

Olof Palme Reward Letter

Greetings to all :

In 2003 I was just dismissed from a secret Islamic organization in Saudi Arabia. I traveled to Jordan, the neighboring country to Saudi Arabia, in order to do my Master degree. It was difficult for me to be away from my country. But what was more difficult is the transformation I made from carrying radical opinions to the world of humanity, believing in optimum values which are Justice, equality and forgiveness.

During that period, I heard for the first time about a Saudi human rights defender called Dr. Abdullah Al Hamid. He was prosecuted because of his demands for constitutional monarchy, and fundamental issues in human rights. That person who strived from being jailed many times. His story started to spread specially his influence among the radical youths. I went to attend his trial and I found an exhausted fifty years old man who was pushed by a policemen in order to enter the court. He refused to obey till he fall on his knees saying that his trial must be in an open court to be witnessed by everyone.

That was the moment which changed my life, where i left the life of darkness for the life of light. since then I embraced human right believes that I am proud to tell to the whole mankind, not those believes I had in the life of darkness. And I am not alone in this, There is a generation of young people who believe in the global human rights principles, but if they started to act for these principles, they will suffer a lot from a political power that claims and says to the external world that it has intentions for reforms, but the community is refusing and rejecting these reforms. While on the other hand, imprisoned whoever try to do it on their behalf from the human right defenders.

It is not, of course an easy path. Saudi Arabia for the rest of the world is known only for oil and injustice to woman. People will wonder if the knew that there are more than three million Saudis who live below the line of poverty, and there are two million unemployed, although income from oil is significantly increasing. It is not a secret to say that the economical and political interests between my country and many powerful countries were and remained the main reason for the attention of the international

community not be grabbed, except a few, toward human rights activists who are suffering a lot just for spreading human right values. Some (and I am one of them) are now sued for political false allegations such as distorting the country's image and communicating with international human rights organisations.

Despite all these facts, the power that came out from the heart of suppression, made us did things that we are proud of and helped in spreading the culture of rights. One of these things was a case that I won in front of a judge who imprisoned an innocent woman for 7 months just because she decided to have an independent life and demanded for women right's to drive. Later, This woman became my wife, and she is now standing in front of you reading my speech. The woman who bore the insecurity am having, the poverty am facing because they interrupted my living sources, and the unstable state of mind because of the unknown future, the woman which we both had together many human rights experiences that made an effect in the KSA.

So, Please allow me now to whisper and say to my wife these words: I wished you heard these words said by me while I am standing proudly in front of the audience to receive this great award. But you know my dear that this award will be of utmost value when you return safely back to home and present it to me.

So till that time, I want you my love to say to the audience that this award was not given to your husband, it is rather given to the prospective hope that shall return to the KSA. It is for the human rights supporters and their urgent demands. To the future of the next generation, and to our son that you carry inside you right now, perhaps one day he benefits from the results our fight and enjoy a civil state based on a constitution with supervision units to stop the corruption and civil institution to raise public awareness in their rights.

Don't foreget, my dear, to say to (Olf Palme's wife) and to his sons that we are proud of him and proud of them. We are proud to win an award that carry's his name. say to them what you have said to me before you travel: “they must be a great family that commomerates a great man “.

Say to the audience, and specially the ceremony organisers, that your husband might be banned from travel, but because of your true appreciation to him, he feels he is as part of the global humanity call... The call for freedom, justice, dignity and forgiveness.

Tell them thank you, thank you, thank you...

We owe you

Waleed Sami Abu Alkhair