

[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:] Human Rights Activists in Iran (HRA)

[Date:] 28 Esfand 1387 [18 March 2009]

An Open Letter From a Group of Sahand Tabriz Students in Support of Their Baha'i Classmates

Unfortunately, during the last three years, we have witnessed an intensification of the discriminatory view of the officials of the Islamic Republic towards the Baha'i community in Iran.

The arrest of senior members of this religious community in the early days of the Revolution, and thirty years with no news of their fate, as well as years of their being barred from entering universities, denial of employment in government positions and lack of [job] security, and repeated arrests of their religious leaders over three decades, are indications that the authorities are determined to confront and suppress this part of Iranian society. In completing these approaches, we see the purge of [a small number] of Baha'i students from universities because of their religious beliefs and the intention of holding them back from progress, [and we see them prevented] from holding public office, which is further evidence of a systematic and purposeful [confrontation of] the Baha'i community.

We, a group of students of Sahand University of Tabriz, in addition to condemning all extrajudicial treatment of this religious community, which is contrary to the explicit text of Article 3, paragraphs 3 and 8, as well as Article 14, of the Constitution (facilitation and generalization of higher education and public participation in determining political, economic, social destiny and human rights of non-Muslims) and Article 2, paragraph 2 of the UN Convention on Economic[, Social] and Cultural Rights (General Higher Education), [and to] condemning the expulsion of three of our classmates (Sina Dana, Sama Nourani and Faraz Vazirzadeh), emphatically urge the authorities to reconsider their view of this part of Iranian society, and we hope that in the new year, together with our Baha'i classmates, regardless of any ideology or belief, we will take steps towards the progress and well-being of our homeland.

A group of students of Sahand University of Tabriz