



MARGARET HASSAN

Margaret Hassan was born in 1944 in Dublin, Ireland. Soon after World War II her family moved to live in London, England. While living in London she met her future husband, an Iraqi student named Tahseen Ali Hassan. She moved to Iraq with him in 1972 and began teaching English with the British Council of Baghdad. Although Margaret learned Arabic and became an Iraqi citizen, she remained a Roman Catholic while living under Saddam Hussein's government.

During the time of the Gulf War in 1991, Margaret joined and served as director of a humanitarian relief organisation to serve people living in the poorest communities in the world, CARE International (Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere). Margaret was against war and voiced her concerns for the Iraqi people. She had a particular interest in the issues affecting young people. She was well known among the Iraqi citizens living in the slums. She was commonly known as Madam Margaret.

Margaret Hassan was abducted in Baghdad on 19 October 2004. Many in the international community and in Iraq, especially those in the very poor neighbourhoods, called for her immediate release. Tragically, four weeks after her abduction she was murdered by her kidnappers in Iraq.