

The Iranian PEN Center (in Exile)

Announcement

Translated by: Dr. Sam Vaseghi

Arthur Miller one of the most prominent writers of the 20th century died on February 10th at the age of eighty-nine.

Arthur Miller, who started his literary work in the forties, attracted already by his early novels, travelogues, theaters and scenarios the critic community of arts and literature, and was winning various prominent awards.

Arthur Miller was usually contributing by own perspectives and ideas on international issues and developments all around the world, particularly by criticizing the American Consume Oriented Materialism. He once declared in the New York Times: The measure of moral respectively values in this country is only determined by the amount of your sale and the margin of your profit.

Arthur Miller was one of those writers, who openly criticized in the McCarthy era the course of denunciation of American writers with the pretences of Anti-Americanism by the US congress. He indeed did not respond to the commission of the US congress by information and names of his colleagues, even those who were ideologically contradicting, this attitude resulted in his imprisonment. John Steinbeck, so far wrote about him: In critical times, the courage and moral of one individual serves much more to our country than the nationalism of many timid people.

Arthur Miller was 33, when he wrote the piece "Death of a Salesman", which 1949 won the Pulitzer Award. This piece brought onto scene a picture of the count down of the American Dream, not only in the US but all over the world. Furthermore, his direct protest against the discriminating political atmosphere of the McCarthy era was articulated by the pieces "All my Sons" and "The Witches of Salem". Latter presents the lunatic conviction of a person, who is called to be a witch.

The works of Arthur Miller, by the high emphasis, they express with respect to the role of family, moral and individual responsibility, have been well reflecting the day-by-day accelerating collapse of the American Society.

In the period of his presidency of the International PEN Association, Arthur Miller has been definitely engaged for freedom of thought and writing, where he clearly defended writers in Exile worldwide. He strictly supported and followed the Charta of the International PEN Association, and based on this Charta, he rejected the official invitation of the Royalty of Iran to organize the world congress of PEN in Teheran, which would lead to the annihilation of the Iranian Writers' Association.

In the 61st congress of the International PEN Association in Prague, in the morning of the Wednesday November the 9th, Arthur Miller surprised the audience by a unique act of confession: instead of an own speech, he addressed the English translation of the official letter of 134 Iranian writers, the so called "We are the writers!" communiqué, presented by his own words on the tribune toward all national representatives of the PEN Centers worldwide. During this congress and due his efforts, finally the inauguration of the Iranian PEN Center in Exile was agreed and enrolled.

The Iranian PEN Center in Exile expresses hereby grace and respect toward his person and his unique oeuvre in commemoration forever.

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