Ahmed Maher’s Letters From Torah Prison

Why Do You Hate Us? 1 December 2013

A question that was repeated on old chat forms during a lot of events such as: the second intifada, the war in Afghanistan, the invasion of Iraq....

The Americans used to repeat that question, with the utmost naivete and ignorance....why do you hate us?

What is the secret to why Arabs and Muslims hate Americans?

And we would enter into discussions about justifiable reasons for this anger and hatred...

The Americans are the ones who helped implant Israel in the region, and they are ones who always defend it in the Security Council, and they are the ones who give it the green light to commit murder.....

The Americans are the ones who seek after the wealth of the Arab lands and the American army is the entity that kills thousands of innocent Arabs and Muslims ever day....

And therefore hatred is a very natural reaction....

I remember once sitting with one of the Intelligence officers in the Cairo security office who was chatting with me, to distract me until a new warrant for my arrest and detention was issued after I had just been released, so that I could be detained another time before I could leave...

Why do you hate us??

A naive question spoken with ignorance!!

For in that very building, there are dungeons beneath the ground where the detained are subjected to beatings, electric shock and other abuses so that they can confess and their cases be closed.....

And there is a person in the hallway between the dungeons...I don't know who he is, but his hands are tied behind his back, he is blindfolded, he is sleeping on the floor in the middle of the bitter cold, and his blood soaks the floor....

“Mr. Ahmed, don’t let these kids mess with your mind....they are criminals and liars, nobody touched them, they are exaggerating, they are the ones who are hurting themselves....we die every day for the sake of the people and to defend the nation....”

And while he was speaking, one of the soldiers entered...

“Go get me a cup of coffee”.

“The cafeteria is closed, Sir”....
“What do you mean it is closed, you......go open the damn.....and tell them that Sir would like a cup of coffee....hurry up you son of a.....”

Why do you hate us?!!

And while I was sitting with this clown who thinks he is defending the nation, another officer called the Abdeen Intelligence and Security division, and they prepared another file of false and fabricated charges, and then they called the prosecutor to issue a new warrant of arrest and detention, in record time....

How could Ahmed Maher leave so soon after we finally got our hands on him?

And on top of that, he surrendered himself and made us look bad!!

Why do you hate us??!!

And if you read the contemporary history of Egypt, you would find that the police killed Egyptians alongside the British forces in 1919, and killed the youth in 1936 and in all the uprisings that followed...just as it killed and tortured all opposers of authority after 1952.....just as it killed and tortures hundreds of students when they demanded a quick resistance to Israel in the demonstrations of Al Tahrir...and we cannot forget the bloody reign of the police during the time of Mubarak until the revolution sparked.....

And here we are again!!

Killing and torture and fabrication and lies....looting and corruption...

And then with all the feigned ignorance and deliberate naivete...why do you not like the police??!!!!

Ahmed Maher
Leiman Torah Prison
We’re Fine and Happy This Way

2 December 2013

I sat a lot in the court room....I waited for long hours for no reason at all...the prosecution is surely agreeing on the charges with the police....the prosecution and the Interior Ministry are one hand.....the court guards and the intelligence officers of the Cairo Security Office are finally here....."Come on, Ahmed"....

We went down two flights of stairs. I walked in between an incredible number of soldiers and police officers, and on the way to the last flight of stairs before entering the courtroom, and I saw a group of youth who I first thought to be the families of the convicts...but they were too large of a group for that...

They noticed me and one of them said “There he is!”

Perhaps journalists or activists!!

But wait, isn’t that the girl who was insulting me and insulting the January 25 revolution two days ago in the Abdeen court!!

I saw most of the people in this group at the Abdeen court before the clashes between the police (with the help of this group of “activists”) and the journalists before I surrendered myself to the prosecution...and there they are, chanting against me with all the freedom in the world, they demonstrate in the street normally without any trouble from the Interior Ministry......

She was wearing a green blouse and black pants, and her hair was dyed in a poor fashion, or she had used oxygen to color her hair....she rushed towards me after the tall young man said “There he is!”.....

She screamed loudly “Hopefully the death penalty....you traitor...you agent...you who want to destroy the police and the military”....I looked at her with a cold smile...it was comical....

And the security forces and police officers that accompanied me began to take out their cellphones and record what happened !!!

The reaction of the police amused me very much as they were preoccupied with taking photos....and obviously my cold smile annoyed the uncouth girl and her companions, and they all began insulting and screaming, their voices merging until I could no longer understand their words...

Their frustration and insults amused me further, which made them more furious, and they approached me with the intention to assault, and the insults escalated to insulting family and religion!!!

And at that moment, the soldiers and officers returned their cellphones to their pockets and stopped the group in the most gentle way....

All of this happened inside their courtroom and not outside of it!!

And of course, I told this story to the prosecutor who proceeded to throw charges against me for 5 hours....

I told him that it was that same group who started trouble and assaults outside the Abdeen Court and not those standing outside it; he ignored this point of course, because the orders were to detain me and refer me to criminal court with fabricated charges and not to achieve justice.....the prosecution, the police and the thugs are one hand.....
We are the destructive ones and we want to destroy the police and the army; this is what the said about us after the 25 January revolution, just as they said we were taking 200 euros during the January revolution, just as they said we were a group of destructive infiltrators in the reign of Mubarak.....

Do you remember 25 May, 2005??!!

They said the devil we know is better than that which we do not know...Mubarak is a criminal who has been satisfied with his share, and Jamal is satisfied with his share...

Let us go a little further back in history...In 77 they called it a revolution of criminals....and when the students demonstrated in Al Tahrir to call for quicker resistance they called them destructive because they want the country to rush into war....

Even in the days of the British occupation, they used to say “let us keep our head out of politics... The British are living and we are living....We are fine and happy this way...”

A disappointed minority....trying to break the barriers...always used by the oppressive authority to hurt those who seek change....to cause psychological harm by spreading disappointment and hopelessness, or physical harm by assaults or beatings or murder....

The authority remains the same.....the people remain the same....and those who seek a true revolution and true change, and who truly seek freedom and justice and dignity...will remain the same...

Ahmed Maher
Lieman Torah Prison
-Do you want something, Ahmed?

-Yes, bread

-Did you not get bread this morning from the bread of Al Garayya?

-Yes, but it's finished. And I'd like a loaf or two for dinner

-Alright, I'll bring you two loaves

Those detained for crime have their freedom inside the prison regardless of their charges, whether murder or theft or drug dealing, but the political prisoners and those detained after 30 June are kept in solitary confinement; the door of their cell is not opened all day long, contrary to all morals and laws of human rights....It is forbidden to read or write, and entering a pen and paper to the political prisoners is more difficult than smuggling in drugs, and whoever is caught with a pen or paper is tortured along with all those with him....

I have found the tip of an old pen and I am trying to write covertly such that I am not seen by any of the officers or intelligence agents....

A loaf from the bread of Garayya - I do not know exactly what the word “Garayya” means, but it is a commonly used word for stale bread, as stale as the one shilling loaf, which you would normally find a nail or a stone or a wire inside...Such a meal is now my highest hope after a period in which I dined with presidents of various countries, ministers of foreign affairs, the presidents of prestigious universities, the most well-known researchers and thinkers and authors, and the most famous artists and actors of Hollywood....

I met with some of the most famous and important figures of Europe, America, India, Korea and Turkey, and had breakfast and dinner with the most famous and powerful people in Africa....And here I am now looking for a loaf of stale bread to eat with a piece of cheese because I am charged with breaking the new protest law in the era of democracy after the 30th June, and I write with the tip of a worn-out pencil after eating the stale bread....no bread, no freedom...

Ahmed Maher
Lieman Torah Prison
The funding is revealed

This month, I should have started a new job as a civil engineer, finally after a few months out of the engineering field, and my wife was asking me a few days ago about my starting date in the new job. My mother repeated what she used to say before the 25 January revolution “Stop what you are doing, focus on your work, and feed your family and your children, and find a way to leave the country like your friends”. More than 7 months after I was fired from Mamdouh Hamza’s office as a project manager, Mamdouh Hamza appears one day in the media asking where does Ahmed Maher get his money?

He fired me just so that he could question where I get my funding every day as if it is he who controls the fates and livelihoods of people. Perhaps his friends in the secret service understood it this way, although he does have part-time engineers working in his office. Thus, there is such a thing as a part time engineer...Surely my money is much less than a full-time job, but I won’t starve to death when he fires me....

I was supposed to begin a new job in a big company in the beginning of December - the house is empty, and my 70 meter apartment has accumulated two years of rent, and the payments for the car are accumulating although the car itself was destroyed in an accident...and then someone asks where are you getting your funding from and gets surprised when I insult him....

The problem is not with those informing the intelligence like shaheed and Abdel Aziz and Khoully and Al Shawwaf ( I am referring to Hassan Shaheen the spokesperson for “Tamarod”, Mohammed Abdel Aziz, one of the leaders of “Tamarod”, Tarek Al Khouly founder of the “6 April” party in formation, and Haitham Al Shawwaf coordinator of the union of the revolutionary forces and member of the 30 June party). The problem is also not with the fools that repeat what they hear like parrots, all of these are boys trying to justify earning a living from the officers...The problem is with the officers who are sending out these kids...How can the national security, and the navy intelligence, and the secret service have officers with such bad manners? I know that some will call me naive....for the officers were always this way, and their techniques were always this way........

But what I am thinking is...doesn’t this harm Egypt?! When a country’s security and authority bodies are all working on spreading rumors and tarnishing reputations and employing informers like Abdo Moshtak from so-called “journalists” and “activists, does this not pose a threat to Egypt? Of course! Why else is our situation this way? Because of these techniques. Instead of focusing on the security of the state, they are busy creating rumors, and what is worse is that they are leaving those who are really being funded and no-one talks about them....

So I now have a few options. One is to take a photo of my little apartment and all the debts I have and my bank accounts, and walk around the streets showing it to people, showing them that this is my life and that I am not funded. This is difficult and would take years while I meet 85 million people.

My second option is to truly start accepting funding like those who are funded and who no-one talks about.

The third is to be hypocritical and submit to the system, and they will stop their campaigns against me.

The fourth is to continue as I am and tolerate their filthy ways....

Ahmed Maher
Lieman Torah Prison
I do not foresee good things from what is called the National Council of Human Rights after its new formation after 30/6. Since I found out that among its members are informers for the intelligence such as “Mohammed Abdel Aziz”, I suspected ill, for how could an informer who used to tell the security about activists before the revolution become a member of the National Council of Human Rights.

Considering his racist stances, and his rhetoric filled with hate and treachery and accusing others of wrongdoing and spreading false rumors. The speech is clear from its title. Considering that its members’ rhetoric is full of racism and hatred and hostility. What human rights do you speak of while they are supportive of the atrocities of the Interior Ministry and submissive to the system!!!

A rights lawyer should not have a political affiliation...a rights lawyer is not a politician. So how can the members of the National Council of Human Rights have political affiliations and be submissive to the authorities?! There is no difference between this council and the fake councils that Mubarak set up before the revolution.

For how can we except rights lawyers like Nijad Al Bor‘y and Rajih Omran to take part in this act, and to play the role of monitor of the oppressive authorities while simultaneously being informers who protect and justify the atrocities committed by the authorities.

The torture in police stations remains, and the Interior Ministry has returned to its rain, the protest law has been passed, and the stifling of rights has returned. And now the youth of the revolution are in jails under terrible conditions, all of their rights have been taken away including the most basic ones, so how can we accept to participate in this act!!

It is the National Council for Sisi’s rights and not the National Council for human rights...
The National Council to kill the January revolution....
The National Council for the right of the authorities to oppress the people...
The National Council for hatred and racism and support of the system and its interior ministry.....
That is the more appropriate name....

Ahmed Maher
Lieman Torah Prison
The Series of the “Revolutionary” Security Thugs. The Sons of... 10 December

The first rule is that do not ever think that your opponent would let you move around as you like without always trying to destroy you from the inside, and the opponent here is the old system and its security organs and ministry of interior. Your war is now against the oppressive police state, and so it is perfectly normal to notice the rise of the activity of security thugs.....

A few days ago, Douma said to me that there was an internet war going on with people claiming that “Maher turned in Douma”...I said to him, “And what do you think of that, my friend?”

Douma said to me, “I saw the interrogation reports and I know that you said that I wasn’t even around in the premises to begin with”

And I said to him, "It's a good thing you know that they're sons of ... ... That's what's important to me, and it's a good thing that you saw with your own eyes what I said in the interrogation”

And two days ago, we received word inside the prison that Douma has a shower inside his cell....meaningless rumors...spread by those same people who want to divide people...

There are four types of people in the ranks of the youth and political forces - if they can be called the revolutionary forces....

The first are the security thugs....

And for them, you may find a fake twitter or face book account with an officer or informer taking orders from an officer to be a source of rumors and false flags....

The second are the security thugs pretending to be revolutionary....

The difference between them and the real revolutionaries is that they are like religious extremists, trying to appear as something that they are not, for monetary gain. These people you will find posing as revolutionaries and exaggerating; they are usually the most extreme and violent ones, and are always preaching about retribution and the rights of the martyrs so that others will follow them.....

These are also the ones who will carry weapons and who will run away as soon as the clashes begin, leaving people to die, and then refuse to negotiate under the pretense of “retribution”...you will always find them in the protests with the most radical rhetoric of all....their role is to destroy any alliance or movement or activity through violence and rumors and dividing people apart and making them lose their trust in one another...

In the last period, we have seen confessions from a lot of them in our ranks and have gotten to know many of them, and we have learned about their weapons and violence, and their agreements with the security forces...

The third type...and he is not a security thug or a “revolutionary” security thug...but he is their partner...he is the parrot...and he is the one who does not think and believes every rumor...or who is jealous of another and does not like him for personal reasons...and so participates in spreading the rumor...or one who simply likes to talk and repeat words and exciting stories of conspiracy...or one who has an ideological difference with another and so repeats the rumor....these people may be revolutionaries, but are unfortunately complicit in the crime and are helping the security thugs and the “revolutionary” security thugs......

And if the parrot continues without being cured or reviewing himself, and if he continues refusing to use his brain he will turn into the fourth type.....
And the fourth type is the sheep....

And these are the ones with completely no brain...they do not think at all....they go with the flow....repeat whatever they hear....today they support one side and tomorrow they support the other...a sheep believes anything and moves with the majority repeating the words of the authorities or the security thugs or the parrots while thinking that he is in the right...extremism and stupidity and noise and loud voices.....arguing without having any understanding.....

Unfortunately, these are the people who tore apart the revolution from inside, possible more than the security forces and the security thugs....they are the weapons used by the authorities and the security....they are the fuel for the explosion of any battle from within..and they are not excused from the crime and are a part of it even if their intentions were kind......

We are now are a difficult phase for Egypt, and it is not the time for pampering....it has become clear that the old system is truly back, not just concerns that it might return....

Torture in the police stations and prisons is back in full force. All of the corrupt figures of the Mubarak era are back, and the abuses of human rights have increased, and every day more and more journals and shows are insulting the 25 January revolution and glorifying the 30 June, and there are even people calling for the return of the likes of Ahmed Ezz....

And all the of the state security officers who tortured and murdered in the days of Mubarak have returned to their posts and to their ways, and it is now crystal clear...this is a war on the 25 January revolution, and it is a matter of months before Mubarak returns and all what was before the 25 January revolution returns....

It is not the time for gray areas...the war against the 25 January revolution is happening...all of the “parrots” are helping the Mubarak system and the state security even if only with their ignorance or stupidity or personal and psychological problems....

Even he who is still close to the current authorities and was once among the revolutionaries is complicity in the crime of the return of Mubarak’s system...

People need to wake up and all of the groups from before the 25 January need to work together again...and whoever is gone is gone....

It is not the time for adolescent games or jealousy or selfishness or parrots or sheep. The police state is trying to break apart the revolutionary groups of the 25 January from within. Do not be a part of the crime!

Ahmed Maher
Lieman Torah Prison

Didn’t Happen in the Past 122 Years

12 December 2013
They say Egypt has not seen this kind of weather in the past 122 years. I believe you, but this snow could not have happened except when I was in prison? I truly felt that this weather had not happened before. If I had been out of prison, I would have been happy in the cold and rain, dress warmly, pick up an umbrella, wear some gloves and a scarf...and when I get home, close all the windows, curl up under a cover or two and have a hot drink. The cold is sometimes nice...

These is a theory that I heard once a long time ago that those born during winter like the winter. I think that might be correct to a large extent. I do like the winter and the cold and the rain and the snow, and I do enjoy walking under the rain but not like this. In prison, there are no windows I can close. The windows are wide and high, barred and open, and the wind is always inside. Even the prison gate of this jail is not like in other prisons where there is a small slit in a door of steel. Here only half the door is blocked - this prison is great in the summer but not in the winter...and in cold that has not been seen in the past 122 years, it is too much....

I wanted to sleep that night, but the cold wind was as if I was on the street. I wore a training suit up and down to no avail. I covered with the blanket I had received in my last visit, and the prison blanket which is like paper - fine for summer but of no use in winter - and so I had two problems...the cold wind stinging my feet and the cold wind lashing my face....

The good thing is that the food that I received in my last visit will not spoil as I don't think there is a refrigerator colder than my prison cell. I wore two pairs of socks on top of one another, and covered my face from the cold windows stinging it, and then it was alright. But then, something new happened - heavy rains. The rain fell heavily on the floor, and began seeping in through the slit above me. If I had been sleeping in the street, it would not have been this bad. I tried to move away from where the rain seeped in and went to sleep.....

Cold water for the men

When I entered prison for the first time, I got used to showering every day with cold water. Its normal, is it not? Cold water for the men, but the weather is colder than before, and it gets colder each day.

I have not been able to shower for a few days. There is no heater in the prison - that is not a problem - I have decided to shower anyway. I'll just wait for the rain to stop, but it won't stop. The rain has been falling for days, and has been falling as ice. Alright, cold water for the men it is, and I'll shower now....I began to shower in the middle of the rain...and then white snow....I splashed around in the cold water for a while...and then it became ice....

Well, I can't splash around like this....I kept saying cold water for men...cold water for men...got in the shower...but then ice, ice, ice...a strange pain in my bones....enough cold water for the men...did I have to shower in cold water in the coldest weather in 122 years? Was it really the time for manhood? But honestly....I don't feel the cold any more...I don't feel anything at all....

Ahmed Maher
Lieman Torah Prison

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**Resisting the Return of the Mubarak System is the Most Noble National Duty**
13 December, 2013: Some journalists have recently spoken of the 6 April Youth Movement monopolizing the 25 January revolution, and this is simply not true. The 6 April Youth Movement was the first to call for protests on the 25 January 2011 to rage against oppression, corruption and dictatorship, but no-one can monopolize the revolution. The 25 January belongs to no-one, not to 6 April and not to anyone else.

There are principles governing the 25 January revolution, and it is those principles alone that form the benchmark....

What is happening now has nothing to do with the 25 January revolution.

The return of torture in police stations has nothing to do with the 25 January revolution or any other revolution.

The efforts of the current system to release Ahmed Ezz and the other figures of the Mubarak era have nothing to do with the revolution, and the spread of corruption and bribery as what is happening now has nothing to do with the revolution, nor does the return of the butchers of the security system to their positions and the control of the media and the lies and manipulation and the tarnishing of reputations...all this has nothing to do with the revolution or its principles.

The random murder in demonstrations and universities, and the arrests of all who had a hand in 25 January certainly has nothing to do with the revolution..

And what is happening now confirms that revenge is being taken on the 25 January revolution, and what is happening now is getting back at the revolution, and within days everyone will be surprised with the release of all the figures of corruption from the Mubarak era and the full-fledged return of his oppressive system.

Some of the faces that played a role in the revolution have been used to ease the return of the oppressive system, some of whom are being misled and most of whom are seeking a position of power in the new face of the system. They are complicit in the crime, for resisting the return of corruption and oppression is the most noble national duty....

Ahmed Maher
Lieman Torah Prison

The Epidemic

17 December 2013
The foreign horror movies always follow the same scenario and more or less the same events with minor differences, whether American or European - an evil inventor or an evil drug company or an intelligence body carrying out research on some virus, and the virus evolves and turns into something else which infects people and turns them into “zombies” or the living dead or cannibals or something of the sort....

And the disease evolves and spreads to every city or to the whole world, depending on the director’s vision. There always remains a small minority that remains to fight the living dead or the mutants, some trying to find the cure to the disease. Some are killed, some are infected and turn to his friends to kill him so that he does not kill or eat or infect another. The film ends with an open ending or all the planet's people have transformed except the hero and his girlfriend, or only the hero remains, or only his girlfriend, or all die and to mutants....

A person turns into a mutant when he is infected with a virus through needles or inhaling or contact with another mutant. And when the symptoms of transformation show on him, he must be isolated so that he does not infect another, and so on. The ending is always sad and controversial in such movies...

In Egypt, the situation is even more tragic. The virus has spread and infected so many. Some have turned into mutants from the submission virus. He who is infected with this virus turns into a monstrosity, such as the living dead....

This virus is not new to Egypt, but after the 30 June, it spread with enormous force and confused the world, He who is infected with this virus immediately begins hostility until he turns into a mutant and infects other people....

Of the symptoms of this epidemic is to find a journalist who, before the 25 January revolution, wrote with bravery about corruption and the oppression of the security institution and the network of businessmen that robbed and looted Egypt, and who criticized the national security’s killing and torture suddenly turn into someone who defends Alaa and Jamal Mubarak and calls for the release of Ahmed Ezz and glorifies the efforts of the Interior Ministry to oppress and kill and torture. He then proceeds to criticize and call a traitor anyone who talks about human rights and a state of law. He then slowly turns into a mutant without even feeling it, and starts cheering for the oppressive leader and searching for his good qualities, even if these qualities are but illusions....

The virus infected another group who have joined the sick- a group of 50 people , all who have been infected with the submission epidemic but to different degrees, some who submit to any leader from long ago, and some who began just recently, but all 50 are feigning support for the military regime to varying degrees, some seeking positions of power and some out of fear, or just simply submission for the sake of submission....

The 50 who are infected with the epidemic made a fuss about a constitution that gives even greater power to the president and allows trials of civilians in military courts and reduces the ability of the people to hold the president accountable. After they were infected with the virus, they have no problem with writing a constitution for a country more submissive to the ruler and less able to hold him accountable...a constitution which gives the military regime more authority and a special place for the military state....well, because the military regime brought us happiness and so we must obey.....

Unfortunately, you find those who before the revolution defended the independence of universities and the necessities of removing campus guards that control everything and control demonstrations and recruitment’s and promotions, and who fought so that those in positions of power on university board would arrive through elections, became infected with the virus after 30 June. They became the most avid supporters of the campus guards inside universities and defend the Interior Ministry who killed the engineering student...they defend the oppressive protest law and are on their way becoming mutants....power corrupts....
And there are those who defended human rights before the 25 January revolution, but after being infected with the epidemic do not consider those with an opinion human...thus anyone with objections or opinions or even simple suggestions regarding the performance of the oppressive dictator is no longer considered human and does not have rights after 30 June, and is automatically a traitor or agent...and all the human rights defenders infected with the disease were transferred to a national council and it was named the National Council of the submissive or the infected...thus those who show symptoms and who begin showing hypocrisy and submission and who kiss the hands and boots of the leader are the only ones with any rights...the rest will end up dead or in prison....

The worst kind of sick are the youth who speak of freedom, democracy, social justice and human dignity and who once were driven by the struggle and the revolution, but when they became infected with this awful epidemic became only concerned with seeking a position and pleasing the leader. It does not stop at their silence about the abuse of their colleagues in the past, but some even volunteer lies even if the leader does not ask them to...their colleague may be in jail or dead....it does not matter, a position of power in the new system is more important than principles or the revolution.....

The disease is spreading day by day in all the channels, newspapers, political parties and movements. Its symptoms are dangerous: hypocrisy, submission, lies, accusing people of different opinions of being agents and traitors and part of the Brotherhood, defending random killing and torture and human rights abuses, and allowing the return of the Mubarak regime, its figures and its policies as well as the return of the police state and torture....

Unfortunately, the chances of a mutant returning to normal are nearly non-existent; however, a number have been cured after the arrests and fabricated charges against those who opposed the protest law. This is because in spite of the desperate situation and the bleak present, there will come a day when everyone will wake up. I hope this will happen before the catastrophe that will inevitably happen if the situation stays as it is.....

Ahmed Maher
Lieman Torah Prison