

INVITATION

Conference on IRAN

“The human rights in Iran - how can the European community support the freedom movement in Iran?”

Friday, February 26, 2010

From 13:00 till 18:00 hrs

Marivaux Hotel, Adolphe Maxlaan 98, 1000 Brussels

Dear Sir, Madam,

Hereby we would like to invite you to a Conference on Iran which will be held on Friday February 26th, from 13:00 till 18:00 hrs at the Marivaux Hotel, Adolphe Maxlaan 98, 1000 Brussels.

Ever since the elections of June 12, the whole world has been watching the violent crackdown on demonstrations, the arrests, rape and torture, forced confessions, intimidation and brutal violations of human rights against the Iranian people and only a few days ago the execution of two of them.

If the events of the past months tell us anything, it is that Iran's people yearn for change. This change can only be won by the Iranian people themselves. But their voices need to be heard around the world. In this the European community has the duty to help them, and to support the freedom movement inside of Iran.

Certainly the single most valuable accomplishment which we have in our democratic Europe is the freedom of speech. In this spirit, we would like to invite you to this conference on Iran.

We express our hope that this conference will contribute to public awareness in the West, and at the same time encourage the Iranian people in their fight for human rights; that it will support them in their search for a new society based on democratic principles – a society based on *freedom, equality and brotherhood*.

Please register before **February 22, 2010** by sending your *name* and *organisation* to schobo@pandora.be.

For more information, please visit www.mehriran.de, or call 0032-14-71 57 50 (Lydia Boons) or 0031-6-44211692 (Anne-Marie van den Bercken).

We kindly request you to extend our invitation to any person or organisation you may know to be interested.

An overview of guest speakers attending the conference, as well as a preliminary conference program is provided below.

Sincerely yours,

Lydia Boons

Anne-Marie van den Bercken

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Speakers:

- ***Prof. Dr. Firouzeh NAHAVANDI****, Director CECIDE (Centre d'études de la coopération internationale et du développement), Professor ULB, President of the Board of Master of Science in Population and Development, Associate Professor at the Senghor University, Alexandria.
- ***Dr Seyed, Mostafa AZMAYESH***, scholar (Comparative religion sciences, Law history and comparative studies Christianity and Islam) member of the committee in support of the rights of the students and dervishes in Iran.
- ***Dirk TIELEMAN***, retired BRT and VRT radio and TV journalist. He was editor-in-chief of the programs 'Aktueel', 'Terzake' and 'Koppen'. He has won several trophies for Journalism and Press Awards. Author of: 'Iran, the third revolution.' He is still active as Manager of "Marco Polo", a company providing services to media enterprises and organizing training on handling media.
- ***Emile FRANCK***, Member of Amnesty International for more than 25 years, Gulf countries coordinator since 1998 and secretary of Middle East and North Africa Amnesty International Belgium (French speaking department)
- ***Nasser FAKHTEH***, Dutch/Iranian author of "Someone else" (Balans, 1996), "Couchette, Writers on the road" (Balans, 1996), and "Outside mirrors" and stories about Holland (Van Gennep, 1998).

Program*

13:00 hrs: Film about the recent dramatic events in Iran

13:30 hrs: opening, short statements of the speakers regarding the situation in Iran,
press conference

14:30 hrs: break

15:00 hrs: speakers highlight their point of view

16:00 hrs: short break

16:20 hrs: Interaction with public: How can the European community support the
Freedom movement in Iran?

Musical accompaniment: Omîd (hope)

Music for the soul, based on old and new Sufi poems and rhythms, on daf, flute, guitar and vocals

* subject to change