

**Gothenburg , Sweden**

**100 THOUSAND POETS FOR CHANGE**

**A GLOBAL EVENT FOR SEPTEMBER 24th 2011**

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**'Who will change old maps for new ones? New lamps for old ones' asked Aladdin in the Arabian Nights. This is what inspired me to ask if you would be interested to participate in global cultural event on September 24 for "100 Thousand Poets for Change " by emailing poems, short prose text, paintings, photos, music or songs ( link to YouTube ), as well as your personal profile.**

**A number of poets, writers, artists and humanitarians will demonstrate individually how to promote environmental social and political changes.**

**You can also answer these three questions with few lines, or less than a thousand words:**

**1 \ what does the concept of "change" mean to you?**

**2 \ what is the best (and the worst) changes that have taken place in the first decade of the 21st century, at both local and global level?**

**3 \ what needs to be changed in the world?**

**Imagination enabled Aladdin to open the doors of the cave by word and sound: Open Sesame!**

**We also can open many closed doors in a similar way. Imagination is another reality.**

**I look forward to hearing from you.**

**Sincere regards,**

**\* Mahmoud Al- Bayaty**

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## Saadi Yousef

Friends and acquaintances met at the International Book Fair

<http://www.svenskamassan.se> Svenska Mässan 2011 - Göteborg and enjoyed drinking wine and listening to passages of poems by the great Iraqi poet Saadi Yousef .



Saadi Yousef

Mahmoud Al-Bayaty :

**Saadi Youssef is considered one of the most important contemporary poets in the Arab world. He was born in 1934 in Iraq . Following his experience as a political prisoner, he has spent most of his life in exile. He now lives in London.**

**After the occupation of Iraq the Guardian newspaper wrote an article under the title "Three War Poems" , about three poets who were among the “most eloquent critics of war” . The paper published poems by the Irish poet Seamus Heaney, the Iraqi Saadi Youssef and the Vietnamese Michael Casey.**

**The former US foreign minister, James Baker said on the eve of the war against Iraq in 2001, ”we will bring back Iraq to the Stone Age”. Saadi in this poem refers among other things, to this phrase.**

**Saadi Youssef was invited to Sweden by cultural institutions three times ; to Gothenburg, Malmö and Stockholm. His poems translated into Swedish, and there are many articles and research about his works. His name repeated almost every year as one of the candidates for the Nobel Prize in Literature.**

**I am pleased to read passages of a poem by Saadi Youssef entitled "America" . Unfortunately I could not find this poem in Swedish so I will read it in Arabic and my friend Khalid Samaray will read it in English.**

أميركا أميركا  
أميركا ظاحف ، ربّي  
... اللذيذ موطني ، موطني  
God, save America  
My home, sweet home!

الكنز وجنيرة والجاز اللجيني أحبُّ أيضاً أنا  
أورليانز نيو ونوافذ سي لفر جون وببغاء  
لنكولن ابراهام وكلاب المسسبي ومراكب توين مارك أحبُّ  
الفرجيني التبغ ورائحة والذرة القمح حقول احب  
بأميركي لستُ كنيل  
؟ الحجري العصر إلى الفان توم طيارُ عيدي حتى بأميركي لستُ أنني أيكفي  
Back to stone age!  
الحمار ولا أريدُ الفيل لا " أميركا " ولا أريدُ البترول لا  
الجدوع وقنطرة بالسعف المسقوف بي تي الطيار أيها لي اترك  
سحابك ناطحات ولا الذهبية بواباتك احتاج لا  
نيويورك لا القرية أريد  
الأسنان؟ حتى المسلح اللجيني أيها ، نيفادا صحراء من جئتني لمذا  
البيوت؟ عتبات يبلغ السمك حيث البصرة إلى وجئت كلها المسافات هذه قطعت لمذا  
هنا ترعى لا الخنازير  
لماء نيلوفر كسلى تمضغ التي اللجواميس تلك فقط لدي  
الجندي أيها اتركني  
الصياد وحربة الطافي القصب كوخ لي اترك  
الريش وخضرة المهارجة طيوري لي اترك  
توماهوك وصواريخ المزمجرة الحديد طيور خذ  
الخصيم لست  
الرزم مناقع في ركبتني حتى الممخوخ أن  
ولعنتني اتركني  
قيامتك أريدُ لا

\*

**I too love jeans and jazz and Treasure Island  
and John Silver's parrot and the terraces of New Orleans.**

**I love Mark Twain and the Mississippi steamboats and Abraham Lincoln's dogs.  
I love the fields of wheat and corn and the smell of Virginia tobacco.**

**But I am not American.**

**Is that enough for the Phantom pilot to turn me back to the Stone Age?**

**I need neither oil, nor America herself, neither the elephant nor the donkey.**

**Leave me, pilot; leave my house roofed with palm fronds and this wooden bridge.**

**I need neither your Golden Gate nor your skyscrapers.**

**I need the village not New York.**

**Why did you come to me from your Nevada desert, soldier armed to the teeth?**

**Why did you come all the way to distant Basra where fish used to swim by our doorsteps?**

**Pigs do not forage here.**

**I only have these water buffaloes lazily chewing on water lilies.**

**Leave me alone soldier.**

**Leave me my floating cane hut and my fishing spear.**

**Leave me my migrating birds and the green plumes.**

**Take your roaring iron birds and your Tomahawk missiles.**

**I am not your foe.**

**I am the one who wades up to the knees in rice paddies.**

**Leave me to my curse.**

**I do not need your day of doom . . .**

**\***

**Mahmoud Al-Bayat**

**Writer and journalis**

**- what does the concept of "change" mean to you?**

**- Change happens all the time, intentionally or spontaneously. Everything is subject to change: hatred changes to love, wheat to bread, grapes to wine, and tree to music coming from Paganini's violin.**

**- what is the best (and the worst) changes that have taken place in the first decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century at both local and global level?**

**- The worst change is the transformation of Iraq, by force of arms, from a modern independent state, free of illiteracy and many diseases, to an occupied and corrupt state , to a Western oil colony run by greedy thieves. The best change is the growing**

sympathy of Swedish and European people with the suffering of the Palestinian people oppressed and under Israeli occupation for over six decades.

- what needs to be changed in the world?

- Our way of thinking. Let human being be marginal but let him also be a rebel. Talking about creative people Apple former director Steve Jobs once said "some might see creative people crazy, because they think they can change the world, but they actually do". Jobs himself was one of those "crazy" people. He radically changed our life. He rescued us from the desolation of loneliness by playing with Laptops, touch tablets, iPhones, iPad and many other inventions.

Wikipedia says that Jobs was born in San Francisco to an American mother and a Syrian Muslim father– Abdulfattah Jandali, a graduate student who later became a political science professor. He divorced his wife and left Jobs who was later adopted by an American family who gave him the name of Steve Powell Jobs.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/San\\_Francisco](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/San_Francisco)

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**Stig Göran Gustafsson**

Journalist, teacher at JHG, author

Change. I now live in the south of France. If you google on Pouzolles you can see my village. That is a change. And the best change ever for me. I followed my feelings, listened to it. Didn't want myself be 80 years old and regret I didn't do it. You regret what you did not do, not what you did do! Tell them that on the festival!

And your third question. The world is changing all the time. Has done since beginning and will to the end. So, choose any aspect of life, join in and try to for a short interval called lifetime pull it in the direction you happen to prefer. It's a kaleidoscope.

Love / Stig Göran Gustafsson.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pouzolles>

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Mahmoud Al-Bayaty on the main Public Library - Gothenburg

## Mahmoud Al-Bayaty

Arabic text  
On the edge of poetry

### ش-ذرات

البي أتى محمود

1  
ي مرٌمٌ سرعاً عصفورٍ كظلِّ الفرحِ  
والحزنِ  
جداً الخطى ثقيلاً حلزوناً

2  
حالطمو  
، عالياً ، ي حلِّق شمع طائرٌ  
الشمس صوب

3

بالحبِّ يَلِيْقُ لآ  
، عكازينِ عَلى ، الـاستجـداءُ  
كالشـحـاذِ

4

: الشـامـخـ للـتمـثالـ قـلتُ  
. حـجـرـ سـويـ لـستـ إنـك  
. ترابـ انـتـ : قالـ

5

تفكرُ بالموتِ مرةٍ الْفَ  
سوى يفكرُ لآ الموتُ وبك  
واحدةٍ مرةٍ

6

العدمِ من إنَّ  
راجعون لعدما وإلى

7

تكتملُ ان وما ، بيدي الصوابِ جادَّةُ اشُقُّ  
عنها ان حرف

8

الذي ذا من  
ريشٍ مِخْدَةَ على الـراسـ يـضـعُ  
؟ تذبـحـ وهـي الـدواجـنـ فـزعـ ويـتـذكـرُ

9

، كالصِدأُ الزمِنُ  
حينَ يَزمِجُ لآ  
، يفتـرِسُ

10

، الصدق مَلْمَسٌ  
كالكذبِ لَيْسَ ، غالباً الخشنِ  
ناعماً

11

زهورَ كوخِ فان فنسنتِ الهولندي \* رسمَ  
، 1888 في ، الشمسِ عباد  
الايوم حتى تذبَل ولم

12

الراعي ايها  
وانت الماعزِ بتواضعٍ تحلّ  
ترتقي  
القمم

13

الصدقي ايها  
. بالشوكِ طريقي تزرعُ لا  
تجرحُ ان أخشى  
قلبك

14

بيُر في اسقطُ كل ما  
الأصدقاءِ هرعي  
حب ال من آلافٍ لم د  
! الهوا

15

احبك ، الوحدةُ ايها  
الأثني ن نحن  
بأسرهِ ال عالمِ مُقابل

، " والثورة والوجود الحب كل ام " البياتي محمود كتاب من مقتطفات  
. 2009 والنشر للدراسات العربية المؤسسة



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## **Kristin Allwood**

poet, photographer, artist

Swedish writer, poet, truggleser, painter, who has been shown in 13 countries up to 2011. I have written 7 books, 5 of them poetry books, one in up to 4 languages simultaneously with haikus, senryus, tankas. Poetry examples clicking at a few of my books. I often illustrate my books with my own art. In my art I work with different technics and materials, mostly acrylic, oil and mixed media, but also some textile & graphics. I appreciate variation and often use surrealism and symbolism in my often coloristic & imaginative art.

[fantasi@bredband.net](mailto:fantasi@bredband.net)

<http://hem.berdband.net/krisallw/allwoodarts.htm>

### **IF WE WANT**

A small wave becomes  
a happening in the big wide  
wild world of the ocean

The whole ocean remains  
as a sea of opportunities  
if we want

\*

### **OM VI VILL**

En liten våg blir  
en händelse i oceanens  
stora vida vilda värld

Hela oceanen är kvar  
som ett hav av möjligheter  
om vi vill

\*

### **KNOWING WHAT**

Knowing what you have  
Knowing what you need  
Knowing what you can do without  
Small questions, big questions  
Difficult answers to give  
Important to give long thoughts

\*

### **VETA VAD**

Veta vad man har  
Veta vad man behöver  
Veta vad man kan klara sig utan  
Små frågor, stora frågor  
Svåra svar att svara  
Viktiga ge långa tankar

\*

### **NEEDED, tanka, BEHÖVS**

Vadå kasta ut  
blattar behövs i vårt land  
pizza är italiensk  
kaffe vin siffror inte svenskt  
Förnya förnygra oss

\*

### **Why throw out**

foreigners are needed in our country  
pizza is Italian  
coffee wine numbers not Swedish  
Renew us make us younger

\*

### **Para que echar**

se necesitan extranjeros en nuestro país  
la pizza es italiana  
café vino cifras no suecos  
Renovarnos rejuvenarnos

\*

### **Wieso raussmiessen**

Ausländer brauchen wir im Lande  
Pizza ist italienisch  
Kaffee Wein Ziffern nicht schwedisch  
Erneuern verjüngern uns

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### **TANKA**

Germany **phases out**  
proven dangerous nuclear power  
The People wants respect  
Sweden gets cold feet  
Germany listens to the opinion

\*

### **AVVECKLA, tanka**

Tyskland avvecklar  
bevisat farlig kärnkraft  
Folk vill ha respekt

Sverige får kalla fötter  
Tyskland lyssnar på opinion

\*

**PLAST**  
tonvis utav plast  
färdas med havsströmmarna  
plastoceaner

\*

**PLASTIC**  
tons of plastic  
travel with the sea  
plastic oceans

**PLÁSTICO**  
toneladas de plástico  
viajan con los corrientes del mar  
océanos de plástico

**PLASTIK**  
Tonnenweise Plastik  
fließt mit Meeresströmen  
Plastikozeane

\*

**Yasmin Omar**  
Artist

Iraqi artist , born in Baghdad 1955.  
Graduated from the Fine Art Institute/ Baghdad 1971.  
Organized individual and group exhibitions in London and Gothenburg \ Sweden.  
Currently preparing for an art exhibition in Amman \ Jordan

Yasmin temporary site on the Internet :  
<http://yasmingallery.blogspot.com/>

**عمر ياسمين**  
فنانة تشكيفية من العراق . مواليد 1955 .  
الجميلة في بغداد ( العراق ) 1971 . خريجة معهد الفنون  
السويدي داوغوثنبرغ . اقامت معارض رسم من فردة وجماعية في لندن  
الاردن انتهت هيأ حالياً لأقامة معرض رسم في عمان  
موقع ياسمين المؤقت على الانترنت :

<http://yasmingallery.blogspot.com/>



## Sumer - From clay tablets to PC tables !



The beginning was in Sumer ( Mesopotamia - Iraq ) . The birthplace of the first cities , laws, astronomy, wheel , writing , musical instruments, singing and many other activities and inventions.

The first poet in history was an Iraqi woman called Enheduanna ,  
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Enheduanna> (Sumarain mother and Akkadian father) a 44 centuries-old, the daughter of King Sargon of Akkad, founder of the first Empire in history. On soft clay plates, she wrote oldest and most powerful description of the

spark of creativity in literature and art:

" In the middle of the night , I put coal in the steaming bowl , and a poem was born "

"Sumer " is also a name of an orchestra, established in Gothenburg in September 1996 by Talal Ismail (originally from Iraq ). He presented to us a number of Sumer works as contribution for "100 Thousand Poets for Change " on September 24 . Talal was born in Nineveh, the capital of Assyrian Empire, which founded the first library in the world (the second millennium BC).

Perhaps, the most interesting characteristic of Sumer Orchestra is that the majority of its members are Swedish , Norwegian and Germany who play on oriental music's instruments and sing in Arabic!

Unfortunately, Talal Ismail can not play music recently or sing due to serious health problems. We Wish him a speedy recovery.

Mahmoud Al-Bayaty

### Some of Sumer's Videos:

<http://youtube.com/watch?v=Z2UtjS297v0&feature=related>

<http://youtube.com/watch?v=fUHv1bLEBJk>

<http://youtube.com/watch?v=WzyAgAOEPXI&feature=related>



### *Swedish-Arabic Sumer Ensemble*

*Sumer is the name of the prehistoric civilization which flourished by the rivers Tigris and Euphrates in ancient Mesopotamia (present-time Iraq) from time immemorial to circa 2500BC. No one knows for certain where the Sumerians had originally come from, nor how they managed to build up such a stupendous civilization in that so remote past. Sumer's contribution to world civilization is unprecedented, and the Sumerians hold the patent for the very first achievements and inventions in the fields of industry, agriculture, irrigation, transportation, economy, trade, schools and education, constitution, documentation, librarianship, literature, art, music etc. Following is the refrain of the earliest love song in the whole history of mankind, which was composed and sung in Sumer more than 5000 years ago:*

*Oh bridegroom, dear to my heart,  
Great is your beauty, sweet like honey!  
Oh lion, dear to my heart,  
Great is your beauty, sweet like honey!*

*The Sumerian harp; a sophisticated eleven-string instrument excavated at the site of Sumer in the 1920's is a token of that gorgeous civilization and an invaluable souvenir from the eldest of civilization to the youngest one.*

*As an orchestra, Sumer was established in Gothenburg, Sweden on the first of September 1996, with a purpose, a goal and a dream. The purpose is to introduce Arabic traditional and folk music to Scandinavia I particular, and the west in general. The goal is establish the first school for Arabic music in Sweden, and the dream is to make a tour of the Arab World, Europe and America performing Arabic music as it ought to sound.*

*Sumer's repertoire consists primarily of Arabic traditional and folk music with emphasis on twentieth-century compositions. The songs are carefully hand-picked to span more than twenty Arab countries. Sumer embraces those very special and local singing genres such as muwashahat of Andalusia, Egyptian mawwal, Iraqi maqam, pasta, boudhiyya, ataba, swehli, and niel, mountain singing from Lebanon, Gulf, Nubian and Bedouin singing, malouf of Tunisia and North Africa, Egyptian adwar, qudoud of Aleppo, and Kurdish songs.*

*What makes Sumer special and unique, probably in the whole world, is that the lead singing is performed by Swedish and Norwegian girls. Not only that, but they perform all the Arab music styles regardless of the huge variety of styles throughout more than twenty Arab countries. Their performance is characterized by a high grade of precision and mastering of the tiniest linguistic and musical nuances and intricacies. After every gig, the Arabs among the audience usually come and talk to them in Arabic, which they cannot speak.*

*Sumer has given out two CD's, so far. It has performed hundreds of concerts in Sweden and Europe. Two long TV programs have been made on the orchestra by the Swedish TV (STV) and the Norwegian TV (NRK). Tens of articles have been published on Sumer in the Swedish, European and Arabic press.*

*Talal Ismail (Iraq): leader, conductor, linguistic and musical supervisor, vocalist, oudist and percussionist*

*Anna Ottertun (Sweden): vocalist and percussionist*

*Marianne Holmboe (Norway): vocalist and percussionist*

*Anders Waernellius (Sweden): lead percussionist*

*Åsa Ericsson (Sweden): base*

*Josefine Liftig (Sweden): flute and nay*

*Ulrich Schmid (Germany): violin*

*Alaa Majeed (Iraq): nay*

Contact Information:

[Talalismail2000@yahoo.com](mailto:Talalismail2000@yahoo.com)

0046-737034132

0046-31-3307799

For more videos

[http://youtube.com/results?search\\_query=sumer+talal&aq=f](http://youtube.com/results?search_query=sumer+talal&aq=f)

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## ! ال عالم تغيري أجل من شعراء

مدن من العديد في تظاهرة تنظيم جرى روثنبرغ مايكل الأميركي الشاعر من بمبادرة الكبر ثاني ، غوثنبرغ وفي . « التغيري أجل من شاعر الف 100 » عن وان تحت العالم . والموسيقى والتشكيل الشعر بين مساهماتهم توزعت مثقفون شارك ، السويدي مدن من مقاطع الى ( ايلول \ سبتمبر 25 – 23 ) الدولي الكتاب معرض ضيوف استمع وقد نصوص عن فضل ، وال أنكليزية العربية باللغتين يوسف سعدي الشاعر قصائد للافصل موجز وعرض ( غوثنبرغ في الحدث منسق ) البياتي محمود للأديب قصيدة على رقص " رواية يتناول الذي سيلمان يوهانا السويدية الباحثة كتاب من الرابع كما ، اوربا في مقامي عرب لأدباء اخرى بروايات ويقارنها " وعرة احلام – المء ، والمانيات ونرويحيات سويديات من تتألف التي سومر فرقة لتسجلات استمعوا . اسماعيل طلال العراقي الفنان بإدارة

موسيقى ، غناء ، فوتوغراف ، تشكيلي نثر ، شعر ، الفعاليات ارشفة الآن وتجري مزيديا " كلام " وسينشر . الأميركيّة ستانفورد جامعة عند بعرضها حفظ ليتم ( الخ على قادرون انهم يظنون شعراء : توفرها حال الظريف الحدث هذا عن المعلومات من ! ال عالم تغيري

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## التغيري أجل من شعراء

لوز أبو يوسف

صحيفة الخليج

2011-09-27

فكرة العالم ، حول مدينة 450 في قصائدهم يقرأون التغيري أجل من شاعر ألف 100 95 فيها تشترك التي العالمية التظاهرة هذه أن ذلك من والأهم حقا ، وجديدة جميلة إليه الحاجة جانب إلى والإنسانية الجمالية ووظيفية الشعر دور جدي من تؤكد دولة



الأدمغة إلى وتزحف الألة فيها تتغول زمن في الكونية، فضاءاته إلى والحاجة  
تفرز والتي الجاهزة المعلقة الثقافة تلك العنكبوتية، الشبكات ثقافة والوجدان  
المدمدمرة وتحولاته صراعاته في يبدو عالم في الإنسان، قلب مع القبطية من شيءاً  
. قلب بلا أحياناً،

الصوت خلفية على جاء، "ييراالتغ أجل من" التظاهرة هذه ترفعه الذي الشعار هل  
أم عربية، مدن وأكثرها العالم مدن وميادين ساحات بعض في يرتفع الذي الشعبي  
جوهر يبدو الحالين في . . وإبداع؟ جمالي فني تغيري هو هنا المقصود التغيري أن  
والسياسة والإبداع الثقافة في تغيري أي فالتغيري، وذلكي، من طقياً الشعار  
والتي المتحولة الروح هذه الشعار، روح مع يلتقي إلخ . . لاق تصادوا والتربية  
. العصور مدى على والاجتماعي والسياسي الثقافي بالثابت لاتقبل

يؤرخ أيضاً والشعر فني، بمعنى ولكن توثيقية، مادة وسبقى ومزال الشعر كان  
المؤرخ، قة طري على وليس الشعار طريقة على والأحداث بالوقائع ويحتفظ ويؤرشف  
الشعراء مجموع وجدواها بقائها على يعمل جماعية ذاكرة يشكل أخرى بصورة أنه أي  
لوحته "إخوة" وضمهم للبعض يطيب الذين الشعراء أولئك كله، العالم في  
فهؤلاء والفكرية، الأيديولوجية وأطرحهم ولغاتهم وجنسياتهم ثقافاتهم اختلفت  
وشعر الأسى وشعر الحب، شعر . . الشعر لبق من جميعاً يولدون الكونيين الإخوة  
. الحلم وشعر الألم

في تمثّل والحريّة والجمال العدل إلى وتوقهم وأشواقهم الشعراء أحلام من الكثير  
مع الشعراء أرواح تلتقي وهنا، العبارة، جازت إذا أرواحهم نصوص هي التي قصائد  
على الإنسان أخو الإنسان ذلك فقبل الشعار، أخو الشعار أن وكما الشعوب، أرواح  
. والأفضل الأجمال والحياة الكرامة إلى المستمر تطلعه مبدأ

العالمية الإنسانية لتظاهرتهم قياً إذا مهول، رقم وهو شاعر، ألف 100 ثانية مرة  
الشعر من الإنسان إنقاذ في الإسهام يستطيعون . . وجوهريّة عمليّة تكون أن هذه  
. والعنف بالسلاح ليس وبالطبع بالكلمة، طفق والاس تبداد، والخوف

شيء كل وبعده قبل يفتقرون والتنكيل والترهيب الخوف ثقافة على يقومون من إن  
والحريّة الجمال ثقافة . . الحياة ثقافة باختصار وهي نفسه، الشعار ثقافة إلى  
. والأمل والسعادة

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## **ORGANIZER: Mahmoud Al-Bayaty**

**\* The Iraqi writer and journalist Mahmoud Al-Bayaty , born in Baghdad , left his country for political reasons in 1974. He lived in Prague about 20 years before he went to Sweden in 1991 . Since then he has been living in Gothenburg .**

**Al-Bayaty's first book, a collection of short stories: “ Breaking the sound barrier “ was published in Cairo in 1985, the last book , a collection of short stories , in 2008 entitled “ Waiting For The Stranger “ published in Beirut.**

**Al-Bayaty's novel “ Dancing on Water – Hard dreams “ , published in Beirut two years ago (2006). The novel tells the story of a number refugees who came from various countries to live in Hamarkullan quarter in Gothenburg.**

**In 1984 Mahmoud Al-Bayaty won the literary prize of "The Best Arab Short Stories " organized by the "Al Maseera " Magazine published in Beirut.**

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