

# **The Rule of Law! What Law?**

**Mohammad Derakhshesh**

Contrary to the belief that Mr. Khatami's election will open an era of freedom and prosperity in Iran, the regime is the only beneficiary of his victory. Before the elections, the government was politically and economically isolated from the rest of the world, and faced with an explosion of popular discontent on the domestic scene. Mr. Khatami's election has provided the regime with a safety value it lacked.

The new President has promised to carry out the Constitution: the law authored and dictated by Mr. Khomeini, the same law that leaves Iranians no other alternative than a blind obedience of the Jurisconsult.

The separation of religion from state will provide freedom to the people of Iran and protect their basic rights. With the rule of the Vali Faghih (Spiritual Leader), Iranians will not be able to achieve their sovereignty. A Constituent Assembly of freely elected representatives is the only law guaranteeing the people's rights and freedom in Iran.

## **Bani-Sadr Reveals Secrets from the early days of the Iranian Revolution**

**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.*

This is the first of a series of articles written exclusively for MEHREGAN by Abol Hassan Bani Sadr, Iran's first elected President after the 1979 Revolution. Bani-Sadr was among Khomeini's closest advisors and confidants, before the Ayatollah's return to Iran.

# Mehregan

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