

# HAMBASTEGI

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF IRANIAN REFUGEES



# 139

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## Stop Deportations, Defend Refugee Rights in Canada

Refugee rights are under attack worldwide. As governments are working together to make it easier for capital to flow freely, they make it harder for people to cross borders. The Canadian government's proposed changes to the immigration laws represent a vicious assault on immigrants and asylum seekers. The federal government has announced racist anti-working class changes to Canada's already problematic immigration

laws. These changes are occurring at a time when the Canadian government is also increasing the number of deportations of asylum seekers. Hundreds of these asylum seekers are from countries such as Algeria, China, Iran and Latin America who are fleeing political and social oppression.

About 2,500 asylum seekers from Iran are in danger of deportation. These people have fled the Islamic Republic

of Iran. The Canadian government has improved its economic and political relationship with the Islamic regime since 1995. While the Islamic Republic of Iran continues to abuse civil rights in Iran, the Canadian government denies refugee rights. The Canadian government claims that Iran is an effectively safe country for these asylum seekers, contrary to Amnesty International which reports of public executions, the

continuation of the use of torture, flogging, amputation and stoning to death in recent weeks. Canadian immigration forces asylum seekers awaiting deportation to complete temporary travel documents provided by the Islamic Republic Embassy in Canada. This is while we know of cases of asylum seekers who have been arrested, imprisoned, tortured, and even executed upon being deported to Iran.

## Kourosh Niknam must be released from prison



Minoo Homily

Minoo Homily, the International Federation of Iranian Refugees - Toronto Branch Director went to visit Kourosh Niknam (Ghobanali Mazraekar) in Mill Brook prison in Toronto on November 2, 2002. Before fleeing to Canada, Kourosh spent two years in Adelabad prison in Shiraz, in the south of Iran. He was severely tortured by the regime. Upon his release, he was forced to flee the Is-

lamic regime and seek political asylum in Canada in August 2001. Instead of being recognised as a refugee, Kourosh was arrested at the airport and imprisoned. He has been in prison for the last 16 months and is being kept in solitary confinement under very harsh and squalid conditions!

Kourosh was a member of the People's Mujahedeen Organisation of Iran (PMOI) many years ago, but he soon resigned from that organisation and joined the Worker-communist Party of Iran. Because of his former affiliation with the PMOI, the Canadian authorities are denying his right to asylum since that government sees the PMOI as a 'terrorist' organisation. In fact, it is the Is-

lamic regime of Iran, which the Canadian government has close relations with, that is a terrorist regime. The Canadian government's labelling of an Iranian opposition group, whatever our position on that organisation may be, as 'terrorist' only further helps the Islamic regime.

Kourosh must be immediately released from prison and have the right to seek and enjoy asylum. He has a well-founded fear of persecution and cannot be refouled to Iran. The International Federation of Iranian Refugees holds the Canadian government accountable for his life and safety.

**Immigration &  
Asylum Detention in  
the UK and in  
Australia**

Public Meeting, London

## Stop Deportations, Defend Refugee Rights in Canada, from page 1



Immigration officers force Iranian asylum seekers to provide personal information to the Islamic regime, the same repressive government that these refugees have fled from. This must stop

immediately. This is a clear violation of asylum rights. The International Federation of Iranian Refugees - Vancouver Branch calls on all progressive people and groups to stand in solidarity

with those in danger of deportation and support us to save their lives. We call on all progressive organisations, trade unions, immigrant and refugee rights organisations as well as concerned

individuals to join us and help build a strong coalition to stop deportations. We welcome your support and invite you to participate in our organising meetings which are held at: 6:00 to 8:00pm every Monday at 201-116 East 3rd Street in North Vancouver.

We also call on groups and individuals to join a demonstration on Monday December 09, at 10am at the Immigration Office, 300 West Georgia in Vancouver to protest deportations. For more information, contact our branch director, Tahmineh Sadeghi at: [taminehsadeghi@hotmail.com](mailto:taminehsadeghi@hotmail.com).

## Stop Executions in Iran

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](mailto: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](mailto:ifir@ukonline.co.uk).



### 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.'

# Immigration & Asylum Detention in the UK and in Australia

## **PUBLIC MEETING**

Organised by the National Coalition of Anti-Deportation Campaigns

Tuesday 3rd December

7.30pm Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London WC1

(Nearest tube: Holborn)

Maryam Namazie (International Federation of Iranian Refugees)

Natalie Lowrey (anti-Woomera activist from Australia)

Theresa Hayter (Barbed Wire Britain anti-detention network)

Emma Ginn (Yarls Wood Campaign)

Chil-Out UK (children out of detention centres campaign)

Gabriel Nkwelle, Hussein Kassuja & other asylum seekers

Over 10,000 asylum seekers and other migrants are held in detention centres in the UK every year - although they have committed no crime and their only offence is to come to the UK fleeing persecution, war, poverty and oppression. The British government plans to build new 'accommodation' centres to hold 3,000 migrants. Opposition to these centres continues to grow.

In February 2002, Yarls Wood, Europe's biggest detention centre, burnt down. It was revealed that the authorities had declined to install sprinklers and other fire safety measures. Now 13 former detainees are charged with arson and/or violent disorder.

In Australia, detainees at the Woomera Camp have protested to highlight their imprisonment. Detainees have staged mass break outs from their detention.

Hear campaigners from Britain and Australia and asylum seekers and migrants who have been detained speak about the growing opposition to immigration detention.

More info from John on 020 7701 5197 or Chris on 020 8988 8763 or email [ncadc-london@ncadc.org.uk](mailto:ncadc-london@ncadc.org.uk).

# 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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