

[PROVISIONAL TRANSLATION FROM PERSIAN]

[Translator's notes appear in square brackets]

[Personal information has been **redacted**.]

This is to notify you:

With utmost disappointment (regretfully) a number of individuals claiming to be Muslims have attacked a site in Shiraz that is held as sacred by the Baha'is of the world and have demolished it with shovels and picks. Once again, the already weakened economy and the tourism industry of beloved Iran were damaged and the reputation of the Iranian Islamic Revolution was further tarnished in the international arena.

Learned General, there is no doubt as to your honesty, trustworthiness, insight, and true faith in principles and human virtues, at least in my view as an ordinary and perhaps rejected member of the society, owing to my Baha'i belief. I would like to state that since its inception, the Baha'i community has been one of the groups most loyal to the mandates of the government of Iran. The land of Iran has a special spiritual significance for the followers of the Baha'i Faith and they have proven this manifestly with their actions. However, it is not clear how the perpetrators of the material and spiritual hardships imposed upon the Baha'i community can justify such abhorrent acts. Which laws in the Quran or of divine government could justify such acts? In particular, at the present time, [those who carry out these acts] damage the good name and honour of the Islamic Revolution worldwide.

What is the fault of the Iranian Baha'i community? This is the question that should be asked of the perpetrators of these agonising events. If piety, serving humanity, teaching the Muslim Faith, introducing the Iranian culture and civilisation to people are sins, then said conduct is justifiable. The orders and action of the clergymen and government authorities, which must be commended, have not been effective for some unknown reason. The oppressed Baha'is of Iran are to endure blame, while other people are the actual anti-revolutionaries.

I urge, General, you who believes in the human rights that have emanated from the supreme teachings and principles of the Holy Quran, to bring these perilous events, [which] will dishonour the Iranian Islamic Revolution internationally, to the attention of the government authorities. May they find a wise solution for the situation of the Iranian Baha'i community and not allow the Iranian Baha'i community to be exposed to further injustice, [which] degrades the station of the sacred Faith of Islam amongst the people of the world.

With greetings and gratitude

27/6/1357 [18 September 1978]

[signature]

Major Javad Rahmani

[handwritten note at the bottom of the page]

Brigadier General Falahi has stated that I have conversed with the Imam about the Baha'is and he has asked why they persecute these people [illegible]. I have never issued any orders against these people; this has been discussed at the Revolutionary Council and they have not objected either.

29/6/1358 [20 September 1979]