

**1899** Bahá'ís establish the Tarbiyat School for boys, it became one of the best schools in the country.

**1911** The Tarbiyat School for girls, likewise became recognized for educational innovation.

**1934** Iranian authorities shut down 47 public schools run by Bahá'ís.

**1979** Dismissal of all Bahá'í professors & teachers; students, youth and schoolchildren expelled.

**1983** Sociologist Shirin Dalvand (25) was hanged (BIHE), as Bahá'ís had no access to universities in Iran.

**1987** Formation of Bahá'í Institute for Higher Education (BIHE), as Bahá'ís had no access to universities in Iran.

**1998** Iranian government raid 500 Bahá'í homes, arrest 36 BIHE faculty & staff members.

**2001 & 2002** Continued governmental actions against BIHE.

**2010** BIHE offers 17 university-level programs across three faculties.

**2011** Raids on 30 homes, 16 Bahá'ís – BIHE professors and administrators – arrested in May.

## **Bahá'í educational initiatives: Iran's response – Iran's largest religious minority**

*Bahá'u'lláh – the Founder of the Bahá'í Faith – wrote that all human beings “have been created to carry forward an ever-advancing civilization.” Every person should have the opportunity to develop the capabilities, skills, attitudes and qualities required to live a life of purposeful service to humanity.*

The teachings of Bahá'u'lláh encompass full equality between women and men; uphold the highest standards of human rights; educate us beyond all forms of prejudice; call for the elimination of poverty; and give high priority to the pursuit of knowledge. It is for such ideals that the Bahá'ís of Iran have suffered persecution for more than a century.

They are not the only ones. Thousands of students in Iran are today barred from higher education for speaking out on such issues as women's rights, academic freedom, human rights and the rights of prisoners.

Since 1991, Iran has been carrying out a systematic policy to treat Bahá'ís in such a way that *“their progress and development will be blocked.”* Bahá'ís *“must be expelled from universities,”* and denied *“any position of influence, such as in the educational sector...”*

**Bahá'í Institute for Higher Education**  
Professors & administrators in prison,  
Bahá'í students have no access to degrees.



## **Iranian University doors closed for Bahá'í Professors, administrators, & students**

***Take action now: send a letter or this postcard  
to the Minister of Science, Research & Technology***

- ☐ *I do not agree with Iran's policy to  
discriminate against the Bahá'ís in Iran.*
- ☐ *The Bahá'í Institute for Higher Education  
"prisoners" should be released immediately.*
- ☐ *Bahá'ís should be able to enter universities as faculty &  
staff and as students who can get a degree.*
- ☐ *We urge the Minister to instruct all schools in Iran to  
respect freedom of religion or belief, including the  
Bahá'í Faith, and take specific measures to reprimand  
any individuals who are intimidating or discriminating  
against Bahá'í schoolchildren.*
- ☐ *All Iranian citizens have the right to education.*

***Minister of Science, Research & Technology  
Mr Kamran Daneshjoo  
Piroozan Jonoubi Avenue, Hormozan Street,  
Khordin Street, Sanát Square.  
Shahrak Ghods  
Tehran  
Iran***

Signed .....