

**[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:] Iranian Students News Agency (ISNA)

[Date:] 18 Mordad 1387 [8 August 2008]

Deputy Head of the Seminary of Ambassadors of Guidance of Qom:

The Activities of the Perverse Baha'i Sect are Alarming

The deputy of the Seminary of the Ambassadors of Guidance of Qom said, "The activity of the deviant Baha'ism is a great danger alarm.

Hojatoleslam Saied Jamshidi, who had travelled to the south of Kerman to visit cultural activities, told the reporter of the ISNA of Kavir Region, "Unfortunately, cultural poverty and lack of welfare facilities in deprived and impoverished areas have led to the growth of the perverse Baha'i sect."

He said, "The country's authorities should take measures to prevent the activity of this sect as much as possible, so that the beliefs of the people in deprived areas are not subject to the evil thoughts of this sect."

Jamshidi added, "The enemy is trying to attack the beliefs of Muslims in any way possible, and therefore foreign religions confuse Muslims by creating public unrest in deprived areas, because the tactics of these people are dangerous and cause pessimism in popular beliefs...."

He added, "The government should refrain from concentrating facilities only in urban centres, and the abuse of the perverse Baha'i sect can also be prevented by providing welfare and cultural facilities in rural areas."

In another part of his speech, Jamshidi said, "Considering that Baha'is also have economic activities in the country, the government should provide space for the activities of Shiite and Muslim youth through entrepreneurship and training in various technical fields in order to reduce the economic activity of these people in the country."

He stressed, "People can establish a relationship with these people if they are forced to, and if they do communicate, they will not lose their beliefs or will not be influenced by the beliefs of this perverse sect."