

[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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Speaker of the Foreign Ministry:

Iran considers the baseless statements of Schultz as a clear interference in its internal affairs

The speaker of our Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in relation to the statements of [George] Schultz, the United States secretary of state, [who] has accused the Islamic Republic of creating religious pressures, stated, "These statements are a continuation of the adversarial and interference-prone posture of the United States against the Islamic Republic of Iran that started after the victory of the Revolution and has continued with the goal of sullyng the reputation of the Islamic Republic of Iran." He added, "The United States secretary of state, by misinterpreting phrases and misusing human aspirations, and accusing the Islamic Republic of Iran of disregarding the rights of religious minorities, is trying to make the imperialistic creed of Baha'ism count as a religion. Clearly, what has upset Mr. Schultz is not the issue of religious minorities in Iran, but rather the severe injuries and repeated defeats that are afflicting the body of American imperialism and its cronies in the region, and have caused the U.S. to lose credibility in the eyes of the people of the world, particularly Muslims."

The speaker of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated:

"The Islamic Republic of Iran, while refuting these baseless accusations, and emphasizing the fact that prosecution of criminals is a result of their unlawful actions and not their beliefs, considers the statements of the United States secretary of state as a clear interference in its internal affairs and strongly condemns them."