

LET IT RAIN - Amanda Marshal

<http://www.resistinggi.com/UserFiles/File/LetItRain.mp3>

<I have given> <I have given>
and got none.

Still I'm driven by something
I can't explain.

It's not a cross, it is a choice.
I cannot help but hear his
VOICE !!!

I only wish that I could
listen without shame.
Let it rain, let it rain, on me.
Let it rain, oh let it rain,
let it rain, on me.



I have been a witness to the perfect crime.
Wipe the grin off of my face to hide the blame.
It isn't worth the tears you cry, to have a perfect alibi.
Now I'm beaten at the hands of my own game.

Let it rain, let it rain, on me.

Let it rain, oh let it rain, let it rain, on me.

It isn't easy to be kind.....

With all these demons in my mind.....

I only hope one day, I'll be free.

I do my best not to complain.....

My face is dirty from the strain.....

I only hope one day, I'll come clean.

Let..... , let it rain, on me.

Let it rain, oh let it rain, let it rain, on me.

Come take my hand, we can walk to the light.
And without fear, we can see through the darkest night.
Le...oh...rain...on me, let it rain, oh let it rain, let it rain, on me.....

Please Find A Heart Warming Rain Shower Below

A Victim of War Crimes: Baneen's Story

Courtesy of Diane Sommer dsommer@frontiernet.net 16 FEB 2009



A dark brown scarf is wrapped around Baneen's head and neck to hide the scar on her throat, but there is nothing that can mask the torment and pain imprinted on her dark eyes. They have witnessed atrocities most people cannot comprehend.

I travelled to Damascus, Syria in November 2008 with activist documentary filmmaker, Andrew Courtney to assist in finishing a film project he started in June 2008, concerning the estimated one to 1.4 million Iraqi refugee's living around Damascus. Andrew and I revisited several Iraqi refugee families he documented during his June visit to find out if anything had changed with their living conditions or resettlement status. While each refugee family holds its own unique circumstances and chronicle of torture, I was most touched by the story of 12-year old Baneen, her parents and four siblings.

Baneen's mother Nahida, her father, Abdul, brothers and sisters have been traumatized by many encounters of extreme violence inflicted by the militia. Nahida is Sunni and her husband is Shia. Before the U.S. occupation they lived comfortably in a middle-class neighborhood in Baghdad, the capital of Iraq where Sunni, Shia, and Christians lived peacefully, in close proximity. Nahida was a member of the Ba'ath party, of which Saddam Hussein was a leading member. In December of 2003, eight months after the U.S. occupation, Hussein was captured by U.S. forces, which left the country of Iraq without a leader. The groups which were repressed under his thumb came out in droves to assert their revenge.

Aware of Nahida's affiliation with the Ba'athist party, in 2006 masked people opened fire on her home, beat her in the head and then kidnapped her for 10 days, saying she was a Ba'athist, a Saddam element and criminal. Shortly thereafter another gunman came to her home and shot out the lock on the front door. Her oldest son tried to stop them but they overtook him, promptly beheaded him and threw his head onto his younger brother's lap. Nahida's husband, Abdul was kidnapped. Held for 49 days, beaten daily and tortured with electric cables, he was finally thrown into a dumpster where he was found paralyzed, at the brink of death. Children playing near the dumpster discovered him and obtained medical assistance. Ten-year-old Baneen was attending primary school in Baghdad at the time. One day towards the end of the school year the militia invaded her school and forced the school director to hand over 12 children to them. Baneen was one of the children. The children were forced onto a bus, where all were beheaded, except for Baneen. She watched in horror as one of the men initiated a cut to her neck. Someone informed U.S soldiers, who followed the vehicle. Then, she was thrown out of the vehicle before they could

cut any deeper. The soldiers took her to a nearby military base to have her neck wounds treated with lasers. After three days she was released and reunited with her family.

In an ultimate act of violence, their house was raided and blown up, destroying everything. After that incident, the family had nothing to their name. The police helped them obtain new ID and their friends and acquaintances made donations to help them flee to Syria on a bus. They now live in a tiny apartment on in Damascus. Nahida, paralyzed Abdul and their five children have lived there for almost three years. Baneen's two older teenage brothers stopped going to school in order to secretly work common jobs to help support the family. Refugees in Damascus are not allowed to work, yet they must still find a way to pay their rent and for food. This dilemma leads to a plethora of problems, including lack of education for children, prostitution, malnutrition and homelessness.

On account of war, sectarian violence and lawlessness, millions of Iraqis have been targeted and harmed for their religious affiliations, professions and ethnicities, or because they worked with Americans in any capacity, whether for the U.S. military, media, or as contractors..

According to the Iraqi Body Count database, there have been an estimated 1,311,700 Iraqi deaths as a result of the war. UNHCR estimates more than 4.7 million Iraqis have left their homes, many in desperate need of humanitarian care. Of these, more than 2.7 million Iraqis are displaced within Iraq, while more than 2 million have fled to Syria and Jordan. That fateful joint resolution passed by the House and Senate in October 2002 [The Unconstitutional*](#) Authorization for the Use of Military Force Against Iraq, giving Bush authority to use military force in Iraq, was the match that ignited the fire of chaos that led to pandemonium and ethnic revenge which destroyed an entire country. The U.S. currently has some 147,000 troops deployed in Iraq, and it is estimated that more than 4,243 American troops have died there and an estimated 100,000 have been wounded since the U.S.-led invasion in March of 2003. *Resisting GI www.ResistingGI.com

The day I met Baneen, she wore a T- shirt with a message written in English. In large freeform letters it read "Happy World." Although dreadful memories and fearful images must flood her mind daily, Baneen said she will never give up hope for a peaceful world. Perhaps one reason she was spared from certain death was for our chance encounter; to hear her story and share it with the world. She just might become a great leader in the peace movement one day. I promised Baneen, and all of the refugees I met that I would share their stories of despair and courage with Americans. The U.S. Media does not give due coverage to the victims of war crimes, for if the numbers could speak, it would inundate the news. In consideration of this, we must forge ahead with prosecuting the Bush/Cheney administration for humanitarian war crimes. We must bring liberation to our country, and as a result, to every country in the world. Liberty rejects divided consciousness and embraces the formation of global unity. Let there be unbounded liberty and justice for all beings, everywhere.