

عقب حقوق الإنسان في قصيدتي ملف سجين والإعلان المهم لأحمد نجم

المدرس توفيق مسلم حران

جامعة طهران

كلية اللغات الاجنبية-قسم اللغة الانكليزية

tawfeek.muslim.h@ut.ac.ir

الدكتور محمد حسين رمضان كيايي

جامعة طهران

كلية اللغات الاجنبية-قسم اللغة الانكليزية

mkiaei@ut.ac.ir



الكلمات المفتاحية: النبرة، حقوق الإنسان، ما بعد الاستعمار، حرية التعبير.

كيفية اقتباس البحث

كيايي ، محمد حسين رمضان ، توفيق مسلم حران، عقب حقوق الإنسان في قصيدتي ملف سجين والإعلان المهم لأحمد نجم ، مجلة مركز بابل للدراسات الانسانية، أيلول 2025، المجلد: 15، العدد: 5.

هذا البحث من نوع الوصول المفتوح مرخص بموجب رخصة المشاع الإبداعي لحقوق التأليف والنشر (Creative Commons Attribution) تتيح فقط للآخرين تحميل البحث ومشاركته مع الآخرين بشرط نسب العمل الأصلي للمؤلف، ودون القيام بأي تعديل أو استخدامه لأغراض تجارية.

Registered في
ROAD

مفهرسة في
IASJ



Exploring the Tone of Human Rights in Ahmed Negm's *Prisoner File* and *The Important Announcement*

**Dr Muhamad Hussein
Ramadan Kiaei**

University of Tehran
Faculty of Foreign Languages-
Department of English

Tewfeek Muslim Haran
University of Tehran

Faculty of Foreign Languages-
Department of English

Keywords : Tone, Human Rights, Postcolonialism, Freedom of Speech.

How To Cite This Article

Kiaei, Muhamad Hussein Ramadan, Tewfeek Muslim Haran, Exploring the Tone of Human Rights in Ahmed Negm's *Prisoner File* and *The Important Announcement*, Journal Of Babylon Center For Humanities Studies, September 2025, Volume:15, Issue 5.



This is an open access article under the CC BY-NC-ND license
(<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>)

[This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International License.](http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/)

المخلص

تتناول هذه الدراسة دراسة عبق حقوق الإنسان في قصيدتي أحمد نجم "ملف السجناء" و"الإعلان الهام". إن حقوق الإنسان هي قلب الدراسة وعقلها وروح كل إنسان في العالم. وتناقش هاتان القصيدتان معاناة الشاعر فيما يتصل بحقوق الإنسان ونضاله من أجل حرية التعبير. وكلتا القصيدتين عبارة عن حالة وأزمة عالمية تنتهك الحريات الخاصة والعامة عمداً من قبل أنظمة مصرية مختلفة تعاقبت على الحكم. أحمد نجم شاعر وصحفي وناشط حقوقي مصري، وقد انتقد من خلال شعره بشدة النظام القمعي في مصر أثناء الاضطرابات السياسية في ذلك البلد. وتسود في أعماله موضوعات الحرية والعدالة الاجتماعية والنضال من أجل الكرامة الإنسانية. كان الشاعر يعبر بحرية عن تجربته الخاصة في اكتشاف الذات، لذلك فقد وُضع في السجن دون سبب حقيقي كعقاب لحرية التعبير. إن موضوع حقوق الإنسان ليس جديداً لأنه وثيق الصلة بالإنسان. إنها تواجه اختباراً حاسماً وأسئلة خطيرة وقضايا مشاكل معقدة داخل العالم

العربي. إن هؤلاء يجعلون الحياة وضعاً حياً لأن نضال الشاعر من أجل حماية هذا الحق في الحرية للآخرين أمر بالغ الأهمية. إن انتهاك الحريات الانسانية والمعاملة الفظيعة التي يتعرض لها الشاعر تشكل مشكلة كبيرة خاصة إذا ما اعتبرنا الشاعر مشتبهاً به دون وجود أدلة كافية. ومع ذلك، فقد صور الموقف في قصيدة مقفلة قبل وبعد السجن. إن تفتت المجتمع مرتبط ارتباطاً وثيقاً بما بعد الحداثة في العالم وخاصة في الشرق. إن هذا الإطار النظري ونظرية ما بعد الاستعمار تمت مناقشتها على ضوء هذه الدراسة.

Abstract

This study is concerned with examining the tone of human rights in Ahmed Negm's two poems *Prisoner File* and *The Important Announcement*. The human rights are the study's heart, mind and soul of everyone in the world. Those poems are strongly debate on the poet's sufferings in terms of human rights and struggles for freedom of speech. Both consist a universal cases and crisis intentionally violating of human rights by various Egyptian regimes. Ahmed Negm is an Egyptian poet, journalist and human rights activist, whose poetry was highly critical of the oppressive regime in Egypt during the political unrest in that country. Themes of freedom, social justice and the fight for human dignity are prevalent in his work. The poet was expressing freely his own experience of self-discovering, therefore he has put in prison without real reason as a punishment of freedom of speech. The subject of human rights is not new because it is closely related by the human being. They face a critical test, serious questions and the issues of complex problems within the Arab world. Those are surely making life a living situation because the poet's fight to safeguard that right for freedom for others. The violation of human rights and terrible treatment are very problematic especially by considering the poet a suspect without proper evidence. However, he depicted the situation in disturbing poem before and after the prison. The fragmentation of society is so related in postmodernism in the world particularly in the East. This theoretical framework and the postcolonial theory are depended for the study.

Introduction

Ahmed Fouad Negm (1929-2013) was born in Egypt and started his writing in Arabic language who speaks out his poetry against injustice and human rights violations; He is a unique literary personality in Arabic literature world. His literary career bore as an Egyptian people poet. He has arrested in 1950s and 1981 for greater freedom of expression.



According to the poet that a real enemy is silence. Negm was sick and ill-treated during interrogation on a hunger strike in Cairo prison. He was chosen by the [United Nations](#) for poverty action as ambassador of the poor in 2007. He won the 2013 [Prince Claus awards](#) for unwavering integrity. His literary works have affected many Egyptian revolutions. The poem *Prisoner File* is based on personal sufferings of the poet himself while the *Important Announcement* is to be as a reaction to his last free voice. Negm criticizes the state for not respecting the most basic human rights for its citizens, especially those who oppose corruption and dictatorship. The tone is not merely one of regret but of rage and defiance. It opens many eyes to see the importance of individual freedoms, the dignity of prisoners and the need for system change. "The problem of the conquest of political power and of economic power must, just as it has thought about organizing itself for politics and for economics, think also about organizing itself for culture". Arnold's own programme could hardly be more deftly formulated." (Eagleton 105)

As this is ideological necessity focusing on the poet's complexities and suffering. It is as life profile of the poet against his conditions of imprisonment more than three times during various regimes. The Egyptian people and Arab world have used music and sang it in many places. This poem is translated from Arabic into English by Janet Stevens and Moussa Saker. (Barker and Bruce 252-53)

Tone is the main technique of the speaker's utterance in which reflects the sense of the poem. The way the writer speaks and reveals by ingenious clues of the utterance with respect discourse in life and in art. (Abrams 227)

Philosophers such as Joel Feinberg, Thomas Pogge, and Martha Nussbaum show human rights as pivotal components of social justice, that is, they seek to define human rights as moral claims or entitlements to social needs such as liberty, income, wealth, opportunity, education, and health care. From these views, human rights are essentially inviolable kinds of entitlement that are required to attain basic security, well-being, self-respect and dignity for all persons. These needs, and other interests such as liberty, can be regarded as morally relevant principles or grounds for justifying human rights. (Hayden, 8)

The Analysis of Human Rights in Ahmed Negm's *Prisoner File* and *The Important Announcement*

Negm's Poetry is of the people in many senses. Poetry diction is colloquial Egyptian dialect and the style is satiric and caustic in its humor and humankind. The themes draw mainly on his beloved homeland and

human rights therefore his works were regarded as a threat by Nasser, Sadat and Mubark regimes. His literary works are forbidden in all public performances, recordings and broadcasts in Egypt. However, his writing of poetry has frequently been appreciated for his own way in which he endeavored to show a huge interest in exploring human rights and employing literary devices. He has had a great impact on whole Egyptian community. The poem is mainly about the writer and prison in Arab country which has been considered one of Third Worlds. The form and content of the poem reflect the writer's sufferings inside the prison. It seems clear division of two parts in which the poet describes a yarn of his own life profile. The choice of words tends to fall in two sharply defined associative groups one strengthening the high public profile and the self-discovery by imaging the poet's personality and mentality. It would seem so, and that the poet is thus beginning his poem with a real description as in the first part of the poem:

Name	Saber*
Charge	That I am Egyptian
Age	The Most modern age; (Though grey hair in braids flows my head down to my waist)
Profession	Heir, of my ancestors and of time, to The creation of civilization and life force and peace
Skin	Wheat-coloured
Figure	As slim as a lance
Hair	Rougher than dried clover
Colour of eyes	Jet black
Nose	Aquiline like a horse's
Mouth	Firmly in place (When I attempted to budge it, some mischief happened)
Place of birth	In any dark room under the sky, on the soil of Egypt. From any house in the middle of palm Trees, Where the Nile flows- As long as it is not a palace.
Verdict	For seven thousand years I have been a prisoner asleep Grinding stones with my molars, Out of frustration,



Spending the nights in grief.

(*Prisoner File*: Ahmed Fouad Negm)

*Saber means patience in Arabic language. (Barker and Bruce 255-56)

The other part of the poem is cultivated by the mocking sense. The satiric question took the familiar voice on the poet's sufferings and a quality of reality. The technique of sarcasm touches in the poem's tone for tracing the poet's sufferings caused by imprisonment. He does not break the law but the problem he does speak freely and using the freedom of expression. The government violated the human rights when it put the poet in prison without real reason. The end of the poem accounts is the sense of desperation, which runs through the concluding lines. The poet's memory takes on the quality of fancy because of the very hopelessness. He left the poem with ironic question to the public opinion whether he might guilty of using means of human rights. His endeavour was to mention that the poem did not lock up forever, as well as he kept under lock and key as in the following part of the poem. (Goodman, 2004, PP. 78-79)

The question of release someone asked me:
"Why is your imprisonment so long?"
"Because I am not break the law,
Because I am afraid of it;
The law holds a sword in its hands.
Anytime you want-
Ask the informers about me
And you will hear and understand my story

from A to Z.

My name is Saber Ayyub,** patient with
catastrophes,

Like a donkey,
I carry my share of the burden and wait.
I drown in rivers of sweat
All day long.

At night, gather together my troubles and
upon them I lie,

Do you know why?"

(*Prisoner File*: Ahmed Fouad Negm)

**Ayyub means prophet's name who is famous and in Arab literature known long on patience. (Barker and Bruce 252-53)



The Important Announcement is the poem in which a reaction against the severe sufferings of the human particularly the poet. "In Egypt, there are reports by human rights groups of detainees who have been in prison for several years without being formally charged. Mass arrests have been conducted as part of the government's antiterrorist campaign. In addition, under the Emergency Law, cases involving terrorism are tried by military or State Security Emergency courts, in which the accused are not granted the constitutional protections of civilian judicial courts. Hundreds of civilian defendants have been denied due process and the right to appeal". (Lewis and Skutsch 182).

Conclusion

Both works start from a tone that seems defiant, passionate, and very much seduced by the human rights discourse. The tone reveals this man, Ahmed Negm, also a voice for the voiceless, who uses writing to expose what it is to be marginalized, imprisoned, and activistizing in the way of repression. His works call for resistance, solidarity, and hope for a better and freer society.

Overall, the tone of human rights in Prisoner File and The Important Announcement is sharp critique and active resistance against injustice. Negm uses his writing not only to document abuses of power but also to inspire change and encourage a pursuit of basic human rights and fairness. An approach grounded in postcolonial theory or cultural criticism would underscore that Negm's use of irony and sarcasm is a subversive rhetorical device in The Important Announcement. Negm frequently uses these techniques to deride the duplicitousness of the state, lampoon political figures, and dig into the ridiculousness of the regime's rationale for repression. The Important Announcement is not the first satirical work from Al-Ashqar in fact, his use of an ironic tone in The Important Announcement makes it a painfully accurate commentary on the state's abuse of power, and the focus on human rights violations through elements of humor creates a strong contrast between the leanness of the issue and the senselessness of the power of the regime.

Bibliography

- Abrams, M. H. *A Glossary of Literary Terms*. Delhi: Akash press, 2005.
- Barker William and Bruce Donald. *The Writer and Human Rights*. New York: Ancho Press, 1983.
- Eagleton, Terry. *Ideology and Criticism: A study in Marxist Literary Criticism*. Verso. Great Britain, 1978.
- Goodman, W.R. *Practical Criticism*. Delhi: Doaba House, 2004.





Exploring the Tone of Human Rights in Ahmed Negm's *Prisoner File* and *The Important Announcement*

Hayden Patrick. *The Philosophy of Human Rights*. The United States of America: Pragon House, 2001.

Lewis James and Skutsch Carl. *The Human Rights Encyclopedia*. The United States of America: M.E. Sharpe INC., 2001.

Nagarajan, M.S. *English Literary Criticism and Theory: An Introductory History*. Orient Longman Private Limited, 2006.



Journal of Babylon Center for Humanities Studies: 2025, Volume: 15, Issue: 5

