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Reading this book really opened my eyes to our history. I've read of the struggle, I and the pain and the suffering, but to know one persons life story so up close and personal really makes you think about your own privileges. At times the story becomes so graphic and harsh that you experience a deep sorrow:

"We were taken to a building where we were ordered to undress. We were embarrassed, but under threat of the soldiers we had no choice. I ended up next to my father, naked, with my hands on my head. I didn't dare look at him....."

Filled with shame, I thought about my mother, my sisters, my sisters-in-law, and what they were being subjected to, and I began to think it might have been better to die in the Iranian camps than be reduced to this."

My Father's Rifle is not only a political book and a historical retelling but also a story about family, tradition and love of country. We follow Azad through his adolescence, how he falls in love, how he is betrayed by love, how he survives the Jash, and how he survives the story. This book is a real page turner, I was literally worried about the young Azad, I couldn't wait to turn the page to find out if he was killed or if he found the Peshmerga. The story is thrilling, every aspect of it is honest and innocent.

The author of this book, an acclaimed film director who's responsible for 'Vodka Lemon', wrote his story wholeheartedly, honestly and movingly. The author's right to translate anything that only has its true meaning in Kurdish, like 'savar' meaning cracked wheat, is important for the Kurdish audience. He is communicating directly to the Kurdish reader as he knows that savar means more than cracked wheat. He writes translators notes for things that only have meaning for the Kurdish people, and through this he has kept the book and its audience 'in-house'. These small areas of the book can make you smile from time to time but mostly it's a sad story and creates a vengeful emotion that the older generation can relate to better as they are the ones described in this book. We can only hope that a story like this never happens again in Kurdistan. Let's hope the new leader of Iraq, in all his glory, can prevent that.

***'My Father's Rifle, a childhood in Kurdistan'* by Hiner Saleem
Published by Atlantic Books London 2005**



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PASTURES NEW

...integrating, experiencing, and consolidating

What's it all about?

YCTV in association with the Kurdish Exile Association (KEA), Kurdish Culture Center (KCC) and Kurdish Housing Association (KHA) is launching a new initiative, 'Pastures New' which aims to train over 13 young refugees, aged between 13-25, in the course of media production. Teaching technical skills such as research, script writing, storyboarding, camera, lighting, sound, editing as well as softer skills (e.g.: communication and teamwork) will provide the focus of the project.

In order to facilitate efficient tutorials, the workshops are expected to run over three weeks beginning in July.

The young people will be trained by specialised YCTV staff.

The schedule prepared for these sessions is tentative and flexible to suit the needs of the young people

The product of these workshops will be a mini programme that has been devised, filmed and edited by the group. At the conclusion of the series of the workshops, all the members will be invited to the studio for a screening of their work.

During these workshops, the groups will create their own 'magazine' programme.

The culmination of the project will be a live studio debate to be held within YCTV in the month of September 2005.



So have you got a story to tell?

Want to know more?

This is a unique opportunity!!

WEEK 1: Monday 18th July

Ideas generation

Camera training

Editing training

WHAT'S YOUR STORY?

PLANNING

WEEK 2: TBC FILMING

WEEK 3: TBC EDITING

INTERESTED IN:

**MEDIA >> JOURNALISM >> CAMERA
TRAINING >> PRODUCER >> DIRECTOR
EDITOR >> PROGRAMME MAKER
RESEARCHER >> PRESENTER**

For More information
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