

HAMBASTEGI

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USA War Threats on Iraq are Condemned!

Despite mass opposition to the USA's bullying, warmongering and militarism, the Bush administration continues to persist in its threats of attacking Iraq. If carried out, the attack on Iraq will kill and maim vast numbers of innocent people, destroy Iraq's infrastructure, and will also militarize the political and social atmosphere for the inhabitants of the Middle East. While overthrowing Saddam Hussein is the task of the people and the freedom movement in Iraq, economic sanctions, a military attack,

and the destruction of civilization there, will create another human catastrophe and act as a serious barrier for the Iraqi people to overthrow his regime.

As a result of economic sanctions, more than 5,000 Iraqi children die from lack of milk, food, and health care annually. Hunger, deprivation, and poverty have reached unprecedented and frightening dimensions. The current situation is already unbearable for the people of Iraq. Additional military attacks and bombardments

will disintegrate the very foundations of society and result in serious loss of life. The people's struggle to overthrow Saddam Hussein's repressive regime will sustain a tremendous loss. Militarism will become the USA's main policy.

The International Federation of Iranian Refugees (IFIR) condemns the USA's war threats on Iraq. In addition we demand open borders for all those fleeing Iraq. In case of an attack, borders must stay open and all those fleeing given adequate resources.

Iranian refugees must be immediately transferred to a safe country by the UNHCR and granted refuge.

We must stop this impending massacre. The bombardment of defenceless civilians must be halted. Economic sanctions must cease immediately. The civilised world must stand up against the USA and NATO's terrorism. The clear and decisive defence of the Iraqi people must be our primary agenda.

Stop Executions in Iran



In the past few weeks, tens of people have been publicly hanged or stoned to death by the Islamic regime in Iran; several of those executed were known political prisoners. Others are awaiting execution, including 19-year-old Salar Kerdari for activities against the regime, Ghader Makhmal for taking part in the recent prison protests in the city of Mahabad, and Saeed Maasoori for opposition to the regime.

The International Federation of Iranian Refugees (IFIR) unequivocally condemns the Islamic Republic of Iran and executions in all forms and calls on groups and individuals to exert pressure on the Islamic regime to stop the

executions and stonings. We must not allow this regime to kill anymore human beings. International pressure can be instrumental in saving lives.

Send your letters of protest to: Mohammad Khatami, E-mail: khatami@president.ir. Address: The Presidency, Palestine Avenue, Azerbaijan Intersection, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran.

Sample letter: I/My organisation strongly condemn(s) the Islamic Republic of Iran for its recent executions and stonings and demand(s) an immediate end to all forms of execution. Please send copies to ifir@ukonline.co.uk.



On Mansoor Hekmat's Role in IFIR

Radio International's Interview with Maryam Namazie on Mansoor Hekmat

Radio International: *What was the importance of Mansoor Hekmat's role in the International Federation of Iranian Refugees (IFIR), this thirteen year-old organisation that unequivocally defends refugee and civil rights?*

Maryam Namazie: The

International Federation of Iranian Refugees (IFIR) has had a unique role and an important place in the organising of Iranians and Iranian refugees abroad. It was Mansoor Hekmat's idea and plan to respond to the refugee flow as a result of the Islamic Republic of Iran's repression. Thirteen years on we are witnessing IFIR's effects on the lives of innumerable people. Its

impact on the refugee and civil rights movement is undeniable. IFIR has managed to organise one of the most vulnerable segments of society, i.e. asylum seekers, people without proper legal status, without rights, who are isolated and ghettoised, living in imposed poverty and misery and who are daily humiliated. IFIR has succeeded in organising the progressive section of this group, uniting them around maximum rights and demands, and placing this immense force alongside the working class, freedom-loving people and other progressive movements in the societies they live in. IFIR has been able to portray a progressive image of asylum seekers and the people of Iran to the general public and oppose inhuman ideas such as patriarchy, nationalism and religion. IFIR has also exposed the Islamic Republic of Iran as the main reason for the flight of countless human beings from Iran and continues to exert political pressure on the regime.

These are some of IFIR's activities during its 13 year existence. We have shown that even under the daily assault of capital on people's

lives, dignity and humanity, it is possible to defend maximum civil rights and strive for and secure improvements in people's lives. We have demonstrated that under circumstances in which states attempt to isolate people and force them into hopelessness and despair, it is possible to organise people around positive action. IFIR has not only raised the expectations of asylum seekers in regards to their maximum rights, but also raised society's expectations as a whole on the universal rights of human beings. It is not an exaggeration to say that during this time IFIR has had an unprecedented and unique role in the history of activism of Iranian's abroad. I also think it has had a unique role in the activist history of the societies we are living and struggling in. These are undoubtedly the gains of Mansoor Hekmat and his movement and party.

Radio International: *What was Mansoor Hekmat's particular role in IFIR's current achievements?*

Maryam Namazie: Mansoor Hekmat has had

Mansoor Hekmat (1951-2002)



With the bloody suppression of the revolution in Iran and the imposition of an ultra-reactionary life on the people, tens of thousands of human beings, alone and without organisation, fled the Islamic Republic of Iran in search of security and tranquillity. Organising this

vast human mass around the most modern and humane advances of humanity, unconditionally defending their right to asylum, and creating an international organisation without taking into consideration people's nationality, religion, sex and or political affiliation became an immediate necessity. Creating the International Federation of Iranian Refugees (IFIR) was Mansoor Hekmat's response to these conditions. As he said: 'Our entire life story is changing the lives of human beings.'

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the most vital role in the creation of IFIR and in its significant 13 year existence. Mansoor Hekmat wrote the initial plan of IFIR, wrote its preliminary documents, and was personally responsible for its implementation. While many people have worked actively in the IFIR, their and IFIR's special status is because of Mansoor Hekmat's ideals and methods. Our type of work at IFIR is very different from other refugee rights organisations. For example, in the UK, one of the main slogans of refugee organisations is that 'refugees are welcome here'. We, though, consider this a rights issue; whether people are welcome or not, they have a right to seek refuge and be here. Saying certain people are welcome means they are temporary guests that can wear out their welcome. Or in Australia, refugee rights organisations have held hunger strikes to support asylum seekers there. We on



the other hand see hunger strikes as a negative form of activism and work hard to dissuade asylum seekers from harming themselves. These organisations limit the demands of asylum seekers and classify them as second or third class citizens. They undertake negative and at times reactionary means of activism. IFIR, however, defends the maximum rights of people and its struggle is a positive and progressive one. Our differences are in fact nothing but Hekmatism and

worker-communism. Mansoor Hekmat brought back Marxism and Marx's critique of the present world, as well as a Marxist and deeply humanist solution towards contemporary society. This is why IFIR is where it is today. Without Mansoor Hekmat, his party and movement, the refugee rights movement would have been much bleaker just as the situation of the people in Iran and the world without him would have been such. In a letter to us, Mansoor

Hekmat had written that he is honoured to have had a role in the Federation. I believe though, that in fact the honour is completely ours to have been able to implement his project. We are honoured to be in his movement, to have worked closely with him, to believe in his ideals and humanity. We are honoured to have lived in an era in which the greatest Marxist and humanist of the contemporary world was among us.

Condemn Abduction of a 5 year old girl to Iran from Toronto

On Monday September 30, 2002, Mr. Abdul Nakhlestani 41, abducted his daughter, Kiana 5, and took her to Iran, without legal permission from her mother. Mr. Nakhlestani, used to work for the Iranian Army intelligence, and moved to Canada two years ago. He abducted Kiana and took her to Iran, when his wife Mitra asked for a divorce.

The concern over this abduction is why, and under what circumstances,

Canadian Immigration let this tragedy occur and what the Canadian government is going to do to rescue Kiana and return her to her mother? The Canadian Government betrayed her by miserably failing to protect her as a Canadian citizen. Kiana's mother, Mitra, has no rights, since Kiana is in the hands of the Islamic regime in Iran, and she has to solely rely on the Canadian Government to return her back to Canada. The Government of Canada

is obligated legally, to do whatever is necessary, to bring Kiana back to Canada. We strongly condemn, and hold accountable, Canadian Immigration, for not protecting Kiana, and allowing her to be abducted to Iran by her father. We demand that the Government of Canada take action and immediately start the process of returning Kiana back to Canada. We call upon all women and children's organisations to put pressure

on the Government of Canada and send an urgent letter to the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, Department of Foreign Affairs and the Prime Ministers' Office, demanding Kiana's return back to Canada, as soon as possible.

For more information, contact Children First, PO Box 123 STN.D, Etobicoke, Ontario, M9A 4X1, Canada. childrenfirst@pathcom.com. www.childrenfirstinternational.org.

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 or Iran Monitor: __ (£50.00 p.a.)

Name: _____ **E-mail:** _____

Address: _____

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

* I wish to make a standing order:

To: The Manager of (your Bank) _____

(Address of your Bank) _____

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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