

Medical Professionals for Human Rights in Iran – Austria

گروه پزشکان و کادر پزشکی مدافع حقوق بشر در ایران- اتریش



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Systematic repression against Baha'i citizens in Iran

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen

In recent days and weeks we have witnessed a new wave of arrests and summonses of Baha'i citizens in Iran by government officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The repression and increasing pressure by the Iranian government on the Baha'i, including the imposition of severe penalties on them, have continued, according to the reports received, especially in recent weeks, and are unfortunately even harsher this time than before.

In addition to the arrest and detention of dozens of Baha'i, the destruction of homes, the confiscation of property, house searches and the ransacking of personal belongings by government officials, among other chicanes, there is a new wave of persecution of Baha'i citizens.

Restrictions and repressive measures against followers of Baha'i faith in the Islamic Republic include banning them from studying at universities, excluding them from a wide range of jobs, dismissing them from public service and creating numerous restrictions in the private sector of economic and social life.

In Iranian government media, Bahaim is labelled a "deviant sect" and judicial and security authorities have repeatedly labelled Baha'is as "spies and enemies" and made false accusations against them such as "inciting defiance of the veil", "causing public nuisance" or "spreading blasphemous teachings" in schools and educational centres. This leads to arrest warrants, fines, executions, confiscation of property and deprivation of education and business.

Committee for the Defence of Human Rights in Iran– Austria
جامعه دفاع از حقوق بشر در ایران- اتریش

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According to reliable statistics and sources, more than three hundred thousand Baha'i citizens live in Iran. However, the Constitution of the Islamic Republic does not recognise the Baha'i Faith as a religion, and on this basis Baha'i rights have been systematically violated in Iran in recent years. The aforementioned harassment, restrictions and exclusions are part of the Islamic Republic's "systematic pressure" against one of the country's largest non-Shia religious minorities, which has increased alarmingly. (A clear violation of Articles 15 and 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights).

As human rights activists, we strongly condemn this inhumane policy of the government of the Islamic Republic towards the followers of the Baha'i teachings, which is reminiscent of the European fascist governments of the 1930s and 1940s towards the Jews, and demand an immediate end to this policy.

The Iranian government must fulfil its civil and human rights obligations and responsibilities towards all Iranian citizens, ensure their personal and social freedoms and end all discrimination, prejudice and restrictions against this group of citizens.

In conclusion, we call on all freedom-loving forces, parties, organisations, individuals and international human rights institutions to join us in condemning the Iranian government's "systematic violation of human rights" against Baha'i citizens and other minorities, and to call on the Iranian government to immediately stop all measures of oppression.

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