

**To: Dear Friends and Associates of Professor Hooshang Amirahmadi**  
**RE: London Trip**

Professor Hooshang Amirahmadi ([www.amirahmadi.com](http://www.amirahmadi.com)) will be visiting London from August 3 (10 am) through August 8 (12 noon). He will be staying at SWISSOTEL THE HOWARD, LONDON, Temple Place WC2R 2PR. Phone: 207-836-3555.

He will be speaking at a panel on Iran's foreign policy and spent time meeting friends and associates. The information about the panel is provided below (participation requires registration with ISIS - [http://www.iranian-studies.com/isis\\_conference.shtml](http://www.iranian-studies.com/isis_conference.shtml)). For private visits, please contact hotel and leave message. In case you MUST directly contact him, please call: 001-609-252-0088 (office in the US) or 001-609-509-2999 (mobile).

With best regards,

Samira Bakhshi  
Assistant to Professor Amirahmadi

#### ABSTRACT

Iran's International Relations  
For Presentation at the ISIS Conference in London  
August 4, 2006, 11:00 am -12:30 pm  
KLT Room, SOAS, London University

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The international relations of the Islamic Republic of Iran have been in perpetual crisis since its inception in 1979. While hardly anyone would argue against the fact of the perpetual crisis, there is no unanimity about its causes. The explanations range from foreign conspiracy against the revolution, to premeditated nature of the crisis, to mismanagement of the foreign policy. While such explanations are helpful, they are not adequate for a deeper appreciation of the problem and for remedial prescriptions. This paper argues that the perpetual crisis is rooted in the theocratic state model and its non-correspondence with the globalization process, failure of the republic in the arena of domestic democratization, the misguided foreign policy priorities, including the lackadaisical Eastward orientation, and the spiral conflict with the United States and Israel. The paper will first offer a periodization of the international crisis of the Islamic regime, and then explains why the crisis is rooted in the particular factors, specifying the factor load for each given period. Examples will be provided to demonstrate the arguments, focusing on US-Iran relations. The paper will also attempt to project the future direction of the republic's foreign relations, and offer recommendations for a more appropriate and proactive international policy that is more in accord with Iran's national interests. The basic conditions for such a re-orientation of Iran's foreign policy will be outlined and justified.