

[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:] Farhang Sadid

[Date:] 13 Khordad 1398 [3 June 2019]

The Questionable and Slanderous Stances of a City Council Member Towards the Baha'is

Farhang Sadid Unity Group: Last year, in the month of Shahrivar [September], two Baha'is were arrested on security charges in Shiraz by anonymous soldiers of the Imam Zaman [The Lord of the Age] (may God hasten His return). In this regard, Mehdi Hajati, a member of the Shiraz City Council, wrote in his Twitter account defending them: "For the past ten days, I have knocked on every door to obtain the release of the two detained Baha'i friends, but have not succeeded."

This member of Shiraz City Council was arrested on 5 Mehr 1397 [27 September 2018], on charges of supporting two activists of the perverse Baha'i sect. Accordingly, following a complaint filed last year by the public prosecutor against Mehdi Hajati, a member of the Shiraz City Council, he was sentenced to one year in prison and two years in exile, after which he was prohibited from attending the city council; however, through continuous follow-ups, he could return to the council meetings.

Some people seem to look at issues from a partisan and political point of view and they are unaware of the fact that, according to Article 13 of the Iranian Constitution, "Zoroastrian, Jewish, and Christian Iranians are the only recognized religious minorities, who, within the limits of the law, are free to perform their religious rites and ceremonies, and to act according to their own canon in matters of personal affairs and religious education." This principle states that the perverse Baha'i sect is not considered a religious minority, so its activities are illegal.

One of the challenges that is being used against our country today by the perverse Baha'i sect and its supporters is the violation of their citizenship rights. These side-takings are occurring at a time when, according to credible documents, the perverse Baha'i sect is a fabricated sect of colonialism, and a careful examination of the nature of this sect reveals that the Baha'i Faith is, in fact, a purely political organization founded on the interests of the colonialists, and seeks to attract Muslims by claiming to be a religion. Accordingly, the use of the national organizations and the local circles of this group to spy in different parts of the world is evidence of this claim. In fact, the creation and promotion of an artificial sect has been one of the common tricks of the colonial powers to divert the correct flow of religion.

In fact, the overall goal was to eventually use this hand-made sect to replace the divine religions or at least create doubts about the divine religions.

In the discourse of Mahdism, about 150 years ago, with the help and guidance of British colonialism, a group was formed in our country with the name and title of Babism and Bahaism. One of the

constant policies of the Baha'i sect is their pretence of being oppressed, in order to gain the support of Western countries, institutions and international organizations. They pretend to be oppressed for the sake of gaining advantage of the policies that have been put on the agenda of the Baha'is by following the example of the Zionists. As Imam Khomeini (RA) said about the perverse Baha'i sect: "We did not order their imprisonment because they are Baha'is ... Baha'i is not a religion; it is a party—a party that was once supported by Britain and is now supported by the United States."

The supreme leader, in his talks in the large gatherings of the people of Qom, reminded them, "Some people inside the country, in various ways, weaken the foundations of the people's faith, especially the young generation, from the spread of laxity and *ibahagari*¹ to the promotion of false mysticism—a counterfeit of the genuine mysticism—to the promotion of the Baha'i Faith [and] the network of house churches. Today, these actions are done by the planning and provisions of the enemies of Islam. Their purpose is to weaken religion in society.

On the other hand, the examination of the fatwas of religious authorities about the Baha'is shows the impurity of the Baha'is, the sanctity of dealing with the Baha'is, and the sanctity of marrying the Baha'is.

An examination of the news line followed by foreign media also shows that by fomenting the demands of these few members, they are purifying the face of the perverse Baha'i sect and are beating the drum of human rights violations in Iran. Now the issue that arises that taking such positions in support of the perverse Baha'i sect is not acceptable for a member of the city council. Because the least awareness of the roots of the Baha'is' destructive and anti-security activities indicates that they are pursuing behind-the-scenes goals.

Accordingly, there seem to be serious legal gaps, especially in the area of overseeing the qualifications of individuals in city councils. Therefore, it is appropriate for the Guardian Council to oversee the [city] councils.

¹ [Ibahagari: Legitimizing something that is not permissible in the Islamic religious laws]