

[PROVISIONAL TRANSLATION FROM PERSIAN]

[Translator's notes appear in square brackets]

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

To the Honourable Ayatollah Mousavi Ardabili, the Prosecutor General,

With deep respect, this is to draw your attention to the following:

The Baha'i community of Iran is the only religious minority that believes in Islam, the Holy Word of God, and recognizes the station of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and His holy family. From the very start of the establishment of the Islamic Republic, [its members] have repeatedly expressed their sincere obedience and proven it in action, and during the past year, they have suffered such oppression that has rarely been witnessed in the history of contemporary human society.

The major cruelties inflicted [upon it] are stated below, in the hope that through manifest divine confirmations, Your Honour as well as the other respected authorities will take action and succeed in seeking and implementing justice, and re-establishing the rights of the wronged:

- 1- The community's Holy Places, which are of great spiritual value, have been confiscated and the holy House of the Bab in Shiraz was demolished with injustice and cruelty. These Holy Places are held in sacred respect by the Baha'is of Iran. But people from all over the world, from over 102,000 localities, turn their attention [to them] and gaze through their most noble feelings and spiritual sentiments.
- 2- The unreasonable confiscation of the Omana [Trustees] Company, which was the patron of the properties of this community, [and] other than the above-mentioned properties, the Misaghieh Hospital, and all of the public Baha'i properties, have been unjustly confiscated. In particular, the situation related to the Baha'i cemeteries in certain localities has created horrific situations that break the heart of anyone who hears about it, and the distressing sight of the wandering state of families who are left with the corpses of their loved ones, deeply affects and saddens the heart and soul of any human being.
- 3- Numerous Baha'is charged simply [because of] their beliefs, have been arrested by unidentified groups. Some of them are detained in Evin Prison, and some others, such as Mr. Mohammad Sheikh Movahhed, Dr. Alimorad Davoudi, who was a professor of philosophy in Tehran University, and Rouhi Rowshani, have disappeared with no sign of them to be found. Even the Islamic revolutionary public prosecutor expresses no knowledge of their arrest. Some others are being pursued by those same groups and have been denied all human rights and judicial security. The direct communication that we have had with the Office of the Revolutionary Public Prosecutor indicates that Your Honour is not involved in these cruel acts; unfortunately, it seems that opposing groups, [which] operate in the name of committees and proceed to act against the best interest of the Islamic Revolution, are responsible for these deeds.
- 4- Despite the kindness and gracious care of the supreme spiritual leader of the nation, who has repeatedly advised justice for all strata of society, and despite the numerous articles of the

approved constitutional law that guarantees the rights of all the citizens of this country, the dismissal from work of the trustworthy Baha'i employees from various ministries still continues.

- 5- The unreasonable confiscation of the institutions of this community in Tehran has created the misunderstanding in some other cities such that when Baha'is donated money to funds for the purpose of helping the poor and needy (more than 500,000 tomans of the charity fund accounts) because no cash was available in the Baha'i funds the Baha'is were forced to pay the amount in cheque [to the government authorities]. In Shiraz, individual Baha'is were pursued and pressured to return certain items that they had themselves contributed for the purpose of being used in the Holy House [of the Bab] and that had been returned to their original owners after the destruction of the House—items that have never been owned by the confiscated Omana Company. In several localities, the hearse vehicles owned by Baha'is have also been seized and confiscated.

Honourable Ayatollah, at this time, when the call of justice and freedom is echoing in this country, the Baha'i community of Iran, which cherishes a great love for this country and prays with all sincerity for the success of the authorities in managing the affairs of the land and for the progress of the nation, is hopeful and certain that if the authorities fulfil the good intentions that the kind heart and excellent mind of the supreme leader is focused upon, no reason will remain for continuation of these cruelties and the hardships that are inflicted upon the defenceless Baha'is.

We thank you in advance for your merciful attention to the appeals made by this religious community, and we sincerely wish you ever increasing success and beseech the confirmations and the blessings of the Almighty.

On behalf of the Baha'i community of Iran

11 Esfand 1358 [1 March 1980]

Dr. Hosein Naji

[Signature]

Manouher Ghaem-Maghani

[Signature]