

# LETTERS

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## Refugee's plight compels us to act with compassion

I would like to elaborate on the Dec. 6 article about Saren Azer, the award-winning University of Alberta asthma researcher whose attempt to obtain landed immigrant status is being delayed by the minister of Immigration.

The words "terrorist" and "protection of the public" used in the article tend to give a ready-made picture of a personality.

I would like to have seen the words "poet," "writer," organizer of relief aid for traumatized children of war in Sierre Leone, chairman of the International Society for Peace and Human

Rights, member of the International Secretariat for Peace and Human Rights, organizer of the International Peace Conference held in Edmonton last year.

Saren Azer was imprisoned in Iran for writing poetry, short stories and an autobiography in his Kurdish language — a language forbidden by Iran in an attempt to repress the Kurdish people.

Canadians are only now beginning to see the consequences of this kind of repression in their own country and one would think that the minister and her colleagues would be eager to



FILE PHOTO

Saren Azer contemplates his prayer beads

learn from her country's history and demonstrate intelligent and compassionate decision-making especially since Saren Azer has been cleared by the Security Intelligence Review Committee and has recommended that he be granted landed status.

*Betty Harvey, Bluffton*