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."
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.”

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 *Etella’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.”
“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 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.

**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 Mell* 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