

MAR05-2004-000247

Abstract for an Invited Paper
for the MAR05 Meeting of
the American Physical Society

Human Rights in Iran after the 1978 Islamic Revolution

HADI HADIZADEH, Ohio University

Iranians have been fighting for their rights since early 1900. The history of this struggle will be reviewed with emphasis on what might be termed the modern era, which began with the return of Ayatollah Khomeini to Iran in February 1979. A brief summary of the modern era Iran Constitution also will be presented. Although Iranians had been promised a democracy within the framework of Islam, in reality Khomeini instituted a theocratic regime dominated by himself as “Supreme Leader” with almost unlimited powers. Surprisingly, these powers actually were expanded after Khomeini’s passing. For years now, many Iranian intellectuals, as well as a good portion of the nation, religious or not, have been challenging the absolute powers of the Supreme Leader through legal means. Big prices have been paid, but the friction between the so called “reformists” and the “fundamentalists” are on the rise without a bright future. These frictions, stemming in large part from the conflicts between the “elected” and “non-elected” bodies in the political system, will be discussed. The roles of political activists, reformists, and the “so-called” “religious nationalists” – and the prices they are paying – will also be discussed.