

## Appendix VII

### Persecution of the Baha'i Community in the Islamic Republic of Iran

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#### **Baha'is Currently Imprisoned in Iran**

*Current as of 16 July 2009 (only published names; information changes daily and some arrests go undocumented)*

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1. **Enayatollah Haghightjou** — arrested 13 May 2007 in Shiraz and sentenced to 1-year imprisonment suspended for 4 years.
2. **Haleh Rouhi** — arrested 19 May 2006 in Shiraz and sentenced to 4 years in prison.
3. **Raha Sabet** — arrested 19 May 2006 in Shiraz and sentenced to 4 years in prison.
4. **Sasan Taqva** — arrested 19 May 2006 in Shiraz and sentenced to 4 years in prison.
5. **Pouriya Habibi** — arrested 27 January 2008. Currently being held in Tehran's Evin prison.
6. **Simin Mokhtiari** — arrested 27 January 2008. Currently being held in Tehran's Evin prison.
7. **Mahvash Sabet** — arrested 5 March 2008 who is being held in Evin prison in Tehran.
8. **Fariba Kamalabadi Taefi** — first arrested on 26 July 2005 and again on 14 May 2008. Currently being held in Tehran's Evin prison with no trial date set or charges filed.
9. **Jamaloddin Khanjani** — first arrested on 25 September 2007 and again on 14 May 2008. Currently being held in Tehran's Evin prison with no trial date set or charges filed.
10. **Afif Naemi** — arrested on 14 May 2008 and is being held in Evin prison with no trial or charge announced.
11. **Saeid Rezaie** — arrested on 14 May 2008 and is being held in Evin prison with no trial or charge announced.
12. **Behrouz Tavakkoli** — first arrested on 26 July 2005 and again on 14 May 2008. He is being held in Tehran's Evin prison with no trial carried out.
13. **Vahid Tizfahm** — arrested 14 May 2008 in Tehran and being held in Evin prison with no trial having been held.
14. **Mehran Bandi** — arrested 29 May 2008 in Yazd and is serving a sentence of 3 1/2 years in prison and 3 years imprisonment in exile in Shahre Babak in Kerman.
15. **Foad Naeimi** — first arrested on 28 August 2005 and again on 22 May 2008 in Sari. Serving a 2 1/2 year prison sentence and 2 years imprisonment in exile sentence in Eghlid, Fars.
16. **Rouhieh Yazdani** — arrested on 26 October 2008 in Yasouj. Sentenced to 4 years in prison with two years suspended.

17. **Zolaykha Ravanbakhsh (Mousavi)** — arrested on 26 October 2008 in Yasouj and sentenced to 4 years imprisonment with two years suspended.
18. **(Mir) Aliaskar Ravanbakhsh** — arrested 26 October 2008 in Yasouj and sentenced to 4 years imprisonment with two years suspended.
19. **Feizollah Rowshan** — first arrested 1 November 2006 and again on 6 December 2008 in Sari. Sentenced to 1 year in prison and 4 years imprisonment in exile in Damghan.
20. **Sahba Fanaïyan (Rezvani)** — arrested 15 December 2008 in Semnan. No trial has been announced and sentences any sentence is unknown.
21. **Adel Fanaïyan** — first arrested 18 May 2005 and again on 4 January 2009 in Semnan. Sentenced to 6 months in prison.
22. **Abbas Nourani** — first arrested 18 May 2005 and again on 4 January 2009 in Semnan. Sentenced to 6 months in prison.
23. **Taherverdi Eskandarian** — arrested 4 January 2009 in Semnan and sentenced to 6 months in prison.
24. **Saman Sabeti** — arrested 4 February 2009 in Ghaemshahr. No trial date has been set or announced and any charges or sentencing unknown.
25. **Kayvan Karami** — arrested 21 February 2009 in Shiraz. No trial date has been set or announced and any charges or sentencing unknown.
26. **Payman Roohi** — arrested 1 March 2009 in Yazd. No trial date has been set or announced and any charges or sentencing unknown.
27. **Rostam Behifar** — arrested 1 March 2009 in Yazd. No trial date has been set or announced and any charges or sentencing unknown.
28. **Badiollah Abolfazli** — first arrested 14 July 2008 and again on 2 March 2009 in Nashtarood, Sari. Sentenced to 2 years in prison.
29. **Pooya Tebyanian** — arrested 8 March 2009 in Semnan and sentenced to 2 1/2 years in prison.
30. **Shahram Chiniyan Miandoabi** — arrested in March 2009. Location of detention either Hassanabad or Miandoab.
31. **Moshfegh Samandari** — arrested 14 April 2009 in Babol. No trial date has been set or announced and any charges or sentencing are unknown.
32. **Vahdat Dana** — first arrested 25 May 2009 and again on 25 April 2009 in Shiraz.
33. **Shahram Safajou** — arrested 26 April 2009 in Karaj.
34. **Mohammad Reza Kandi** — first arrested 9 April 2008 and again on 25 April 2009 in Manzadaran. Sentenced to 7 months in prison.
35. **Ms. Manijeh Nasrollahi** — former member of the Semnan Khademin (the group that used to take care of the affairs of the Baha'i community at the local level), was arrested in her home in Semnan on 17 June 2009 by Intelligence Ministry agents. No more details are known.

## **Baha'i Leaders Remain Unjustly Detained After One Year**

*Group of Seven Should Be Freed Immediately*

(14 May 2009) Seven Baha'i leaders detained in Evin prison, Fariba Kamalabadi, Jamaloddin Khanjani, Afif Naeimi, Saeid Rezaie, Mahvash Sabet, Behrouz Tavakkoli and Vahid Tizfahm, should be immediately and unconditionally released, the *International Campaign for Human Rights in Iran* said today. Six members of the group were arrested one year ago today; Mahvash Sabet was arrested on 5 March 2008.

“The illegal and unjust detention of these seven Baha'i leaders, which again shows a policy of oppressing a religious minority, must be brought to an end,” said Aaron Rhodes, spokesperson for the *Campaign*. “The group is being denied basic civil rights by neither being allowed to visit with their lawyer, nor being formally charged with any crime.”

Family members of the detainees have reportedly been told that the charges against them will be *Mofsed-e fel-Arz*, or “spreading corruption on earth,” a charge that carries the death sentence. This same charge was used against Baha'i leaders immediately following the Islamic Revolution as justification for their executions.

Alireza Jamshidi, the Judiciary's spokesperson, announced on 17 February 2009 that a court hearing for the group would be arranged within a week, but no hearing has been announced or held.

“These charges are extremely serious and the Iranian government should account for such accusations with verifiable evidence, or release the detainees” Rhodes said. Members of the Baha'i Faith in Iran number approximately 300,000, making them the largest non-Muslim religious minority group. In recent years the persecution of Baha'is has intensified to include cemetery desecration, arbitrary detention, home raids, property confiscation, work expulsion and denial of basic civil rights. Iranian Baha'i youth continue to be denied the right to higher education, and any university found to have a Baha'i student is ordered to expel them. Baha'i professionals are denied government jobs and face discrimination from private businesses because of their faith. Harassment also occurs from ordinary citizens, for example the cars and homes of Baha'is reportedly being vandalized. Even those who come to their defense are targeted. Nobel Peace laureate Shirin Ebadi has come under fire for taking up the case of the seven Baha'i leaders.

There are currently at least 40 Baha'is in detention throughout Iran. In the month of April alone, arrests were reported in six cities.

Baha'is released on bail have been ordered to pay exorbitant amounts. [Aziz Samandari](#) and [Jinous Sobhani](#), a former secretary at the *Defenders of Human Rights Center*, were released on 11 March on bail of 700 million Rials (approximately \$73,000). Didar Raoufi, Payam Aghsani and Nima Hagar were released on the same day and ordered to pay the same amount. Shahrokh Taef was released six days later on 17 March 2009 having paid the same amount in bail.

The *International Campaign for Human Rights in Iran* calls on the government of Iran to comply with international human and civil rights standards and account for the detentions of all Baha'is in Iran. The *Campaign* urges Iranian leaders to investigate all discriminatory crimes against Baha'is and to allow Baha'i youth the opportunity to attend university.

"The continued persecution of the Baha'i community in Iran degrades all of the people of Iran," Rhodes said. "The arbitrary detention and targeting of members of any single community should not be tolerated in any country, including Iran."

## **Baha'i Community in Peril**

(17 February 2009) Attacks on the Baha'i community in Iran have reached alarming levels, including semi-official calls for its "utter destruction," the *International Campaign for Human Rights in Iran* said today. The *Campaign* called on the Iranian government to immediately cease its increasingly violent threats against the members of the Baha'i Faith, and to release members of the Baha'i Faith who are being held without charge. The *Campaign* also called on the international community to strongly condemn the Iranian government's escalating persecution of the Baha'i religious minority.

The government has intensified its attacks on the members of the Baha'i Faith during the past year. There are currently at least 30 Baha'is in detention throughout the country. The Baha'is, numbering inside Iran at about 300,000, are a religious minority that is not recognized under Iranian law. For the past 30 years they have been targets of official discrimination, and about 200 members have been executed or murdered since the 1979 revolution.

On 11 February 2009, a Judiciary official identified as Judge Haddad, said that the trial of seven leaders of the Baha'i community will take place soon, according to the Iranian Students News Agency. The report quoted Haddad as saying the charges against the Baha'is include "spying for Israel, insulting the sacred, and propaganda against the system." The seven Baha'i leaders have been in detention since March 2008, without access to legal council. Their lawyer, Shirin Ebadi, the 2003 Nobel Peace Laureate, told the *Campaign* that she has not yet been provided any details about their indictment and prosecution. She said she expected to receive their file in the coming week before their trial is held.

Officials escalated their attacks on the Baha'i Faith in what appeared to be a public relations ploy to influence the outcome of the case ahead of the trial. On 15 February 2009, Iran's Attorney General, Ayatollah Ghorbanali Dorri-Najafabadi, in a letter to Intelligence Minister Mohsen Ejei, said that the Baha'i Faith "in all its levels is illegal

and unofficial. Their dependence on Israel and their enmity with Islam and the Islamic government is certain and their danger to national security is documented," the semi-official Fars News agency reported.

The report by Fars News concluded by interpreting the letter as a license "to decisively confront the elements of [this] organization, until its utter destruction is achieved."

The *Campaign* called on the Iranian Judiciary to hold the upcoming trial according to international fair trial standards and to guarantee the rights of the accused in an open and transparent environment.

"The charges leveled against the leading Baha'is are very serious. All indications, from their detention to their upcoming prosecution, suggest that the charges are unfounded and politically motivated," said Hadi Ghaemi, the *Campaign's* spokesperson. "The prosecution will have no credibility if it fails to provide evidence publicly to prove these charges, and if no proper defense is possible. Under such circumstances, the trial will be no more than a witch hunt," he added.

The Iranian government has consistently accused the Baha'i Faith of being an instrument of the Israeli government but has never provided any evidence to support the charge. Official propaganda has always pointed to the presence of the Baha'i World Center in Haifa, Israel. However, the establishment of the Center dates back to the Ottoman Empire in 1868, when founders of the Faith were exiled there.