

Summary Report

November 2008 - January 2009

Arrests, Incarcerations, and Raids on Homes

- On **November 4**, Siamak Ebrahimian was arrested in Tonekabon. He was sentenced to four months in prison and two years of internal exile to Zabol. More on this [here](#).
- On **November 17**, Masoud Ataian of Qa'emshahr was arrested. More on this [here](#).
- On **November 22**, Mrs. Soheila Motallebi of Qa'emshahr was arrested. More on this located [here](#).
- On **November 23**, Ruhiyyih Yazdani, Zulaykha Musavi and 'Ali-Askar Ravanbakhsh were all sentenced to four years in prison, of which two years is suspended. They are all from the city of Yasuj. Anvar Moslemi of Sari was also arrested on this date. More on the first three Bahá'ís located [here](#), and a letter written by Mrs. Moslemi regarding the arrest of her husband [here](#).
- In the city of Semnan on **December 15**, agents of the Ministry of Intelligence raided the households of the following Bahá'í individuals at 6:00 AM: Mr. Nejatullah Khanjani; Mr. Bahfar Khanjani; Mrs. Behnaz Khanjani; Mrs. Sahba Fana'ian; Mrs. Manizheh Manzavi; Mr. Afshin Iqani; Mr. Siyamak Iqani; Mrs. Susan Tebyanian; Mrs. Sahba Rezvani; and Mr. Porhusayni. One unidentified Bahá'í was arrested and paperwork, documents and personal belongings of the aforesaid families were confiscated. More on this located [here](#).
- On **January 4, 2009**, Mr. Adel Fana'ian, Mr. Abbas Nourani, and Mr. Taher Eskandarian of Semnan were all detained. In Qa'emshahr, the homes of the Sanai, Asadi, Nokhah and Fanaian families were all raided and searched. More on this located [here](#).
- On **January 15**, Ms. Jinous Sobhani, Mr. Shahrokh Taefi, Mr. Didar Raoufi, Mr. Payam Aghsani, and Mr. Azizollah Samandari were all arrested. Mr. Golshan Sobhani was also arrested but was released a few hours later. Personal belongings such as photographs, computers, and Bahá'í books were confiscated. On that same date, eight Baha'i women on the Persian Gulf island of Kish were arrested for allegedly proselytizing the Baha'i Faith through distribution of Baha'i books as well as using their "sexual charms to lure young Muslims." A young, unidentified Baha'i woman visiting Tehran from Shiraz was also taken into custody on this date. More on this located [here](#).
- On **January 18**, five Bahá'í women from Qa'emshahr – Taraneh Sanai, Shahnaz Sa'adati, Amelia Fanaian, Anisa Fanaian, and Farzaneh Ahmadzadegan – were all arrested.
- On **January 26**, the homes of ten Bahá'í families in the city of Mashhad were attacked and their personal belongings – including pictures of religious figures and texts, computers, and even religious jewelry – were confiscated. Among those attacked were Mr. Sirous Zabihi, Mr. Soheil Nasirzadeh, and Mr. Davar Nabilzadeh. In addition, Ms. Sima Eshraghi and Mr. Jalayer Vahdat were arrested and transferred to an undisclosed location on this date. More on this located [here](#).

Destruction of Bahá'í Properties

- On **October 23**, the Bahá'í cemetery in Darzikola (more commonly known as the cemetery in Qa'emshahr) was severely desecrated. More on this located [here](#).
- On **November 3**, the Bahá'í cemetery in Qa'emshahr (same as the one above) was vandalized for the second time.
- On **November 21**, the same cemetery in Qa'emshahr was attacked for the third time. More on this located [here](#).
- On **January 19, 2009**, the aforesaid cemetery was further destroyed and flattened at around midnight. This was the fourth attack in eight months on this cemetery, and it resulted in almost total destruction of the site. More on this located [here](#).

Denial of Education

- In **November 2008**, Ameer Saadat passed his university entrance exam and began studying hotel management at Goldasht College in Kelardasht, Mazandaran. However, the day before his first-term examinations began, the college director told Ameer that he was being expelled and would therefore not be allowed to sit the examinations. When this was announced the following day to his class (as well as the fact that Ameer's being a Bahá'í was the reason for his expulsion), 26 students refused to take the end-of-term exam in protest against Ameer's expulsion. In his final contact with the College, Ameer Saadat was told by management officials, "Your education has been terminated, and you can come and get your records. That is, your education has been nullified." More on this located [here](#).
- On **December 2**, Sina Haghighi – a third year student in Kashan's secondary school (equivalent of the ninth grade in the West) – was informed by his principal that he was no longer permitted to attend classes or participate in the forthcoming end-of-semester exams. He was told that this decision was reached based on the fact that he engaged in religious proselytizing outside of school. In addition, the Information Office of the Board of Education also told Sina that "he is barred from attending any school and may not further his education." More on this located [here](#).
- On **January 14, 2009**, nine Baha'i students were dismissed from the University of Kerman on the grounds of belief in the Baha'i Faith. The names of the expelled students are as follows: Bita Momtazi, Sepehr Qodrat, Mahnoosh Dehqan, Ghazal Sadeqi, Daniel Mottahari, Liva Baghi, Nilofar Kan'ani, Nasim Mo'attar, and Arman Roshani.

Deprivation of Livelihood

- On **February 19, 1980**, Kamal Yazdan-Panah was dismissed from the Iranian Army without the slightest consideration for my rights and without any compensation. In **1984**, Kamal's house was ransacked and from that date onward, every job he continued to take would either be given to someone else or his work permits would constantly be revoked. As a result of this extended persecution, Kamal's facial nerves eventually became paralyzed and half of his face lost sensation and is now deformed. More on this located [here](#).

- On **August 14, 1980**, Mahmud Rajabi Ezzat-Abadi was fired from Sounds and Images in Yazd on the basis that he was a Bahá'í. More on this located [here](#).
- In **December of 2008**, a cultural activist in Arak by the name of Kamran Jamshidi, the manager of Shahr-Ketab bookstore in that town, was arrested after an inspection of his store by the agents of Public Buildings Office. After 24 hours, he was transferred to the custody of the Ministry of Intelligence in the same city. He has since been in custody of the Intelligence office in Arak, and was charged with spreading information about the Baha'i Faith. More on this located [here](#).

Significant Events Prior to November 2008

- Mr. Husayn Derakhshan – owner of “Derakhshan Interior Design” – wanted to get a business license to secure his livelihood. An in-person meeting was requested, where Mr. Derakhshan was asked to sign a document which guaranteed his commitment to observe all moral, legal and principles of the Iranian Revolution, as well as Islamic precepts among other conditions. Mr. Derakhshan did not sign this pledge, and after a few days, on **June 25, 2007**, he received a notice that his application for business license was denied and he had to close shop effective immediately. On **July 7**, his place of business was officially closed and sealed by the municipality. More on this located [here](#).
- For the **2007-2008 academic year**, of the more than 1,000 Bahá'í students who sat for and satisfactorily completed the entrance examination to universities, nearly 800 were excluded because of "incomplete files." The case of at least one Bahá'í that went to court was dismissed on the premise that he did not “fulfill the requirements.” More on this located [here](#).
- On **May 14, 2008**, six members of the national-level group tended to the minimum needs of Bahá'ís in Iran – known as the Friends or “Yaran” – were detained in Tehran. The seventh member of the group, Mahvash Sabet, had been arrested in early March in Mashhad. All seven members of the group have been held virtually incommunicado in the notorious Evin prison ever since. More on this located [here](#).
- On **September 27, 2008**, the custodians and grounds-keepers of the Bahá'í cemetery in Isfahan discovered that the trees at the site had all been cut to pieces. This was likely an attempt by anti-Bahá'í vandals to further desecrate Bahá'í cemeteries in Iran. More on this located [here](#).