



Issue No.93

February 2009

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IRAN:

**KURDISH FEMALE ACTIVIST
SENTENCED TO DEATH!**

by

Iranian Workers' Solidarity Network

Wednesday 28 January 2009



Zeynab Jalaliyan

Zeynab Jalaliyan, a Kurdish female political activist, has been sentenced to death for membership of a Kurdish opposition organisation. The 27 year-old Ms. Jalaliyan is a lawyer and lives in Maku, in Azerbaijan province (north-western Iran).

According to Ms. Jalaliyan's family, she was arrested eight months ago in the city of Kermanshah (in Iranian Kurdistan) and was transferred to the Intelligence Ministry's detention centre. There has been no news about her situation or state of health since her arrest eight months ago.

Ms. Jalaliyan was found to be a *mohareb* (enemy of God) after a trial held behind closed doors and lasting a few minutes.

Zeynab Jalaliyan's death sentence raises the number of Kurdish activists sentenced to death in Iran during the past two years to 13.

They are

- 1.Ramezan Ahmad
- 2.Farhad Chalesh
- 3.Shirkuh Marefi
- 4.Rostam Arkiya

- 5.Farzad Kamangar
- 6.Ali Heydariyan
- 7.Farhad Vakili
- 8.Hiwa Boutimar
- 9.Anwar Hosseing Panabi
- 10.Arsalan Evlivavi
- 11 Habibollah Latifi
- 12.Fasih Yasamini
- 13.Zeynab Jalaliyan

From: “In Defence of Marxism”

SAVE ZEYNAB JALALIYAN AND 12 OTHER KURDISH ACTIVISTS!

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SCAVENGERS FEAST ON PALESTINE!

Introduction:

The world has been subjected to daily horrific visual information about the death and destruction sown by the Israeli Army against the people of Gaza. From day one the sympathy of the world swung swiftly in favour of the Palestinians in Gaza and Israel was condemned by people all over the world. Those agencies which ensured a steady flow of such visual material did an effective job in painting Israel in the blackest of colours. The world saw what designers of the psychological campaign meant them to see – a wholly unarmed population being pulverized by one of the most deadly armies in the world with its diabolical array of aircraft and tanks. The role of Hamas in directly provoking the attack was carefully omitted.

There have been protests all over the world. South Africa also had its share of protests and condemnation of the Israeli action. It is said that Muslims, as a rule, do not suppress their feelings and emotions. So at these protests and rallies, the Muslim participants give a good account of their feelings and emotions. These emotions express themselves *in pledges of fighting the Israelis to the last Palestinian!* In other words, you will not find the al Qaeda outlook - to volunteer and stand side by side with their Palestinian brothers and sisters with rock in hand, or petrol bomb or AK 47. In other words, a good slogan is mightier than an AK 47!

You will see at these rallies certain faces. You only see them at these rallies conveniently in front of cameras and then you don't see them again until another Israeli onslaught.

VULTURES MOVE IN – THE CASE OF THE UNFORTUNATE FATIMA HAJAIG

With emotions running high, there is more blood than brain. People can get away with saying all sorts of things as long as they are *against* the Israelis.

One such person was the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ms Fatima Hajaig.

At an emotionally charged pro-Palestinian rally, Ms Hajaig, instead of explaining the intricacies of foreign affairs thought that she could garner a few votes for the desperately vote strapped ANC. She blurted out the most frequently quoted anti- Semitic remarks:

“They in fact control [America]. No matter which government comes in to power, whether Republican or Democratic, whether Barack Obama or George Bush. The control of America, just like the control of most Western countries, is in the hands of Jewish money and if Jewish money controls their country then you cannot expect anything else”.

She would have received a rousing round of applause. She must have felt very pleased at her performance.

Little did she know that retribution was waiting for her round the corner. Deputy Minister Hajaig was immediately targeted by TAC activist Zackie Achmat and his friends and by the Jewish Board of Deputies. Deputy Minister Hajaig was on a mission to Japan where she would have heard of the strong condemnation of her remarks. She did not relish the idea of appearing before the Human Rights Commission to explain her remarks.

She tried to circumvent the unpleasant prospects which awaited her with a tongue-in- cheek apology.

First she makes reference to comments **“purported”** to be made by her. Why purported? She had access to the recordings. She had **clearly made** those remarks.

Then she goes on to make an apology for the pain her remarks **may have caused**. Why **may have caused**? As if there is a good chance that her remarks may NOT have caused any pain. This is what we mean by a tongue-in-cheek.

If Deputy Minister Hajaig thought that she could get away with this kind of apology she was sadly mistaken. The demand was for **a withdrawal of her remarks**. And this came swiftly after Cabinet met. Then the Deputy Minister had to meet President Motlanthe who gave her a dressing down. This resulted in a proper apology:

Its president who is charged with some 184 charges of corruption, theft, money laundering and other dishonest acts was supported by thousands of ANC members, including its top officials. They have made it clear that they are quite prepared to have as president of this country a man who faces all those charges. They are hoping that the prosecuting authority will not have the nerve to make the president of this country appear in court on criminal charges.

To those thousands who came to Pietermaritzburg to support him, those charges meant nothing. They most certainly did not warrant any opprobrium.

As for the man himself, he has the nerve to make public speeches condemning corruption. How he must enjoy saying that.

Then the President of the country has the singular disgrace of having to append his signature to Acts which abolish the *most effective* major and syndicate-related crime fighting unit in this country. So effective has this unit been that it instilled terror in the hearts of top ANC officials. It therefore had to be abolished at all costs. So important was this desire that that decision had to be taken at the Polokwane Conference to give it extraordinary priority.

We will recall how Kgalema Motlanthe, then Secretary-General of the ANC had the country abuzz with his very candid and relevant remarks about corruption in the ANC. They are worth repeating:

“This rot is across the board. It’s not confined to any level or any area of the country. Almost every project is conceived because it offers opportunities for certain people to make money...

The ANC as the party in government is centrally involved in dishing out tenders and contracts...Once the local ANC meetings were all about policies and strategies – the transformation of SA society according to the ideals the party championed for decades. Now these meetings are preoccupied with business opportunities and who should have access to them.”³

All said: **“Here is a man after our hearts. What candour ! What courage! There is still hope in the ANC with people like Motlanthe.”**

Alas! That turned out to be no more than a mirage!

Motlanthe will go down in history, **not** as the man who fought against corruption (as distinct from the man who made a single anti corruption observation.) He will be remembered as the man **who signed the death warrants of the Scorpions.** He was fully aware that by signing the death warrants, members of the *corruptocracy* will be able to sleep peacefully at night!

Of course, it was within Motlanthe’s power to make a very powerful statement to the country and to the world **by refusing to sign the bills!!** That would

³ Financial Mail 19th January 2007- “Soul for Sale” by Carol Paton

have caused a constitutional crisis resulting in the “RECALL” of Motlanthe as president. He would then have gone down in history as a leading enemy of corruption. But to do that would have required courage on Motlanthe’s part. In Motlanthe’s moral balance sheet of assets and liabilities, moral courage is in deficit.

After Motlanthe has drunk from the poisoned chalice of high living given to government politicians, he cannot afford to be shown the door and sent to the labour market to earn an honest living.

That brave and honourable man, Mr Vusi Pikoli, is the ideal head of the National Prosecuting Authority. No less than a staunch ally of former president Mbeki, Dr Ginwala, made a positive finding of professional and ethical integrity about Mr Pikoli when it was very much in Mbeki’s interest that the opposite finding be made. Disregarding the findings of the Ginwala Commission which went through the contentious issues with a fine comb, the ANC got Motlanthe to announce Pikoli’s dismissal as head of the NPA . The matter is now before the Parliamentary Monitoring Committee. To show its utter contempt for the finding of the Ginwala Commission of Inquiry, the ANC appointed one Oupa Monareng to chair the Parliamentary Monitoring Committee which will decide on Pikoli’s fate as head of the National Prosecuting Authority. Monareng was previously on the Gauteng’s Legislature’s Safety and Security Committee. He was found guilty of seeking to bribe a police officer after he, Monareng, was found in possession of stolen motor vehicle! It is such a man that the ANC nominates to head the committee which is to decide the fate of the head of the National Prosecuting Authority. How they would have laughed in the caucus meeting which chose him.

Are there no honest persons left in the ANC to head the committee?⁴

All hail to the Lord of Corruption!

The story does not end there. The ANC needs a compliant head of the National Prosecuting Authority. Pikoli is not compliant. Mbeki will confirm that. There is talk that a Mr Muzi Mkhize SC would fit the bill. So who is this Muzi Mkhize? He is unknown to most members of the public but only too well known in certain quarters. As a member of the Bar, he was found guilty of unprofessional conduct and given a hefty fine. He is also known to have been part of the Zuma defence team concerning the latter’s corruption charges.

Carmel Rickard writing in the Business Day Weekender on the 13th February 2009 has some very unkind things to say about Mkhize’s ability.

⁴ Not unexpectedly, the Monareng Committee endorsed Motlanthe’s shameful dismissal of Pikoli.

And not unexpectedly, the ANC used its majority in Parliament to formalise Pikoli’s dismissal. There was not a single ANC MP of integrity to oppose the dismissal – not even the loquacious and righteous Trevor Manuel nor the “Mr Clean” Yunus Carrim.

Principles like *conflict of interest* which is at the heart in the fight against corruption do not appear to matter to the ANC.

Are there no senior counsel of integrity in this country who can fill the post of National Prosecuting Authority head with competence and effectiveness?

What is frightening is not the appointment of tainted individuals to accomplish functions which require absolute integrity. IT IS THE BRAZENNESS with which they flaunt the appointments. Yes he was found guilty of fraud. **So what? We are in the majority. We have the power to make the appointment. You can go to hell!**

Conclusion:

When we fought against the oppressors, we fought for, among other things, the right of each person to have the franchise to determine that person's life – where he lived, what work he did, what food he ate, what clothes he wore. In short it was a right to his human dignity.

A liberatory movement taking over power in the country has many functions to perform. Apart from the physical needs of the population – housing, work, medical care, safety, entertainment, it is the duty of the liberatory movement to uplift the population from the trampled and brutalized life under oppression to a life where the finer aspects are made attractive

- Temperateness
- Treating women with care and dignity
- Settling differences by discussion and resolution and not by violence
- Treating children with special care
- Treating one's fellow human with respect, dignity, candour and honesty
- To be hardworking, industrious, thrifty and honest in day to day dealings with other people and the world of business.

But what does Zuma tell his thousands of supporters?

He tells them that the charges against him should not be a bar to him standing for the presidency of the Republic of South Africa. He tells them that there is nothing wrong in a person being elected president of the country by a majority party while that person has then to appear in court to face those charges of dishonesty. In the end he tells them that corruption is not all that bad!

Instead of lifting the people from the state of degradation and oppression to which they were reduced Zuma has dragged the people into the cesspool!

Celia Hart Santamaría (1962 – 2008)

**by
Alan Woods**



Celia Hart Santamaría

Monday 8 September 2008

**We have just heard the tragic news of the death in a traffic accident of
Celia Hart Santamaría, 45, and Abel Hart Santamaría, 48, the daughter**

and son of Armando Hart Dávalos and Haydée Santamaría.

The accident occurred on the afternoon of Sunday, 7 September in the Miramar district of Havana. We do not know the details, but it appears that the car hit a tree. It may be that the bad conditions caused by the recent hurricane had something to do with this.

The bodies of Celia and Abel were taken to the Funeral Rivero, Calzada and K, from where the funeral procession set out for the Columbus Necropolis, where they were buried today at 10:00 am local time.

Celia Hart came from a family of veteran Cuban revolutionaries who fought against the Batista dictatorship together with Fidel Castro. Celia Hart has been an outspoken defender of the political and revolutionary heritage of Leon Trotsky. Her articles on this subject, which have been published by the Spanish Marxist website *El Militante* and also on *Marxist.com*, provoked an intense debate on the question of Trotsky both in Cuba and internationally.

Celia Hart was born in January 1962, just a few months after the Cuban missile crisis. Her mother, Haydée Santamaría, ("the most extraordinary person I have ever known") was a revolutionary from the very early days, and participated together with Fidel Castro in the famous storming of the Moncada barracks, where she lost both her brother and her boyfriend.

Armando Hart, her father, began his political activities by a different route. In the dark days of the Batista dictatorship, when, as a young lawyer, he commenced his political agitation and became a student leader in the University. He was a member of the National Revolutionary Movement (Movimiento Nacional Revolucionario) led by García Barcena, a university professor who opposed Batista and was imprisoned even before the assault on the Moncada barracks.

Armando Hart and Haydée Santamaría were dedicated to the revolutionary cause and fought together with Fidel Castro and Che Guevara. When Batista was finally overthrown, Armando was made the first Minister of Education of the Revolution and Haydée Santamaría was made President of the Casa de las Américas (the House of the Americas), which she in effect founded.

Haydée was always opposed to 'sovietization' - that is the attempt to impose rigid Stalinist bureaucracy and dogmatic thought and methodology on Cuba. In Casa de las Américas there was no room for either dogmatism or so-called socialist realism. She ran it together with a real galaxy of talent: Benedetti, Galich, Mariano Rodríguez and others. Tragically, she committed suicide in 1980. For his part, Armando Hart had a brilliant intellectual career, and at the present time, after more than twenty years as Cuban Minister of Culture, is in charge of the Oficina del Programa Martiano.

In Celia's own words: "I therefore grew up in the eye of the hurricane, between the tremendous passion of my mother and the intelligence and devotion to study of my father - both of them firmly inserted in the political life of Cuba." In 1980, one month before her mother's suicide, Celia decided to study physics in Havana University. Two years later she was sent to finish her studies in the University of Dresden in the German Democratic Republic.

Celia continued her studies until graduating in 1987 - the first foreign female to graduate in this Faculty. She then returned to Havana, where she worked until one year ago in the University, publishing approximately 15 specialist works on magnetism and superconductivity. She also participated in about half a dozen congresses in Italy, Brazil and Argentina.

Talking about this period in her life, Celia told me:

"In 2004 I was supposed to have finished my Doctorate in Physics, but as I was putting the final touches to a work on Philosophy, as part of my Doctorate I realized that my great love for physics was not an end in itself, but only a means to an end."

She continued:

"During my stay in the German Democratic Republic, I realized that there was a contradiction between the inevitability of Socialism to fight for a better world and the bureaucracy, the suffocating of all initiative and the apathy that I found in that country, in spite of the good living conditions. I was repelled by the excessive images of Honecker that one found in every shop window."

In this way, slowly but surely, the ground was being prepared for Celia's transition to Trotskyism, which she described in the following words:

"In 1985 I returned to Cuba on holiday and confessed to my father my feelings of utter desperation. In response, my father opened a cupboard and got out four books: the three-volume *Life of Trotsky* by Isaac Deutscher and Trotsky's *The Revolution Betrayed*. I devoured these books, but until a few months ago had no opportunity of reading the rest of Trotsky's works."

"From that time," continues Celia, "everything began to fall into place like the pieces of a jigsaw puzzle. I understood how the Russian Revolution - and not only the Russian Revolution - had been betrayed and millions of comrades had been deceived."

However, none of Celia's works were published in Cuba, except a prologue to a book written by her mother entitled *Haydée Speaks about the Moncada* (Haydée habla del Moncada). Her writings were first published in the website of *El Militante* and Marxist.com (see [The Flag](#)

[over Coyoacán](#)) and the Spanish magazine *Marxismo Hoy*. Later we published a book of her writings in Spanish with the title [Apuntos Revolucionarios](#) (Revolutionary Notes), which was introduced to the public in Spain and Cuba by the Frederick Engels Foundation.

It was the comrades of the IMT who first contacted Celia Hart and gave her the opportunity to enter into contact with international Trotskyism. She attended our [world congress in 2004](#) and had intensive discussions with the leading comrades. Shortly afterwards she wrote:

"I have just returned after attending the International Conference of the Marxist Tendency. It was a very important experience for me. I met some marvellous comrades from Pakistan, Israel, Spain, the United States... And I see that I am not alone, that the same ideas I defend are spreading all over the world. These are the ideas of the future. I thank all the comrades for the happiest summer of my life."

"A new and exciting chapter is opening for me. It is a very strange feeling. Less than a year ago I was a researcher in Physics in the University of Havana. Now I do not know what the future holds. But I do understand that science, and the scientific method, is the best method with which to carry out this passionate revolutionary struggle."

Since then Celia has been in regular contact with the IMT and has spoken at our meetings in various countries. In February of this year she spoke at the [first public book launch in Cuba of Trotsky's Revolution Betrayed](#), organized by the Frederick Engels Foundation with more than 100 people present at the Havana Book Fair.

Celia Hart was always very passionate about her ideas and the struggle for socialism. We had many discussions with her, often ending in agreement, sometimes not, but in all our dealings with her, there was always a warm sense of comradeship and friendship and she always spoke very warmly about *El Militante* and the IMT.

Most recently she spoke at a very [successful meeting of 200 people in Montreal](#) on 28 May this year, which we jointly organized. The next day there was a [meeting on the Permanent Revolution organized by the IMT](#) at which she also spoke. As far as I know this was the last public meeting she ever spoke at, although we had planned to invite her to speak at the launch of my new book *Reformism or Revolution* at the Havana Book Fair next February.

Unfortunately, this was not to be. A cruel accident has robbed us of a valuable and much-loved friend and comrade. But her memory lives on in the hearts and minds of those of us who knew her. And above all, the ideas we defended together live on and grow stronger by the day. That is the best memorial Celia Hart would have desired.

