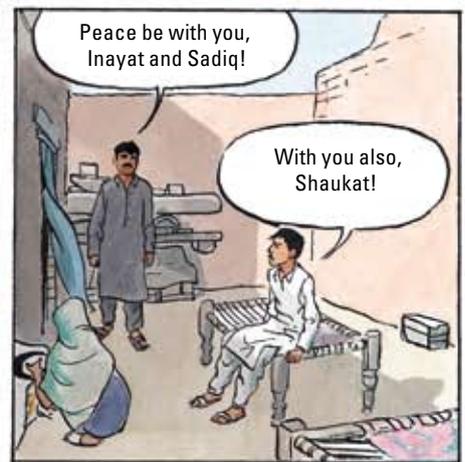


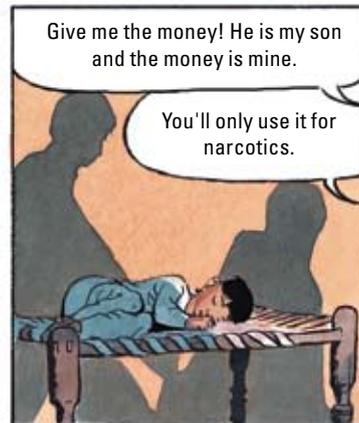
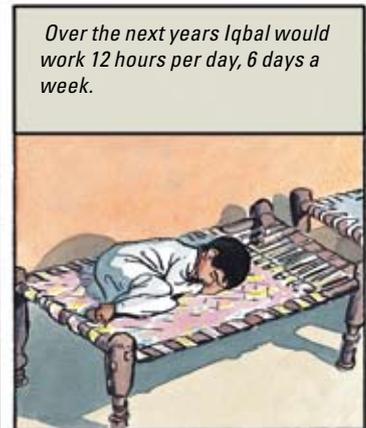
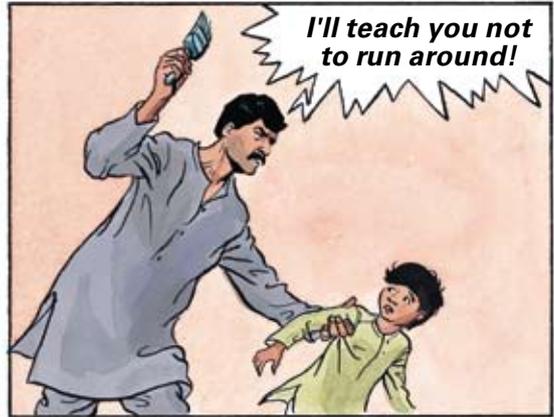
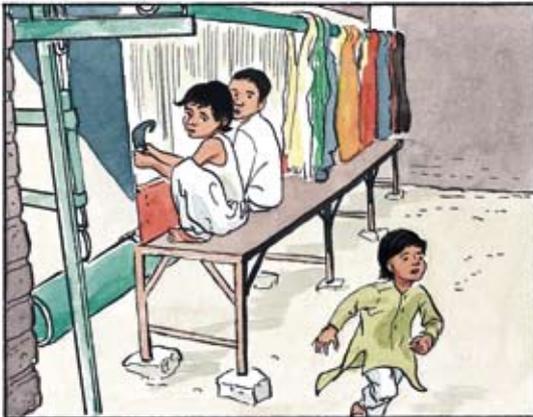
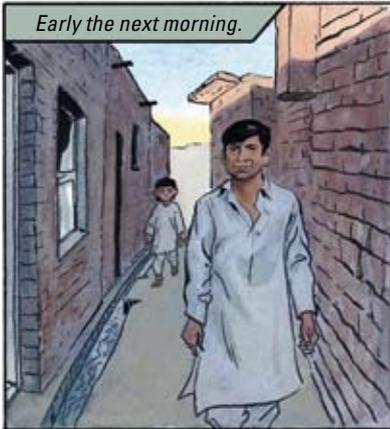
# IQBAL

## THE LITTLE CARPET BOY

TEXT:  
MAGNUS BERGMAR

PICTURES:  
JAN-ÅKE WINQVIST





The doctor has said that I must have an operation, but I don't have any money.

But I'm working mother. Isn't my money enough?

No. I have to ask Ghullah for peshgi!

Gullah. I have to have an operation and buy medicine. Can I get peshgi for Iqbal?

*Peshgi is that debt which causes Iqbal to become a debt-slave with Ghullah.*

Here is 6,000 rupies!

Hurry up, Shafiq. The match will begin soon!

*It is Friday, the boys' only free day. Two teams have gathered in the open space between the canal and the houses. Iqbal has looked forward to this cricket match for an entire week...*

Each group collects money.

Winner takes all.

....but today there is not to be a match for Iqbal...

Iqbal, Shafiq and Rafiq, come and work! We have a carpet that has to be finished!

*Even though it is their free day the boys cannot refuse. They are debt slaves and Ghullah decides...*

Brother, would you like to play?

No Sobia. I'm too tired...

*In the middle of the night, Ghullah comes to Iqbal's house and drags him out of bed...*

..He needs to sleep!

That can wait! We must get the job finished!

Iqbal, the peshgi means that I must allow him to take you!

Iqbal is so tired that he falls asleep...



I have to escape from here!



...I have to go to pee...



The boys wait until Ghullah isn't there...

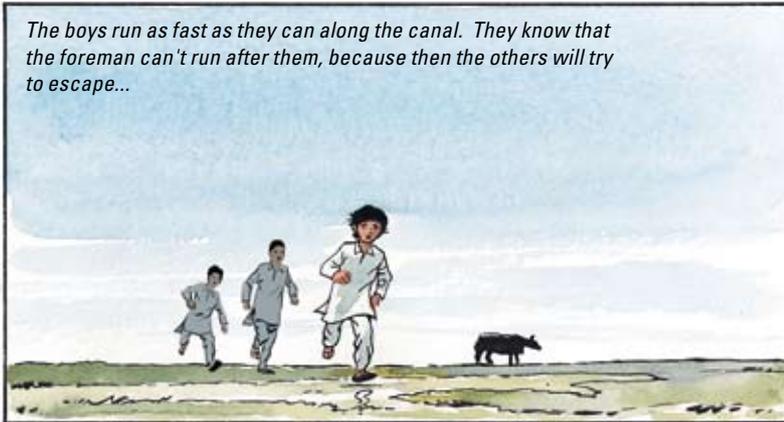
I'm feeling sick and have to go outside and throw up!

I'm about to crap in my pants!

I need to pee...



The boys run as fast as they can along the canal. They know that the foreman can't run after them, because then the others will try to escape...



The boys forget the terrible things that will happen later on...



**GOOD IQBAL!**



When Iqbal comes home...

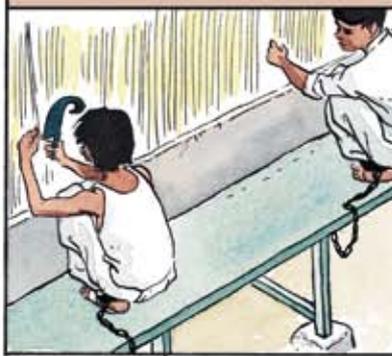
Watch out Iqbal! Ghullah is very angry and is looking for you!



The next morning Ghullah gets Iqbal at his home...



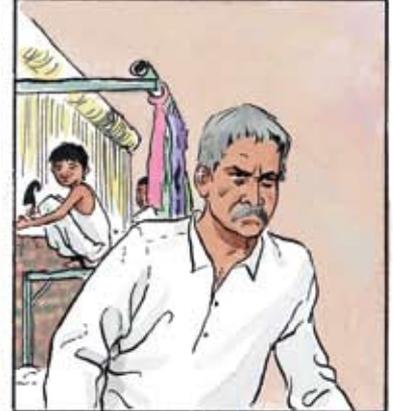
As punishment for running away, the children are chained...



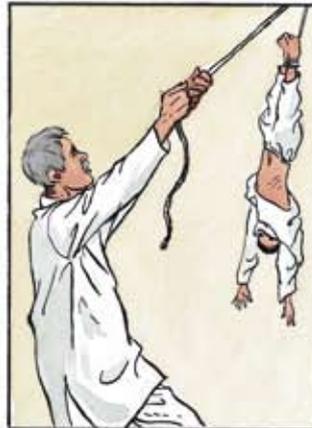
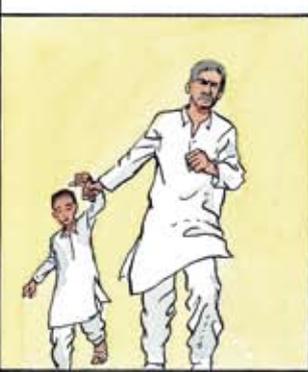
The boy's father and Iqbal's mother come with food...



One Morning...



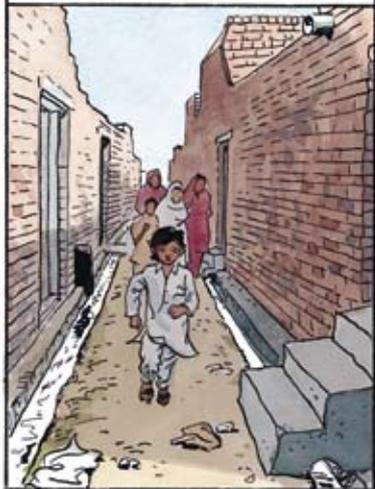
Ghullah gets the sick Maqsud...



Iqbal runs away again...



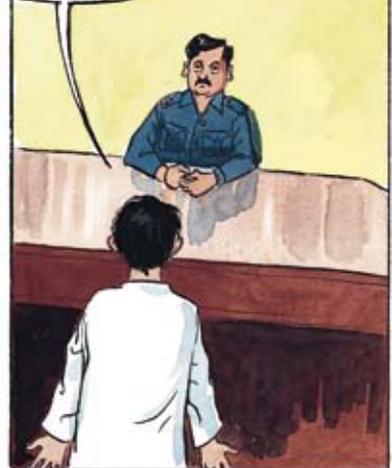
...and goes to the police station...



sigh... The carpet owner has beaten...sigh... Maqsud!



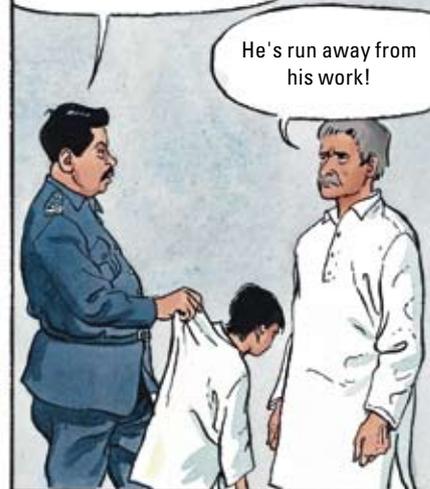
You have to do something!



We'll go to the carpet owner then!

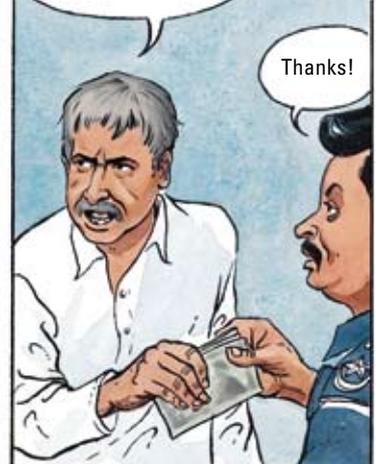


Chain up the little traitor!



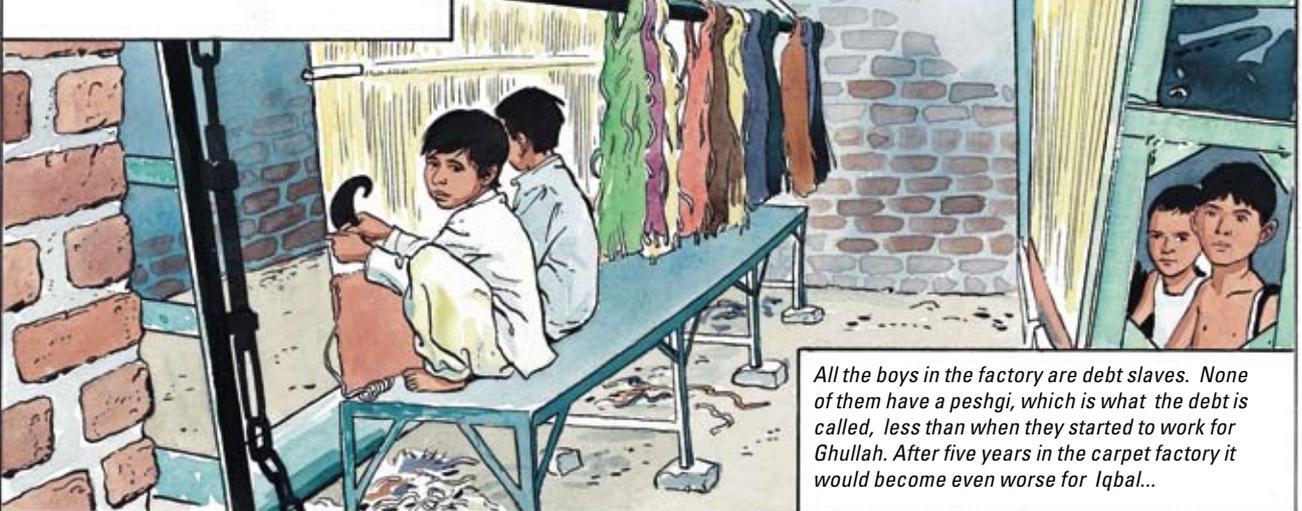
He's run away from his work!

Good to see that the police are doing their job!



Thanks!

Iqbal thinks constantly about how hard his life is, but he can't think of a way to be free...



All the boys in the factory are debt slaves. None of them have a peshgi, which is what the debt is called, less than when they started to work for Ghullah. After five years in the carpet factory it would become even worse for Iqbal...

*Iqbal's half-brother is getting married...*

I need a sack of sugar for Aslam's wedding!



Here is what you need. I'll charge it to Iqbal!



Iqbal, you'll get time off when your half-brother Aslam gets married!



Oh, thank you!



*Iqbal arrives at the wedding, not knowing that it is he who is paying...*



*The bridegroom has arrived!*



*The women begin to dance...*



*The bridegroom receives necklaces of money from the guests. Iqbal is happy to be at the party, which lasts three days...*



*But after the party...*

You have to make up the time you were absent for the wedding!



And by the way, after your half-brother's wedding your debt has gone up to 13,000 rupies.



One day a man comes by and speaks with the carpet slaves...

My name is Yousuf! The peshgi debt which makes you slaves is unlawful. Follow with me to a meeting of the Bonded Labour Liberation Front, BLLF tomorrow and you will learn more.



**Look out!**

The owner is coming!



You know what will happen to you if you leave your work!



Iqbal ignores his owner's warning and takes part in the meeting...

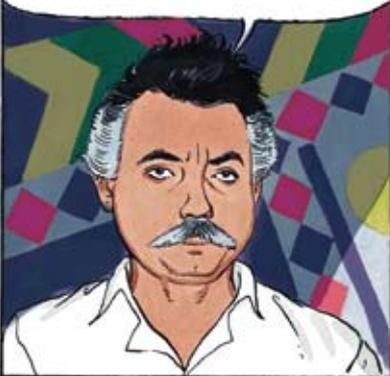
Say, didn't I see you yesterday?

Yes...

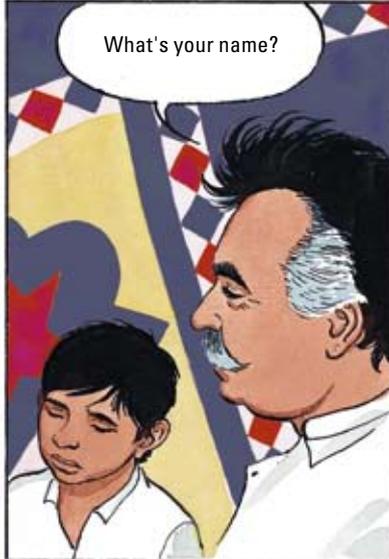


At the meeting, BLLF's leader Ehsan Ullah Khan speaks...

Debt slavery is forbidden! No one can force you to work. You have the right to be free. Children shall not work, but rather go to school.



What's your name?



Iqbal!

I'm Ehsan Ullah Khan. Would you tell us about your work?

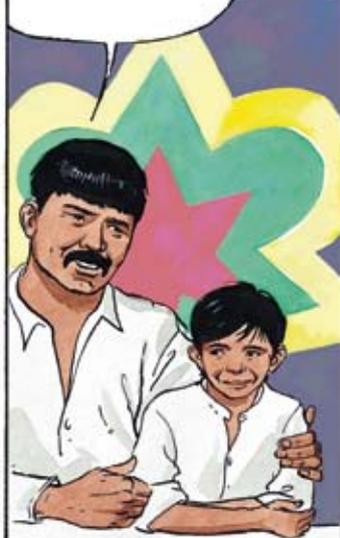


Even though he is shy, Iqbal gives a little speech...

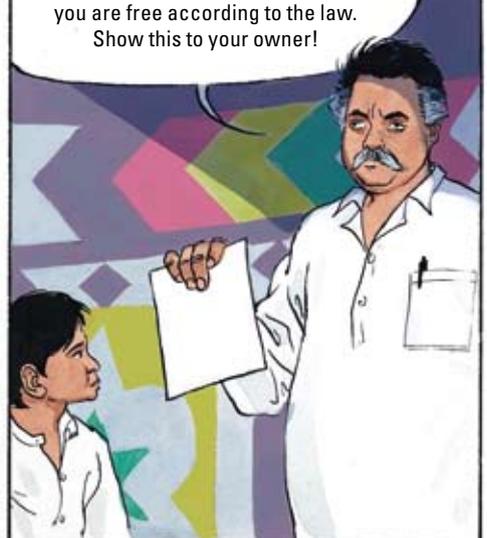
Our owner Ghullah is cruel! I don't want to work any more! I want to go to school!

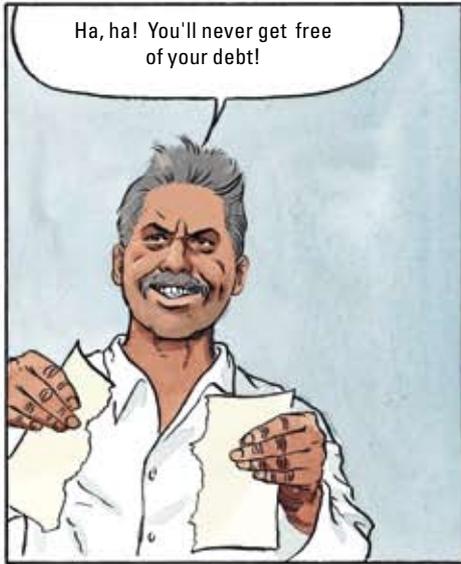
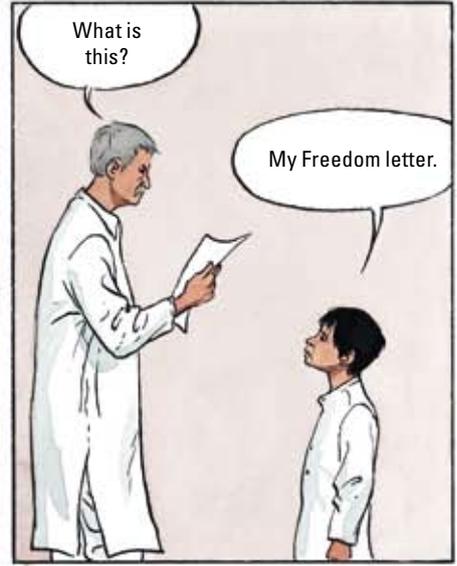


You were good!



Here is a Freedom letter. It says that you are free according to the law. Show this to your owner!

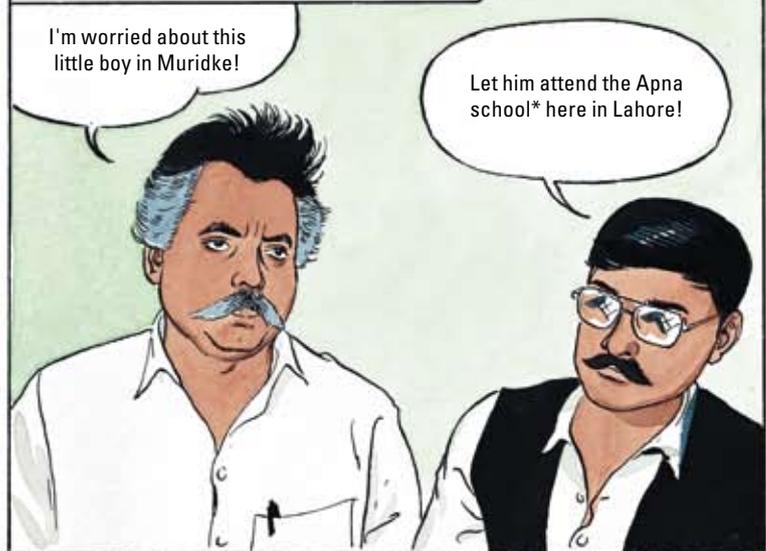




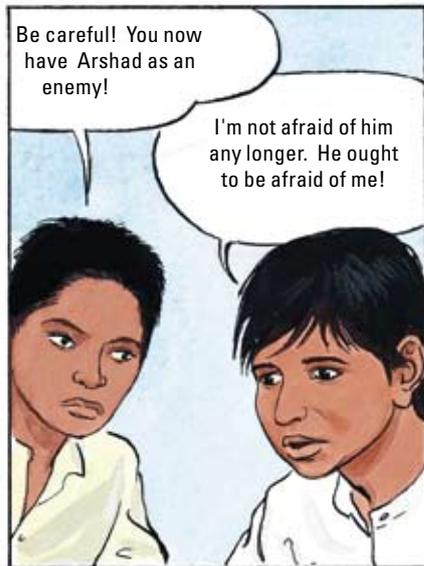
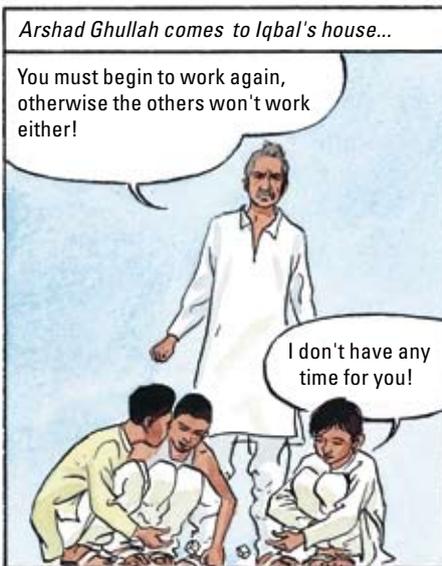
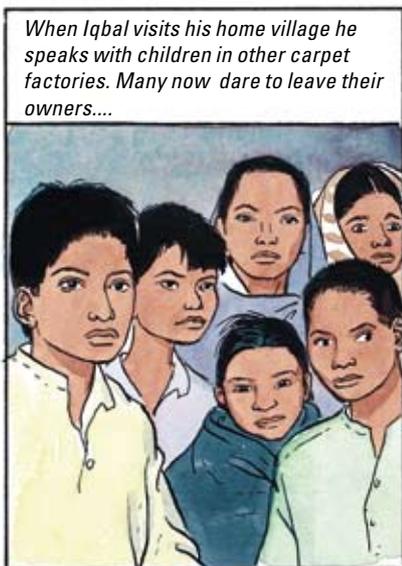
Yousuf comes to see Arshad Ghullah...



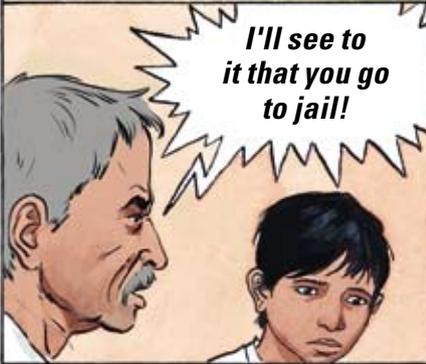
In Lahore Ehsan is thinking about Iqbal...



\*Apna school means, "Our Own School". All of BLLF's schools are so named.



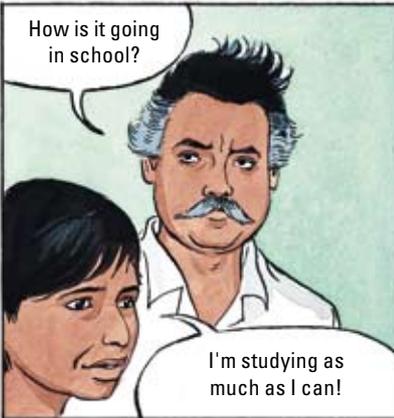
But Ghullah hasn't forgotten Iqbal...



Muhammed Rafiq, the man who Ghullah delivers his carpets to threatens Iqbal...



How is it going in school?



We have received an invitation to Sweden...



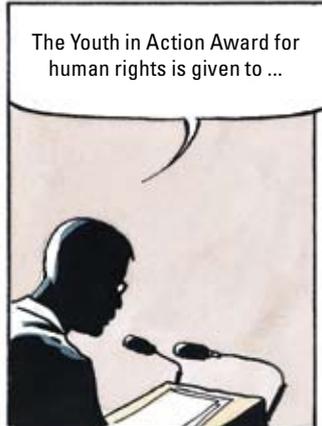
Iqbal tells his friends...



After visiting Sweden Ehsan and Iqbal continue on to the USA...



The Youth in Action Award for human rights is given to ...



... IQBAL MASIH!



Iqbal is also given a scholarship. When he finishes school in Pakistan he will have his study at an American university paid...



On returning to Pakistan, Iqbal is greeted by his friends...



But there are others...



On Easter Day 16 April 1995 Iqbal goes home ...



The carpet manufacturers know that Iqbal always comes home to visit on christian holidays...

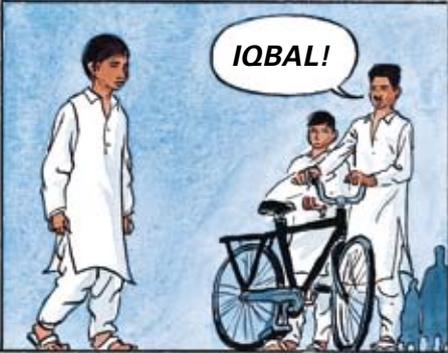


Hello mother! How is my dear sister Sobia?



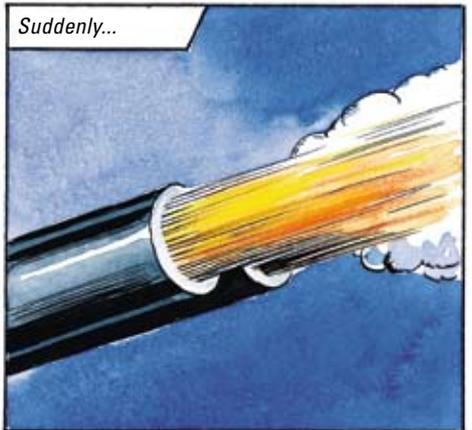
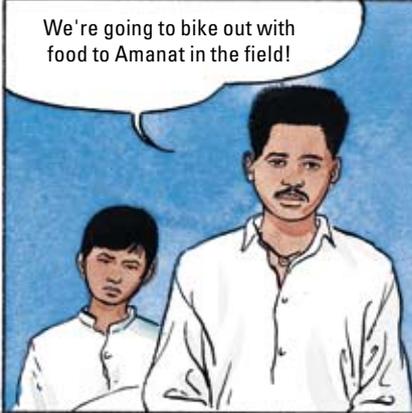
I've missed you dear brother!

Later the same day Iqbal meets his relatives Faryad and Lyaqat...



IQBAL!

We're going to bike out with food to Amanat in the field!



Suddenly...

"The former debt slave boy Iqbal Masih who fought for children's rights in Pakistan is dead!"

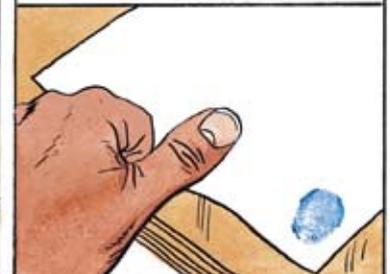


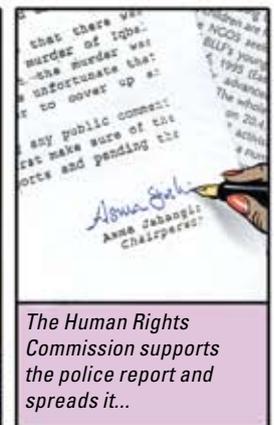
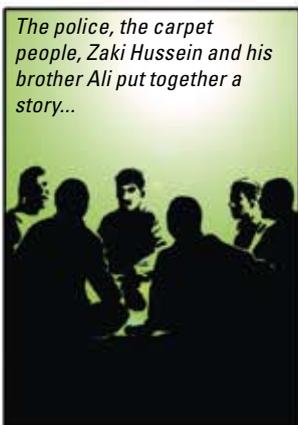
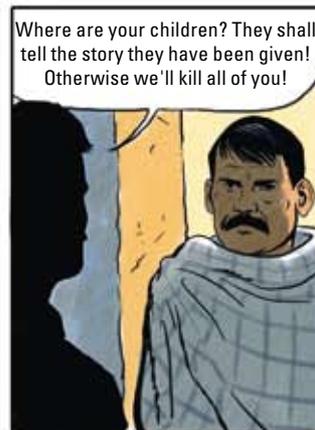
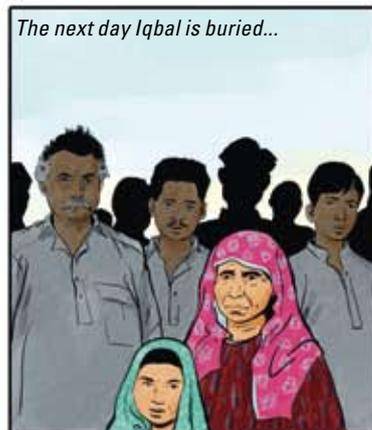
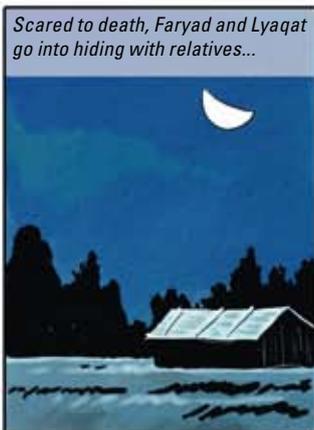
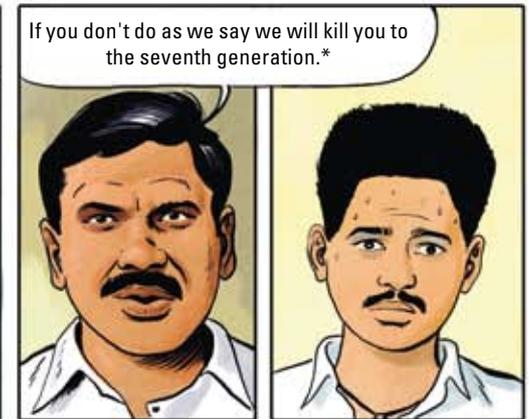
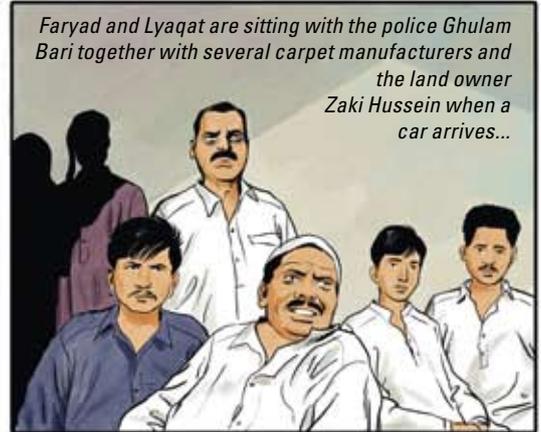
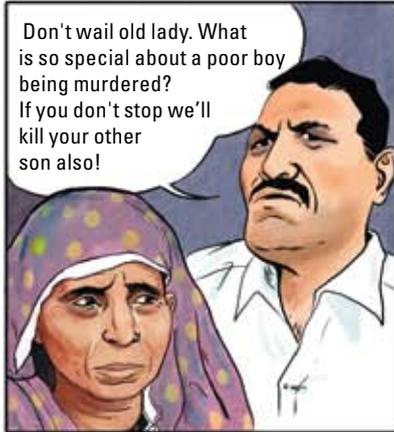
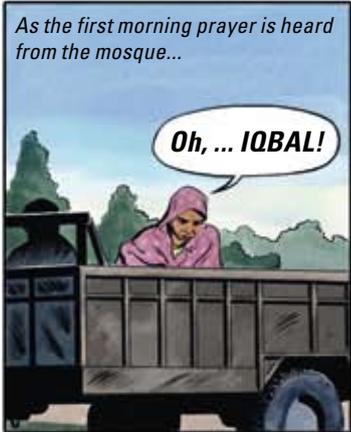
The news spreads around the world...

At the police station on the same night the murder is committed...



Faryad is forced to put his fingerprint on a sheet of blank paper. Then the police write down what they claim has happened...





\*This means that everybody in the family will be killed.

....foreign embassies write home. So do those who work for foreign organizations... Newspapers throughout the world spread the Donkey story...

But Hero who has been presented to the entire world as half-crazy and a murderer is completely innocent. He is only poor...

The morning after the murder Hero is awakened by the police and the brothers Ali, who is called 'Ponytail' and Zaki Hussein. Hero is a farm-hand who works for "Ponytail" and Zaki...

Take this shotgun and come with us!

Why...?

At the police station...

You must say that you have murdered the boy!

What boy?

If you don't do as we say we'll kill you and say that you were in a fire-fight with the police.

I killed him! I, eh...

Soon Hero realizes that he can be hanged for the murder...

I didn't murder the boy, Judge!

Hero is declared innocent. But he is soon arrested again and no one is allowed to see him without permission from the Minister of Interior...

The carpet manufacturers had threatened to kill Iqbal many times...

If he doesn't come back and work we'll kidnap you and kill him!

...and one month before the murder they came to see Ali and Zaki Hussein...

Who are they?

You're not to worry about it!

Already before the murder those who were jealous of BLLF were brought together for a meeting with carpet exporters, brick kiln owners and the security police...

How can we get at BLLF?

Spread the word they have embezzled money!

**And get Ehsan!**

Dr Aslam and Haroon! You shall spread rumours against Ehsan!

After the murder of Iqbal the security police arrest some people working for BLLF...

**Come along!**

Haroon and Dr Aslam threaten the teacher Anjum...

Say that Ehsan is a terrorist and that he asked you to place a bomb!

**No!!**

We have the security police behind us. If you don't help us that's treason and that carries the death penalty!

It is Ehsan who murdered Iqbal. He kills one every year!

But he who had the job of killing Iqbal goes free...

**Stop!  
Who are you?**

I'm Lyaqat, with my uncle Faryad and our guest Iqbal!

So died Iqbal Masih, the boy who world-wide is a symbol for the fight against child labour...