

## [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:] Radio Farda

[Date:] 9 Mordad 1392 [31 July 2013]

Publication of Khamenei's New Fatwas [Religious Decrees]: Reporting the Authorities' Oppression of the People is Forbidden

The official website of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the leader of the Islamic Republic, has published a collection of his fatwas, in one of which he mentions, "It is 'not permissible' to listen to those who talk about the 'shortcomings and weaknesses' of the Islamic Republic."

According to Tasnim News Agency, this collection includes the latest fatwas of Ali Khamenei, which cover a wide range of topics from political asylum to contact with followers of other religions and sects such as Baha'ism, dance, music, and .... so on.

Tasnim News Agency writes that these fatwas were recently published on the official website of Ayatollah Khamenei, sporadically, but this news agency published them "in one collection".

In one of the fatwas of the supreme leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran regarding the "expression of oppression or betrayal of some officials" it is stated that, "There is no problem in reporting this oppression to the responsible centres and authorities, but there is no point in expressing it in front of the people openly. This is forbidden and weakens the Islamic State."

In recent years, Mr. Khamenei has repeatedly warned the critics of the government and the Islamic Republic to avoid what he calls "tarnishing the image of the country's affairs". He also criticized the public outcry over the disputes between the country's officials, calling it a blow to the Iranian regime and "propaganda food for foreign media".

Another question was asked of the supreme leader of the Islamic Republic regarding political asylum in foreign countries, to which Mr. Khamenei writes, "Political asylum with a non-Muslim government is not a problem in itself, as long as there is no corruption." However, he does not allow the wearing of ties and other clothing, which he calls "non-Muslim clothing", if "wearing them promotes the degenerate Western culture".

The Iranian police force, whose commander is appointed by the leader of the Islamic Republic, in the form of various schemes such as "social security", controls the outfit and clothing of the Iranian citizens to ensure that, they are not in "contradiction with Sharia".

Last year, even the deputy police chief of Iran warned hospital chiefs not to allow hospital staff, including doctors, nurses, etc., to wear ties or "heavy makeup".

## Fatwas Against the Baha'is

One of the most severe fatwas of Ayatollah Khamenei is related to the Baha'i faith and its followers, where the official website of Mr. Khamenei has included them amongst the fatwas related to "infidels".

In response to a question regarding the "taharat,<sup>1</sup> or uncleanness" of the Baha'is, Mr. Khamenei wrote: "They [the Baha'is] are the unclean, and the enemy of your religion and faith; so, my dear children, avoid them strictly."

The supreme leader of the Islamic Republic, in response to another question regarding the contact of Muslim students with Baha'i students in schools, wrote, "All followers of the perverse Baha'i sect are condemned to uncleanness. If they come in contact with something, it is obligatory to observe the issues of taharat in relation to them and the matters that are conditional to taharat." At the same time, however, he issues a fatwa that schoolteachers should treat the Baha'i students "in accordance with Islamic law and ethics".

In the past, groups and human rights activists have repeatedly warned against the harassment and persecution of the Baha'i minority in Iran.

Reports from organizations such as Amnesty International indicate that dozens of Baha'is are currently being held in prisons in the Islamic Republic for their religious activities.

The United Nations has recently expressed concern about the "widespread discrimination" against Baha'is in Iran and called on the Islamic Republic to respect the rights the followers of this religion.

However, in another of his fatwas, Mr. Khamenei states, "All believers must confront the tricks and corruption of the perverse Baha'i sect and prevent others from deviating and joining it."

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<sup>1</sup> [Taharat: Cleanliness and purification according to Islamic religious laws]