

[PROVISIONAL TRANSLATION FROM PERSIAN]

[Translator's notes appear in square brackets.]

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

[The excerpt below is from the section of the article that pertains to the Baha'i Faith]

[Newspaper]: Payam-e Ostan-e Semnan

[Date:] Sunday, 4 Esfand 1387- 26 Safar 1430 - 22 February 2009

Imam Jum'a [Friday prayer leader] of Semnan has asked for decisive and legal confrontation with the perverse Baha'i sect.

News Service:

The provincial representative of the supreme leader and the Imam Jum'a of Semnan asked for a decisive and legal confrontation with the perverse Baha'i sect.

Hojatoleslam Seyyed Mohammad Shah Cheraghi, referring to a letter from the prosecutor general to the minister of intelligence regarding the illegitimacy of the perverse Baha'i sect, said Baha'ism was created by the usurper Israel, and with its centre in that country, it has no other objective but espionage.

He stated that the opposition of Baha'ism to Islam was clear and evident, and added that the regime officials must take a decisive and legal measure to confront this perverse sect.

The representative of the supreme leader in the Province of Semnan said that if the people choose, they can expel Baha'is from Iran, just as they expelled the shah, but we do not want this to cause an uproar; rather, we would like to abide by the law and want actions to be taken legally."

The Imam Jum'a of Semnan called any marriage or transaction with the Baha'is illegal, and added that it was not allowed, according to the fatwa of the Muslim scholars. Referring to the last three decades of the victory of the Islamic Revolution, moving into its the fourth decade, he said that the Revolution and Iran have witnessed much growth and many developments in various field in the last three decades...