

IN THE CORRIDORS OF POWER OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

Information and reflection afternoon: September 18th, 2014: 14h-16h30 (ULB)

Crises in the Middle-East follow one after another. Syria is aflame; Iraq is on the edge of breakup and the Shiite-Sunni conflict is escalating. In this context, United States and the Western world are unable to control the situation. Security and stability in the region and beyond... even the world, is at stake. For some time, one regional actor is gaining strength: the Islamic Republic of Iran. Iran was notably recently in the news for positions on the development of its nuclear capability and its network of regional influence. Yet few understand the mechanism of politico-religious legitimation established under the "absolute authority" of the Supreme Leader and the challenges of the fierce internal power struggle that takes place in relation to the major concerns of the moment: the nuclear crisis and human rights.

This video-conferencing afternoon of information and reflection held by the CECID/ULB, in collaboration with the MEDEA Institute, seeks to remedy these knowledge and information deficiencies.

And while changes at the international level focus attention on the competition between Saudi Arabia and Iran, and the Iran/USA rapprochement, major changes are afoot within the Islamic Republic, through its the "nominated" and "elected" institutions: the "Islamic Assembly," "Assembly of Experts," the Guardian Council of the Constitution and the Expediency Council. Meanwhile, the emergency replacement of the President of the Assembly of Experts intensifies conflict between the factions and makes the question of the appointment of the successor of the "Supreme Leader" imminent.

This event is therefore essential for all decision makers and actors interested in the Islamic Republic and their interlocutors.

The video-conference, in French and English, featuring renowned experts from around the world, will cover three issues critical to the future of the Islamic Republic and is aimed at research centers, institutions, European policy makers and the media. Discussion topics will include:

- ✓ A multidisciplinary look at the Iranian political system, the different factions and the role and status of the Supreme Leader;
- ✓ A systematic presentation of the various factions within the regime, their strategies of influence strategy, their levels of intervention in the sharing of political power and financial resources;
- ✓ The worsening political and financial crisis of the regime accentuated by the slow process of resolving the nuclear crisis;
- ✓ The unfulfilled promises of the Rohani government including respect for human Rights in Iran.
- ✓ Various change scenarios to meet the many challenges that the problem of the succession of the Supreme Leader exacerbates.

Main speakers: *Dr. Shirin Ebbad, Nobel Prize 2003 ; Prof. Nahavandi, ULB ; Dr. Nourizadeh, Director of Iran Farda London ; Prof. Zibakalam, Political Science Faculty, Tehran University ; Dr. Parsi, National Iranian American Council ; Dr. Golpour, ULB; Dr. Sébastien Boussois, MEDEA Institute.*

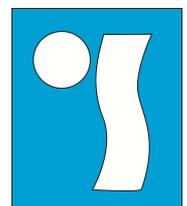
The final program will be available as soon as possible.



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