

[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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Should Enter the Field with Power of Pen and Sense of Responsibility

Penned by: Rasoul Mehraban

These days, anyone who objects to the interim government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and seriously criticizes the governance method of the invisible Revolutionary Council and the arbitrary management of its broadcasting agency, and sincerely insists on demonstrating the way out of the chaos, and alerts and warns with sincerity and honesty, which is learnt in the schools of revolution and humanity, instead of receiving acknowledgement and gratitude, will be marked as an infidel, disbeliever, hypocrite, SAVAK, anti-revolutionary, opportunist and separatist ...

... Such political rulings and fatwas are [so] masked and adorned with religious holiness and divine sanctity, [and] were apparently in use by the Islamic caliphs of the Umayyad and Abbasid and Seljuk local governments, Al-Ziar and Ghaznavid, that this article would not contain them. We will only point out two examples of the anti-democratic fatwas of the constitutional movement, in order to highlight how the constitutionalists excommunicated the liberals who sought rights—the Tehran Friday prayer leader, Seyyed Abol-Ghasem, the son-in-law of the executioner Nasir-al-Din Shah, by shouting, “You cursed Babi, insult the king of Islam?” brought Seyyed Jamaloddin, the famous liberal and freedom-seeking preacher down, and if it had not been for the devotees and sacrificial champions of the constitution, Seyyed Jamal would have been cut into pieces as a Babi.

This religious excommunication and enmity reached the point where Seyyed Ali Sistani, the Mashhad Seminary resident, decreed a fatwa that the constitution is heresy, and the constitutionalist is an infidel; wasting and taking his property is permissible, and his blood is worthless and must be wasted.

I clearly say that the root cause of all this supposedly religious violence and ideological excitement is ignorance and lack of awareness.