

**IMLI MOURNS WITH MALTA THE DEATH  
OF PROFESSOR OLIVER FRIGGIERI**

The IMO International Maritime Law Institute wishes to express its heartfelt condolences to the Maltese people and the family and friends of Professor Oliver Friggieri, who died on Saturday 21 November 2020 at the age of 73 years. He was a Professor of Maltese at the University of Malta and has been described as a giant of Maltese literature, an intellectual, poet, novelist and critic, whose work defined a canon of Maltese national literature.



*Professor Oliver Friggieri*

An intellectual who was a poet, novelist, literary critic, and philosopher, his work had an unmistakable timbre of existentialism.

He articulated Malta's national consciousness in his works, notably with his 1986 work *Fil-Parlament ma Jikbrux Fjuri*.

Professor Friggieri was born in Floriana, Malta, in 1947. He studied at the Bishop's Seminary and then at the University of Malta in 1968 where he acquired a Bachelor of Arts in Maltese, Italian and Philosophy (1968), and then a Masters (1975). He began his career in 1968 teaching Maltese and Philosophy in secondary schools. In 1978 he acquired a Doctorate in Maltese literature and Literary Criticism from the Catholic University of Milan, Italy. In 1976, he started lecturing Maltese to the University of Malta, before being appointed head of department in 1988. Professor Friggier became Professor in 1990.

Between 1970 and 1971 he was active in Malta's literary revival movement, the Moviment Qawmien Letterarju. Professor Friggier was on the editorial board of the literary periodical *Il-Polz* between 1969 and 1973 and co-founded children's magazine *Is-Saghtar* in 1971. Also in 1971, Professor Friggier collaborated in the establishment of the publishing house *Klabb Kotba Maltin*.

A Member of the Association Internationale des Critiques Littéraires of Paris, in 2008, Professor Friggier published his autobiography, *Fjuri li ma Jinxfix* and in 2016, he was awarded the Ġieħ l-Akkademja tal-Malti gold medal.

Professor Friggier authored of several books and significantly contributed essays on Peter Caxaro and Mikiel Anton Vassalli. They include *Stejjer Għal Qabel Jidlam* (1986), *Fil-Gżira Taparsi Jikbru l-Fjuri* (1990), and novels *Il-Gidba* (1977), *L-Istramb* (1980), *Fil-Parlament ma Jikbrux Fjuri* (1986), *Ġizimin li Qatt ma Jiftaħ* (1998), *It-Tfal Jiġu bil-Vapuri* (2000) and others.



*Funeral cortege with the remains of Professor Friggieri*

Professor Friggieri “the man, the professor, the poet, the novelist, the philosopher... the master”, who will be remembered for his vast contribution to Maltese literature was laid to rest yesterday, 25 November 2020 by a State-organized funeral.



*Professor David Attard (Director, IMLI) and staff paying their last respects to Professor Friggieri*

IMLI's Director, Professor David Attard and staff paid their last respect to Professor Friggieri by standing outside the Institute's building and clapping, with the rest of the University of Malta staff and workers, as the funeral cortege proceeded through the University. Professor Attard was invited by the Rector of the University of Malta to the wreath-laying ceremony held at the University.

The Institute's flags were also flown at half-mast in his honour.

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