



## **Anti-regime violence erupting in Iran as crowds burn pictures of Khamenei**

*New York Sun, Mar. 17* - Iranians reportedly took to the streets in protest of their government last night as a Persian fire ritual in Tehran turned into a pretext for anti-regime violence.

A crowd of people in Iran's capital began kindling fires for the holiday with pictures of Iran's supreme ruler, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, in front of the headquarters of the Sepah Pasdaran, the state's security service. In some clashes in Tehran neighborhoods, crowds of demonstrators threw homemade explosives at the feet of anti-riot police and set patrol cars ablaze...

"It is our view that the human-rights situation in Iran has been taking a turn for the worse," a State Department official told the Sun yesterday. "On the whole it would seem Iran is less democratic now than it was three to four years ago. We take domestic developments in Iran very seriously."