The Order of Police Force of the Public Places Supervision Office; Prohibition of 30 [Employment and] Occupations for Baha’is

The police force headquarters has issued an order to the police force of the Public Places Supervision Office across the country, requesting that in order to control, restrict and monitor the performance of the Baha’is, the grounds be provided for their identification and control, and that Baha’is’ widespread presence in society be restricted.

According to the report sent to Saham, in this letter, which was issued in 1386 [2007/2008] and remains in force, four paragraphs with the necessary instructions have been issued. In the second paragraph of the letter it is stated that they should be barred from participating in high-paying jobs, and that Baha’is should only be active in low-income categories and occupations.

Another point mentioned is the prohibition of work in cultural, advertising and economic institutions. The letter explains the three prohibitions: “Baha’is should not be involved in publication of newspapers, publications of periodicals, jewellery, goldsmithing and watchmaking, printing houses, engravers, tourism industries and car rental establishments, publishers, and bookstores, inn-keeping, hotel industry, sewing schools, photography, filming, LAN gaming centres, computers [IT] and internet cafés”.

“[Document]
[Emblem] Police Force
[Emblem]
Islamic Republic of Iran
Number 137/2/22
Date: 19 Farvardin 1387 [7 April 2008]
Enclosures: Yes

Subject: Examining the qualifications of groupings and the perverse Baha’i sect.
To: Distinguished police commanders of affiliated cities - Chiefs of Intelligence and Public Security Police  

Subject: Examining the Competence of Small Groups\(^1\) and the Perverse Baha’i Sect.  

With greetings,  

Praise be to Mohammad and His family [PBUT], I inform you respectfully that,  

According to the instructions received from the esteemed head of the Public Intelligence and Security Force NAJA - Supervision of public places number 14/30/5/2/31 dated 21 Esfand 1385 [12 March 2007], and considering the increase in the number of applicants to obtain a business licence from members of the perverse Baha’i sect and their justified and legal presence in the guild community after obtaining a licence, it is necessary that you take action for ongoing control and monitoring of their activities as much as possible, and to prevent their extensive presence at the sensitive and important levels in trade organizations, as well as members of the small groups who apply for a business permit, while considering the following instructions No. 14/30/7/100, dated 17 Ordibehesht 1382 [7 May 2003] of (the Final Review Commission), which specifies the type of files that can be submitted to the Commission.  

A) The perverse Baha’i sect  
1. Identify Baha’is working in the trades and collect statistics separately (dispersion rate and type of trade).  
2. Prevent their activities in high-income jobs and only agree to the issuance of licences or business licences in occupations where they can make a reasonable living.  
3. Issuance of business licences for the mentioned persons in sensitive occupations (cultural, advertising, economic, in the fields of publication of newspapers, publications of periodicals, jewellery, goldsmithing and watchmaking, printing houses, engraving, tourism and car rental establishments, publishers, and bookstores, inn-keeping, hotel industry, sewing schools, photography, filming, LAN gaming centres, computers [information technology] and internet cafés) must be prevented.  
4. In order to follow the Sharia rules for the followers of the perverse Baha’i sect, a business permit will not be issued to work in the occupations that are subject to taharat\(^2\) (1- reception halls 2- restaurants and self-service 3- food vendors and food items 4- restaurants for selling Persian dishes of chelou kebab and chelou koresht 5- coffee houses 6- supermarkets and shops selling protein foods and 7- ice cream, juice and soft drinks 8- confectioneries and bakeries- 9- coffee shops)  

[Stamp] Sent by fax  

Saham News  

Paragraph 4 of the letter, by declaring the Baha’is as najis\(^3\) and calling them unclean, is asking the Police Force of the Public Places Supervision office to “prevent their presence in reception halls, restaurants, self-service [food concessions], food vendors, chelou kebabs and chelou koresht, coffee shops, supermarkets and shops selling protein foods, ice cream, juice and soft drinks, bakery and confectionery and coffee shops”.  

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\(^1\) [Small Groups: Anti-revolutionary political organizations and other illegal groups]  
\(^2\) [Taharat: Cleanliness and purification according to Islamic religious laws]  
\(^3\) [Najis: Ritually impure/unclean]
It is worth mentioning that after the victory of the Islamic Revolution, a lot of pressure has been put on the Baha’i community in Iran.