



International Human Rights Organization

In Co-Operation with United Nations & Affiliated to International Bar Association

इंटरनेशनल ह्यूमन राईट्स ऑर्गेनाइजेशन

संयुक्त राष्ट्र एवं अंतर्राष्ट्रीय बार एसोसिएशन से सम्बन्ध

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Dr. Nem Singh Premi

Chairman

डा० नेम सिंह प्रेमी

अध्यक्ष

Ref. No.: IHRO/IA/UN

OL/2021/07

Date: 30.01.2021

30th January 2021

STATEMENT OF THE LEGAL FRATERNITY IN INDIA: On the religious persecution, discrimination and the prejudicial treatment of the Baha'is of Iran, resulting in torture, death, arrest, wrongful-detention, denial of educational and employment opportunities; more particularly judicial pronouncements on the seizing of the properties and dispossession of homes, rendering them Homeless without a livelihood.

The Baha'i community in Iran has been the target of a systematic campaign of persecution by the Government of Islamic Republic of Iran since 1979. Since then, over 200 Iranian Bahá'ís have been executed or murdered, thousands have been arrested, detained and interrogated, and tens of thousands more have been deprived of jobs, pensions, and educational opportunities. The Bahá'í community's holy places, cemeteries, and properties have been confiscated, vandalized, or destroyed, and many Bahá'ís have had their homes and other property seized or damaged.

The State sponsored persecution is part of the official Government policy and was laid down through a Memorandum which is circulated among all the organs of the state. This official memorandum was produced in 1991 by Iran's Supreme Revolutionary Cultural Council.

"The document, titled 'The Bahá'í Question', sets forth specific guidelines for dealing with the Bahá'ís. It states that "[t]he government's dealings with [Bahá'ís] must be in such a way that their progress and development are blocked". It outlines a series of measures to restrict the educational, economic, and cultural life of Iranian Bahá'ís. This memorandum remains in effect till today."

In last November over a hundred government agents raided the shops and homes of tens of Baha'is across Iran and demanded that they hand over their property deeds. The coordinated raids against so many Baha'is represses a gross violation of the basic human rights of the Baha'i citizens without any grounds except religious prejudice. The Government of Iran has institutionalized religious prejudice.

The Baha'is of Ivel village are a glaring example of systematic extermination and expulsion of the Baha'is since 1983 when the clergy had incited the Muslims crowds in the nearby villages and the Baha'is were dragged out of their homes and forced into buses to be transported outside the village to Sari, to be left there as displaced persons. The authorities in Sari protested and strictly opposed such a plan, only to make the bus return the Bahá'ís to Ivel. They were thereafter not allowed to return home and instead they were imprisoned in the local mosque for three days without food and water. They were attacked by villagers and a few were taken off by the mob, others were injured, and more were forced to hide in a nearby forest.



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In 2010, some individuals demolished 50 Bahá'í houses in Ivel. The majority of the lands belonging to the Baha'is have been confiscated. For the remainder of the lands, the Bahá'is are required to obtain written permission from the police and the court every year to be able to stay on their own property for a few days in order to organize their farming. During this time, even with the permission of the court and with the presence of the police, they are regularly harassed. This has continued despite their appeals to government institutions, the leader of the parliament, and the judicial system, etc.

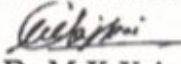
The numerous judicial orders which clearly establish prejudice on the part of the judicial authorities, culminated in a final judgement at the concluding session on 13 October 2020 and ruled against the legitimacy of the ownership of the homes and lands of 27 Bahá'is in the village of Ivel. Baha'i Faith is a world independent religion that believes in oneness of God, oneness of mankind and oneness of all the religions. They have established the iconic Lotus Temple in New Delhi that is the symbol of social integration and religious unity. It has approximately 2 million followers in India and over 5 million all over the world. The recent developments in Iran against the Baha'i community have invited the serious concern of various Government all over the world who have issued statements, U.S., Australia, Canada, Germany to name a few.


We the legal fraternity in India, severely denounce the violation of 'Rule of Law' in Iran and for the abuse of the Judicial organs in a prejudicial manner to promote religious persecution and hatred, resulting in violation of human rights, condemning the Baha'is to endless untold suffering and injustices. We urge the Iranian authorities to take affirmative steps to give back the property of the Baha'is of Ivel and end all forms of persecution of its Baha'is citizens.

On the Occasion of the 'Martyr's Day, i.e the day on which the 'father of our Nation' revered 'Mahatma Gandhi' sacrificed his life for peace, amity and brotherhood among humankind, we make this Appeal to the Iranian Govt and the United Nations to ensure elimination of religious prejudice and that justice be done.

Proposed by:

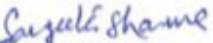

Dr. G. V. RAO,
Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India.

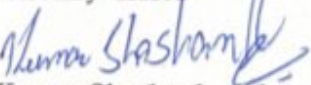

Dr. M. K. Vajpayee
Vice-Chairman-IHRO


Dr. Rajesh Kumar
Director-IHRO.

Seconded by:


Dr. Nem Singh Premi
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Secretary- IHRO


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Secretary - IHRO