

Video available at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RsGajVt7aCU>.

<http://enduringamerica.com/2009/07/01/iran-the-ghaffari-tape-criticising-the-supreme-leader/>

1.7.2009

Iran Audio and Text: The “Ghaffari Tape” Criticising the Supreme Leader

Iran: The Post-Election Challenge from the Clerics of Qom

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Last week, Ayatollah Hadi Ghaffari made a lengthy speech criticising the post-election conduct of the Iranian Government. That in itself was not surprising; other clerics have expressed unease with the events of the last three weeks. Ghaffari went further, however, with his direct challenge to the Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. Unsurprisingly, the leaked audio has created a stir inside and outside Iran. Another copy on YouTube is overlaid with less-than-flattering caricatures of Khamenei.

The audio is in Farsi, of course. Translated extracts, provided by the National Iranian American Committee, follow:

Aytollah Qaffari Video

GHAFFARI: Khamenei, your recent actions and behavior has brought shame to us clerics. Our image in the streets and bazaars has been tarnished as everyone is placing us in the same category as Ahmadinejad....Khamenei, you are wrong, your actions are wrong. I believe in the Velayat-e-faqih [system of clerical authority] more than you....

I'm not preaching these messages so that I could be associated with the West. I loathe the West and will fight to the last drop of my blood before I or my land

succumbs to the West. On the contrary, I'm preaching these messages on the count that the respect for our profession is gone....

Young people are not praying anymore, whose fault is that? It is your fault Mr. Khamenei, it's your fault for placing us in the same line as that lunatic Ahmadinejad....Ahmadinejad is nobody, you should congregate with us instead of him.

by: Scott Lucas in Middle East & Iran