

[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:] Iran Wire

[Date:] 4 Mordad 1393 [26 July 2014]

The Commander of the Sepah¹ of Fars Province Emphasized “Severe Dealing” With Baha'is

Ostan Wire: Gholamhossein Gheybparvar, commander of the Sepah-i-Fajr in Fars Province, announced in an official speech the force's “severe dealing” with followers of the Baha'i Faith.

According to the Tanvir website, the official website of the Sepah-i-Fajr in Fars Province, Gholamhossein Gheybparvar, on Thursday night, during a speech at the conference “To Hold Fast to That Which is Good, and Shun All Evil”, referred to the Baha'is as a perverse sect. He said, “We will deal severely with those who promote the perverse sect in this province.”

“They do not have a true religion,” said the commander of the Fajr Corps in Fars Province, claiming that, “part of the munkarat [indecent acts] in society is related to the perverse sect and must be strictly prevented.”

Gholamhossein Gheybparvar also asked, “Is the removal of hijab a denial, but Satanism and propaganda of the perverse sect is not a denial? Who has promoted dog hugging among our youth and teenagers?”

The commander of the corps of the Province of Fars, reiterated that, “Our treatment of those who are destructive and damage the pillars of religion is very harsh.” He said, “We have no right to comment on religious issues and say that there is no problem with the removal of hijab in society; it is enough as long as they follow the customs of society and we must leave this opinion to the marja'-i-taqlid [religious jurisprudence authorities].”

Gholamhossein Gheybparvar also stressed the need to expand the commandment, “To Hold Fast to That Which is Good, and Shun All Evil”, saying, “The religion of God and the Sharia has a framework, and if it is ignored, the commandment of ‘Hold Fast to That Which is Good, and Shun All Evil’ must be fully implemented.”

In addition, this senior commander of the Revolutionary Guards said, “If the removing of hijab exists in the society, the source of it is the propaganda carried out by satellite programmes, and according to the supreme leader, the satellite is a cesspool and we should not allow the propaganda carried out by these satellites to be the cause of the break-up of families.”

¹ [Sepah-i-Pasdarán: Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC)]

The commander of the Fajr Corps in Fars Province called “To Hold Fast to That Which is Good, and Shun All Evil” higher than “jihad”. He said, “All good deeds, even jihad in the path of God in relation to ‘Hold Fast to That Which is Good, and Shun All Evil’ are like drops in a vast sea,” and “An important aspect in the revival of the twin duties is the responsibility of government officials, and it is they who must pave the way for the spread of the promotion of ‘Hold Fast to That Which is Good, and Shun All Evil’.”

Fars Province has long been one of the provinces central to the Baha’is. In addition to Shiraz, cities and areas of Abadeh, Marvast, Neyriz, Sarvestan, Arsenjan, Jahrom, Abarghou, Fasa and Darab are also central to the Baha’is of this province and followers of the Baha’i Faith in other areas of Fars Province are more or less scattered.