

[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:] BBC Persian

[Date:] 20 Esfand 1392 [11 March 2014]

Baha'is [Exhort] the Religious Jurisprudential Authorities: "Protect the Lives, Property and Honour of Your Non-Muslim Compatriots"

In a letter to senior clerics and Shiite religious jurisprudential authorities, more than 500 Baha'is in Iran called for condemnation of the recent acts of violence against Baha'is in various parts of Iran.

The letter states, "We look forward to following up and seeking justice from you, the honourable ayatollahs, the religious jurisprudential authorities, the scholars, and the prominent clerics, to preserve the lives, property and honour of your non-Muslim compatriots, a justice such as was served by Imam Ali, when an oppressed Jewish woman who was being persecuted under His rule cried out, "It would not be strange if we died from this grief."

The signatories of this letter also wrote, "We are confident that in the near future, you, the nobles, will condemn the atrocities committed against our Baha'i compatriots and other unorthodox Iranian thinkers, and will use all your power to control the blind religious bigotry with wisdom and justice."

According to reports, on the evening of Monday, 14 Bahman [3 February], an unidentified man wearing a face mask, after entering the home of a Baha'i family in Birjand, severely wounded Ghodratollah Moudi, Touba Sabzejou and their daughter, Azam Moudi, with knives.

Following the incident, the Baha'i International Community issued a statement calling on Hassan Rouhani's government to investigate the assassination attempt on the Baha'i family in Birjand.

In the continuation of the letter of the 500 Baha'is to the religious jurisprudence authorities, reference is made to the shooting and killing of a Baha'i citizen in Bandar Abbas and the attack on the Baha'i family in Birjand. It said, "But it is interesting that in both incidents, the assailant or assailants are moving freely, beyond the law, without any constraints, and there is no institution or responsible authority accountable to the families of those who have been killed and injured."

According to the Baha'i International Community, "In the last eight years, since 2005, there have been 50 assassination attempts on Baha'i lives and nine people have been killed. The killers have not been identified and no judicial court order has been issued."

The Iranian government does not recognize the Baha'i Faith; according to human rights groups, the Baha'is are being persecuted because of their religious beliefs.

The officials in the Islamic Republic have always denied any discrimination against the Baha'is, although since the beginning of the Islamic Revolution in Iran, Baha'is have been barred from holding government [public] jobs and studying at [their homeland's] universities.

According to the Baha'i International Community, dozens of Baha'is are currently in prison in Iran for their religious beliefs.