

## ***East meets West on the battlefield of poetry***

A unique study comparing the war poems of Arab and Western cultures through the eyes of Iraqi Adnan al-Sayegh and English poet Wilfred Owen is published in London this month.

Although writing in distinct periods of history and in different languages, the two poets speak as one when they address the horror of war and its psychological impact on the soldiers called upon to fight.

As poet Jenny Lewis says: “Although there are as many differences as similarities in Adnan’s and Owen’s work, there are strong unifying themes. Obviously war is one, but also the idea of resistance to war and a denunciation of its creators and beneficiaries at the expense of ordinary people, that is to say governments, arms dealers and the military.”

Owen, foremost among the poets who exposed the futility and horror of World War One, insisted on returning to the trenches after being wounded and died tragically young.

Al-Sayegh made his experiences in the brutal 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war which saw casualties of up to two million, including up to 100,000 Kurds. He narrowly escaped arrest and torture at the hands of Saddam Hussein’s regime. Eventually, he was forced to flee Iraq following publication of his 1993 poetic drama, *The One Who Remained Awake in the Hallucination*. Seeking refuge in one Arab country after another, he was given asylum first in Sweden and then in the UK, where he now lives. Al-Sayegh’s poems are published in several languages and he regularly performs his work in the Middle East and Europe.

The psychological study of war poems is by Iraqi scholar Sura Hussein Mohammed Ali. She says:

“Once I read about al-Sayegh’s life, and some of his work, I immediately decided to write about this Iraqi poet. Both he and Owen went through the same experiences despite their differences in terms of time, place and cultural climate.”

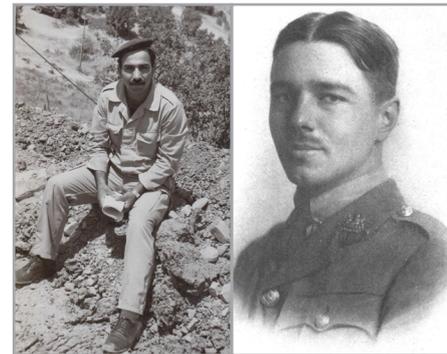
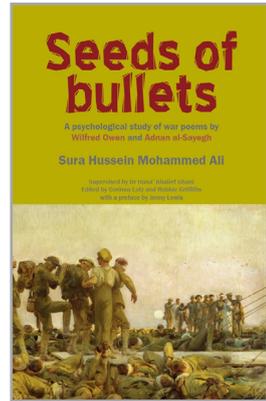
Note for editors

***Seeds of Bullets*** is published by Lupus Books at £8.99 on 21 November. Review copies are available on request. Adnan al-Sayegh is available for interview.

For more information please contact:

Arabic speakers: 07723 077461 | [adnan2000iraq@hotmail.com](mailto:adnan2000iraq@hotmail.com)

English speakers: 07871 745528 | [info@aworldtowin.net](mailto:info@aworldtowin.net)



press release

