

## [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]

[Adapted from website:] Radio Zamaneh

[Date:] 15 Khordad 1390 [5 June 2011]

The Activity of the Baha'i University Was Declared "Illegal".

Iranian Ministry of Science, Research and Technology declares the Baha'i [Institute for Higher Education] (BIHE) "illegal". According to the Iranian Student News Agency (ISNA), the Higher Education Development Office of the Ministry of Science has announced that BIHE has not obtained any licence from this office and any of its activities are illegal.

The Ministry of Science has also declared the university's credentials "of no legal value".

Earlier, the security agents sealed a number of Baha'i Institute for Higher Education's (BIHE) scientific and laboratory centres in Tehran and arrested a number of the university officials in several Iranian cities.

The Baha'i International Community has announced the number of Baha'i university administrators [and teachers] detained on 1 Khordad 1390 [22 May 2011] in the cities of Tehran, Karaj, Isfahan, and Shiraz to be at least 30.

Shahin Negari, Ramin Zibaie, Kamran Mortezaie, Fuad Moghaddam, Vahid Mokhtari, Mahmoud Badavam, Afrouz Farmanbordari and Soheil Ghanbari are among those arrested. The Baha'i Institute for Higher Education was established in 1366 [1987] by the Baha'i community of Iran, and those deprived of education were educated online.

Although the Iranian constitution recognizes the right to education for all, Baha'i citizens are denied the right to study at Iranian universities because of their religious beliefs. Also, despite the fact that 300,000 Baha'is live in Iran, the Iranian government does not recognize the Baha'i Faith. The followers of this religion have faced many problems in Iran over the past years.

In Mehr 1377 [September/October 1998], security agents raided the homes of individuals who were holding some classes of the Baha'i university and arrested a number of its students and professors.

In the month of Esfand of last year [February/March 2011], a number of Baha'i citizens were arrested in Bam, Kerman, and Tehran for "promoting and expanding their cultural and educational activities in a number of kindergartens."

Last year, a large number of Baha'is were detained by security agents following the events of Iran's tenth presidential election. Last year, seven Baha'i leaders in Iran, who have been in prison for two years, were also sentenced to 20 years in prison.