

MIT Iranian Cultural Group (ICG)

May 31, 2009

ICG Mission:

MIT Iranian Cultural Group (ICG) was established in 2008 due to the need for addressing some of the crucial socio-cultural causes of Iranian people as felt by the Iranian community inside and outside MIT. For many years, we have been trying very hard to approach and work with other local Iranian groups and associations inside and outside MIT to use the freedom and facilities readily available to us in the US to address the socio-cultural causes of Iranian people while benefiting and enriching our local community, especially at MIT.

Unfortunately, we came to the sad conclusion that almost all of the local Iranian groups inside and/or outside MIT have been avoiding their main social responsibilities toward Iranian people by simply labeling the crucial socio-cultural causes as “political”.

ICG Membership:

Currently **ICG** members are currently consisted of MIT students (undergrad/grad), alumni, and staff. **MIT ICG** is not associated with either **MIT PSA** (*Persian Students Association*) or **IAB** (*Iranian Association of Boston*) however some of our members belong to these associations too.

ICG Principles:

We operate based on a set of tentative principles which are currently as follows:

What we ARE and/or we DO!

- Do make decisions democratically.
- Do seek and consider opinions from the community.
 - Are open to new ideas.
 - Do Act legitimately and legally.
 - Are proud of being and/or called Iranian.
- Do give priority to Iranian Culture and Persian language whenever possible.
- Are willing to cooperate with any individual/group who respects our principles.

What we are NOT and/or we DON'T DO!

- We DON'T censor ourselves and/or others.
- We DON'T avoid our social responsibility by labeling new challenges as “political”.
- We are NOT associated with any party, religion, or political view inside or outside Iran.
- We are NOT getting any financial support from any individual and/or organization.
 - Politics is NOT our business but we do NOT actively try to avoid it.
 - We do NOT hide our Iranian identity.

(These principles might be publicly/formally changed by the acting member if needed.)

ICG Emphasis:

We try to emphasize on our Iranian heritage and culture because it either does not exist or if a little left, is disappearing fast from the agenda of other local Iranian groups. For example, PSA has been putting most of its efforts and resources on [PSA Halloween Party](#) and the highlight of IAB achievements is their [IAB Norouz Concert Party](#) while they are paying very little attention to Iranian culture and heritage. The following link describes only one of such examples:

[Yalda Night at PSA, IAB, and in front of Evin Prison.](#)

In the past, some of our members have tried very hard to reverse such worsening trends from inside these associations by initiatives such as the one described in the following link but they have not achieved any lasting result.

[Yalda Night 1386: Culture/History Trivia/Contest](#)
[Happy Yalda Night 1387!](#)

ICG Recent Achievements:

During a relatively short period, **MIT Iranian Cultural Group** has organized and/or sponsored numerous events for the local Iranian community. You can find the details about some of **ICG** recent activities at:

[Mehrangiz Kar Talk on “Women and 2009 Presidential Elections in Iran”](#)
[“Festival of Acclaimed Persian Movies for a Better Understanding of Iranian Women”](#)
[“A Brief Study of Iran through 5 Acclaimed Movies at MIT”](#)
[MIT Iranian Cultural Group events page on Kodoom.com](#)
[Sponsorship: Free Sneak Preview of movie: “Songs of Sparrows” by Majid Majidi](#)

ICG Challenges:

One of our most difficult tasks in organizing our events has been getting the announcements to our Iranian audience because we had to relay on other the local Iranian mailing lists that at most were doing too little, too late. Against the interests of Iranian people, we have sadly and repeatedly experienced that the intentional or unintentional action/inaction of some local “Iranian” associations/groups, through the use/abuse of their mailing lists, had resulted in what even the paid agents of the Ahmadinejad regime could not achieve in Boston area, namely the censorship of the voice of dissent under ridiculous excuses.

ICG Request:

You can help us to minimize our reliance on other Iranian email lists by sending us your emails and forwarding our emails to your mailing lists. We are very much mindful of Iranians sensitivity to giving out their emails in such cases. However you can rely on our credibility through our past actions/events that we will only use your emails for announcing our event-related news and will never disclose them to anyone.

ICG Contact Info and Invitation:

If you have any comments/questions or would like to be part of our movement for enriching our Iranian community while supporting the causes of Iranian people,

please email **ICG** at: MIT.Iranian@yahoo.com

(You do NOT have to be a member of MIT community to do so!)

Notes:

1. We recently corrected/changed our name from “*MIT Persian Cultural Group*” to “*MIT IRANIAN Cultural Group*” to reflect our inclusiveness, based on the constructive suggestions we received from our members. (The use of “Persian” is appropriate when referring to say “Farsi” language or a historical period but NOT for describing the current nation of Iran!)
2. *ICG* official website is under construction and will be publicly launched soon.