
HAMBASTEGI

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF IRANIAN REFUGEES


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Mansoor Hekmat, the International Federation of Iranian Refugees' initiator, died last year after a battle with cancer. His vision and aspirations and his unrelenting and unequivocal defence of human beings and humanity has guided the organisation into what it is today.

IFIR invites all to attend a memorial ceremony in his honour held by Azar Majedi and the Worker-communist Parties of Iran and Iraq during 4 and 5 July 2003 in London.

Friday, 4 July, from 2:30pm at Highgate Cemetery, Swains Lane, London N6 (Underground station: Archway)

Saturday, 5 July, starting at 12pm at Conway Hall, 25 Red Lion Square, London WC1R 4RL (Underground Station: Holborn)

The ceremony is open to the public. Please refrain from bringing cameras, tape and video recorders and bags with you. Children under 16 are not permitted.

The ceremony will be broadcast live from 12pm on 5 July 2003 on www.rowzane.com/tv/channel2index.html. Further information about the memorial ceremony can be found on www.wpiran.org/English and www.m-hekmat.com or contact Javad Aslani +44 (0) 7813045870 or email: salgardinfo@yahoo.co.uk.

Letter: The inhumanity and injustice of Britain's asylum laws, The Independent May 30, 2003



**Maryam Namazie, Executive Director
International Federation of Iranian
Refugees, ifir@ukonline.co.uk**

The Independent - United Kingdom; May 30, 2003

Sir: Abas Amini, the Iranian asylum seeker living in Nottingham, continues his hunger strike despite our unrelenting efforts to save his life ("Ready to die: the

asylum-seeker who says he fled torture and was driven to self-mutilation by Britain", 28 May). He refuses to end his hunger strike in protest of the Home Office's inhuman and racist asylum policy. Doctors say his kidneys will soon stop functioning and he will go

into a coma. He nonetheless refuses medical assistance, food and water.

This human tragedy unfolding before our eyes says much about a vile asylum policy that has driven Amini to stitch his eyes and lips together and want to take his own life. It says much about a policy that forces human beings like Amini, a young man of 33 who has struggled so long and hard against the Islamic Republic of Iran, survived torture, mock executions and years of imprisonment, flight and separation from his spouse and children to take such desperate measures. His personal tale is a cry against the treatment of today's asylum seekers by the UK government. It is also exposes the shameful dealings between the UK government and the repressive Islamic regime in

Iran at the expense of countless victims of persecution.

But while it reveals much about the inhumanity and injustice of the UK's asylum policies, Amini's tale also speaks volumes about humanity itself which, despite the daily barrage of racist scapegoating, have come out in full force in defence of his life and dignity and that of all asylum seekers. People need to continue coming out in support of Amini's life and the lives of so many nameless, faceless refugees facing closed borders, unfair refusals, detentions, and deportations.

MARYAM NAMAZIE
Executive Director,
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Iranian Refugees

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**Read Maryam
Namazie's message to
the people and
students of Iran in
commemoration of
recent protests in
Persian on Site
www.hambastegi.org**