

[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]

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Iran's Mission to the United Nations Called Clinton's Claim Ridiculous

In response to Clinton's claim comparing Iran's treatment of the Baha'is to the Massacre of Muslims in Bosnia and Herzegovina

New York – IRNA – 5 Ordibehesht [25 April] – The Islamic Republic's mission to the United Nations condemned Clinton's remarks as ridiculous.

In a published statement the Islamic Republic of Iran's mission, in response to the unexpected claims by the American President, implicitly questioned the wisdom and political awareness of Clinton and said, from a rational and political point of view, it is unbelievable that the American President equates the cleansing, massacre and dispersion of millions of Muslims from Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the rape of tens of thousands of Muslim women in that country, and the murder of 5000 Kurds in Iraq in chemical bombardments by the Baghdad regime, with the Islamic Republic of Iran's dealings with the Baha'is.

This statement added that Clinton made such remarks immediately after more than 80 people of the [Branch] Davidian Christian sect were burnt to death in an uprising which brought to mind the mass killing of Jews in Nazi Germany.

In this statement, the permanent mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations assures Clinton that Iran's behaviour toward members of the Baha'i sect has not been and will never be the same way the United States dealt with members of the [Branch] Davidian sect.

In this statement, the Iranian mission clearly stated no groups or sects in Iran are punished for their beliefs. Baha'is, like any other Iranian, are equally protected under the law and only in case of violating the law will they be punished.

It has to be said that at the opening ceremony in Washington of the U.S. Holocaust Museum, the American President criticised how the Baha'is were being treated in Iran.

Bill Clinton at the above-mentioned ceremony held in Washington said the mistreatment of Baha'is in Iran once again reminds us of the fragility of protecting civilization.

While condemning the crimes of Serbs in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Kurdish repression in northern Iraq on the occasion of the opening of the U.S. Holocaust Museum, Clinton compared the mistreatment of the Baha'is in Iran to the mass-murder of the Muslims in Bosnia.

It should be noted that the topic of mistreatment of Baha'is is one of the tools used by America to pressure Iran, which every once in a while is being used for propaganda by American officials and pseudo human rights organisations close to America.