

Once More the People's Trust is Betrayed

Mohammad Derakhshesh

Contrary to what has been claimed by Hojat-ol-Eslam Khatami, the new President of Iran's clerical government, his main goal is to solidify the Rule of the Jurisconsult in Iran rather than to establish the Rule of Law and a civil society. If he is now talking of freedom and democratic slogans, it is only to convince people to collaborate with the oppressive religious regime.

A good test of Khatami's sincerity about liberty and freedom of expression was his reaction to Ayatollah Montazeri's critical remarks on the Rule of the Jurisconsult. It was identical to the reactions of the other clerical figures who hold power in Iran and demonstrated that the regime would not tolerate any voice of dissent as to how the affairs of the country should be conducted.

Several months have passed since Khatami assumed the presidency and he has not been able to deliver even one single promise among a dozen to which he committed himself during his electoral campaign. Meanwhile the country's economic situation continues to worsen, and the mounting inflation erodes the little purchasing power of the majority of Iranians. After the many tragedies we have suffered at the hands of the clerical establishment over the past nineteen years, it is only through the combined efforts of democratic forces that we can forge a collective will powerful enough to save our country and hope to shape its destiny.

When He Goes Private...

Abol Hassan Bani-Sadr

Abol Hassan Bani-Sadr obtained his degrees in Islamic Law and Economic Science from the University of Tehran. He was the first Iranian elected President after the fall of the monarchy and the establishment of a republican government under Khomeini. He now resides in Paris and devotes his time to research and writing.



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