

## [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:] Hawzah News Agency

[Date:] 19 Khordad 1395 [8 June 2016]

### The Necessity of Compiling Human Rights Jurisprudence

According to Hawzah [News Agency], Ayatollah Alavi Borujerdi, during a meeting with Sheikh Khalid Matar al-Tamimi, head of the law department at Bahr al-Ulum University in the holy city of Najaf, noted the importance of human rights and Islam's commitment to them. He said, "The effort that you are making, God willing, is under the care of God, and the Imams (PBUH) themselves are paying attention to it."

Our problem today, as he has said, is in presenting the teachings of Shiism and the contents of the words of the Ahl al-Bayt [the Household of the Prophet] (PBUH). We have very precise, extraordinary and sensitive points on the issue of the rights of humankind among the words of the Ahl al-Bayt (PBUH); especially from the Imam Ali [Commander of the Faithful] (PBUH) himself.

The words of the Commander of the Faithful [Imam Ali] (PBUH) in the treaty of 'Malik Al-Ashtar are unique. He said, people are in two groups: [Arabic verse]<sup>1</sup>. That means, if someone is not your religious brother and does not believe in God or any religion, he is still a citizen and has rights. This point was made by the Commander of the Faithful (PBUH) 1,400 years ago—that is, when there was no discussion of human rights in Europe at all. We have these truths in the words of the Imams (PBUH). We are also proud of the Cyrus Charter today, and, of course, this charter is also honorific and good in its own time.

Today, we need to formulate and teach human rights jurisprudence in seminaries. We even have this problem in Iran itself. Baha'is are our problem. What to do with the Baha'is? According to the principles of Islam itself, these are citizens and have rights. We do not have the right to kill or imprison them for their beliefs. They have the right to life. Human rights in jurisprudence is an independent issue. We need to have a serious discussion about human rights in the seminaries. This requires writings and letters that the gentlemen who worked in this field, should make efforts to provide. The late Dr. Bahr al-Ulum himself had a high station in law [jurisprudence]. In Kuwait, he also served on the Supreme Judicial Council, and is well acquainted with these issues. His school and institute naturally welcome these issues. The jurisprudence of human rights is an issue that we must address in the seminaries.

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<sup>1</sup> [The authorized translation of this text is not available in English. The original text is as follows:]

"اما اخ لك في الدين و اما شريك لك في الخلق"