Nikahang Kowsar

Being Funny Is Not that Funny: Contemporary Editorial Cartooning in Iran (Illustrations)

Figure 1. "Ostad Temsah" by Nikahang Kowsar, *Azad* newspaper, 2000. "Professor Crocodile" cries: "Nobody's gonna help me get rid of this mercenary writer?" This cartoon caused a national security crisis in 2000, weeks before the sixth parliamentary election.

Figure 2. Portrait of Iraj Mirza, possibly drawn by Morteza Momayez.

Figure 3. Cover of *Mollah Nasreddin*, 1909. The cartoon is about religion and income, and is based on a Persian proverb about the friendship of an "Aunt Bear" who, in the end, kills her friend in order to get rid of a "Fly."

ملت ـ آهای متدی ، پاشو جلوی حملهٔ سگها را بگیر
پیشوا ـ بگیر بخواب ؛انشاءالله گربه است

Figure 4. Cartoon of a worker (representing the nation) talking to Prime Minister Mosadegh, *Chalengar* weekly, 1953. *Nation*: Hey! Stop the dogs! [British sponsored politicians, goons, members of the military are implied] *Mosadegh*: "Go to sleep, hopefully it's a cat."

« یکی از رقمهای بزرگ پیش بینی شده برای درآمد
دولت درسال آینده ، جریمه‌های تخلف رانندگان است»
ـ خدایا خداوندا!..رانده‌های ماروسال آینده خلافکارترکن ! ؟

Figure 5. Cartoon of Prime Minister Hoveida. Cartoon by Kambiz Derambakhsh, *Tofigh* weekly, 1960s. The government is counting on driving tickets as a main source of income for the next year. Prime Minister Hoveida prays: "Oh God, make our drivers more offensive next year!"

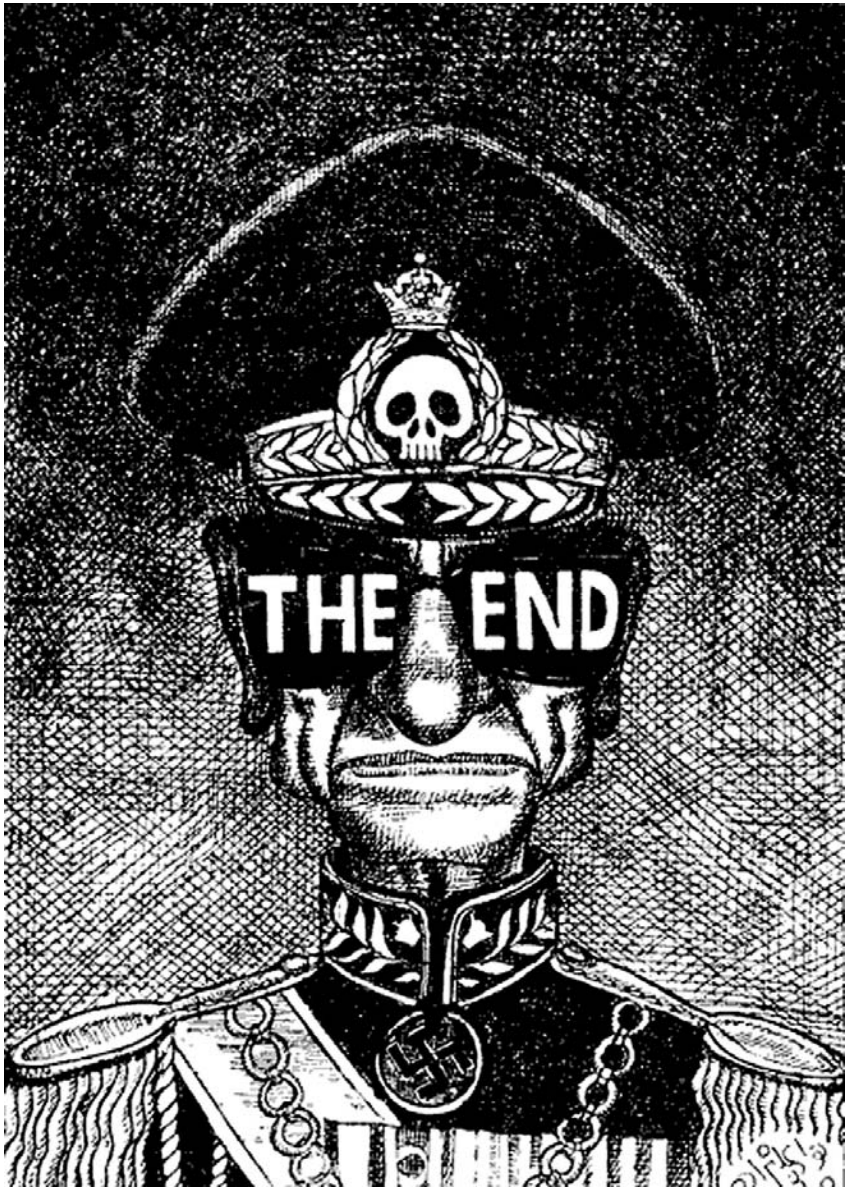

Figure 6. Caricature of the Shah of Iran. Cartoon by Javad Alizadeh, 1979.

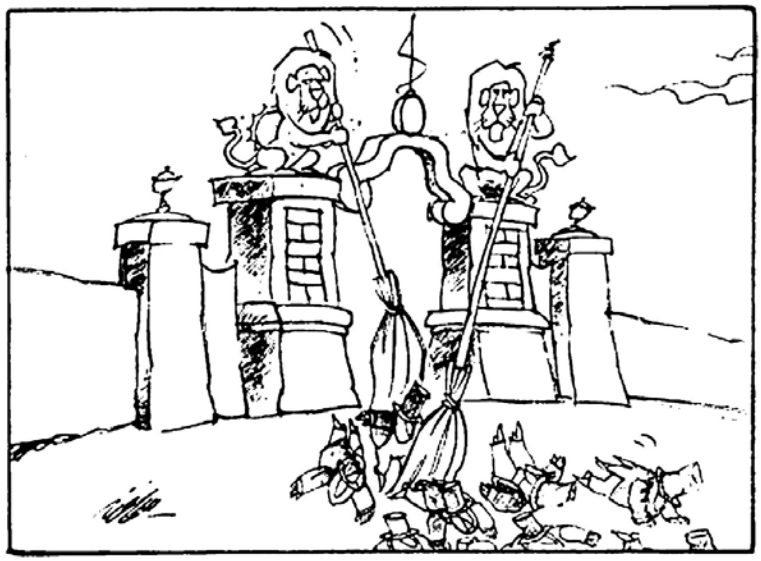

Figure 7. The Iranian Parliament getting rid of prerevolution parliamentarians. Cartoon by Ahmad Sakhavarz, possibly *Etellaa'aat* newspaper, 1979.

Figure 8. Cleaning the occupied city of Khorramshahr from the remains of Saddam Hossein. Cartoon by Hossein Khosrojerdi, *Kayhan* newspaper, 1982.

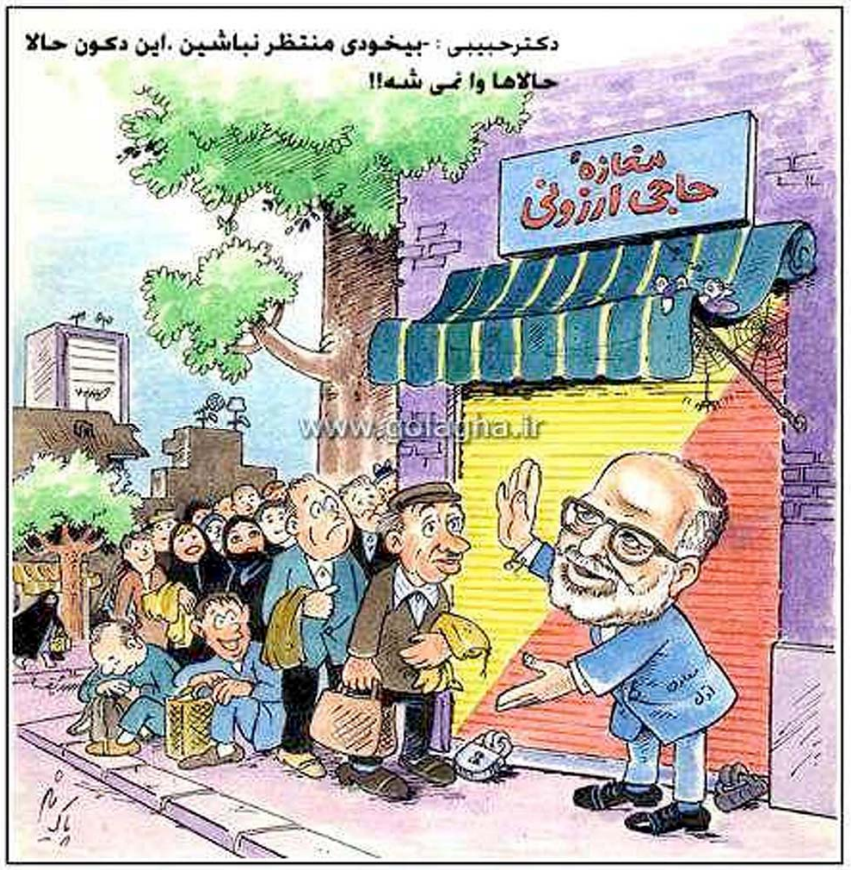

Figure 9. Cover artwork for *Golagha* magazine's first issue. Art by Nasser Pakshir, October 1990. Vice President Habibi outside the "Mr. Cheap Grocery": "You don't have to wait, this store will not open in the near future."

Figure 10. Cover artwork for *Golagha* magazine. Art by Ahmad Arabani, 1992. "Welcome to the members of the 4th Parliament." The cartoon refers to the newly elected members who are financially weak, and compares them to the older members who are leaving the Parliament with considerable money. It is a visual joke on the benefits of being a member of parliament.

Figure 11. Illustration published by *Farad* magazine in 1992. Hassan Karimzadeh confessed under torture to being its creator.

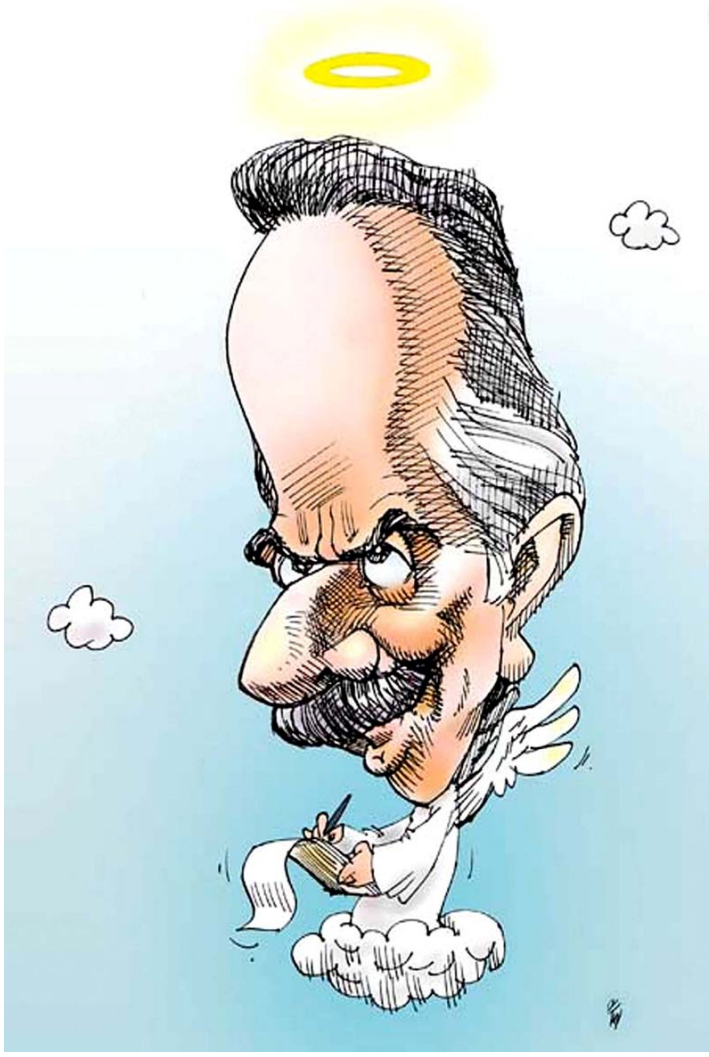

Figure 12. Kioumars Saberi. Caricature by Nikahang Kowsar, 2004.

Figure 13. The author being sent to Evin prison, accompanied by two police officers. Photo by Behrouz Mehry Sobh-e. *Emrooz* newspaper, February 2000. I smiled to give hope to my friends and family and to the readers of the newspapers I was working for.

Figure 14. The author after being freed on bail, with his six-month-old daughter and wife. On the phone with Robert Russell of CRNI. Photo by Behrouz Mehry Sobh-e, Feb. 2000.

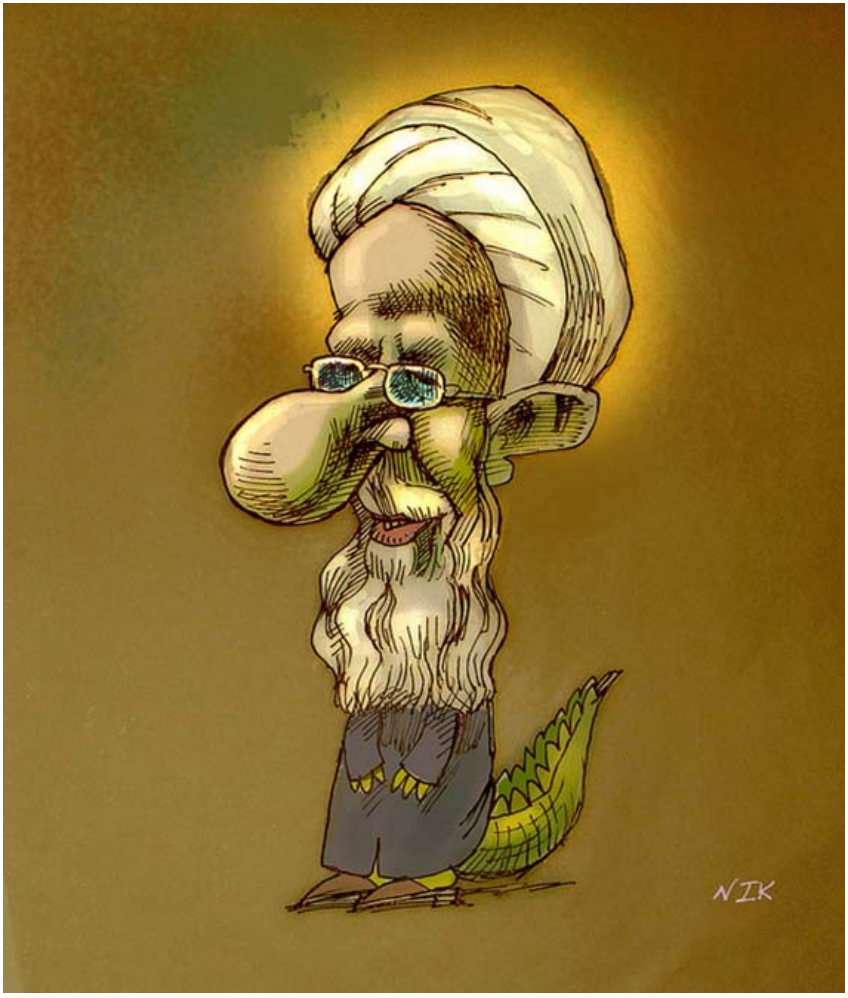

Figure 15. Ayatollah Mesbah Yazdi's caricature. Cartoon by Nikahang Kowsar, Roozonline.com, France, 2010.

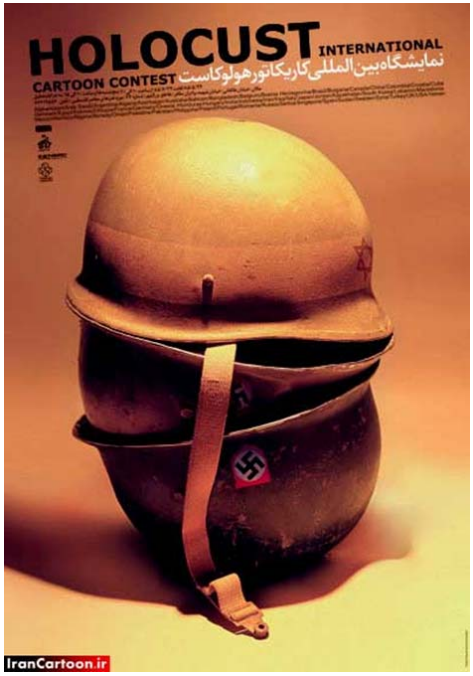

Figure 16. Poster for the International Holocaust Cartoon Competition, 2006.

●روش اول: گفتمان●

بعضی ها معتقدن که آدم نباید از همون اول بره سراغ خشونت ورزی، چون که خیلی، مزه اش می ره. پس اول باید سعی کنیم خیلی متمدنانه بشینیم سر یه میز و با سوسک ها گفت وگو کنیم. اما مشکل اینجاست که سوسک، زبون آدم حالیش نمی شه. دستور زبان سوسکی هم آنقدر سخته (هنوز هیچ کی درست نفهمیده کدوم فعل هاشون ing می گیره) که هشتاد درصد خود سوسک هام بلد نیستن و ترجیح می دن به زبون های دیگه حرف بزنن. وقتی

Figure 17. Mana Neyestani's "Cockroach" cartoon. *Iran* newspaper, 2006.

Figure 18. President Ahmadinejad tying the Nuclear "13 be-dar knot." Cartoon by Hadi Heidari, *Etemad-e Melli* newspaper, 2006. In Iran, girls tie a grass knot on the thirteenth day of spring in hope of marriage.

Figure 19. Mir Hossein Mousavi, the leader of the Green Movement. Caricature by Bozorgmehr Hosseinpour, 2009