

[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:] Mehr News Agency

[Date:] 30 Tir 1398 [21 July 2019]

Mehr Magazine Reviewed, Baha'ism, A New Excuse For Pressure on Iran / Behind-the-Scenes of Persian Twitter [Account] Suspension

The suspension of several Persian language accounts became an excuse to examine the status of cyberspace and behind-the-scenes restrictions for Iranian cyberspace users.

Yesterday, the social network Twitter suspended the accounts of three Iranian news agencies, including Mehr News Agency, IRNA News Agency and the Young Journalists Club. This incident happened while the Twitter administrators did not officially announce a reason for their behaviour and did not respond to the correspondence from the Iranian news agencies...

Although some cyberspace users have speculated about the simultaneity of this mass deletion with the news of the British ship seizure courier, the BBC, the British government-affiliated media, published a news item in both the English and Persian sections [saying that] the reason for suspension has been reported as the harassment of the Baha'is by the Iranian news agencies!

“Baha'i” is the New Code Name for Pressure on the Iranian Media

In the news item published this morning, BBC claimed that the social network Twitter had suspended the accounts of some Iranian government media outlets, including the Young Journalists Club, the IRIB News Agency and the Mehr News Agency, on charges of deliberately harassing Baha'i citizens. According to the allegation, an informed source on Twitter told some media outlets, including the BBC, that the accounts had been suspended due to “coordinated and targeted harassment of members of the Baha'i community in Iran.” This source did not provide details about this!

The BBC's claim is unbelievable, as a review of Mehr News Agency tweets over the past week shows that no Baha'i-centric material has been published on Mehr News Agency's Twitter account, which has been active for more than four years. In addition, the Mehr Diplomacy Twitter account, active since September 2017, which republished Mehr News Agency's analysis and discussion in the field of foreign policy and diplomacy, has not published any material on the Baha'i issue during its tenure.