

[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:] International Quran News Agency (IQNA)

[Date:] 10 Mehr 1398 [2 October 2019]

The Director of the Baha'ism Group of the Development Office Announced:

Holding an International Conference on "Violence, Superstition and Sectarian Betrayal"

School of Theology Group – The working director of the Baha'ism Group of the sector for deepening religious faith and combating currents and perverse sects, [part of] the intellectual and cultural sectors of the Islamic Development Office, announced the [upcoming] Eighth International Conference on "Violence, Superstition and Sectarian Betrayal" at Shiraz University.

In announcing this news, Hojatoleslam Ali-Reza Rouzbahani, working director of the Baha'ism Group of the sector for deepening religious faith and combating currents and perverse sects [of] the intellectual and cultural sectors of the Islamic Development Office, in an interview with IQNA, said, "This international conference will be held on 8 Esfand [27 February 2020] with the effort of the Islamic Development Office of Qom School of Theology and some other institutions at Shiraz University."

He added, "Considering that there is a trace of the Baha'i sect in our country, in this regard, pre-conferences in eight provinces, including Semnan, Isfahan, East Azerbaijan, Bushehr, Shiraz, Zanjan and Alborz have been considered, are underway, or will be held."

This academic and researcher of Qom Seminary stated that the purpose of these conferences is to prepare people all over the country. He added, "In this regard, during these conferences in different provinces, we will identify researchers active in this field and in the future their capacities will be used in various applications."

He added, "Other pre-conferences are being coordinated, and it was decided that a pre-conference would be held in Isfahan on 23 Aban [14 November 2019]."

Rouzbahani, referring to the first conference on "Violence, Superstition and Sectarian Betrayal" in Semnan, said, "Ayatollah Shahcheraghi, representative of the supreme leader in Semnan Province, was supposed to attend the conference, but he could not participate; yet his message was read."

[Rouzbahani] said, "In this pre-conference, Khojastehpour, deputy governor of Semnan; Ezzeddin Rezanejad, chairman of the Scientific Committee of the Conference; Kasaian, a veteran student of active research in this field; Eskandari, one of the directors of the Ministry of Intelligence; and Colonel Askari, a researcher in this field, gave their speeches.

At the end, the working director of the Baha'ism Group of the sector for deepening religious faith and combating currents and perverse sects, invited scholars and researchers to participate in the international conference on “Violence, Superstition and Sectarian Betrayal.”