, Shrewsbury Street, Old Trafford, Manchester

# JOIN IFIR

\* I wish to join the **International Federation of Iranian Refugees (IFIR)** as:

\_\_\_ Member (£25.00 p.a.) \_\_\_ Affiliated Group (£100.00 p.a.)

\* I wish to make a donation of: £\_\_\_\_\_ I wish to subscribe to Hambastegi English: \_\_\_ (£50.00 p.a.)

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Please make cheques payable to the International Federation of Iranian Refugees and mail to P. O. Box 27236, London N11 2ZF.

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Please pay **the International Federation of Iranian Refugees (IFIR)** the sum of £\_\_\_\_\_ each month / quarter / year (delete as appropriate) until further notice and debit my Account no: \_\_\_\_\_ Sort Code: \_\_\_\_\_ starting on (date): \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

[FOR OFFICE USE ONLY] To: **International Federation of Iranian Refugees**, Lloyds TSB bank plc. Sort Code: 30-99-86, account no. 0057223.

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