It is a gamble for a writer to live in the Arab world. Violent dictatorships and intolerance can put a high price on the act of writing: They may destroy the desire to write, or force the writer to follow the advice of a poet who sacrificed his life for his craft: 

*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 Franco-Algerian writer, poet, journalist and professor of mathematics. He was a founding member of the Algerian Committee Against Torture and is the prize-winning author of many books including *Le Rapt* (2009) and *Tu ne mourras plus demain* (2011).

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