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Edsa

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**Shiraz Durrani**, a member of this forum, has just published his third book. His earliest was the short book, *Kimaathi, M Prime Minister of Kenya* (1986, London: Vita Books). The second was, *Never be silent; Kenya, 1884-1963*, (London: Vita books), published in 2006

The new book is *Information and liberation: Writings on the politics of info and librarianship*

**Author:** Shiraz Durrani, ISBN: 978-0-9802004-0-9, Dec 2008 (p385)

**Published by** [Amazon](#), [Barnes and Noble US](#) and [Amazon \(UK and Canada\)](#)

**Price:** \$45.00 (or £22.00)

The book is a retrospective collection of Shiraz Durrani's articles and conference on the politics of information. The book documents the struggle for progressive practices over a period of 25 years in Kenya, Britain, and other countries. The book records also the achievements of many progressive librarians and activists to develop a system and a society which the information, social and cultural needs of all, particularly those marginalised by forces of capitalism are catered for.

Durrani's approach differs from traditional approaches in that he seeks to link information liberation with active struggles for economic and social justice for all. A theme that runs throughout the book is that the struggle for information equality is part of a struggle waged against capitalist exploitation of human and natural resources. The role of librarians and information activists is seen as one of providing relevant information to people as their basic human right. In addition to communicating a vision of a society where information is provided as a human right, it provides a rare record of putting ideas and policies into practice, making available a useful resource for others involved in this area.

It is noteworthy that the book records this struggle in Kenya, a country of the South where many of the policies associated with corporate globalisation were first tried out before being used in Europe, USA and the rest of the world. The focus of the book then shifts to England where a similar struggle is recorded.

Durrani graduated from the University of East Africa in 1968 and got his library qualifications from Wales. He is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP). He was at the University of Nairobi Library from 1968 to 1984. Durrani was an active member of the then underground Movement in the late 1970s and 1980s. Following the publication of his articles on the history of anti-imperialist, liberation struggle in national press, Durrani left Kenya and moved to Britain working at Hackney and Merton public libraries before taking up the post of Senior Lecturer in Information Management in the Department of Applied Social Sciences at the London Metropolitan.

Congratulations, Shiraz  
Eddie