

English Supplement

Al-Muntada

Of the Iraqi Association

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ASSOCIATION**

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We are all Londoners and united...



Following the horrifying events of 22nd March in London, the Iraqi Association issued a press release condemning the act of terror on Westminster Bridge and the entrance to the Palace of Westminster. Chairman of the Iraqi Association, Dr Majid Al-Yassiri said "the good old Big Ben and Westminster Bridge, worldwide symbols of our capital, witnessed a lone wolf attack, a senseless, terrorist crime that also targeted the oldest democracy in the world.

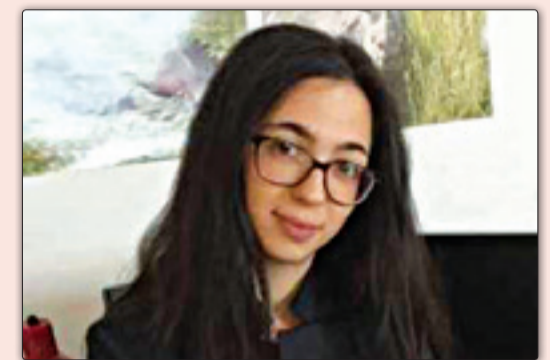
"Our community is shocked and angered by the despicable actions of this perpetrator, but we must all remain calm yet vigilant and support law enforcement efforts to deter

further attacks. Our response as a community should be constructive and responsible in uniting with other London communities to combat this evil. In particular, we should make sure to stand against other extremists who use this event as a pretext to ferment hate, divisiveness and Islamophobia in an attempt to divide our communities."

This criminal act represents an attack on our values, every principle of human right and on our democratic system. The perpetrator targeted every religion in his indiscriminate attack. It also represents a desperate attempt in the face of gains made by the international community in the war against terrorism in Mosul and Raqqa.

As a community we stand united against this heinous act and the attempt of the criminals to spread fear, resentment and anger in our community. Our response will be focused on carrying on with our normal lives at home, school, businesses and shops.

We also pay tribute to the excellent response of the emergency services including the police and salute PC Keith Palmer who died defending our British way of life. We send our deepest condolences to the victims' families and friends, and our thoughts are with those who were injured; we wish them an early recovery.



Dr. Yasmine Shauket Al-Hamdani

We congratulate Yasmine Shauket Al-Hamdani on the recent completion of her Doctorate in Engineering (Molecular Modelling and Materials Science) and also extend the congratulations to her proud parents, Dr Ali Shauket and Dr Alia Al-Hamdani. Since the completion of her PhD, Yasmine has gained employment in Luxembourg where she has now relocated. We wish her all the very best for a successful career and future.

Dr Oula Kadhum

Congratulations to Dr Oula Kadhum on the successful completion of her PhD from Warwick University. Her thesis was entitled 'Diasporic interventions: State-building in Iraq following



the 2003 Iraq War', and is a comparative study of how the UK and Swedish Iraqi diaspora mobilised towards state-building in Iraq following the 2003 US-led intervention.

The thesis was examined by Professors Charles Tripp and Feargal Cochrane. We wish her all the very best with her future academic endeavours and extend our congratulations to her proud and happy parents, husband and friends.



Shatha goes Gung-Ho! for IraqChild



On Saturday 25th March, Shatha Besarani took part in the Gung-Ho! 5k obstacle run in London to raise funds for our IraqChild project. As a public health professional, by taking part in such an event Shatha has combined her passion for encouraging people to adopt healthy lifestyles with a desire to support vulnerable children in Iraq who are helped by IraqChild.

As a result, Shatha has raised well over £700 in online and offline donations for IraqChild. This will help to continue funding both a mobile clinic which works in the poorest districts in Baghdad as well as travelling to help displaced children in other provinces, and an educational resource centre for children, based in the Al-Thawra district of Baghdad.

More fundraising activities are currently being planned and there may be opportunities for team events. If you are interested in taking part in a walking or cycling event, or would like to organise your own effort please get in touch.



Elections 2017 – An Opportunity

The announcement on 18th April of an early general election, which was backed by parliament the next day, kicked off 7 weeks of election campaigning before polling day on Thursday 8th June.

Practicing our democratic right to vote is always important, especially when we have the opportunity to do so.

Eligibility: Over 18 years of age, British citizen, resident at a UK address, registered to vote. (Note: EU citizens resident in the UK can vote in local elections).

Voter Registration Deadline: Monday 22nd May; it is a quick and easy process online. If you need any help doing this, do not hesitate to contact us and we can help you. You could also register for a postal vote. Polling day is Thursday 8th June. If you do not know where your polling station is, you should receive a polling card through your door which will tell you where this is, although you do not need the polling card in order to vote – just a piece of ID. Polling stations will be open from 7am – 10pm.

‘Abdullah and Leilah’



A short film tackling the important issue of dementia was recently screened at the Iraqi Association’s weekly Older People’s Club in Hammersmith, with a wider screening to take place soon. ‘Abdullah and Leilah’ is based on real events as experienced by writer and director Ashtar Al Khirsan, whose father suffered with dementia. In the film, the character of Abdullah (played by Iraqi actor Sami Abdul Hameed) drifts back into his memories of 1950s Baghdad as a result of his dementia. Despite having lived in London for many years, he also reverts back to only speaking in Arabic which makes

communication difficult for his daughter, Leilah who only speaks English.

Ashtar introduced the film by explaining why her personal experience compelled her to work on highlighting the importance of raising awareness about dementia, particularly for people who speak English as their second language, through the ‘Abdullah and Leilah’ Wellcome Trust Project. IA Chair Dr Majid Al-Yassiri also attended, helping to further outline the key points about the disease in Arabic, as well as answering numerous questions from members.

‘The Balfour declaration: 100 years on’ – with Sir Vincent Fean



On the 16th February 2017, former British diplomat Sir Vincent Fean was hosted by the Iraqi Association as part of its programme to combat ideological extremism by promoting dialogue on politically sensitive issues or divisive religious beliefs. This is the fourth such event since 2016.

During the evening, which included the screening of a documentary exploring the historical background of the Balfour Declaration (produced by the Balfour Project), Sir Fean spoke about the history of British involvement in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

One of the Iraqi Association’s aims is to empower the Iraqi community and enhance resilience in combating extremism in a safer, more integrated and better Britain.

IRAQI ASSOCIATION (IA)



The Iraqi Association is a non-profit organisation that exists to enable Iraqis to settle and integrate in this country with rights to express their cultural identities. Our work aimed at Iraqis, by providing volunteerism, advice, public health support, counselling, training, employment

guidance, information services, and organising cultural events. It is also our mission to raise awareness about relevant events in Iraq and the integration process in this country.”

Our Aims and Methods:

We provide the following services to our clients regardless of their race,

ethnic origin, language, and gender, religious or political background.

- Face-to-face support session
- Group empowerment session
- Workshop advice session
- Training session
- Outreach work
- Client-led information

