

[PROVISIONAL TRANSLATION FROM PERSIAN]

[Translator's notes appear in square brackets]

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

27 Aban 1318 [19 November 1939]

Honourable Head of the Cabinet,

This humble servant, Jafar Maleki, had my daughter Kobra Maleki married to Agha Ali Aousat Qorveh, and I was among the witnesses who signed the marriage certificate. Owing to the fact that the marriage ceremony was conducted according to the traditions of the Baha'i Faith and there was no notary office to register the Baha'i marriages, we went to the notary of Kurdistan through the registry representative of Qoraveh, and requested the registration of the marriage certificate. The Registry Office refused to register the marriage certificate, and through the local magistrate's court, prosecuted the married couple, the witnesses and me, the father of the bride and also one of the witnesses.

They inquired as to why we had conducted a Bahá'í marriage ceremony. We replied that since we believe in the Bahá'í Faith we cannot get married according to the traditions of other religions, and it is not possible for the Bahá'ís to go to existing marriage registry offices. The local magistrate reported the result of the trial to Kurdistan's Court of Justice. We were summoned to Kurdistan's Court of Justice in the month of Khordad [May-June]. The married couple and witnesses were found not guilty, and the groom, Agha Ali Aousat, was not prosecuted, as he had started his compulsory military service. It was decided that he would be prosecuted after completing his military service.

Upon our return from Kurdistan to our town, our losses due to missing work, delays in agricultural work and transportation costs were extensive. It is unfair and unjust to find individuals guilty, who, to this date, have not dealt with government agencies and have never done anything to deserve a trial, and to make them face trials for getting married, which is considered a praiseworthy act and one of the main instruments of order in society, as well as [for] population increase and humanity's continued survival. Despite this, the Public Prosecutor of Kurdistan referred to the appeal made in Kermanshah and requested prosecution.

We were finally summoned to the appeals court of Kermanshah with my daughter and the witnesses. After the court of appeals hearing, they told us to return to our locality and that we would be notified of the court's decision by Kurdistan's Justice Department. We have not yet been informed of the court of appeal's decision. However, I have endured sufferings and unbearable losses for getting my daughter married and being a witness to it. I ask that honourable Cabinet to pay attention and have mercy, and make decisions in such a manner that law-abiding and well-wishing citizens like us, who, according to their belief, consider obedience to national laws in administrative matters among their most important obligations, are not reprimanded and harassed.

Respectfully,

[Stamp]

Number: 10967

Date: 4 Azar 1318 [26 November 1939]

[Handwritten note at the bottom of the page:]

Head of the Minister's Office archive it