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Ebrahim Yazdi

"Iranian Politics and U.S.-Iranian Relations"

Monday, April 21 , 2008

Noon

Mershon Center for International Security Studies
1501 Neil Ave., Columbus, OH 43201

To reserve your spot for this event, please respond to [Melanie Mann](#) at mann.281 by 5 p.m. on Thursday, April 17, 2008.

Ebrahim Yazdi is Secretary-General of the Freedom Movement of Iran, which has been declared illegal by some Iranian officials. He has a long history of involvement in Iranian politics, and has been equally praised and condemned by figures on all sides of the issues.

After the military coup of 1953, which deposed the government of Muhammad Mussadegh, Yazdi joined the underground National Resistance Movement of Iran, an organization that worked against the Shah, Muhammad Reza Pahlavi.

Yazdi traveled to the United States in 1960 to continue his education in medicine and continued his involvement in political activities against the Shah. He was a founding member of the Freedom Movement of Iran, Abroad in 1961. Because of these activities, he was unable to return to Iran and remained in the United States until the Islamic Revolution of 1979.

A long-time resident of Houston, Texas, Yazdi was a faculty member at the Baylor College of Medicine, with appointments in the Departments of Pathology and Pharmacology. At Baylor, he was engaged in cancer research and published several original journal articles in fields of Molecular Oncology.

After the Islamic Revolution of 1979, Yazdi became Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs in the interim government of



Ebrahim Yazdi
Secretary-General
of the Freedom
Movement of Iran
Former foreign minister
of Iran

Mehdi Bazargan.

The day after the victory of the revolution, several foreign embassies in Tehran, including those of the United States, United Kingdom, and Yugoslavia were overrun by groups identifying themselves as leftist revolutionaries. The opinion of the Revolutionary Council, of which Yazdi was a member, was that these attacks were aimed at creating chaos and preventing the international recognition of the new regime.

In the case of the U.S. embassy, the attackers were successful in entering the embassy compound and capturing personnel, including the U.S. ambassador. At the request of Ayatollah Khomeini and the Revolutionary Council, Yazdi went to the embassies and resolved the crisis, resulting in the release of embassy personnel and the departure of the attackers.

Later in 1979, the U.S. embassy was taken over again by a group calling itself "Students Following the Line of the Imam (i.e. Ayatollah Khomeini)."

As before, Yazdi was asked to go to the embassy and resolve the crisis. But before he could take any action, Khomeini appeared on state television and openly endorsed the takeover of the embassy. The entire cabinet of the Interim Government, including Yazdi, resigned in protest the next day.

After resigning, Yazdi and other members of the Freedom Movement of Iran ran in elections for the first post-revolutionary Islamic Consultative Assembly. He and four others were elected and served from 1980-84.

After the Iraqi invasion of Iran in September 1980, Yazdi fully supported the Iranian war effort, but opposed the continuation of the war after the Iranian victory in Khorramshahr in 1983. The war continued for an additional six years. During this time, Yazdi and others in the Freedom Movement issued open letters opposing the war to Ayatollah Khomeini. These letters resulted in the firebombing of Yazdi's residence in Tehran in 1985, and the arrest and imprisonment of several members of the Freedom Movement.

In subsequent elections in Iran for president, parliament, and city councils, Yazdi and others in the Freedom Movement of Iran filed for candidacy but were barred from running by the Guardian Council.

Yazdi is author of several medical, religious and political works including:

- *Aakhareen Talaash-ha Dar Aakhareen Rooz-ha* [Final Efforts, Final Days] (Qalam Publications, 1984; 13th ed., 1999), a report and analysis on the Iranian Islamic Revolution of 1979)
- *Principles of Molecular Genetics* (3rd ed., Ettela'at

- Publications, 2000)
- *Mutational Changes in Generic Materials* (Matin Cultural Foundation, 1986)
 - *Seh Jumhuri* [The Three Republics] (Jaameye Iranian Publications, 2000), a compilation of political essays and articles from 1997-2000
 - *Khatti Dar Darya* [A Line in the Sea] (Qalam Publications, 2000), a new interpretation of the verse of the Holy Quran on "Marajul Bahrain"
 - *Khaak-haa-ye Rosi va Paydaayesh-e Hayaat* [Clay Minerals and the Origin of Life] (Qalam Publications, 2001), a new interpretation of the verses of the Holy Quran on "Teen-e Laatheb")
 - *Kalbod Shekaafee-ye Towte-e: Barresee-ye Kudetaa-ye Beestohasht-e Mordaad 1332* [The Anatomy of a Plot: An Analysis of the Coup of August 1953] (Qalam Publications, 2002), a collection of essays on the U.S.- and British-led military coup against the government of Muhammad Mussaddegh
 - *Docterin-e Amniyyat-e Melli* [National Security Doctrine] (Sarai Publications, 2004), a compilation of essays on Iranian foreign affairs from 1980-2004
 - *Jonbesh-e Daaneshju-yi-e Iran 1320-1340* [The Iranian Student Movement from 1941-1961] (Qalam Publications, 2004), a history and memoirs of the student movement

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