

[PROVISIONAL TRANSLATION FROM PERSIAN]

[Translator's notes appear in square brackets]

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

5 Farvardin 1358 [25 March 1979]

Tehran – Mr. Bazargan, the beloved prime minister of Iran

At this critical time, when the hope for the manifestation of Islamic justice has illuminated and gladdened the aspiring hearts of all Iranians, contrary to the truth, unfair accusations and baseless allegations are being made against the Baha'i community under various pretexts, such as collaboration with foreign regimes, connections with anti-national agents both within the country and abroad, and so on. In order to avoid conflict and maintain unity, which is one of the fundamental goals of the Revolution, a brief explanation of the truth is offered here below:

During the one-hundred-thirty-five-year history of the Baha'i Faith in the sacred land of Iran, the honest and God-fearing Baha'i community has been the only religion to testify to the truth of the sacred religion of Islam, uphold the Prophethood of the Seal of the Prophets (PBUH), and affirm the righteousness of the pure Imams. It has truthfully and sincerely served the people and obeyed the laws of the state, and, based on the teachings of its Faith, has avoided interference in political matters—to the extent that engagement in a political position is a reason, in and of itself, that the person cannot be associated with this religion. Thus, the Baha'i community has been free from collaboration with any political regimes, be it from the East or the West, and has neither allegiance to any foreign country or government, nor such connections elsewhere. Nonetheless, in the past, it has been constantly persecuted and subjected to harassment, discrimination and deprivation, to the extent that, in addition to the loss of personal liberties and social rights, the lives and possessions of its members have also been repeatedly assailed and assaulted.

As it is today the subject of the bashing of speechmakers and the stinging words of the newspapers and publications, inflaming the anger and zealous sentiments of the simple-minded people against them, this causes concern, that, God forbid, this will result in great dangers for this oppressed community and possibly lead to a loss of global reputation for the resilient people of Iran. Therefore, with great anticipation for the enforcement of Islamic justice by the authorities in charge, we hope you will adopt regulations to stop these attacks and violations and enable the members of the Baha'i community, who, after reliance on God, are putting their hope and trust in the benevolent motives of Grand Ayatollah Khomeini and the wisdom of the government authorities, to serve [their country] with honesty, enthusiasm, and peace of mind and be hopeful that in every respect they will be given equal rights and opportunities similar to other sectors of the society under the shadow of Islamic justice.

On behalf of the Baha'i community of Ahvaz

Firouz Baraghi [Signature]

Parviz Tamassoki [Signature]

[Handwritten note on the bottom of the page]

[Illegible] To be recorded

15 Farvardin 1358 [4 April 1979]

Copy:

- National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of Iran, for information

In addition, we inform you that two other telegrams with the same contents were sent separately to the Supreme Revolutionary Council and the respected Minister of Interior.

Seeking [divine] confirmations

Secretary of the Assembly

[Signature]