The author will try to demonstrate, without being too sarcastic, the following paradox: It is a gamble for a writer to live in the Arab world. There is nothing quite like violent dictatorships and intolerant societies for putting a high price on the act of writing: either it forever destroys in you the desire to write, or it forces you to follow, willy-nilly, the tough advice of a friend and poet who "paid" the ultimate price:

"Silence is death
and you, if you remain silent, you die
and if you speak, you die.
So speak and die."

Anouar Benmalek is a French Algerian novelist, journalist, poet, and mathematician. The recipient of many international awards for his fiction, he has been compared to Camus and Faulkner, with some critics judging him to be the greatest Algerian writer since Kateb Yacine. Anouar Benmalek is the author of, among others, *Les amants désunis (The Lovers of Algeria)*, which received the Prix Mimouni; *L'enfant du peuple ancien (Child of an Ancient People)*, which received the Prix RFO du Livre; *Le rapt (The Abduction)*; and his most recent work, published last fall, *Tu ne mourras plus demain*.

Co-founder of the Algerian Committee against Torture, Mr. Benmalek collected and published the testimonies of nearly 200 Algerians who had been imprisoned and tortured by the army and police for participating in the anti-government demonstrations of October 1988. He is currently a professor of statistics and probability at the Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Paris-Sud (11).

In THH 170 (Taper Hall 170) 4:30 p.m.
Tuesday, September 25, 2012

For Further Information, please contact:
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