

[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:] HRANA - Human Rights Activists News Agency

[Date:] 4 Tir 1395 [24 June 2016]

Signing the Written Undertaking, the Condition for Unsealing Six Baha'i Commercial Units in Sari /
Pictures

HRANA – Officials announced that the unsealing of six commercial units belonging to Baha'i citizens in Sari—which were sealed on 8 Khordad 1395 [28 May 2016] because of workplace closure due to a Baha'i religious holiday—is conditioned on signing a new written undertaking. A similar written undertaking had already been received from these citizens, but despite the Baha'i businessmen's adherence to its provisions, this undertaking did not prevent them from closing their businesses due to their religious beliefs.

According to the HRANA News Agency, the news organ of the human rights activists in Iran, on Saturday, 8 Khordad 1395 [28 May 2016], six trade premises belonging to Baha'i citizens living in the City of Sari were sealed by the specialized department of the city's Public Places Supervision [Office] because they closed their shops during a Baha'i religious holiday.

The ownership and specifications of the six sealed [business] units of Baha'i citizens living in Sari are as follows:

- 1- Ghavamoddin Sabetian, owner of the carpentry guild unit
- 2- Peyman Jazbani, owner of the woodwork guild unit
- 3- Kamal Akbari, owner of the turnery guild unit
- 4- Ehsan Izadi, owner of the sanitary products distribution unit
- 5- Mehryar Ghanbari, owner of the unit for installation of security systems
- 6- Ramin Mousavi, owner of building decoration unit

Twenty-five days after the sealing of the trading premises of these citizens and the failure of the relevant authorities to respond, on 3 Tir 1395 [23 June 2016], the specialized department of the Public Places Supervision Office announced the signing of a written undertaking with the following content as the condition for reopening the trading premises:

“I [name of the person] ----- undertake to observe and obey all the trade union regulations. I will close my commercial unit during the official national holidays. If I intend to close my commercial unit for any reason other than a national holiday, I will ask the Public Place Supervision [Office] a week in advance.”

This request for written undertaking is made while the commercial unit of Mr. Ghavamoddin Sabetian and Mr. Kamal Akbari were sealed for the same reason since Ordibehesht [May] of last year, and the sealed shops were open after six months in Azar 1394 [November/December 2015].

Also, the commercial units of Mr. Ramin Mousavi, Mehryar Ghanbari and Peyman Jazbani were previously sealed for the first time on 12 Ordibehesht 1395 [1 May 2016] and opened on the 23rd of the same month [12 May 2016].

In the previous sealing of the commercial unit, all the above-mentioned people made the undertaking to the Public Places Supervision Office. Despite their having observed all the provisions of that agreement, their business units were re-sealed:

“I [name of the person] ---- undertake to observe and obey all the trade union regulations. I will close my training unit during the official national holidays and will inform the Public Place Supervision [Office] a week before Baha’i holidays.”

The request for obtaining permission from the Public Places Supervision Office is presented in this written undertaking, [during] circumstances in which, according to paragraph 8 of Article 28 of the Trade Unions Regulation, the business owner can close his commercial unit for up to 15 days without permission from the union. According to this law, the Public Places Supervision Office is the only executive arm of the unions; the order to close the commercial units can be issued only by the unions, and the immediate action of the Public Places Supervision Office to close the commercial units [of the Baha’is] was illegal.

See the pictures of some of the sealed places of these Baha’i citizens below.