



Salah Zater

TV journalist from Libya

Young, slender and insecure. Eyes that – despite showing obvious excitement – cannot hide the fact that they've already seen too much. And as he exits the airport building in Hamburg and spots the welcoming party, his relief is palpable. „Thank you for having me!“ These were the first words that Libyan TV journalist Salah Zater (28) said when he arrived.

For one year, Salah Zater will be living along the river Elbe as the latest guest with the Hamburg Foundation for Politically Persecuted People. A break of twelve months from the daily horrors of the past four years, in which he covered stories on Islamist groups, child work, sexual abuse, torture and murder of imprisoned people as well as on drug

from his mind. Still, the young journalist knows that the developments in his home country will not let him go. He considers the power the Libyan branch of the killer militia Islamist State (IS) wields over young men to be particularly oppressive: „The spiral of violence“, he fears, „will keep spinning faster in the coming months.“

Thank you!

Depending on the funds we receive through donations, the Hamburg Foundation for Politically Persecuted People can accommodate up to five guests each year. Unfortunately, we lacked the funds to invite Salah Zater. In this situation the organization „Journalists Help Journalists“ proved its lived sense of solidarity by placing a generous donation. Only thanks to their contribution, which secured a substantial part of the fellowship, were we able to rescue the reporter from acute danger.

and weapon trafficking as a reporter for the private Libyan TV stations Al-Assema TV and AL-Nabaa. Due to these reports, the journalist equally attracted the attention of government officials and Islamist militia, who even abducted and tortured him.

Now, Salah Zater will attempt to banish the memories of his sufferings and all the horrible images

This, among others, is the reason why Salah Zater wants to use his time in Hamburg to inform as many people as possible

at public events about the true state his home country is in. He is especially interested in networking with German and international journalists and in establishing contacts with German political and academic institutions. „And if I also got the opportunity to improve my professional skills in an unpaid internship, my year in Hamburg would turn out to be perfect.“

BBC Neighborhood Journalism Award for Salah Zater

Our guest had barely arrived in Hamburg, when he already set out for Brussels. The BBC World Service, presumably the best radio station in the world, had presented the young journalist from the

Libyan capital Tripolis with an award for his coverage from the crisis region. Salah Zater is determined to use his contacts to his British colleagues in the future. He says, he can learn a lot from them.



Editorial



Martina Bäurle

The nationalities and professions of those, who are recommended to the Foundation for a one-year fellowship by an international network each autumn, are an unmistakable sign of the current level of tragedy in the world. The fact that Kamal Khan from Pakistan, Salah Zater from Libya and Visar Duriqi from Kosovo are our current guests identifies the world region currently in the most trouble.

These three young men were not only threatened by their own countries but also by Islamist terrorist groups.

They have one thing in common: Disturbed by the situation in their respective home countries, they have dedicated their lives to the fight for democracy, freedom and human rights for years. Salah Zater and Visar Duriqi as investigative journalists, Kamal Khan as a leading member of the Pakistani Human Rights Commission.

Our society is capable of dealing with agitators and their defamatory campaigns against the “lying press”. Unlike countries such as Pakistan or Kosovo, where those hunting down journalists and human rights activists directly target the heart of the weak civil society.

To counteract these intentions, to give a voice to those who are fearlessly committed to democratic civil rights, freedom and the right of free speech – this is and always will be the mission of the Hamburg Foundation for Politically Persecuted People.

Yours,

Martina Bäurle



Kamal Khan

Hunted by the state and the Islamists

Almost every day we receive news from Pakistan about crimes committed by Islamist terrorist groups or about severe human rights abuses by military and intelligence agencies. Again and again, this also affects the province of Turbat Baluchistan. To ascertain the local situation on behalf of the Pakistani Human Rights Commission (HRCP) had been Kamal Khan's job since 2008. Supported by the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ), he documented attacks on women and educational institutions, on members of religious or ethnic minorities as well as on human rights activists and journalists.

Due to his work, which also involved the search of many people allegedly abducted and probably long murdered by the military or intelligence agencies, he became persona non grata for governmental institutions as well as Islamist groups.

Eventually his reports on the rape and torture of a young woman were the proverbial last straw. He received death threats from the per-

petrator as well as from the victim's family. Only barely did he survive an attack on his life. Even his employer, the Pakistani Human Rights Officer, was not able to protect him. When the security forces refused to put him under adequate protection, he had to flee the country.

In Hamburg, the brave young man enjoys to be able to safely walk through the streets for the first time. He deals with his still aching homesick heart by working out in the gym. He also wants to learn how to swim and ride a bike.

Nevertheless, Kamal Khan does not consider the Foundation's invitation as a political time-out. His intention is to create close connections with German human rights organizations. He would also like to share his knowledge of the nuclear weapons state Pakistan with representatives from the political, economic and academic realm.

We are especially grateful to, among others, our longstanding sponsor from Munich, whose donation made Kamal Khan's fellowship at all possible.

Your Support

The Hamburg Foundation for Politically Persecuted People would like to thank the sponsors.



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Leyla Yunusova still in prison



Three months before the start of the „Olympic Games of Europe“ in Azerbaijan it is clear: our former guest Dr. Leyla Yunusova, her husband Arif and many other critics of the regime will only witness the sports event from behind bars.

Recently, Leyla Yunusova's custody was prolonged by another six months despite her grave medical condition: The allegations of treason and espionage fabricated by the judiciary in Baku will apparently not hold in court. Azerbaijan plays a significant role in the European Union's energy scheme. As a result, president Ilham Alijew's regime is being treated with special consideration.

Marie Lucas from Amnesty International in Germany firmly believes: "If there were medals to win in Baku for the highest number of imprisoned government critics, the Azerbaijan government would certainly be among the top 3 on the winner's podium."

INVITATION

Monday, 27 April 2015 at 7 pm
KörberForum, Kehr wieder 12,
20457 Hamburg

Pakistan – Attacks on human rights

Our guest Kamal Khan discusses his work and future prospects in his home country with Ulrich Ladurner (Die Zeit), presented by Wolfgang Krach, deputy chief editor at the Süddeutsche Zeitung.

Register here:

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Imprint

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