



Plight of Human Rights In Iran



Good Afternoon ladies & gentlemen,

From the inception of Islamic governance in Iran in 1979, the Iranian people have suffered a dark fate indeed. The Westernized, progressive rule of the Shah was replaced by a hard-line Islamic fundamentalist regime that manipulated and misconstrued the laws of the Muslim faith so to maintain its power. In doing so, Khomeini's regime violated and defiled the holiness and sanctity of its own religion. The archaic social standards that it set were indeed medieval and brutally oppressive. Dissidents were murdered by the thousands and women found themselves in a terrifying new predicament where their own government treated them as lesser human beings; they had become mere objects subject to the absolute domination of the opposite sex and their social pursuits were limited only to the confines of their own households. These conditions still persist today as we now approach two-and-a-half decades of corruption. The only thing sadder than the current state of Iran is the fact that the integrity of the Islamic faith, which is the largest in the world, has been compromised in the process. By who? Ironically so, Islam's integrity has been diluted by the very same people who are meant to preserve it, the cleric leaders or *mullahs* of Iran who refuse to separate the powers of church and state.

Religion is not an enemy of civilization. In fact, it is a very valuable and positive enterprise in the sense that it provides spiritual sustenance and moral direction for the greater portion of all humanity. The enemies of modern civilization are those who



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incorrectly apply religion; those who corruptly wield the power of faith so to satiate private motives of oppression and greed. Instances of religious governance often typify this sort of manipulation and Iran is a prime example. Human rights are currently crippled by the Islamic Republic of Iran and until church and state are separated, the individual rights of Iranians will continue to be undermined and abused. Religion, especially Islam, is monotheistic and thus autocratic in nature, leaving it fundamentally opposed to the notion of a democracy, which prevails today as the most fair and just system of national governance worldwide. The Iranian people desperately deserve a bill of rights. Human rights and basic civil liberties are not mere commodities to be restricted by forced doctrines of faith, but rather they are critical elements of life on Earth. The Mullahs of Iran denounce America as a government only because America allows its citizens what they cannot: a bill of rights and a constitution that allows people the opportunity to make change for the benefit of a great many instead of just a few.

Change is overdue. Religion is not to be forced but adopted voluntarily. Democracy in Iran is needed and must prevail. Politics and religion are like oil and water. Together they do not mix and constitute nothing more than a mess. However, when they are separate they are very valuable and human beings benefit greatly from both of them. Much of the developed world has acknowledged this reality and it is time for the mullahs to do the same. History has taught us that all tyranny eventually falters as good always prevails over evil; and institutions built upon foundations of treachery ultimately crack and crumble. The mullahs must step down from their executive duties and face the



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reality they must relegate themselves to the practice of Islam, which is really all that they have been properly trained to do. Only then, can the fate of Iran be resurrected by a democracy that provides accountability, equity, and freedom for all Iranians. The mullahs will step down in time, whether they would like to or not, as this is undeniably the future of Iran; however we must do whatever is in our power to see that this critical change happens sooner rather than later.

Thank you and have a great day.

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