Inciting Hatred

Iran's media campaign to demonize Bahá'ís

A special report of the
Bahá'í International Community
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Appendix II (online only)

The following are summaries in English of the more than 440 articles and reports that document incitement to hatred, discrimination, hostility or violence towards the Bahá'í Faith or its adherents in the Islamic Republic of Iran, as recorded by the Bahá'í International Community during a 16 month period from 17 December 2009 to May 2011. All extracts are translated from the original Persian. It should be noted that these articles and reports reflect only what could be discovered in online sources that are available outside Iran. Many thousands more are likely to have appeared in media and other sources accessible only inside Iran. All are from official or semi-official sources.

As of the time this report was issued, all available evidence indicates that official efforts to incite hatred towards the Bahá'í Faith and its adherents in Iran continues – something that can be easily discovered through a simple Internet search using any of the key terms the refer to Bahá'ís in the Persian language.

27 December 2009 – 3 January 2010

Web sites

Cultural affairs officials given responsibility to inform the nation of "sinister goals of Bahaism"

Source: Rasa News Web site - conservative news agency run by clerics in Qom

Content: In an interview with Rasa News in Tabriz on 17 December 2009, Hojatoleslam Mohammad Kamalvand, professor of Tabriz seminary and university stated that among the

tasks of Cultural Affairs officials is the responsibility to inform the nation of "the sinister goals of Bahaism…Today Baha'ism has entered the field with great financial recourses and started a large propaganda effort. Today Baha'ism raises the issues of human rights and equality and non-violence, words that are pleasant for many, but reality is something else. While Baha'ism is currently trying to change its wicked profile… we should enlighten youth regarding the satanic goals of the enemies of Islam. Has history forgotten Bahaism's view of Amir Kabir's martyrdom as God's revenge, or Bahá'u'lláh's servitude toward Russia and England? ... [Bahá'u'lláh] shamelessly issued a divine tablet in praise of Israel, whose bloodthirstiness is clear to the whole world, while today [Bahá'ís] deceitfully scream for human rights…Where in human civilization is the violation of honour considered acceptable, and which divine religion permits usury and marriage among close relatives?...

Allegation that Bahá'ís are supporting the reformists

Source: Fars News Agency, government-affiliated

Content: On 18 December 2009, Fars News reported that Elias Naderan, Tehran's representative in the political meeting of the Rahpouyan-e Enghelab-e Eslami [Path Seekers of the *Islamic Revolution*], said: "The Bahá'ís supported a specific camp in the country during the recent elections. And it should be made clear today what the current position of this camp is with respect to the Bahá'ís in the country."

Commission on religions and sects in Kerman

Source: Islamic Development Organization (IDO) Web site, government-affiliated site.

Content: On 29 December 2009, IDO reported that a "Commission on Religions and Sects" was held in Kerman to "study the activities of the misguided Bahaist sect".

Dorri Najafabadi: "Propaganda against the Islamic regime will not succeed"

Source: Islamic Republic News Agency Web site (IRNA), government official news agency

Content: On 29 December 2009, IRNA reported that Ayatollah Ghorbanali Dorri Najafabadi, representative of the Supreme Leader and Friday prayer leader in the city of Arak [province of Arak] had, in a gathering of mourners of the Imam Hussein, warned against external and internal enemies, and, alleging that the BBC was behind the anti-regime activities on Ashura, stated: "This broadcasting network is fed by the misguided Bahaist sect and their news about Islamic Iran is false and baseless."

Encouragement: A Conversation

Source: Kayhan, ultra-conservative, government-backed daily newspaper

Content: On 30 December 2009, Kayhan published an article in which it alleged that opposition leaders, specifically Moussavi, Karoubi, and Khatami, were being supported by the U.S., Israel, England, and the Bahá'ís in America.

Iran State Media blames the "Bahaist Sect" for recent unrest

The following item, posted on 29 December 2009 on the "Muslim Network for Bahá'í Rights" Web site, provides translations of articles published by Fars News (government-affiliated) and Javan News (pro-regime) on 28 December:

- Yesterday [28 December 2009] in Iran, articles appeared in two government-run news outlets blaming the Baha'i "sect" for the recent unrest in Iran, and namely the widespread protests that took place across the country on the day of Ashura. The Javan Newspaper, affiliated with the Revolutionary Guards, claimed that the protesters in "Mousavi's camp" tore Qur'ans during the protests, and that this is a practice that is common among the "Baha'i branch" of Mousavi's staff. The semi-official Fars News Agency, which has recently seen an influx in its ranks of Basij members, claimed that "Baha'ism under the leadership of Zionism is behind the latest crisis and unrest".

The following is a translation from Farsi of the relevant paragraphs of the Fars News Agency story:

- ***Baha'ism, Led by Zionism, is Hatching Intrigue Behind the Scenes of the Recent Unrest*** [Note: This same story was also published on Emrooz and Ayandeh, which are both reformist-leaning Web sites]

> *Ne'matollah Bavand, an expert and researcher in political affairs, proclaims that Bahaism under the leadership of Zionism is behind the latest crisis and unrest.*
>
> *Asserting that there is no doubt that Baha'ism, led by Zionism, is behind these disturbances, Bavand declared: "A female advisor to one of the candidates in the recent presidential election who wears a turban defended Baha'ism."*
>
> *He added: "How long will the government put up with these people? Haven't the people been convinced yet of the nature of these hypocrisies?…An advisor to this man, who pretends to be a man of the cloth and who was once the head of parliament, has openly come out in defense of Baha'ism and is currently completing training with her husband in England to become spies."*
>
> *He emphasized, "The public sees these things and becomes upset. Isn't there a way to take care of these problems? The key players leave Iran and people of lesser importance are tried, when it is the key players that need to be tried! …The enemy has come to seek revenge for all the victories [of the Islamic Republic] in the Mecca of Islam: Iran!"*

Below a translation from Farsi of the Javan newspaper story:

- ***Plot of Baha'ism in the Moussavi Camp to Publicly Desecrate Religious Sanctities is Exposed***

> *On Ashura, the protectors of the Moussavi camp did not have the decency to abstain from desecrating even the most sacred of religious sanctities. By tearing up copies of the Qur'an on Enqelab Street in front of those mourning the martyrdom of Imam Husayn, they have exposed another side of their contempt for religion.*
> *Confirming the above report, an expert in matters of security told Javan Online: "The actions of the Malawi Camp in desecrating religious sanctities are nothing new. In fact,*

this began happening when a Baha'i branch in the staff of this candidate was formed during the days leading up to the election."

He added: "This sect has long been planning to attack the religious sanctities of the people on 'Ashura but since they can never secure the protection of the masses, they will never succeed."

Regarding the role of Baha'ism in desecrating religious sanctities, our expert in matters of security stated, "The path that the Moussavi camp is taking in their attack on religious sanctities is the exact same path that the misguided Baha'i sect has been on for years."

He added: "We have evidence connecting the sect of Baha'ism with the Moussavi camp and the strategic partnership between these two groups."

- On 29 December 2009, ISNA reported that Hojjatoleslam Naysari, the director of the Council for Coordination of Islamic Propagation in Western Azerbaijan said: "It is obvious that these insulting acts of a group of ruffians and elements of arrogance have no other aim but to damage the Islamic revolution and establish the aims of America, Israel and Bahá'ísm. The article continues by attacking the demonstrators of the day of Ashura."

- On 29 December 2009, Sook news (government-affiliated official Web site of Bushehr) reported that the people behind the insulting of the Imam Hussein on Ashura are "the same ones who promote marriage with close relatives. Baha'is do not forbid marriage with close relatives such as sister, mother, niece and aunt and ... they are fully authorized to do so." The article also refers to the wives of Baha'u'llah and asserts that the Kitab-i-Aqdas permits having two wives and a virgin maid. It also alleges that the son of a former city ruler of Bushehr was instrumental in the creation of BBC Persian – "The fact is that the Bahá'ís today cannot find any news media in the world more trustworthy for them than the BBC Persian because this news media has become a tool for the realization of the preferences and religious heresies of this group. But one more thing: now BBC Persian whose operators are all Bahá'ís, is the media guide and leader of those who, on the day of Ashura, with their norm-breaking and offensive moves, insulted the dearest traditions and opinions of the people of Iran…The question now is, can those who treat their close relatives in this way be trusted? And what is the duty of us Muslims toward these devils?"

- On 29 December 2009 the Washington TV Web site carried a report regarding the fact that the state-owned television of the Islamic Republic of Iran had broadcast a live interview with a political expert who blamed the Baha'i "sect" for the latest wave of unrest in Iran. The article cited the Fars News interview of Ne'matollah Bavand and his assertions that "there is no doubt that Baha'ism, led by global Zionism, is behind these currents." It also quoted his statement that "Baha'ism infiltrated the country's management in the nineties…some of the managers of that decade were influenced by Baha'ism and carried out certain projects" and noted that Mr. Bavand had accused "female advisor" of Mehdi Karoubi of supporting the Bahá'í Faith.

- On 30 December 2009, Fars news published an interview with Mohammad Karim Abedi, Member of Parliament (representing the Ferdos constituency) and member of the National Security Commission, regarding the protests on that same day [30 December], in which Mr. Abedi said: "Iran and the Shiite nation will never accept the insulting of the sanctity of Imam Hussein and the representative of the Qaim and will deal with it firmly…Arrogant countries such as England, America, and Zionists, and Bahaism and

all those who bear ill-will toward our Faith did their best on the day of Ashura to disrupt the ceremonies."

- On 30 December 2009, Fars News reported that Jamal Kazemi-Asl, head of Payam Noor University in Imam Port (formerly Shahpour Port), had said: "Anyone who distances himself from the path of the Imamate and its Deputyship whether the elite, the revolutionary, the general public, the anti-revolutionary, the clergy and otherwise, will be destroyed." Mr. Kazemi-Asl refers to the protesters as "pretenders with an Islamic background" who, having previously been unsuccessful in their aims, are now working "in cooperation with the hypocrites, the monarchists, the Bahá'ís, and communists in order to defy Islam and the Muslim nation"; Mr. Kazemi-Asl called for strong action to be taken against to combat these instigators of unrest.

- On 31 December 2009, IRNA reported that the governor of Kohgiluyeh and Boyer Ahmad, based in Yasuj, had issued a statement on 29 December condemning "the insolence of some misguided people toward Hussein's Ashura". The statement refers to Bahá'ís as being among the planners of the Ashura demonstration.

Seminars and Symposia

Introductory courses on Wahhabism and the Bahá'í Faith

Source: Iranian Quran News Agency (IQNA), government-affiliated news agency.

Content: On 16 December 2009, IQNA reported that Hojjatoleslam Seyyed Mahmoud Madani, of the Office of Cultural Promotion at the Islamic Propaganda Office, had announced in an interview: "So far this year, 12 introductory courses on Wahhabism and the Bahaist sect have been held throughout the country; 12 additional courses will be held over the coming year. These courses were attended by 154 people in Ahvaz, 120 in Abadan, and 70 in Kerman and in other provinces."

3 - 16 January 2010

Web sites

Iran State Media alleges the "Bahaist Sect" is behind recent unrest

- On 1 January 2010, Fars News reported that Hojjatoleslam Hussein Amirnejad, representative of the Supreme Leader in the Army Corp of Hashtrood had said in an interview with the Fars News: "Agents of international arrogance, spreaders of sedition, anti-revolutionaries, and countries such as America, Israel, and England have played a part behind the scenes in desecrating our religious sanctities. The Bahaist sect also plays a fundamental role in these incidents…Some mercenary local people who have been blinded by worldly attractions and love for leadership are running these events."

- On 3 January 2010, Persian BBC reported that according to the Mehr News agency, on 3 January 2010, Muhammad Karimirad, the Ministry of Intelligence's Deputy Minister for the internal security of the Intelligence Ministry, had asserted in a meeting with the Commission of Internal Security and Foreign Policy of the Majlis, that the Ashura unrest had been fomented by monarchists and Iranian expatriates. Mr. Karimirad, quoting the

Ministry of Intelligence said, “Four members of the Marxist faction” are the agents of these demonstrations and added that “a number of Bahá’ís” also had a role in these “seditious events”.

- On 4 January 2010, Fars News reported that the Deputy Minister of Intelligence had said in a meeting with the Islamic Revolutionary Faction of the Majlis: “According to documents and information captured from the mischief-makers on the day of Ashura, the leaders of sedition and groups of their assistants had plotted [the events of] the day of Ashura.**”** Hojjatoleslam Ruhollah Husainian, representative of the people of Tehran and the head of the Islamic Revolution Faction of the Majlis, disclosed that a number of people from the provinces had been called to Tehran by a relative of “the leaders of sedition” on the pretext of their participating in cultural programs on Ashura. He further stated: “The seditious faction, Communists [Tudeh], Marxists, monarchists, and even the Bahá'í faction had called all their helpers from across the country to Tehran. Fortunately, through the knowledge and intelligence of the security police and a timely gathering of people, the plot of these mischief makers was defeated.”

- On 5 January 2010, Fars News reported: “Mr. Hossein Nejabat, member of the Energy Commission in Majlis, emphasized that Mr. Moussavi still insists on his “bogus movement”, despite the affront on the day of Ashura…The Western media along with groups who oppose the regime, such as the Bahá’ís, are spreading lies about the Ashura incidents and pretend that the seditious events were the work of an oppressed group**.”**

- On 6 January 2010, Kayhan reported that Ayatollah Mesbah Yazdi had stated: “The incidents of the recent months are a sign of corruption on earth.”

- On 8 January 2010, IRNA published an article titled “Bahá’ís were arrested for having organized the Ashura disturbances”. The article reported that “members of Iran's outlawed Bahá’í Faith have been arrested in connection with recent anti-government protests and some weapons were seized.” IRNA quoted the Tehran prosecutor as having said: “They were arrested because they played a role in organising the Ashura protests and for having sent abroad pictures of the unrest. They were not arrested because they are Bahá’ís. Arms and ammunition were seized in the homes of some of them…when their cases are wrapped up, their files will be sent to the revolutionary tribunal for a verdict."

- On 9 January 2010, Fars News reported: “The trial of the Bahá’ís will be held this week in a revolutionary court in Tehran, according to Tehran prosecutor Abbas Jafari Dolatabadi.”

- On 10 January 2010, the Rahe Sabaz (Green Movement) Web site reported that security officials, in collaboration with National Iran TV and radio, (Seda va sima) are in the process of recording a series of new confessions about the Ashura unrest, to be broadcast at National TV. The film and editing crews had gone to Evin prison and on the first day of filming recorded the confessions of a few Bahá’ís who have confessed that they had participated in the Ashura riots under orders from the “Central Body of the Bahá’í Community”.

<u>Sixty-two American and European organizations accused of creating post-election disturbances</u>

Source: Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), official government news agency

Content: On 4 January 2010, IRNA reported that the Foreign Affairs Deputy of the Ministry of Intelligence had received information about the role which American and European organizations had played in the post-election disturbances. He indicated that sixty-two American and European organizations had been found guilty of creating and supporting post-election disturbances and announced that all interaction with these agencies was henceforth prohibited, citing specifically "all media, satellites, and internet networks hostile to the policies of the Islamic Republic, including VOA, BBC, Radio Farda, Radio Zamaneh, Radio Israel, anti-revolutionary satellite networks such as Mujahidin, monarchist groups, Pars, Rangarang, Channel One and antirevolutionary internet sites that encourage riots such as Jaras." He linked the recent riots to unregulated communications with foreigners and warned Iranians from all classes of society against establishing any unconventional relationship with embassies, foreign nationals, and their centres and agents. He asked for everyone's cooperation with the Ministry of Intelligence to protect the country and the Islamic Republic.

Re arrest of 10 Bahá'ís following Ashura demonstrations

Source: Kayhan, ultra-conservative, government-backed daily newspaper

Content: Page one of the 5 January 2010 edition of Kayhan carried a report that British and American news media became anxious after the detention of a number of the leaders of "the colonialist party of Bahaism":

The English BBC and American Farda Radio announced that after the incidents of Ashura 10 members and leaders of Bahá'ís were arrested. One of the leaders of this event, outside the country, in a joint interview with BBC and Radio Farda announced the following names as those arrested: Babak and Laqa Mobbasher, Jinus Sobhani, Artin Ghazanfari, Negar Sabet, Nasim Beglari, Sa`id and Mehran Rawhani, Payam Fan'iyan and Mona Hovayda'í, and said three of them have been released. According to some foreign news services Nika Hovayda'í, Zavash and Ibrahim Shadmehr, and Leva Khanjani were also among those that were arrested in the beginning.

Seven leaders of Bahá'ís were arrested last year for espionage for the Zionist regime and propaganda against the Islamic order. The centre of the Baha'is is located in Haifa (the occupied Palestine).

Jinus Sobhani, who is among those arrested, is the secretary of the Defenders of Human Rights (established by Shirin Ebadi on the recommendation of Dick Chaney the former Vice President of George Bush), and has a close relationship with Shirin Ebadi in engaging in espionage for foreigners and spreading rumours against the Islamic Republic and instigating disturbances. It is some months that Ebadi has run away from the country and despite her first claim about returning to the country, she has reneged on this promise. There are indications that this monarchist is a Bahá'í. Outside the country she has removed her veil.

The Defenders of Human Rights was a joint home of Bahá'í teams, the Freedom Movement faction, monarchists, and some fundamentalist members of the Reform Council and was established with a grant in the guise of Nobel Prize.

In the light of the longstanding enmity of the English-created Bahaist sect against the Imamite and Shi`ism…the activities of this misguided and corrupt event on the day of Ashura, which aimed at desecrating the Hussaini mourning ceremonies, is all the more understandable. Also, the leaders of this event have connections with the Zionist regime, England, and America. During the Pahlavi time, criminal and tyrannical Bahá'í elements were appointed as the head of organizations such as SAVAK, the police and the army.

In addition to a number of Bahá'ís, the Intelligence Ministry arrested 14 members of the seditious faction during the anti-revolution disturbances of the day of Ashura. There is a possibility that they will be executed as combatants…

The representative of the people of Kermanshah said that security officials had presented additional documentation related to the disturbances. Among the leaders of the Ashura disturbances who have been arrested are four members of the Marxist faction. In addition a number of Bahá'ís also have had a role in the recent disturbances.

Another informed official gave the news of the arrest of 14 members of the terrorist seditious faction during the disturbances of the day of Ashura, and added: Six of them are experienced members of the seditious faction. This informed official told Jahan News that during the events which desecrated Ashura, sixteen members of the misguided Bahaist sect were arrested. The activities of the terrorists during the disturbances of the day of Ashura (last Sunday) resulted in the death of seven individuals. These martyrs were targeted by pellet guns and in some instances were thrown from high buildings. On that day the nephew of Mir Hussein Moussavi was killed far from the disturbance and on a quiet street by a team that fled the scene.

Youth of province warned against the Bahá'í Faith

Source: Fars News Agency, government- affiliated

Content: On 6 January 2010, Fars news reported that Manuchehr Cheraghi, Deputy Commander of the Security Forces in Chahar Mahal and Bakhtiyari, had said that the propagation of Christian, Zoroastrian and Bahaist beliefs poses a danger to the youth of the province and must be prevented.

IRNA cites attention in India to trial of former members of the Yárán (leadership group) as evidence of increased efforts by Israel to influence India's policies

Source: Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), official government news agency

Content: On 10 January 2010, IRNA reported that in New Delhi a number of Indian Bahá'ís, who are supported by the Zionists, have expressed anxiety about the trial of the Yárán in Iran. The Indian Bahá'í community, while expressing anxiety about the grave situation of human rights in Iran, has condemned the "unlawful detention" of seven leaders of Bahá'ís in Iran and has asked the intervention of the Foreign Ministry of India in this matter. IRNA states that in the last two decades Israel has continued efforts to influence the policies of India by creating a powerful lobby in that country. The Indian

Jews and the Bahá'ís are the tools for this purpose. In this report, Bahá'ís are characterized as "spies" and as being involved in post-election riots. IRNA ends the report by saying that the Centre of the Bahá'í Faith is in Israel.

Allegation that Bahá'ís outside Iran are providing financial assistance to some election headquarters and meddling in country's internal political affairs

Source: Javan Online, government-affiliated Web site for youth

Content: On 10 January 2010, Javan Online published an "exclusive" article on financial assistance which Bahá'ís living abroad are alleged to be providing to opposition candidates. Javan Online said that according to a knowledgeable source, Bahá'ís within the country were present during the presidential elections and served as conduits of internal and external [financial] assistance and used the money for the election campaign. The source explained that groups of Bahá'ís abroad bypassed bank accounts by providing assistance in the guise of merchandise transactions. After the merchandise was sent to Iran it was sold, thereby converted into Rials. The source named India, Germany, and some countries of South East Asia as having been among those involved in the transitions.

Trial of the former members of the Yárán (leadership group): "news" posted on Web site the night before the trial was held

Source: Fararu Web site, managed by a group of journalists inside Iran. Government affiliation is not known.

Content: On 11 January [the night before the trial of Yárán], the Fararu Web site reported that the first session of the trial of the seven leaders of the illegal Bahaist administration had been convened in Branch 28 of the General and Revolutionary Court of Tehran. First, the indictment was read by the Prosecutor's representative. The seven accused are charged with: espionage for the benefit of foreigners, propaganda activities against the Islamic order, the establishment and propagation of illegal administration, cooperation with the Israel, collection of secret documents and forwarding of them to foreigners with the aim of undermining the country's security, and gathering for the purpose of disrupting the internal and external security of Iran, discrediting the Islamic Republic of Iran in international circles, and spreading corruption on earth.

The Web site stated that according to documents used as evidence and the confessions of the accused, they were had meetings in the houses of Ambassadors of various Western countries, supplying them with information and news, and discussing their latest methods and activities.

The article further noted that all administrative activities of Bahá'ís in Iran were guided by their international centre which is located in Israel, under the title "House of Justice". This administration was dismantled and declared illegal last year by the respected Prosecutor General of the country. Reference was also made to the 1983 disbanding of Bahá'í administrative activity as "illegal and unofficial at all levels".

Assertions that the Bahá'ís are behind the Green Movement

Source: Kayhan, ultra-conservative, government-backed daily newspaper

Content: On 11 January 2010, Kayhan reported that "New clues have emerged indicating the active role played by the colonialist Bahaism party in the management of the green sedition," stating:

> *"The think tank of the Green seditionists turned out to be Bahá'ís*
>
> *New clues have emerged indicating the active role played by the colonialist Bahaism party in the management of the green sedition.*
>
> *"After the detention of ten leaders and members of the Bahaist sect during the desecration of the day of Ashura, the 'Jaras' site had hastily announced: the detained persons would confess on television that they participated in the riot of Ashura by following orders from the center of command of the Bahá'í community.…*
> *In the past few days, the anti-revolution Jaras network has been trying to portray the colonialist and freemason party of Bahaism as non-violent on the one hand, while calling the rioters and desecrators of the day of Ashura non-combatants and merely civil objectors. Of course, this site has not explained that if Bahá'ís are against riots and interference in politics, what were they doing in the disgraced riots of Ashura and fighting against Islam and Islamic Order and Imam Husain?*
>
> *The recent unprecedented haste of Jaras is noteworthy because its main administrators have special connections with the Bahá'ís and Bahaism. For example, Mohsen Kadivar, who pretends to be a cleric and has fled and lives in America, by deceiving Mr. Montazari, was able to get a decree (Fatwa) from him about the rights of the Bahá'is! This action has been unprecedented in the annals of the history of Shi`ah Islam… Other elements such as Abdu'l-Karim Sorush and Akbar G., [Akbar Ganji] also have served Bahá'í leaders and their English and American bosses by denying the prophetic mission and the divinity of the Quran and attacking the belief in Mahdi'ism. Ata'u'llah Mohajerani (brother-in-law of Kadivar) is another of the administrators of the Jaras network. It is rumored that some members of Kadivar's family are Bahá'ís. Recently this team announced itself as the think tank of the green movement.*
>
> *The article then quotes Diane Ala'i, calling her a representative of Bahá'is "outide the country," as correctly saying that Bahá'is are "committed to absolute non-violence." But the article continues, contradicting that, saying: "This claim is made notwithstanding that many leaders of the bloodthirsty SAVAK and the Army and Police during the Pahlavi regime were well-known Bahá'ís."*
>
> *Finally, it adds: "It should be noted that the headquarters of the Bahá'ís is located in the occupied Palestine and is officially directed by the Zionist regime."*

"Bahá'í Civil Rights from the perspective of the teacher, Mohsen Kadivar"

Source: Tehran Rahesabz in Persian Web site, pro-reform

Content: On 11 January 2010, Rahesabz Web site published an article by Mohsen Kadivar addressing the foregoing Kayhan article ("The main brain behind the green sedition is Bahá'í.") Kadivar states: "Kayhan, which is operated with the people's money (Beyt al-Mal) and is supervised by the representative of the Leader of the Islamic Republic, tries to malign the face of the Green Movement by connecting it to Bahá'ís. Kayhan has purveyed several lies in its fictitious story. First, I not only never talked about the Bahá'ís with my teacher, the Grand Ayatollah Montazeri, I never presented a religious question to him about Bahá'ís. Second, the question of some of my relatives being Bahá'í is a complete fabrication of the sick mind of the plenipotentiary representative of Mr. Khamenei." Kadivar then goes on to say that he won't waste more time in answering these lies. However, he includes the complete text of the two decrees (Fatwas) by Ayatollah Montazari on the rights of Bahá'ís as well as his own opinion: "In those two Fatwas Ayatollah Montazari stated that because Bahá'ís do not have a divine Book, they are not recognized as a religious minority. But since they are the residents of this country they have the rights of citizenship, civil rights and must receive the Islamic kindness that has been mentioned in Quran. Also he emphasized that although Bahá'ís are not followers of any divine religion but according to Quran and Imam Alí, their human rights must be protected."

Kadivar's opinion on the civil rights of Bahá'ís: "Every human being is entitled to at least the basic human rights mentioned in the Universal declaration of Human Rights and the two Treaties. The human rights of everyone, regardless of their religious beliefs must be protected. No human being can be deprived of his rights due to his religious beliefs–even if according to our perspective it is a wrong one."

Kayhan on charges against those who fomented the riots

Source: Kayhan, ultra-conservative, government-backed daily newspaper

Content: On 11 January 2010, Kayhan reported that the name of those who were behind the riots as "spreader corruptor on earth" and "combatant against God" has created anxiety in the international media, including Radio Farda, Deutsche Welle, BBC, Voice of America, Zamaneh Radio, Rooznet, Gooyanews, and Jaras etc. who have used the opinions of a few lawyers to reject the charge. Their argument is that combat means declaration of war against God with arms, which is not true in the case of the detainees. However, Kayhan asserts, "the rioters were armed and committed many crimes such as attacking police and Basij, wounding many, including civil citizens, attacking the mourners of the Imam Hussain, burning the Quran and Imam Khomeini's photo and so forth. These rioters with their words and actions have emphasized that they want to overthrow the Islamic Order. These acts are so criminal and disgraceful that it is impossible to think of them as anything but 'combating against God'."

Seminars and Symposia

Training course "Study of Deviant Sects" in Khorramabad

Source: Iranian Quran News Agency (IQNA), government-affiliated news agency.

Content: On 2 January 2010, Hojjatoleslam Mohammad Momenizadeh, Cultural Vice President of Lorestan's Islamic Propaganda Organization was interviewed by IQNA

regarding the training course "Study of Deviant Sects" dedicated to the Lorestan province missionaries' network. The report indicated that the course covered "a general introduction to deviant sects, short history, principles, beliefs and critique of Sai Baba, Eckankar, modern Satanism, and the Bahaist sect."

17-24 January 2010

Web sites

Accusation that letter to an individual in Iran offers evidence that Bahá'ís were "ordered" by the House of Justice to engage in subversive activities

Sources: Raja News and Jahan News, government-affiliated [Note: Javan online is also cited in the article as having reported on this matter; Javan is also government-affiliated]

Content: On 24 January 2010, Raja News and Jahan News each published identical articles in reaction to the 22 January 2010 letter, although under different titles. The Raja News item was titled "*Orders issued by the headquarters of the perverse Bahaist sect for its followers in Iran*" and the Jahan News item was published under the heading, "*Invitation to participate in the riots in Tehran*". Following is the full text of the article, which quotes directly from the 22 January letter:

> *The headquarters of the perverse Bahaist sect in Israel have officially invited the followers of this sect to participate in the riots in Ihram.*
>
> *According to Javan Online, a section of the guidance sent by "Department of the Secretariat of the House of Justice" states, "At the same time, Bahá'ís are enjoined to be actively engaged in constructive discourses and a wide range of social actions aimed at the betterment of the world and their homeland".*
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> *Also, another section of this announcement which has been prepared for the Bahá'ís in Iran concerning their participation in the riots, states, "In principle Bahá'ís are generally free as individuals to take part in peaceful rallies or other such events which are organized to promote constructive ideas and views, such as the advancement of women, social justice, preservation of the environment, elimination of all form of discrimination, safeguarding of human rights, and so on, should they so desire".*
>
> *Moreover, this announcement reveals some of the Bahá'í institutions inside the country that are responsible for guiding the Iranian Bahá'ís and states, "The Bahá'í administrative structure serves as a means for channelling the energies of the believers and for organizing the religious and social affairs of the Bahá'í community itself. In their efforts to determine how and where best they may serve the common good, Bahá'ís throughout the world seek guidance from and consult with Bahá'í institutions and agencies."*
>
> *Along with all these orders, the headquarters for the Bahá'ís has asked the followers of this sect to teach the Bahaist sect through the writing of articles about it in order to spread and expand this perverse sect.*

ISNA alleges Bahá'ís involved in organization of Ashura protests

Source: Iranian Students News Agency (ISNA), government official news agency

Content: On 18 January 2010, ISNA reported on the trial of five individuals who had been charged with participation in the events on the Day of Ashura. The report quoted the public prosecutor as having said: "The Munáfiqín [stirrers of sedition] who were arrested have confessed that they were trained to kill and to start riots in the place where this Guruhak[1] is based."

According to ISNA, the bill of indictment contains some statements about Imam Khomeini, the Islamic Revolution, and the enemies of the revolution, including the United States. Following are excerpts from the bill of indictment which refer to the Bahá'í Faith:

> *The enemies of the Revolution took advantage of the riots and the events staged after the presidential elections up to the Day of 'Ashura and conspired to create disorder on that day. In this connection, secular groups, anti-revolutionary groups, monarchists, Munáfiqín, the perverse Bahaist sect, etc., are important factions who illustrate the activities and goals of anti-revolutionary and illegal groups of enemies who are trying to damage the [Islamic] regime.*
>
> *A significant number of these perverted groups who interacted through Web conferencing—together with elements of the perverse Bahaist sect who were directly connected to the heads of this sect in Israel and received orders from them in creating disorder on the Day of 'Ashura—were stationed in a number of areas carrying signs and banners, insulting the regime and religious sanctities. They wrongly imagined that they were going to destroy the Islamic regime once and for all.*
>
> *While the martyr-nurturing people of Iran were busy in the mosques, mourning on the Day of 'Ashura, the Munáfiqín and monarchist groups and the perverse Bahaist sect and [other] illegal groups, were insulting the sanctities of Islam by cheering, applauding and whistling. Also, by beating and insulting the mourners of Imam Ḥusayn and the police, they committed more grievous crimes, including Muḥárabah[2] and holding gatherings with the intention of acting against the security of the country. In their attacks on the Islamic regime, they did not even hesitate to commit crimes contrary to public morality, starting fires, and destroying public and private properties.*
>
> *The Munáfiqín who were arrested have confessed to holding unlawful gatherings in order to create uprisings and disorder. They especially used the tenth presidential election and the events following it as an excuse to gather in Iraq, where this infidel Muḥárib group is based, as well as in other European countries, to gain training in*

[1] [Anti-revolutionary political organizations and other illegal groups]

[2] [In Islamic law, the crime of Muḥárabah is taking up arms against Islamic government or Islamic laws. An individual who commits the crime is a Muḥárib.]

terrorism and how to start riots. In their final confessions, these individuals stated that while engaged in espionage and information collection during the elections, they were present in all the illegal and anti-revolutionary gatherings held after the elections, and, in order to create dissatisfaction amongst the people, they participated in organized missions such as to plant bombs, carry out assassinations they blamed on the regime, install billboards containing propaganda, write slogans, destroy property belonging to individuals and official entities by arson and other means. They sent recordings of the scenes of the riots—which were caused by them––to enemies outside the country and to the intelligence agencies of those enemies and their networks.

Based on the findings of the investigations, official reports, the confessions of the accused, and the contents of the case files on the crimes committed by the accused, we ask the respected presiding judge to apply the maximum sentence possible for these individuals.

IRNA alleges Bahá'ís involved in organization of Ashura protests

Source: Islamic Republic News Agency Web site (IRNA), government official news agency

Content: On 20 January 2010, Lotfollah Forouzandeh, Vice President for the development of management and human resources, stated in an interview with IRNA regarding the Ashura protests: "Some enemies, including the hypocrites, the monarchists and the perverse Bahaist sect, entered the fray with the support of Global Arrogance and some of the elite, by issuing statements, played into their hands…Today everyone knows that the Global Arrogance was seeking to overthrow the regime and certain of the elite should have maintained their watchfulness in this regard."

Kayhan alleges Bahá'ís are influencing the Green Movement

Source: Kayhan, ultra-conservative, government-backed daily newspaper

Content: On 16 January 2010, Kayhan published two reports, one of them authored by Hussein Shariatmadari, the chief editor of the publication, alleging that the Bahá'í Faith is clearly involved in the "Green Movement"; the articles allege that two of the five Iranian intellectuals who are prominent members and organizers of the "Green Movement" have denied existence of the Twelfth Imam and this is evidence of the Bahá'í Faith's influence on the movement. The two are Ataollah Mohajerani and Akbar Ganji; the latter is alleged to have stated in an interview broadcast by the BBC that belief in Mahdi'ism (people who believe in return of Twelfth Imam) is derived from Christianity and there is no proof for the existence of Twelfth Imam. The article attacks the Green Movement and connects its alleged rejection of the existence of the Twelfth Imam to the Bahá'í Faith: "Previously Kayhan had reported the exclusive role of the misguided, colonialist and anti-Shia Bahaism in the Green Movement and the recent news [that prominent members of Green Movement reject the Twelfth Imam] confirms those reports." The article written by Shariatmadari concludes by asserting that statements, especially those made by people such as Atá'u'lláh Mohajerani (the article states that Mohajerani's name is actually Bahá'u'lláh Mohajerani) in negation of Shí`ísm and the Twelfth Imam have been increasing and it is now among the duties of the

movement's leaders to disclaim existence of Twelfth Imam. Kayhan claims that they have tens of documents proving this.

Alleged connection of Bahá'ís to the official Web site (Jaras) of the Green Movement

Source: Kayhan, ultra-conservative, government-backed daily newspaper

Content: On17 January 2010, Kayhan reported that Jaras News Agency which is the Web site of the Green Movement, is being managed by people such as "Bahá'u'lláh [Atá'u'lláh] Mohajerani, Mohsen Kadivar, Abdu'l-Karim Sorush and Akbar Ganji". The article alleges that Jaras is anti-religion and anti-revolution, and that some of its main managers are Bahá'ís, and states that Sorush, Akbar Ganji and Kadivar have gradually divulged their true nature and "joined Bahaism in defending the tampering of religion. Of course if the Báb and Bahá'u'lláh could call themselves Imam and prophet and finally God, Maybe the new Bahá'u'lláh [i.e., Attaollah Mohajerani] also can follow their example."

Resalat newspaper alleges Bahá'ís are linked to the Green Movement

Source: Resalat, daily morning Newspaper, Web site, government official news agency

Content: On 23 January 2010, the Resalat Web site published an article attacking Green Movement and alleging: "We have found new [evidence of] the role of the colonialist Bahaist sect in the management of the sedition of Bahá'ís during the Ashura demonstrations. After the detention of ten leaders and members of the misguided sect in the Ashura demonstrations, with great haste the Jaras Web site announced that these individuals would confess during a television program that they had acted according to the instructions of the community's central organization…The anti-revolution Jaras network has tried on the one hand to introduce the colonialist and Freemason Bahaist sect as opposed to brutality and on the other hand calls the protesters and insulters of the day of Ashura non-combatants and civil-protesters. Of course this site has not explained why, if Bahá'ís are against brutality and interference in politics, did they participate in the disgraced anti-revolution events of the day of Ashura in opposition to Islam and the Islamic regime and Imam Hussein."

Allegation that Baha'is are trying to get exclusive rights to import certain goods to Iran

Source: Khabar Online, government-affiliated news agency

Content: On 16 January 2010, Khabar online reported: "Bahá'í elite in Iran have intensified their networking efforts to obtain financial assistance from some foreign countries and from their international supporters. These individuals were seeking to create a monopoly on some foreign products for import to Iran from certain European and American companies. One of these requests was for pharmaceutical imports."

"Imam Khomeini: Fear Bahá'ís and Zionism, they are animals" [on picture of Satan]

Source: Javan Online (government-affiliated Web site for youth)

Content: On 24 January 2010, Javan online reported that fringe elements of Bahá'ís in Iran, while continuing meetings with their influential members, have discussed new programs for their activities. In an interview with Javan online an expert commented on this matter: "In these meetings, which are convened regularly in various sections of Tehran, while stressing the impact of the recent flare-up against them in recent events and the negative public opinion about them, they have talked about the situation of Bahaism in the current unstable conditions in Iran…In these meetings, while they talked about the support of Bahaism by some countries, they also talked about new financial arrangements, administrative communication, and receiving instructions and direction to the effect that they can overcome the unstable situation by increasing their propaganda and creating doubts [in the public mind] about the sacred Twelfth Imam and Mahdí'ísm through the distribution of some banned books such as those of Kasravi in CD format throughout the country in a new cycle of activities."

Newspaper acquitted of propaganda charges for having published a photo of the Bahá'í House of Worship in India

Source: BBC Persian Web site

Content: On 20 January 2010, the BBC Persian Web site reported that the Prosecutor of Branch 2 of the court acquitted Hamshahri of charges of having purveyed propaganda in favour of the Bahá'í Faith when it published a photograph of the House of Worship in India in conjunction with a travel promotion to that country. BBC stated that Mehr News had cited the court's verdict: "…according to the provisions of press law, the mere publication of a commercial advertisement promoting tourism to a certain location does not necessarily mean promoting a sect and article 9 of the Press Law does allow the mere presenting of the material provided it is not considered as propaganda [for a sect]…the mere insertion of an image without specifying detailed characteristics, introducing the buildings depicted in the image, especially under conditions where most of the readers are unaware of its association with a certain sect, is not considered propaganda in favour of the custodians of an architectural building." The verdict points out that Ali Asghar Mahaki, managing director of Hamshahri, in defence of his position towards the Baha'i Faith, had published the book "Bahá'ísm: An Outpost for Racism" as a free attachment to the newspaper.

Warning that Bahá'ís are establishing pre-schools and other agencies as a "means of imposing their beliefs" on society

Source: Javan online, government-affiliated Web site for youth.

Content: On 24 January 2010, Javan online reported that a "knowledgeable source" had said: "Fringe elements of the Bahá'ís in Iran, while emphasizing their own particular targets for attracting foreign support, are pursuing activities in the areas of the rights of women and children… For this purpose some of the Bahá'ís have been appointed to establish some legal offices and compile files..." The report further alleged that Bahá'ís are making financial investments with a view to creating a "Mahd-i-Kúdak" [pre-school], and have decided to impose their beliefs on the society in the guise of assistance to these innocent children. This knowledgeable source, while

warning families about these "Mahd-i-Kúdaks" and training institutes, asked responsible officials to be more vigilant in issuing permits for these enterprises."

Seminars and Symposia

Anti-Bahá'í teacher training seminar in Qom

Source: Khabar Online, government-affiliated news agency.

Content: On 18 January 2010, Khabar online reported that a teacher training seminar was held in Qom to inform teachers how to familiarise the youth with Shia principles and how to resist deviant sects. A collage of two pictures of Bahá'u'lláh was published alongside the article.

25 -31 January 2010

Web sites

State-sanctioned media on messages of the Universal House of Justice and so-called "confession" of a Bahá'í to participation in demonstrations

1. Source: Young Journalists Club [YJC] Web site, operated under Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting [IRIB] (Seda va Sima Jomhouriheh Islami), government-affiliated

Content: article titled "The confession of the Bahaist sect to their presence in the 'Ashura riots", published on 25 January 2010, totally misrepresents recent communications of the Universal House of Justice, as follows:

When the role of the Bahá'ís with other groups on the day of 'Ashura became public, the central administration of "Bahaism", located in Israel, confirmed its managerial role in the disturbances as an enemy sect trying to abolish the Islamic Republic regime of Iran in its latest statement to its followers and they invited the rabble rousers to play an active role in the disturbances. The central office of the Zionist Bahaist group in Haifa port of the occupied lands under the rule of Israel has in its latest statement publicly shown the false claims of this Zionist organization regarding its instruction that Bahá'ís should not interfere in politics and should refrain from bullying. It has made public its role in these events as a party that is being guided from Israel. This statement…says, 'Bahá'ís must continue their widespread disruptive activities to achieve the goals of the sect'.

The leaders of the Bahaist sect confirm that Bahá'ís in Iran constantly consult with their main centre located in the Zionist regime regarding participation in the disturbances and that it guides them about these events: 'The offices of the Bahá'í group, most of them located in Israel, are a means to guide their efforts and activities and individuals usually consult with these organizations for [guidance in] in making decisions about their actions.'

The statement [of the Universal House of Justice] says that unfortunately by the order of the Attorney General of Iran the teams that had the responsibility for

managing these events in Iran were banned in February 2009 and were closed. The statement encourages the Bahá'ís to consult with people that they trust for guidance concerning their participation in the disturbances, and stresses that 'while continuing the previous methods, we should adopt newer ways to achieve our goals.'

This statement offers suggestions for subversive activities, such as participation in public meetings, targeted conversations and writing articles, and adds: 'Bahá'ís should make efforts to engage in such undertakings.'

In conclusion the main and central office of Bahá'ís in Israel, backs the domestic protesters in Iran and stresses that it always will support them.

2. Source: Javan Online

Content: On 29 January 2010, Javan Online reported that the headquarters of the misguided Bahaist sect, in continuation of its new instructions to the Bahá'ís of Iran, has further delineated the activities in which the Bahá'ís are to engage.

According to Javan's report, the Secretariat of the Universal House of Justice has issued further instructions to the Bahá'ís in Iran and, "contrary to the claims of the followers of this sect regarding non-interference in political activities, has stressed, under the guise of what it has called 'the needs of the times' that the Bahá'ís must enter this arena. In this instruction…the activities of this misguided sect in political, economic and social areas are discussed. It says: 'The growth of Bahaism requires more cooperation in social affairs. Start your activities in economic and social affairs in a systematic manner….'

Javan further indicated that the communication states it is necessary to give attention to 'women's rights, training and education of all children and protection of the environment…and emphasizes participation in these networks by specialists' and concludes that the "headquarters" of the Bahá'í Faith "has encouraged the presence of its followers in disturbances and strikes and has made apparent the role of the Bahá'ís in the recent events, where it says: 'as for participation in the various "timely" arenas, for the time being use your own judgment."

The article states that in an interview with Javan, a knowledgeable source "emphasized the increasing political, social, and economic activities of Bahá'ís and said, 'by further use of personal initiatives, this misguided sect is advising, in a hidden manner, that disturbances and incidents such as burning of mosques and the Qur'an be continued.'"

"How can Moussavi object to anti-religious activities of his supporters when Bahaism is part of the puzzle?"

Source: Kayhan, ultra-conservative, government-backed daily newspaper

Content: On 25 January 2010 Kayhan published an article repeating allegations it has published in the past regarding Mirhossein Moussavi, asking, "How can we expect Moussavi to take a position against anti-religious and anti-revolution elements when in his 17th statement he calls the insulters of 'Ashura 'God- seeking people'? How can we

accept this, when we see that during the events of the last seven months anti-revolution supporters of Moussavi burn the picture of Imam Khomeini, curse the guardianship of the jurists, demonstrate for America and Israel, remove Islam from the Islamic Republic, and we do not hear a word of opposition or objection from Moussavi… Moussavi is playing a role in the same project that is being run by Ganji, Soroush, Mohajerani, Kadivar etc. and therefore, for whatever reason, does not have either the permission or the courage to object to the actions and impudent ideas of the Bahaists or the anti-religion and anti-revolution elements [among his supporters]."

Allegation of Bahá'í involvement in organization of 'Ashura protests

Sources: Islamic Republic News Agency Web site (IRNA) and Iranian Students News Agency (ISNA), government official news agencies

Content: On 27 January 2010, both IRNA and ISNA published an article reporting that in a meeting with journalists about the 'Ashura riots, the Deputy Minister of Intelligence said that members of Monafeqin party, sacrificial partisans of minorities and majorities, and Bahá'ís, were the leading groups of the riots of the day of 'Ashura.

In response to a question which pointed out that Bahá'ís are understood not to be involved in fighting and war, etc., the Deputy Minister stated that the houses of Bahá'ís were along on the route of the demonstrations and they had left the doors open so that the demonstrators and their friends could enter. The Bahá'ís were in full agreement with the demonstrators and "chanted atrocious slogans to further excite the demonstrators". He also asserted that at noontime on 'Ashura, a number of Bahá'ís were identified and 13 or 14 were arrested. The Deputy Minister observed, "Both politically and ideologically this group is connected to Israel and Bahá'ís participated in the demonstrations under the guidance of their officials…."

Defence of "P.F", the Bahá'í among 16 tried in connection with Ashura riots

Sources: Iranian Students News Agency (ISNA), Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), Raja News, and Fars News, all government-affiliated

Content: On 30 January 2010, all above mentioned news agencies reported on the third court session for those who had been accused in relation to the 'Ashura riots, noting that the accused on file four [a Bahá'í with the initials "P.F."] presented his defence against the indictment. It was published as follows:

> *In continuation of the third court hearing concerning those accused in relation to 'Ashura riots, Farahání, representing the prosecution, read the charges against the accused in file four "P.F.," a resident of Tehran and a Baha'i: 'This accused engaged in propaganda against the regime and in favour of opposition groups by participating in the 'Ashura riots. He is also charged with conspiracy and assemblage against national security, and use of satellite devices…*
>
> *Contrary to its previous policies which discouraged Bahá'ís from participating in the elections, during the 10th presidential election, the Bahaist sect and the House of the Covenant located in occupied Palestine directed its followers to support a candidate associated with the Green Movement. Also, by creating an atmosphere of disorder*

and unrest through Internet sites, it invited Baha'is to fully engage and participate in assemblies in various locations in the city during the height of the chaos on 'Ashura. The accused in question is one of them…

According to the direct and explicit admissions of the accused and invitations transmitted through satellite media, and based on the reports from the security authorities, the accused was arrested in Tehran on 6/10/88 [27 December 2009]. Pursuant to articles 500 and 610 of the Islamic Penal Code and article 9 of the Code pertaining to prohibition of using satellite devices, I hereby request a conviction against the accused.'

Subsequent to being arraigned by Justice Ṣalavátí, the accused on file four began by explaining about the House of the Covenant saying: 'The House of the Covenant is a 9-member council in occupied Palestine that governs the entire Baha'i community, and Baha'is must obey its instructions. Their messages are usually shared with the community through Baha'i Feasts. Up until the 8th House of Covenant, engaging in political activities was banned. However, the 8th council permitted us to participate. We therefore had permission to participate in the 10th election.'

The accused "P.F." continued his defence, saying: 'I took part in the elections and participated with another Baha'i friend at the 25 Khurdád gathering from Inqiláb to Ázádí Rundabouts. Also, on the day of 'Ashura, I learned from English BBC, Voice of America, and Radio Farda that there would be an assemblage. I also received an SMS from a Baha'i friend about it…On the day of 'Ashura, at 9:30 a.m., I called one of my Baha'i friends, who said he will be going with another group [of people]. Therefore, I made arrangements to meet five other friends at Fáṭimí Roundabout, from where we moved southbound. We saw the gathering of the security forces on Ḥáfidh Bridge and the rioters under the bridge.'

The accused referred to having observed entanglements between the rioters and the security forces at Valí `Aṣr intersection on 'Ashura and commented: 'The security forces have a responsibility to restore order.'

In response to a question from Justice Ṣalavátí as to why the House of Covenant [sic] gave you permission to participate in 'Ashura riots, the accused on file four stated: 'They felt they are entitled to more freedom in the Islamic Republic regime of Iran. In my opinion, however, they had absolute freedom of belief.'

In response to Justice Ṣalavátí's other question concerning the feasts, [the accused] said: 'The Feast is under the direction of the House of the Covenant. Every region has a number of Feasts and one chairperson. Our Feast had 20 members and the aim was to engage in activities against the values of the regime.'

During the session, the defence counsel for the accused addressed the court, saying: 'What the defendant is saying is apart from the sect itself." "Baha'is in Tehran and in Iran follow the instructions of a number of councils in Israel. These instructions are sometimes mandatory and sometimes by choice. The defendant himself has said that if he did not follow the guidance of the House of the Covenant, he would be ostracized from the group, therefore, what the defendant did was not by choice.'

He then pointed out to the court that the defendant has admitted to participating in the 'Ashura gatherings, and stated: 'Admission in court is the foundation of conviction. However, I draw the court's attention to the report of the Ministry of Intelligence, which is before the respected prosecutor, and which demonstrates that the defendant has shown full cooperation and assistance during the process of investigation. Considering the specific circumstances under which he committed this crime, I ask the court to consider his sentence with Islamic compassion and empathy.'

In response to the question posed by Justice Ṣalavátí -- 'Knowing that Baha'i administration is legally banned in Iran, why then was he a member,' and also 'given that the sect believes in separation of religion and state, why did the accused participate in political assemblies', the accused "P.F." responded: "We were not supposed to be involved in politics, and what you ask is also my question, and I do not have the answer, but because disobedience results in being ostracized, I participated in the gatherings."

In concluding his defence, the accused expressed his gratitude for the respectful manner of the interrogators at the Ministry of Intelligence, and stated: 'It is true that what I did was not by choice, but I still could have chosen not to. I therefore ask [the court] for a lesser sentence.'

"Hypocrites arrested on 'Ashura had been trained in Europe"

Source: Fars News, government-affiliated

Content: On 30 January 2010, Fars News reported:

...a significant number of perverse groups that were communicating in cyberspace, along with elements of the perverse Bahaist sect, is directly connected to and guided by the sect's leaders in Israel, had gathered in groups of 3 to 4 persons before 'Ashura in specific locations and with banners and placards insulting the regime and the Islamic sanctities and were attempting to do away with the regime on that day.

Therefore, while Hossein's mourners were busy mourning at his memorial meetings and mosques, on the day of 'Ashura, the agents of the hypocrites, monarchists, the perverse Bahaist sect, and other counterrevolutionary and illegal groups with their yelling and whistling and clapping insulted religious sanctities and engaged in beating and insulting the mourners of Hussein (PBUH) and the police, committed serious crimes including war on God, gathering and colluding against national security; they did not even hold back from committing crimes against public chastity and morality, arson, and destruction of public and private property, all with the intention of standing up against the regime.

"Sectarian Characteristics of Bahaism"

Source: Javan Online (government-affiliated Web site for youth)

Content: On 27 January 2010, Javan online published an article written by Maryam Erfanian, which "introduces Bahaism" with the following "31 characteristics" of the Bahá'í Faith:

1. *The Bahaist sect was founded and is directed by leaders who have hegemonic power.*
2. *The organizational structure in Bahaism is the reverse of the British; the sect's organizational structure is very authoritarian and totalitarian. Its leaders demand total obedience from the followers on all levels and there is no room for questioning.*
3. *Leaders of the Bahaist sect are eager to lure you into their ranks through deceptive means.*
4. *Due to the use of intimidation by the Bahaist leaders, the members are always afraid of the leadership.*
5. *The sect uses deceptive techniques to recruit individuals. The sect lures people to bring them in and tricks them into staying within its ranks. If people knew about the functioning and the actual beliefs of the sect before joining it, they would not join it. The sect needs to hide the reality until you are ready to accept it.*
6. *The sect has a well-organized and honest-looking public relations department that hides the real nature of the group. All the members of the sect have two faces and indeed the face they present in dealing with non-Baha'is is not real but a fabricated one. Behind that [public] face, they have another face that they expose only to the organization…and of which you are wholly unaware.*
7. *In the Bahaist sect, the meetings are aimed at dazzling the participants and instead of answering their questions; people are encouraged to be present at meetings.*
8. *The Bahaist sect, by making people feel special, suggests to them that they can only be happy within the sect and that no other organization has the power to make them happy. The sect identifies itself as modern and unique. Its leaders claim to have abandoned tradition and created a novelty that is the only way to achieve happiness.*
9. *In their recruitment efforts, the Bahaists use mental reconstruction techniques. First they create, in the individual, hatred towards his previous beliefs and then, using persuasive methods, replace them with the sect's ideas and beliefs.*
10. *The Bahaist sect wants to extend its influence on your life so that your relationship with it is maximized while your involvement outside the sect is cut down or minimized.*
11. *The Bahaist sect keeps the members entertained and busy and controlled through its endless missions for them and the members are engaged in administrative programs so that through their involvement and fatigue they don't get the opportunity to raise other issues. In Bahaism, people are given assignments from when they start speaking up until they die and there is no end to these assignments in other words a Bahaist follower is always kept on a wild goose chase.*
12. *In the Bahaist sect, they use the love bombing technique because they know that if they can control your public relationships they can also control you. When you first join the sect, they apply the love bombing to you. They will choose your friends for you. And they try to cut off or at least minimize all your other relationships because they fear their influence on you.*
13. *In the Bahaist sect, they use the continuous pressure technique. People are ordered what to wear, what to eat, how to behave and how to respond to questions. In the sect, there is an increasing tendency to ask members to go through fundamental transformation in their way of life.*
14. *They also use the isolation techniques on individuals to get them to leave their family, friends, and jobs... in order to achieve the objectives of the sect. In the Bahaist sect, everyone is trained to deceive and hide their true beliefs and feelings not only from people outside the group but also from other members.*

15. *In the Bahaist sect, the newly-enrolled people are kept uninformed about what is going on, and the deceived individual remains completely unaware of his step-by-step transformation through coordinated psychological, social and ... activities (absolutely necessary for their mental reconstruction)*
16. *Information control of the sectarians: any information from outside the sect, especially if it is opposed to the sect, is considered satanic. The members are told not to read any information critical of the sect and if anyone is found with such information in his possession, he is thrown out of the sect. They are trained to immediately destroy such critical information and to not even imagine it to be true.*
17. *Control of physical and social environment: in the Bahaist sect-- the relevant administrative bodies strictly control the social environment and physical behaviour of the followers. The members are trained to monitor the social environment and physical behaviour of other members and provide the leaders with the confidential reports.*
18. *They have built a closed totalitarian system that does not tolerate dissent.*
19. *Application of reward and punishment: the Bahaists use this technique to create good servants to their leaders and to move up in the organization. The Bahaists do not dare to express their opinion; even when they refuse to abstain from work on the sect's special days, they are dealt with harshly by the leaders and the feared administration.*
20. *Creating a sense of disability (by taking away the will and conscious intelligence) in the members and turning them into robots under remote control: because of the sectarian training that begins when they start to talk and continues until they die, no one who is affiliated with the political Bahaist sect, can make any personal decision outside the sectarian teachings because he has lost his will. Also based on the sect's teachings, he can only move on the path he has been trained for, just like a robot whose movement is defined by the software. This is because the more powerless an individual feels, the more their ability to judge and understand their environment will be destroyed. Questions of the followers are severely suppressed in order to tear down their self-confidence.*
21. *In the Bahaist sect, in order to control people lines are drawn that cannot be crossed. The people who try to cross these lines are attacked in various ways. This is why the Bahaist Ms. Raoufi who become a Muslim and is actively exposing the sect is now unfairly and unethically under attack by the sect.*
22. *Promoting lack of trust among sectarians toward those outside the sect: in the Bahaist sect, all members have gone through this training workshop. Therefore, a Bahaist follower, in engaging with a non-sectarian, knows what to say, what to report and how to behave.*
23. *In Bahaism, the newly enrolled do not know where they are going, that is, they are completely unaware of the plan and ultimate goal of their hunters. Before they know what has happened, they find themselves caught in the sect's net and slowly separated from their past and their family and entirely dependent on the sect.*
24. *In Bahaism, they use mental control mechanisms to keep the members inside the sect. They are taught that leaving the sect is equal to leaving God.*
25. *In the sect, the value system has a direct relationship to the individual's activities within the administration and with respect to its leaders. An individual or family is valuable as long as he or it acts to the benefit of the sect otherwise the system values him negatively.*
26. *In the Bahaist sect, the institution of the family is valuable as long as it upholds the sectarian interests, otherwise it is easily destroyed.*
27. *Reporting structure in Bahaist sect: In the Bahaist sect, everyone is encouraged to be watchful in any environment to report what he sees to the head of the sect. Because of*

that every Bahá'í is a spy. This same reporting structure of the Bahaist sect put them at the service of countries hostile to the Islamic Republic who take full advantage of this.

28. *In the political Bahaist sect, every member has a registration number like a car's license plate in order to record any infractions in his file. This file is very important in deciding the future of that member in the sect.*
29. *In the Bahaist sect, no one is criticized because of inattention or laziness but is severely criticized for lagging in sectarian activities, especially in the administration.*
30. *In Bahaism, there is pride in administrative work and services (including contributions and....). If someone is active in the administration, he is considered to be under the shadow of the cause. But if the person is not active in the administration, he is rejected and disliked despite his belief in Bahaism.*
31. *In the Bahaist sect, members have at least two faces: public face (innocent, emotional, outgoing, fair, servant) and behind that, a true face (vengeful, self-interested, reporter in line with sectarian goals, sensitive to what information to collect in his contacts with the rest and…).*

01-07 February 2010

Web sites

News reports of Bahá'í's testimony at trial

Sources: Fars News Agency and Kayhan Newspaper Web site, government-affiliated

Content: On 30 January 2010, both Fars News and Kayhan published articles about the testimony of the Bahá'í defendant at the trial of 16 individuals accused of various offences in relation to the Ashura demonstrations. These reported on "P.F." and cited statements made by his lawyer and the judge. The articles stated that he had testified that Bahá'ís must obey the Universal House of Justice or they will be rejected and ostracized; that Bahá'ís were instructed by the House of Justice to participate in the presidential election, demonstrations, and the Ashura riots; and that he had confirmed his own participation in the Ashura riot and asked to treated with Islamic compassion. The articles asserted that P.F.'s lawyer had pointed out that although he is a mature adult, he had no choice except to follow the orders of "the House of Justice of the Zionist Regime" and this was therefore an involuntary act. The lawyer is also reported to have asked the judge to exercise Islamic compassion in sentencing P.F., because he had cooperated greatly with the Intelligence Ministry and the prosecutor. The article also alleges that "P.F" had stated that he was in direct communication with the Universal House of Justice via email.

Iranian Embassy in Brussels denies to EU that Bahá'ís are persecuted

Source: Kuwait News Agency

Content: On 4 February 2010, the Kuwait News Agency reported:

> *The Iranian embassy here Thursday refuted EU accusations that the Bahá'í community in the Islamic Republic was being persecuted.*

A statement by the Iranian embassy said that "seven followers of the Bahaist sect have been arrested through judicial and intelligence investigations and their trial is under procedure." The statement clarified that their arrest had no connection with the recent riots in Iran but that they were held because of their "illegal activities." "At present more than thousands of followers of this sect are living in Iran like other citizens and none of them are under persecution," noted the embassy statement.

It, however, added that "in the recent unrest 13 followers of this sect have been arrested on 27 December by police. After initial investigations three of them have been released and the rest are still waiting for their trial." On 12 January, the EU in a statement expressed its "deep concern about the recent detention of another 13 members of the Baha'i community for alleged involvement in anti-government protests." The EU called on Iran "to end the persecution of the Baha'i community and to release the detained individuals."

Reference to Bahá'ís in article on demonstrations to be held on 11 February

Source: Fars News Agency, government-affiliated

Content: On 5 February 2010, Fars News reported that the Friday prayer leader of Estehban (Fars Province) called upon residents of the province to participate in demonstrations on 22 Bahman 1388 (11 February 2010) in support of the government and the Guardianship of the Jurists. In so doing, he also stated that "monafeghin (stirrers of sedition), monarchists and Bahaists have not stopped their seditious acts."

"Voice of America: 'Bahá'í' Broadcasting Service"

Source: Sedaye Shia (The "Voice of Shia") Web site.

Content: In the first week of February 2010, Sedaye Shia published a purported history of Voice of America, which asserts that VOA is run by Bahá'ís (or people who have close relations with them), and that it is supported by Bahá'ís. It says that VOA has relations with the Bahá'í Assemblies in the United States and Haifa and that VOA personnel have even travelled to Haifa to coordinate with the Bahá'ís there. It further alleges that VOA's hiring of Bahá'ís is on the rise and most of Iranian employees who were Muslim have either been fired or have left the network.

Television

"Salhaye Mashrouteh" ("The Years of the Constitutional Revolution) TV series

Source: Channel 3 of Iran, national TV station (Sima-e Iran)

Content: "Salhaye Mashrouteh" is a new TV series (15 episodes) covering Iran's history during the period of the Constitutional Revolution in the late 19th-early 20th centuries. The series, broadcast daily on Channel 3 of Sima-e Iran, began on 1 February 2010 to coincide with the beginning of the ten-day celebration of the Anniversary of the

Islamic Revolution ('Dahe Fajr') and will be continuing until 15 February 2010. The TV series purports to be factual, but is not.

In the series the Bábí and the Bahá'í Faiths are degraded and portrayed as anti-Islam movements and a creation of the British. The introduction to the series, immediately preceding the first episode, presents the Bábí Faith as a new anti-Islam movement created by colonists to destroy Islam.

In episode two, actors portrayed Bahá'u'lláh and the Báb. Bahá'u'lláh was depicted as an elderly British Embassy representative who was sent to the prison in Fortress of Chihríq to meet with the Báb and ask Him to remain strong. The meeting in the prison was dramatized, with the Báb presented as a person who is very weak, frightened, and confused.

In episode three, there was mention of disturbances in various governorates of Iran planned by the followers of "Ali Mohammad Báb".

In the first five minutes of the episode four, the purported meeting of Bahá'u'lláh and the Báb in prison was shown once again.

The fifth episode portrays the execution of the Báb, including His disappearance after the first volley was fired at Him. This is followed by a portrayal of purported events in the aftermath of the Báb's martyrdom, in which Bahá'u'lláh meets with representatives of foreign governments who choose Him as the Báb's successor, which Bahá'u'lláh accepts with some reluctance. Then they all enter into a pact to take revenge for the blood of "His Holiness the Bab."

07-14 February 2010

Web sites

Qom Seminary Web site publishes online report attacking the Bahá'í Faith

Source: Iranian Quran News Agency (IQNA) Web site, government affiliated

Content: On 3 February 2010, IQNA reported that through the efforts of experts at the *Computer Research* Centre of *Islamic Sciences*, a special report titled "Bahaism: From its beginnings until now" was published at the Qom Seminary's Web site [hawzah.net].

This report includes an Introduction, a section on answers to frequently asked questions, a selection of theses and dissertations written on the Bahá'í Faith, a section on "Bahaism in the news". The article encourages its readers to peruse the topics of interest in the report: bibliography of Bahaism, Bahaism and politics, Bahá'í activities within the sphere of politics, Jews and Bahaism, Bahaism and Israel, Bahaism's confrontation of the Islamic Republic, and the role of Bahaist group on the day of Ashura.

Khatami makes reference to Bahá'í involvement in Ashura unrest

Source: Iranian Students News Agency (ISNA), government official news agency

Content: On 5 February 2010, ISNA published an article on Ayatollah Siyyid Ahmad Khatami's lecture in Kerman province. He repeated the usual talk about the unrest in the country; attributing it to external powers and connecting it to some internal groups. He said a number of Monafeqs [stirrers of sedition], Bahá'ís and infidels were arrested during the demonstrations of the day of Ashura and two of them were executed.

Kayhan alleges proof of direct involvement in riots by Bahá'í headquarters in Israel

Source: Kayhan, ultra-conservative, government-backed daily newspaper

Content: On 7 February 2010 Kayhan published an article alleging there is ample evidence that the riots after the election were the result of months of planning and organizing by external enemies of the regime, carried out by their domestic appointees. Among these external enemies Kayhan listed "the headquarters of the Bahá'ís in Israel" and alleged that the "House of Justice" was directly associated with the riots.

6th printing of the Book: "The Russian Hussein Ali Known as Bahá'u'lláh"

Source: Raja News Web site, government affiliated

Content: On 7 February 2010, Raja News reported that the book titled "The Russian Hussein Ali Known as Baha'u'llah" was in its 6th printing in Isfahan. The report claims that the book provides indisputable documentary evidence, all taken from authoritative Bahá'í sources, of a connection between Bahaism and its so-called Russian masters. The report asserts that in this regard, there is no need for the memoirs of *Dolgoruki* [Russian Ambassador]; there are many other documents and manuscripts in Bahá'í books attesting to the contacts between the Bahá'í leaders and Russia. The article states that the book is on sale at a discount of 50 – 60%.

"Damages caused by the Bahaist sect should not be neglected"

Source: Porsojoo Web site, under management of a special governmental organization to coordinate "Religious Responses" in Iran.

Content: On 7 February 2010, Porsojoo published a text by Hojjatoleslam Alireza Ruzbehany, a professor at Qom Seminary, in which he asserts: "Bahaism is not a sect or a religion, but a political party that was formerly supported and guided by the British and today by America… The Bahaist administration is fully organized, and they choose their officials by a secret ballot, then in a hidden manner they begin their cultural activities, create doubts about religion, and attract the youth. University students and youth are greatly at risk. It is alleged that Bahá'ís are seeking to isolate the Iranian people from the Marja'-i-Taqlid [the highest religious sources of authority], because the Shia Muslims believe that the Marja are the deputies of the 12th Imam. He also stated: "Now five million people in the world are members of this cult. Ignoring the damages caused by Bahaism will have grave consequences. For this reason we should be vigilant and act consciously and knowledgeably."

Allegations of Bahá'í involvement in recent riots

Source: Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), Official government news Agency

Content: On 7 February 2010, IRNA published a statement of Jamiyate *Isar-garan* (Society of people who sacrifice themselves) which said: A study of the dimensions of the recent unrest and attempt by the enemy to wage a "colourful" velvet revolution shows that the hegemonic system, along with the Wahhabists, Monafeghin, Bahaists, and other domestic problematic groups, preyed upon social divisions such as ethnicity, religion, class, and age and, according to the plan designed by the U.S., British, and Zionist regimes, tried to create a crisis in the country and discredit the Islamic Republic. But informed people who devotedly follow the Supreme Leadership, made it possible for the top leadership to withstand the riots and the strong presence of millions of people on December 30 strengthened the solidarity, unity, and the social capital of the regime. This led to an increased authority by the regime and disappointed the perverse currents that were planning to do it harm.

Purported analysis of the Bahá'í Faith by Supreme Assembly of Islamic Wisdom

Source: Iranian Quran News Agency (IQNA) Web site, government affiliated

Content: On 8 February 2010 IQNA reported that the Supreme Assembly of Islamic Wisdom will hold a short-term course titled "Analysis and Review of the perverse Bahaist and Bábí sects" with the assistance of Hojjatoleslam Reza-Nejad, a faculty member of Al-Mustafa International University. The article states that course is being held to prevent the influence of the British-made Bahaist and Bábí sects on young people.

Islamic social networks not very effective in the "soft war"

Source: Iranian Quran News Agency (IQNA) Web site, government affiliated

Content: On 8 February 2010 IQNA reported that Hojjatoleslam Siyyid Mostafa Tabatabai, executive director of Noor Digital Library, stated, in reference to the role of social networks in the so-called "soft war": "While our social networks are not even one year old, the enemy's social networks are more than four years old and do an effective job…Attacks on Shia are nothing new….Various groups such as Bahaism and Wahhabism have always acted with hostility against Shia. Historically, our approach has been to wait for the Bahais and the Sufis was to wait for these groups to strike the first blow and only then defend ourselves. But of course this time, the leadership's foresight regarding the soft war gave us an early warning."

Allegations that Iranian Bahá'í "leaders" are fleeing to Dubai and Turkey

Source: Javan Online Web site, government affiliated webs site for youth

Content: On 13 February 2010, Javan Online reported:

> *"Some leaders and fringe elements of the Bahaist administration have fled to Dubai and Turkey. These fringe elements left Iran 48 hours before the arrest of a handful of the individuals known to be members of this misguided sect and the likely possibility of discovering some of their activities on 22 Bahman [11 February].*

It is said that the flight of these fringe elements took place while the Bahaist sect was planning throughout last year for widespread cooperation with some election organizations to influence the tenth presidential elections under the pretext of allowing members of their sect freedom in their activities.

Although the granting of support and encouragement to some election headquarters was the first step of this sect during the election days, the peak of their activities was sealed after the elections with the creation of a secret coalition between them and the seditious elements and other mischief-makers.

It is said that financial support and psychological operations were among the tasks of the Bahaist sect, particularly during the incidents of Ashura, and these were carried out in such a way that despite the arrest of some elements of this sect, other elements increased their efforts to create insecurity through acts of terrorism on 22 Bahman. However, because some of their plots to bomb certain places were discovered before 22 Bahman, some of them fled Iran to Dubai and Turkey and others have fled to the borders for illegal exit during the past day or two. Due to diligent border control, they were faced with problems and took refuge in some remote areas and villages.

Books

Alleged Bahá'í activities in the era of the Shah

Source: Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), Official government news Agency

Content: On 8 February 2010, IRNA reported book titled "Documents regarding Baha'i activities in the era of Mohammad Reza Shah", compiled by Soraya Shahsavari, was published by the "Islamic Revolution Documents Centre". The article reports that several thousand pages of documents related to the Bahaist sect are kept at the Document Centre of the Islamic Revolution and that these include documentation of the political, economic, and propagation activities of the Bahá'ís in various cities during Pahlavi era. There are also reports of police and SAVAK officials, which prove that Bahá'ís controlled various sections of SAVAK and the police force. The book asserts that since the time of the Constitutional revolution until the present day the Bahá'ís have been active politically in Iran notwithstanding their denials of this and that if the Islamic Revolution had been unsuccessful, the Bahá'í Faith "would have turned Iran into another Palestine".

Television

Salhaye Mashrooteh ("The Years of the Constitutional Revolution"), Episodes 6-13

Source: Channel 3 of Iran national TV station (Sima-e Iran)

Content: "Salhaye Mashrooteh" (The Years of the Constitutional Revolution") is being broadcast daily on Channel 3 of the government-owned national television network, Sima-e Iran. The following is brief summary of episodes 6 -11.

Episode six depicts Bahá'u'lláh congratulating Agha Khan Nouri at the British Embassy, just as Agha Khan is about to replace Amir Kabir—clearly imputing that this was planned by the British.

Episode seven once again asserts that the execution of Amir Kabir was planned by Agha Khan Nouri, the British, and the mother of Nasiri'd-Din Shah. It further portrays the dying Amir Kabir as saying, "Since the Báb's sedition was suppressed, they are so thirsty for revenge that they will not be satisfied until they pour out my blood (kill me); they will not stop; they belittled me, they insulted me…" Then he dies.

In episode eight, Nasiri'd-Din Shah states in a conversation with his prime minister: "We have a Muslim nation. This new Bahaist religion means disturbance; it means lack of security for the religion of the people. Amir Kabir used to say [the Bahá'ís] are under the British. There is a group called 'The House of the Forgetful'; the Shah ordered that this House be closed. Then its members started meeting underground. Bahá'u'lláh is a member of the 'House'. He said the chief goal of this group is to expand the Bahá'í Faith."

There is no mention of the Bahá'í Faith in episodes 9 to 13.

15-21 February 2010

Web sites

Allegation of conspiracy between Bahá'ís and Monafeghin [stirrers of sedition]

Source: Javan Online Web site, government affiliated webs site for youth

Content: On 17 February 2010, Javan Online reported that among the plan of the Bahá'ís for 10 and 11 February was to bring chaos to the western sections of Tehran. The article alleges that a Javan Online journalist has heard that the Monafeghin conspired with the Bahá'ís to organize at least six operational groups (20 persons each group) and 6 core groups (5 persons each group) whose first task was to start riots on 10 February in some sectors of western Tehran (particularly Poonak) and then on 11 February start the protests with one of the defeated election candidates in the area of Sadeghiyeh and later move the demonstration to the Poonak area and from there to other areas north of Tehran. The article states that the Bahá'ís planned to supply weapons to the protesters. It also asserts that the detection and neutralization of two bombs just two days before the 11 February rallies clearly pointed to the joint effort of the Bahá'ís and the Monafeghin to "create chaos and take revenge on the great nation of Iran".

Bahá'í Faith accused of publicly insulting Islam

Source: Javan Online and Shia News Web site, government affiliated Web sites

Content: On 15 February 2010, Javan Online reported that some individuals connected with "the misguided Bahaist sect" have publicly taken action to destroy Islam in response to an "administrative instruction". The article alleges that in various Iranian cities Bahá'ís recently distributed films about the relationship between men and women from the point of view of Islamic tradition which "portray Muslim men and women as violent and medieval". The article indicates that the Bahá'ís who are doing this are acting on the

basis of "administrative instruction" from the House of Justice. It also asserts that the destruction of Islam is a principle tenet of the Bahá'í Faith and that Bahá'ís are publishing and distributing a wide variety of films, books, and other cultural items with the aim of insulting and creating division within Islam.

Article purporting to summarize the Bahá'í Faith's history

Source: Islamic Republic Documentation Centre (IRDC) Web site, government affiliated

Content: On 16 February 2010, IRDC published an article by Soraya Shahsavary purporting to be about the history of the Bábí and the Bahá'í Faiths. The article gives many common distortions of the Bahá'í Faith's history including its alleged links with Zionists, the British, Reza Shah Pahlavi. It refers to the expansion "tactics" of the Ten Year Crusade, "which resulted by late twentieth century AD in the number of Bahá'í institutions having reached more than 150 National Assemblies and close to twenty thousand Local Assemblies" and to the increasing political and economic power of Bahá'ís. The article concludes: "With the victory of the Iranian Islamic Revolution, most Bahá'ís left Iran, and some were executed. Execution or deportation were confined mostly to the most famous and wealthy Bahá'í families, who were prosecuted for having held high government positions or for having access to large sums of money through their links with the Pahlavi regime." It names "prominent members of the Bahaist sect" and notes that the executions and the flight of Bahá'ís did not the end the Bahá'í Faith's existence in Iran.

Article purports to document the Bahá'í Faith's links with Israel

Source: Shia News Agency and Javan online, both government-affiliated

Content: On 16 and 17 February 2010, Javan online and Shia news published articles alleging that historical documents prove the Bahá'í Faith's links to the state of Israel. The article reports that during World War I, when Palestine was faced with food shortages, Abdu'l-Bahá, Who had hidden large quantities of provisions, turned these over to the British army, thus enabling it to achieve victory in Palestine—"Thus the way was smoothed for consolidation of the rule of the British army and the beginnings of support for the establishment of a Jewish state in Palestine. It is interesting that Abdu'l-Bahá interpreted this occupying British rule over Palestine as 'the hoisting of the tents of justice' and offered thanks to God for this great bounty and prayed for confirmation for King George V and desired the shadow of this usurper Emperor to eternally abide over that land."

The article asserts that "when the Israeli government was established, it would have been very ungrateful not to have responded to these kindnesses. That is why it has performed its duty and provided all kinds of amenities and comfort for the people of Bahá." Further:

> *Shoghi Effendi said: "The government of Israel provided the means for our comfort. And while in most Islamic countries the rituals of Bahá'í Faith are banned, the government of Israel has bestowed all kinds of freedoms on Bahá'ís and even has exempted them from exorbitant taxes. In the Holy Land Bahá'í rites were executed without any secrecy. The Bahá'í marriage ceremony was officially recognized by the*

government and exemption from tax of all Holy Places and their dependencies were approved by the government authorities."

Most interesting of all is the statement of Mrs. Ruhiyyih Maxwell, the American wife of Shoghi Rabbani, who as the maidservant of Baha'u'llah, (Amatu'l-Baha) has the last word about the relationship of Bahaism with Israel and Zionism. She indicated: "I prefer the youngest of religions (Bahá'ísm) to grow and flourish in the newest country of the world (Israel). In truth we should say that our future (i.e. Bahá'ísm and Israel) are as interconnected as links of a chain."

May the eyes of the disadvantaged people of the world, particularly the dispersed Palestinian people, be illuminated with these words! Surely it is worth noting that in Bahá'í localities throughout the world this sentence of the lady [Sarkar-i-Khanum] is installed at the entrance of their centres so that they may more clearly be known as the "allies of Israel" and as the ideals of Bahá'ísm become apparent and the goals of the Bahá'ís are identified, these are seen as contiguous as the links of a chain with the goals of the government of Israel.

Pay attention: "Links of a chain" means the two of them with harmony defend their inauspicious goals with all their might and tread as one!"

Seminars

Anti-Bahá'í seminars in Kerman and Rafsanjan

Source: Iranian Quran News Agency (IQNA) Web site, government affiliated

Content: On 12 February 2010, IQNA reported a seminar titled "Critique and Review of the Perverse Bahaist Sect" will be conducted at Kerman's Bahonar University on 18 February through the representative of the Supreme Leader in universities. The daylong seminar is to involve professors from Bahonar University, Hojjatoleslam Ezzeddin Rezanejad, the deputy education commissioner, and staff members of Al-Mustafa International University.

A similar seminar with same title will also be held on 19 February at Vali Asr University of Rafsanjan for professors and teachers from the Women's Seminary of Rafsanjan.

Television

"Salhaye Mashrooteh" television series – Episodes 14-20

Source: Channel 3 of Iran, national TV station (Sima-e Iran)

Content: "Salhaye Mashrooteh" (The Years of the Constitutional Revolution") is being broadcast twice daily on Channel 3 on the government-owned national television network, Sima-e Iran, and once daily on IRIB-2, the Iranian satellite TV channel for Iranians outside of Iran. It was announced on the channel's Web site that the serial has 15 episodes and that it would conclude on 16 February 2010, but it is still continuing. The following is a brief summary of episodes 14-20.

It should be pointed out that the programs also defame Iran's Zoroastrians and Jews. For example, the series portrays Manekji Limji Hateria (known as Mankeji), a well-known Zoroastrian, as a spy of the British in the court of the Shah. It also alleges that Mankeji and the Freemasons were conspiring with the Bahá'ís and the Jews to turn Iran into a British colony.

There is no mention of the Bahá'í Faith in episode 14.

In episode 15, a cleric is depicted as giving a sermon in which he states: "We have a culture; the Islamic culture is one of the richest and the most highly developed cultures in the world. We hope that, the evil intentions of these gentlemen [i.e., the Freemasons]; these upheavals do not end up like the underground activities of the racist Jews which were planned under the flag of England. They do not want Islam to exist. They have problems with Islam. Even at the beginning of Islam, this sort of people resented the Seal of the Prophets (PBUH) because they believe that they are superior to everyone. They planned to infiltrate during the Constitutional Revolution. They are planning to replace the sacred religion of Islam with Bahaism, secularism, and other new ideas. They believe that religion should be separated from politics. They say you are medieval. We say that there should be moderation in the government and the Majlis. They should follow the laws of the Sharí'a. I have been informed that an underground group is trying to secretly promote this new phenomenon called the Constitutional Revolution to prevent the parliament of Iran from following the Islamic laws—the Freemasons are planning to alter the character of the Iranian parliament to resemble the one in France."

In episodes 16 and 20 the Bahá'í Faith is briefly mentioned by high ranking clerics as one of the groups plotting in favour of the Constitutional Revolution.

22-28 February 2010

Web sites

"The British-made Bahaist sect"

Source: Fars News Agency, government-affiliated

Content: On 19 February 2010, Fars news published an article titled "The British-made sect of Bahaism", which reported on the sermon given by Friday prayer leader, Sheikh Muhammad Mirzabegi, and which indicated that this theme was also presented at Friday prayers in other cities of Iran. The sermon was about the strength of the Islamic revolution and the defeat of its enemies and mentioned that wherever there is a sedition or an attempted coup d'état, the malicious hand of Britain is involved. It also pointed out that "the invented religions, such as Bahaism and Wahhabism, have British roots" and that "the direct hand of this old colonialist was quite apparent in the recent disturbances".

Head of Intelligence in Qazvin alleges Bahá'ís are among those who oppose the Islamic Republic

Source: Fars News Agency, government-affiliated

Content: On 19 February 2010, Fars news reported that Hujjatu'l-Islam Ali Qabel, Head of the Office of Intelligence of Qazvin, had extolled the success of the events of 22 Bahman, which he indicated had demonstrated the strength of the Islamic Republic and had defeated those who oppose it. The article cited him as having also said: "The enemy, which is suffering from the power of the Islamic Order, is trying to gather a group of invented *isms* such as such as Bahaism and deviant groups such as the Jews, against the Islamic regime. However, the Islamic Revolution continues along its way with absolute power because of its religious leadership, intelligent supporters, and its revolutionary and Islamic values.

Larijani's comments on the Bahá'ís during UN Universal Periodic Review of Iran

Source: Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) news web site, government-affiliated

Content: On 24 February 2010, IRIB News published an interview of Muhammad Javad Larijani, director of Human Rights in the Judicial Branch of Iran, about his participation in the recent United Nations Human Rights Council. In the interview, Mr. Larijani asserts that Iran has refused only one-eighth of the Council's recommendations. He said that there was a Western group which had banded against Iran and which had a very self-important manner and that Iran had three points on which they differed with this group: "The first was that they wanted to equate religion with human rights; we do not accept human rights as co-equal with religion. They also wanted to impose on us their own invented religion. And third, was their deceitful manner." About the Bahá'ís he said: "Although they are not considered an official religion they benefit from civil rights. Problems occur when there are activities against the national security of the country; whether this action is by a Bahá'í or a Shiah, it makes no difference."

"Shirin Ebadi, defender of Bahá'ís"

Source: Raja News Web site, government affiliated

Content: On 24 February 2010, Raja News published an article criticising Shirin Ebadi's recent activities outside of Iran. The article links Ebadi to Bahá'ís saying that she has a widespread connection with the Bahá'ís and that two of her employees in Tehran were members of this "misguided sect". The article notes, "a few days after the victory of the revolution the first file of human rights violations against the Islamic Republic was presented to the international societies by the Bahá'ís".

Software

"Launch of the most comprehensive software about Bahaism, titled "Bahaye bi Baha" (The Worthless Bahá)"

Source: Iranian Quran News Agency (IQNA) Web site, government affiliated

Content: On 28 February 2010, IQNA reported the launch of the most comprehensive software about Bahaism, titled "Bahaye bi Baha" (The Worthless Bahá). "This product aims to respond to the scientific and investigative needs of users of digital media and the

cyber space by providing better information for the youth about this misguided sect". The creators of the software seek "to provide a new service for researchers, the youth and our beloved people to have more understanding of the history, personalities, thoughts, and satanic goals of this sect." The software is divided into ten chapters:

1. History Chapter: Inception; spread; Bahaism in the Qajar era; the Pahlavi era; relationship of Bahaism with America; Bahaism and England; etc. - 260 subheads

2. Personalities: "Leaders and influential personalities at the inception and during the growth of the misguided sect are introduced in 150 detailed articles".

3. Thoughts and Reflections: a complete list of thoughts, reflections, ceremonies, and teachings under 265 subheads.

4. Crimes: "Discusses tens of global crimes and treacheries of the misguided Bahaist sect against Islam and humanity."

5. News: "Quotes from credible news sources around the world regarding Bahaism".

6. Library: "A comprehensive digital library with more than 416 books and articles (covering 9000 subjects) about Bahaism have been included for the ease of study and research by interested parties".

7. Knowledge of books: "Introduction to about 450 books and articles about Bahaism in Farsi, English etc., with their indexes."

8. Sound and Pictures: "Documented films of research into Bahaism, including lectures by Professor Mardani, Professor Bazyar, and Hujjatu'l-Islam Anjavinezad; in the photo gallery, beautiful graphic pictures about the misguided Bahaist sect may be viewed.

9. "The Delivered Ones": "A chapter that gives a comprehensive and complete introduction by some who have recanted and have achieved deliverance from the inauspicious clutches of Bahaism.

10. Conclusion: Overview of other functions of the software such as fast search of titles and contents, copying the information to notes, forwarding information to other programs and sites, etc.

Television

Conclusion of the television series Salhaye Mashrooteh

Source: Channel 3 of Iran national TV station (Sima-e Iran)

Content: The original broadcast of "Salhaye Mashrooteh" (The Years of the Constitutional Revolution") concluded on 27 February 2010. It is now being repeated daily on Channel 3 of the government-owned national television network, Sima-e Iran and at IRIB-2, the Iranian satellite TV channel for Iranians outside of Iran. It was announced at the bottom of the screen of the last episode (episode 21), that viewers can participate in a survey about this TV series at IRIB's (Islamic Republic of Iran

Broadcasting) research Web site. As of 1 March 2010, 1,672 viewers completed the survey—the highest number to do so for any program, with the exception of those who responded to surveys related to the special programs covering June 2009 presidential election.

1-7 March 2010

Web sites

Allegation that the Bahá'ís are distributing vulgar items among children

Source: Fars News Agency, government-affiliated

Content: On 24 February 2010, Fars news reported that the Bahá'ís are distributing disposable cups bearing vulgar images among children in some cities – "a message based on "My Princess Friends" is on these cups, which are offered for sale with the name "Friends of the Princess".

Green Movement characterized as akin to a "new Bahaist sect"

Source: Fars News Agency, government-affiliated

Content: On 25 February 2010, Fars news published an article which claims that the Green Movement is the creation of Satanism, Freemasonry, Zionism, foreign powers, "and that it wants to include everything including atheism and homosexuality." The article states that the "Green 'religion' is in essence a new Bahaist sect in the society; a religion that is beyond religions and is exactly like Jewish Gnosticism and Cabalist Gnosticism…For years we have witnessed widespread underground music and even Satanist sects. Bahaism was also active alongside these activities and established many NGOs." The article further alleges that the Green Movement was assembling all of these elements for a long time before the elections: "We could only surmise that they were planning to create a new religion. However, now we realize that the goal was much more than a new religion."

"Sectarianism: Serious Opportunity for the Enemy"

Source: Hawzeh (Qom Seminary) News Agency Web site, the official Web site of Qom seminary, government-affiliated

Content: On 28 February 2010, Hawzeh News reported that a series of meetings was held at the Centre for Religious Discussion in Qom's Faizieh School on the subject "The Role of Religion, Denominations, and Perverse Sects in the Soft War".

Pointing to the negative role of Bahaism in the history of Iran, Mr. Shokouhi, Deputy Minister of Intelligence for sects and religions, said: "Every Bahá'í is not a spy, but the Bahaist (movement) is mainly aimed at espionage and during the recent intrigue, the best option for the enemy was Bahaism.

The Deputy Minister of Intelligence identified the role played by leaders of the sects, and continued: 'Sect leaders lust for wealth and power, while the disciples are socially handicapped individuals who need our help. The leaders of the sects are in a different category from their disciples, who must be helped.

Complaint by producer/director of "Salhaye Mashrooteh" about response of a Bahá'í

Source: Fars News Agency, government-affiliated

Content: On 1 March 2010, Fars news reported that Mr. Varzi, the producer and director of the television series "Salhaye Mashrooteh" ("The years of the Constitutional Revolution), complains that Voice of America and the BBC had wrongly attacked him, calling him the greatest violator of history. He states that he is a Shi'ah producer and, given the opportunity, he wanted to show how the British had destroyed Islamic countries.

Mr. Varzi said: 'A man named Amini who declared himself as a Bahá'í wrote me a ten page letter and accused me of all sorts of things and told me that I was answerable to God and will go to hell…They have networks in Los Angeles that are similar to the BBC and VOA and their producers are from this group. We cannot say that they are independent networks with Muslims and Christians and enemies of the Islamic order, etc. Their main producers are this group and Mr. Amini is one of their unimportant members. I want to know, how is it that your televisions are under their umbrella and you toil and spend money and the American government and Senate give you a huge budget and you have enough funds in your networks to insult and make fun of our system, our revolution, our leader, our people, the thinking of our people, and our demonstrations, and gather strange and queer specialists such as Nuri to be at your service, but you cannot tolerate our saying something, although it is historical and documented and we have not made it up?'

In conclusion Varzi claims that he had shown a drop of the ocean.

Allegation that Bahá'ís are seeking to entice girls to the Bahá'í Faith

Source: Raja News Web site, government affiliated

Content: On 1 March 2010, Raja News published the following:

The Perverse Bahaist sect is about to follow its intensive round of activities in a more indirect way and with greater use of the media.

An informed source relayed the above in a conversation with Javan, and said: 'After the recent events and riots in which this sect played a direct role and after [the government] identified and filtered a number of the sites belonging to this sect, it became known that according to instructions issued by the Bahá'í administration, this sect has decided to launch a new network of sites in Iran.'

He added: 'These sites will have two kinds of activities. Some of them sites will undertake to directly promote the agenda of the perverse sect while others will do so more indirectly and, by raising general and social issues, gradually attract their visitors to the sect.'

He said more: 'A focus of Bahá'í efforts during this period is to attract girls to their organization.'

It is remarkable that it seems that in this area, there has been a budget allocation and specific instructions from the Bahá'í organization and that this budget is likely part of the budget the U S. Congress approved for Internet activity against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

8-14 March 2010

Web sites

Assertion that some Bahá'ís have travelled from Iran to Israel

Source: Javan Online, government-affiliated Web site for youth

Content: On 9 March 2010, Javan Online published an article stating that according to an informed source, over the past month some members of the Bahá'í administration have travelled to Israel from provinces such as Isfahan and Fars via a third country. The source stated that the goal of these visits was to receive new policies and instructions from the "House of Justice' for continuation of the activities of the Bahá'ís, and to give attention to the matter of the arrest of prominent Bahá'ís. He added: "Before leaving, these individuals emphasized to other members of their administration not to take any new action before they had returned with new instructions from the House of Justice. The article also reported that the source had indicated that it is possible that the Bahá'ís are planning to create disturbances and foment riots during Chaharshanbeh Suri (an ancient Persian tradition from Zoroastrian days—the eve of the last Wednesday of the year is celebrated by Iranians by lighting fires and jumping over them.)

Allegation that Bahá'í Faith was created by Zionists as a means of gaining influence in Iran

Source: Rasa news, government-affiliated

Content: On 10 March 2010, Rasa news reported that Hojjatoleslam Ali Jadeed Bonab, former head of the Islamic Propaganda Agency of East Azerbaijan and author of "The Field of Zionist Studies", described the Zionist role vis-à-vis the Islamic countries and Iran in an interview with Rasa News Agency in Tabriz: "Referring to Zionist influence in Iran, Hojjatoleslam Jadeed Benab stated: 'The usurper Israel deepened its penetration into Iran through the deviant sect of Baha'ism, Baha'ism was the liaison between the Shah and Israel and had widespread influence in Iran before the Revolution.' Israeli looters deepened their influence in Iran through the perverse Bahaist sect. Bahaism was the interface between the Shah and Israel and had widespread influence in Iran before the revolution'. Pointing to available historical documents, Hojjatoleslam Jadeed Benab said: 'Bahaism, as the agent of Israel in Iran, created such conditions that Iran became the second country to recognize Israel and this influence spread to the most sensitive official posts in Iran. Zionist enmity toward Iran mirrors its hostility towards Islam, which has been manifestly evident in recent years.'

15 -21 March 2010

Web sites

"Expansion of the misguided Bahaist sect in America is sign that Islam is spreading"

Source: "Inside Iran" Web site, affiliated with reformist opposition leaders and the Green Movement

Content: On 11 March 2010, the Inside Iran Web site carried a report which indicated that that Ahmad Salek, member of the Central Religious Fighters Council pointed out: "The progress of the newfound deviant sects such as Bahaism and Wahabbism throughout America is a sign of the spread of Islam in the West…Recently we have seen the appearance of new religious sects in Iran who claim to be the representative of the Imam Mahdi. These sects have appeared after Bahaism and Wahhabism and this in itself is a problem. Wahhabism and Baha'ism work for the Zionist regime with funding from Arabia and guidance from America. Wahhabism, by claiming religiosity, is trying to replace Islamic principles with teachings taken from Zionism to replace the Islamic principles."

Assertion that the Bahá'ís are seeking to attract students to the Bahá'í Faith

Source: Raja News, government-affiliated

Content: On 12 March 2010, Raja News published an article asserting that the Bahá'ís have been instructed to "target students through their propaganda activities…According to Javan Online, the perverse Bahaist sect, in keeping with a new round of activities for the coming year, has asked its members to implement the extensive planning undertaken for the purpose of attracting students, especially those in high school, under the guise of such activities as remedial classes and student camps. It is said that among the recommendations issued is a call for efforts to launch non-profit schools under cover of post-professional schools and with no mention of their sectarian tendencies."

Research Centre of the Majlis asserts the Bahá'ís are among the traitorous groups that comprise the Green Movement

Source: Raja news, government-affiliated

Content: On 14 March 2010, Raja news reported that the head of the Research Centre of the Majlis had called the leaders of the Green Movement "traitors, who have destroyed themselves" and had further identified "the Mujahidin Khalq, the monarchists, the morally and economically corrupt, the Bahá'ís, the Wahhabis, and those against the actions of Ahmadinejad" as comprising that Movement.

Bahá'ís allegedly lined to the "CIA Cyber Network"

Source: Kayhan web site, ultra conservative official government newspaper

Content: On 15 March 2010, Kayhan reported that new information had been uncovered related to the destruction of "the CIA's largest cyber spy-network" which had been created through the use of "foreign and domestic anti-revolutionary elements". The article asserts that in 2006 the CIA instituted a cyber war aimed at creating instability in Iran; $400 million was appropriated by the American Congress, and the initiative drew upon "anti-revolutionary groups such as the Bahaist Zionist party, the Mujahidin Khalq, monarchists and some other groups who had attracted special attention of Americans" to achieve its ends, but the Islamic Republic triumphed over this effort to destabilize the nation.

"Ayatollah Vahid Khorasani: Poverty is sweeping the land"

Source: Parliamentary News Web site, government-affiliated

Content: On 13 March 2010, Parliamentary News reported that Grand Ayatollah Vahid Khorasani had stated, in a meeting with the police commander of the Qom province: "Through the efforts of the police, the foundation of the faith of the people must be protected and the propaganda meetings of the Christians, Bahá'ís, Wahhabists, and Sufis must be dismantled. These circles and meetings cause significant harm to the minds. They spread corruption and disrupt the national security."

22 -28 March 2010

Web sites

Friday sermon in Zanjan; Bahá'í Faith mentioned

Source: Fars News Service Web site, government affiliated

Content: On 19 March 2010, Fars News Service reported that Ayatollah Muhammad Taqi Va`ezi, the Imám-Jum'ih of Zanjan, stated in his Friday sermon stated that sects of Bahaist, Wahhabist, Sufi, and Ali-Allahi [those who believe Imam Ali was god incarnate] sects were all created by the British to prevent the spread of Shiite Islam in the world.

29 March – 4 April 2010

Web sites

Allegation that Bahá'í Web sites are supported by Iran's enemies and purvey "sedition"

Source: Javan online, government affiliated Web site for youth

Content: On 3 April 2010, Javan online reported that powerful Web sites and Web logs have risen against the Islamic regime and the budgets and technical assistance for them are provided by the American Congress, England and Israel. The article also asserts that these Web sites and Blogs are run by a small number of individuals who fled Iran before and after the revolution and who are busy spreading propaganda against the Islamic Republic.

According to this report, those who organize these anti-revolution sites and spread lies against the Islamic Order can be divided into nine groups. One of the groups is "affiliated with 'Abdu'l-Bahá" and known as "Zionist Bahá'ís"; the article further alleges that Mirhossein Moussavi (reformist presidential candidate) to be "the arm 'Abdu'l-Bahá's sleeve", and that Bahá'ís "feel that Moussavi will be their avenger from the Islamic Republic." The article further indicates that "members of this misguided sect have organized more than one hundred sites" to purvey their "sedition".

Religious seminaries will undertake strategic action against "deviant sects"

Source: Iranian Quran News Agency (IQNA) Web site, government affiliated

Content: On 15 March 2010, IQNA reported that Ali Akbar Famil Karimi, governor of Hamadan, had stated in the first conference of directors of religious seminaries of sector eight: "…due to the growth of the activities of the deviant Bahaist and Wahhabist sects in Iranian society, religious centres and seminaries must devise strategic and effective plans to expose and negate these attacks…We can witness the increase of religious teaching activities [by these sects…"

Television and Radio

Publication of a new anti-Bahá'í book

Source: Iran Book News Agency Web site (IBNA), government affiliated

Content: On 25 March 2010, IBNA reported that 20 books which provide religious guidelines for producers and directors of national media will be released after Naw-Rúz. "Majid Khabbazi, research manager of National Radio and TV's (Seda va Sima) Islamic Research Centre listed some of the titles, including *Bahaism and Colonialism, Pathology of Kindergarchy [Rule by Children] in Families Today, Islamic Courtesy and Etiquette, "TV and the Religious Identity of Youth* and *Obligation and Antinomianism*.

5-11 April 2010

Web sites

"Block the path of Satan (practical ways to confront Bahaism)"

Source: Alef Web site—pro-government, established by a group of professors of Humanitarian Departments at universities in Iran

Content: On 6 April 2010, Alef Web site reported:

"Bahaism, Babism and Wahhabism are fabrications created by the colonial Britain and this article has no intention of addressing the doubts of those who are the recipient of the clear evidence of this fact. Additionally, in this article, we will not refer to the dissemination of this satanic system, as that needs to be dealt with separately. Rather, in this article, we, together with the helpful ideas from you—God-abiding readers—will try to identify this satanic network and find practical ways to deal with those who have been led away from the path of God.

Following my extensive study of the cases of these misled individuals, as well as the reports of those who have been rescued, I am certain that only a bewildered and mentally incompetent person can fall victim to this system…Now what makes a person confused and weak?

Mental health is the primary and most important factor in feeling fulfilled and preserving the advancement of a healthy and spiritual life.

Mental health is easily affected by social and economical problems. At first glance and without reliance on research did you know [did you know?] (my hope is that perhaps a caring person in authority will render his support for such studies) that any increase in the level of discontent and lack of self-esteem, no matter how insignificant, will amplify the danger that even ridiculous and hideous beliefs such as Bahaism will penetrate the individual. I dare to call it ridiculous but in terms of their teaching methods and pretences I don't dare call it that. No matter where in the world they live, as soon as they find a person in need, they rush to help that person and use such opportunities to increase the number of their followers.

Such methods must be carefully studied, because having a few individual lobbyists who have managed to accumulate some wealth through the support of England over the past few decades, cannot entirely justify the amount of money they spend in the far away villages of Africa.

It is requested that the highest levels of the sacred regime's most professional departments analyze this sedition which has targeted the heart of Shi'a Islam, as an issue of intelligence, even though it is certain that the Mossad and the rest of the West have heavily invested in this perversion…Consider this: the majority of the members are Americans and no Iranian can be a member of the satanic hands [The Bahá'í Faith], or the nine member committee 'bayt al-a'azal' (the most blameworthy house) [The House of Justice]. They've come to eliminate God from the guidance of people. They are the devils.

<u>So if we are seeking to:</u>
1. study the cases of the victims
2. improve the level of social contentment

Take note: This article is just an introductory attempt to find practical solutions. May our whispering be a hindrance to Satan.

<u>Seminary professor alleges that Israel uses the Bahá'í Faith to undermine Iran</u>

<u>Source</u>: Shabestan News agency Web site, government affiliated

Content: On 6 April 2010, Shabestan Web site reported that Hojjatoleslam Ali Jadid-Bonab, professor of the seminary and the universities of Tabriz and the author of "The practices of Zionism in relation to the Islamic world" had stated that Israel attempts to extend its influence in Iran "through the misguided Bahaist sect", citing as an example of the Bahá'í Faith's influence in this regard the fact the Iran had been the second country to recognize the legitimacy of the state of Israel.

The Bahá'í Faith is alleged to be seeking to overthrow the Iranian regime

Source: Khabar Online, government affiliated

Content: On 8 April 2010, Khabar Online reported that Hojjatoleslam Jafar Shajuni, the president of the Society of the Preachers of Tehran stated: "We now have a fight over major principles—some people, working together with or through the Bahaists and Monarchists, want to topple the regime."

Bahá'í Faith linked with the monarchists (Reza Pahlavi)

Source: Raja News, government affiliated

Content: On 10 April 2010, Raja News published an article titled, "Expectations of the escaped prince [Reza Pahlavi – Son of former Shah] from the Green Sect [The Bahá'í Faith]." The article reported that in an interview with a French Web site, Reza Pahlavi had confirmed his support of the Green Movement, noting that "the Prince, who is yearning for a crown, when asked about his opinion regarding the misguided Bahaist sect, said: 'I fully support Bahaism and there should no limitations imposed on them." The article pointed out that this comment shows that monarchists support the Bahá'í Faith.

"Bahá'í teacher expelled from Tashkent"

Source: Shia News, government affiliated

Content: On 10 April 2010, Shia News cited a report which had been published by Adyan News [a religious news Web site] that "the Tashkent court issued an expulsion order from Uzbekistan for a citizen of Kazakhstan, 36 years old and a Bahá'í. Uzbekistan security officials had arrested him several times while he was teaching [the Bahá'í Faith] and had warned him [against this activity]."

Seminars and Classes

"Study of Babism and Bahaism among classes at the Lord of Command Cultural Institute"

Source: Iranian Quran News Agency (IQNA), government affiliated News Agency

Content: On 6 April 2010, IQNA reported that Hojjatoleslam Ali Ghadiri, the director of the Lord of Command [refers to 12th Imam] Cultural Institute in Isfahan, had stated: "Daily, 300 seminarians are taking part in various classes at the Institute…including Sectology,

Introduction to Babism, Baha'ism, Wahhabism and Sufism. These classes are all for seminary students."

Training session on Babism and Bahaism in Qom

Source: Ayandeh Roshan [Bright Future] News Agency, government affiliated News Agency

Content: On 10 April 2010, Ayandeh Roshan announced "the Supreme Council of Islamic Philosophy in Qom will begin its sixth short-term training session on the subject of the contemporary deviant sects (Bábism and Bahaism) and critical study of the western philosophy of David Hume." The article encouraged the readers to register and gave the registration information with the date and location of the training session.

Publication

50th issue of the monthly magazine "Emtedad" mentioned the Bahá'í Faith

Source: Iranian Quran News Agency (IQNA), government affiliated News Agency

Content: On 28 March 2010, IQNA reported that the 50th issue of the monthly magazine "Emtedad" had been released and was dedicated to an examination of "the liberals plus all branches of Freemasons, together with followers of Bahaism and Wahhabism" who allegedly constitute "the triangle of 'Muslim Zionists'" created by the West over the last two centuries "to penetrate Muslim and world thought to the benefit of, of course, the Jews."

12-18 April 2010

Web sites

Allegations that Bahá'ís are engaged in sophisticated media propaganda to attract attention to the Bahá'í Faith

Source: Iranian Quran News Agency (IQNA), government affiliated News Agency

Content: On 11 April 2010, IQNA carried an interview Hussein Ehsammanesh, the director of the software group 'Arúj in which Mr. Ehsammanesh expressed discontent about the sophisticated media propaganda purveyed by the Bahá'ís, and to a lesser extent, the Wahhabis, to attract attention to the Bahá'í Faith. Mr. Emmsammanesh indicated that "the same kind of weapons used by our adversaries" should be employed to respond to this propaganda, which he characterized as being in the nature of "velvet warfare…that uses media tools to influence the minds and views of its targets" against Shi'a Islam, and which "gradually and silently manifests itself and penetrates the society and will result in the triumph of one of these groups." He further stated that the Bahá'í propaganda was more advanced than that in which the Wahhabis are engaged.

"The new tragedy, Baha'ists and Zionists: Shiites do not be afraid, we can make them laugh"

Source: Fars New Agency, government-affiliated

Content: On 12 April 2010, Fars news agency published a news item concerning a nationwide contest in the United Kingdom titled "Which religion is funniest?" The competition was launched in U.K. in the run-up to the release of film "The Infidel" and invites individuals to enter the competition in celebration of British comedy by submitting religious joke. The competition has now concluded and winners have been selected.

In the Fars News item, Ahmad Moghimi, an "expert in cultural, religious and social affairs in Isfahan" explains that the Bahaist and Wahhabist sects are being strengthened in their fight against Shiism and are currently receiving a great deal of support in their fight against Shiism.

Head of the clerical faction of the Majlis expresses concern about the Bahá'ís in Iran

Source: Fars New Agency, government -affiliated

Content: On 12 April 2010, Fars news agency reported that Hojjatoleslam Mohammad Taghi Rahbar, a member of the Majlis and the head of its clerical faction, stated in the weekly meeting of Ansar al-Hezboullah (Friends of God Party), that the that "the world "Arrogance…is spending billions of dollars to separate us from the doctrine of the Imams" by using the Wahhabis and the Bahá'ís "to disrupt the social order and foment terror..."religious scholars in Qom and other seminaries, as well as scientists and those concerned about the regime, are concerned about the promotion of Bahaism, which, during the time of the Shah did not dare to even show itself…the promotion of Bahaism has now got to the point now that students in school identify themselves as Bahaists and promote the Baha'ist [holy] book." He also referred to Bahá'í involvement in the post-election civil unrest, stating that "Wahhabists, Bahaists, Royalists, Mujahidin, liberals and some bankrupt parties, under the pretext of elections, joined hands to attack the guardianship of Imam Hussein and Mahdi".

Allegation that the Bahá'ís are targeting rural populations in Iran -- efforts are under way to "rid the villages of these perverse people".

Source: Islamic Development Organization (IDO) Web site, government affiliated

Content: On 15 April 2010, IDO reported that Hojjatoleslam Mohammad Bani Khazai, the head of Islamic propaganda and clergy at Hormozgan's Islamic Propaganda Department had stated in a meeting on the advancement of religious programs: "The people in rural areas are more exposed to attacks by the West and perverse religions and sects such as the Sufis and the Bahaists, who are actively involved in some villages. So, with comprehensive planning, we intend to rid the villages of these perverse people."

Seminars and Classes

Seminar in Kazeroon: "Introduction to perverse Wahhabist and Bahaist sects"

Source: Fars New Agency, government -affiliated

Content: On 15 April 2010, Fars New Agency reported that the Basij Students of Kazeroon's Higher Education Centre, in cooperation with the Universities' Jihad Organization, had sponsored a seminar on the theme "Introduction to the perverse Wahhabist and Baha'ist sects" in Kazeroon (Fars Province) on 15 April 2010, in order to "familiarize the students with the perverse sects and their beliefs." Hojjatoleslam Jafar Anvari, a professor at the Imam Research Institute, spoke on the sects' "methods of propaganda and the ways to deal with them..." He pointed out the after the Islamic Revolution, some Bahá'ís fled Iran and some secretly professed to be followers of Islam. He then pointed out: "After President Khatami's election (in 1997), the Bahaists felt a new atmosphere of freedom in Iran and that now they could easily do their work…Expressing that the missionaries of this sect do not confine their activities to a particular region, he added: 'Taking advantage of women's emotions, they promote feminism.' The seminar called for greater vigilance in dealing with such sects.

19-25 April 2010

Web sites

"Baha'ism Since Its Beginning Has Been Serving World Zionist Agency"

Source: Kalameh Web site, Green Movement-affiliated news agency

Content: On 18 April 2010, Kalameh Web site reported the following:

Hussein Shariatmadari*, the editor-in-chief of* Kayhan, *noted, "Another complaint raised by Shirin Ebadi is [the question of] why she has been charged with supporting the Baha'ists. Her support for the Baha'ists is indisputable. The Nobel Committee needed so much to support Baha'ism that, in its statement, it was not enough to use the general term for religious freedom, but it had to stress that this included Baha'ism and Baha'ists. How can this lady deny her support for Baha'ists and Baha'ism?"*

Shariatmadari added, "Contrary to common thought, Baha'ism is not a sect, but all the documents indicate that it is a Zionist political party that, since its beginning, has been in the service of the World Zionist Agency [Organization]".

"Centres/Associations at Mosques Should Be More Wary of Perverse Currents"

Source: Fars News Agency, government-affiliated

Content: On 14 April 2010, Fars News Agency reported that the Director General of Endowments and Charitable Affairs of East Azerbaijan in a meeting said, "Centres/associations at the mosques should be more wary of perverse currents." Expressing the need for those running the centres at mosques to increase their watchfulness toward perverse currents, he said, "Satanists, Baha'ists, Wahhabists are growing and active and we should increase our efforts in the mosques' religious and cultural activities". He also

stressed the need to get the youth involved in such activities since that is the best way to attract their peers to the mosques.

Anti-Sects Web site

Source: Mohakemeh (Trial) Web site, affiliated with Kayhan Newspaper–ultra-conservative, government-affiliated

Content: In Spring of 2008 a new anti-sects Web site was launched. This Web site has different sections for each alleged "sect", Baha'ism, Wahhabism, Satan worshipers, Sufis, and Jews and Zionists. Since it was launched 108 anti-Bahá'í articles have been published in the site (14 articles since 21 March 2010) compared with 72 anti-Wahhabism articles, 71 anti-Sufism, 46 anti-Judaism, 38 anti-Christianity, and 26 anti-Zoroastrianism.

Most of the anti-Bahá'í articles published in this Web site are from Kayhan Newspaper.

26 April – 2 May 2010

Web sites

"Perverse Baha'ist Sect's New Propaganda Method"

Source: Fars News Agency, government-affiliated

Content: On 24 April 2010, Fars news reported that "the missionaries of the perverse Bahá'íst sect have recently adopted a new method to win converts among the Afghan citizens by educated young people." It added:

> *"According to an informed source, this group, under the cover of religious classes, and while indoctrinating them with beliefs of the perverse Bahá'íst sect, and also bribing them with financial assistance to the families of Afghan citizens, brings them within its fold and, after putting them through intensive courses, deploys them to the rural and deprived areas in some eastern regions of the country.*
>
> *"These individuals (Afghans) receive a substantial amount of money as a special reward for attracting anyone in these areas.*
>
> *"The youth and pre-youth population are among the main target groups of the activities of the perverse Baha'ist sect."*

"Dominating Other Nations -- Most Important Goal of Colonialists"

Source: Fars News Agency, government-affiliated

Content: On 29 April 2010, Fars news reported that Mr. Abdollahyan, an education and research expert at the Islamic Propaganda Office of the Semnan Province, said, "Having researched and studied Iran's cultural transformation during the last three centuries, we conclude that the formation of sects like Wahhabism and Baha'ism has been a product of British and Russian colonialism".

Mr. Abdollahyan added. "The Bahá'íst cult also was created by a Russian prince named Kiniyaz Dolgorouki, who was an interpreter at the Russian embassy in 1834 AD, through an individual by the name of Seyyed Ali Mohammad Bab".

He also listed raising the awareness of the people, particularly the youth, strengthening the relationship between the people and the clergy, and the Islamicizing of school and university education as among the ways to confront the enemy's efforts to divide and exploit the Iranian nation.

3-9 May 2010

Web sites

Ayatollah Mahdavi Warns Against the Threat of Un-Islamic Dress Code

Source: Fars News Agency, government-affiliated

Content: On 30 April 2010, Fars News reported on Ayatollah Mahdavi's comments during the Friday prayer service in Isfahan, regarding the threat of women's un-Islamic dress code, causing corruption and instability in the society. He had referred to Khamenei's emphasis on the same issue during a recent meeting with the heads of security forces and [discussed] the importance of their role in enforcing the proper Islamic dress code. He also said that the enemies are not planning a military attack against Iran, or [encouraging] the use of narcotics amongst the young people because they know that that an addict can find a way to recover, but they are instead constantly planning to weaken the religious minds and beliefs of young people through the spread of corruption and prostitution because there is no recovery from that. Referring to the history of un-Islamic dress in Iran, he said: "During the Qajar dynasty the mislead sect of Bahá'íst, in order to draw attention to itself and recruit followers, rejected the Islamic dress code/hijab for the first time and formally announced the abrogation of women's hijab." He also said that human beings are free and they should be able to think freely and that having the power of intellect obligates one not to allow for this intellectual freedom to be disturbed. He also has asked Isfahan's authorities to confront un-Islamic dress codes and not be content with the outward beauty of the city but also work on its inward beauty.

Ban on Certain Books in the International Section of the Book Fair

Source: Iranian Students News Agency (ISNA), government-affiliated

Content: On 30 April 2010, ISNA reported that Mohammad Allahyari, director of Evaluation and Supervision Committee for the 23rd International Book Fair of Tehran announced the ban against supplying books that promote perverse sects and eclectic mysticism or books that neglect the religious teachings of the Jafari Shia.

Mohammad Allahyari told the news headquarters for the 23rd international Book Fair, "All the books that target the integrity of the Islamic Republic of Iran by using fraudulent rhetoric are also banned."

He added, "The sale of books that promote and spread other religions will also be prevented."

According to Allahyari, books that threaten the national unity of the country and books that intend to insult or debase the sacred regime of the Islamic Republic of Iran will be banned in the International Book Fair of Tehran.

The Director of the Evaluation and Supervision Committee for the 23rd International Book Fair of Tehran also emphasized: "The Evaluation and Supervision Committee in collaboration with foreign publishers will continue its monitoring before and during the book fair while providing easy access to foreign books for enthusiasts and researchers."

The 23rd International Book Fair of Tehran is taking place at the shrine complex of Imam Khomeini, 5–15 May 2010.

On 7 May 2010, the Asre-Nou Web site reported that in the first two days of the book fair many books for Iranian and foreign publishers were collected and removed. Most of these books were related to the "Perverse Sects of Bahá'ísm and the Bábism". The article indicated that this year there were significantly more books about these sects. The article referred to an "interesting point" that in the list of books at the Fair, in the section on religion, Bahá'ísm was included after Islam, Christianity, and Buddhism.

[Comment: Last year, the 22nd Tehran International Book Fair was held from 6–16 May 2009; for the first time, the "Bahá'í Research Web site" (bahairesearch.org, an anti-Bahá'í Web site that was launched in the summer of 2006 and claims to be an academic research site) had a booth displaying and selling anti-Bahá'í books and CDs. The site bahairesearch.org advertised its presence at the fair on its front page online and invited individuals who were "researching the Bahá'í Faith" (Bahá'í Pazhuhan) to come and visit the booth, where they could purchase new books and second editions of older books that were posted on their Web site. The titles of some of the new books are, "God of the Communications Age", "Enemies of the Mehdi", and "A series of debates about the emergence of Bahá'ísm". The Web site published many pictures of the booth.]

Detention of Grandchild of one of the "Leaders of the Perverse Bahá'íst Sect"

Source: Fars News Agency, government-affiliated

Content: On 2 May 2010, Fars News agency reported that according to informed sources, a "grandchild of one of the seven leaders of the perverse Bahá'íst sect, who was an active element in the events after the election and a member of the organization of the perverse Bahá'íst sect in Iran, has recently been arrested."

According to the report, after the disclosure of the broad participation by Bahá'ís in the post-election riots and investigation of Bahá'ís and detention of some of them by the related agencies, further aspects of this issue as well as the political and security activities of cult members have been exposed.

This comes at a time when during the riots on 27 December 2009 (Ashura Day) a considerable number of those arrested were related to the Bahá'íst administration.

Jerusalem Meeting for "Expanding Cooperation between Bahá'ís and Agitators"

Source: Kayhan Web site, ultraconservative official government newspaper

Content: On 5 May 2010, Kayhan published the following article allegedly reporting that Behrooz Behbudi, head of WIN TV, is a Bahá'í. The article is as follows:

Bahá'í head of WIN TV television network (Washington International Networks), while meeting with Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister in Jerusalem, made an assessment of how to support the Green conspiracy.

Behrooz Behbudi, who is the head of a counterrevolutionary group in the United States called the CDI (The Council for a Democratic Iran), launched the WIN TV network a few months ago, with a number of his colleagues from VOA (Voice of America) including Luna Shad and Rod Baharloo. Behbudi is a crooked Bahá'í investor, and his family for several generations since the time of Reza Khan, has had an influence in the Pahlavi dynasty. During the last years of the Pahlavi dynasty, Behrooz Behbudi was the regime's Ambassador in Australia. Behbudi has an office in Haifa, where the Bahá'í temple is located. He is a close friend of the American head of VOA.

The Israeli Foreign Ministry Web site reported that, on his trip to Israel, Behbudi met and talked with Danny Ayalon, Israel's Deputy Foreign Minister, at the Foreign Ministry's Headquarters. According to the report, Behbudi told Ayalon: "Before the theocratic regime, we had a constructive cooperation together. I am excited to see democracy in Israel. Your type of democracy is my highest wish. It is your duty to give a helping hand to the opposition in Iran. If the Iranian regime stays in power, another Holocaust will occur.

In the meeting, Behbudi, knowing his own crooked background, said, "I have a lot of stigma around me, but my family has long cooperated with and served Reza Shah and Mohammad Reza Shah. We always have remained clean, but the regime spreads rumours against us.

Danny Ayalon also expressed support for the opposition movement active in the riots.

Behbudi's claim about his integrity comes as he, through Bahaism's octopus-like network, is in contact with international Zionism and Israel lobby in America and because of that signed such huge contracts with the U.S. government for the reconstruction of Iraq's Central Bank in Baghdad worth tens of millions of dollars and is also a partner in some oil projects in Canada….

It is worth noting that during the rioters breaking the sanctity of Ashura day, several Bahá'ís were arrested for guiding the breaking of the sanctity of Imam Hussein mourning. Several leaders of the little colonialist Bahá'í group are now in detention charged with espionage for Israel. The group's leaders abroad have always tried to conceal and deny any communication with the Israeli regime and Mossad.

The little British-made Bahá'í group, especially during recent years, has struck extensive communication with some extreme so-called reformists, such as Mohajerani, Kadivar, Soroush, Ganji, and Majid Mohammadi and Abbas Maroufi, who predominantly reside in Britain, USA, Canada and…. Some reliable news sources indicate that, in exchange for

money, a number of those attracted to the International Bahá'í have agreed to violate public sanctities such as denying the Twelfth Imam and the mission of the Prophet and the sanctity of the Koran, challenging the supreme Jurist, promoting secularism, insulting the imam and the leadership.

According to Israel's Foreign Ministry, Behbudi, during his stay in Jerusalem, is going to meet with several Israeli leaders.

Seminars and Symposia

Seminar "Review of Sufism and Bahá'ísm" in Khorram Bid, Fars Province

Source: Iranian Quran News Agency (IQNA), government-affiliated news agency

Content: On 3 May 2010, IQNA, quoting the public relations office of Fars Islamic propaganda organization, reported that a 16 hour review course on Sufism and Bahá'ísm was held on 1 May 2010, specifically for Friday prayer leaders and education professionals of Khorram Bid county in Fars province with the presence of an expert in sects and religions from the Fars Islamic propaganda organization.

This course was taught by Hojjatoleslam Mohsen Rohani, an expert in sects and religions; Naeemi, a top seminary scholar; and Darvishmanesh, a [member of the] clergy from the Khorram Bid pioneering plan.

Hojjatoleslam Rohani said: "One of the problems of society is people's lack of knowledge and low level of religious information, especially in the field of millenarianism (Mahdism). One of the common goals among perverse sects is the weakening of millenarianism (Mahdism)."

10 -16 May 2010

Web sites

Ruhi Institute attacked on Iranian Web sites

Source: Javan Online, affiliated with the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) and Raja News, a conservative Web site

Content: On 27 April Javan Online reported that Hojjatoleslam Reza Ashtiani Iraqi, the Qom Deputy in Iran Parliament (Majles) and a member of the Culture Committee of Parliament, indicated that his committee is looking into "confronting the expansion in teaching the misguided Bahá'ísm in the country". He claims that "such expansion reached its highest level after the events surrounding the presidential election" last year.

On 1 May and 2 May 2010, Raja News and Javan Online published an article titled "Understanding Bahá'ísm Ruhi Plan". This is an article which was first published in 2006. The article includes the detailed history of how "the Ruhi Plan" was a pilot project in Colombia, then the Universal House of Justice decided to implement it as a global plan in the "Five-Year Plan" and "Four-year Plan" as part of the training institute under the supervision of Continental Counsellors. The article stated that "The implementation style

of the 'Ruhi Plan' has a fundamental difference with the past activities of the Bahá'ís of Iran… Baha'ism's centre in Haifa has recommended that in Iran, because of the Islamic regime and the existence of special circumstances, the Ruhi Plan be started at 16 years of age and for the Bahá'í children from age 12 to 15 years and if possible in the company of their elders, with the aim of deception, with charity work and public works, such as visiting patients in hospitals, cleaning streets and parks and mountain trails, going to hospices and helping seniors and the elderly."

The article explores the implementation of the "Ruhi Plan" by saying:

"Thus, and in response to the command of the 'House of Justice in Haifa', began the Bahá'í propaganda invasion out into the non-Bahá'í communities. At the same time Khanjani [Mr. Jamaloddin Khanjani, a member of the former Yárán in prison]—senior representative of the House of Justice and their number one individual in Iran—in an official notification to all the Bahá'ís of Iran, stressed that: 'We should not confine ourselves only to the friends we have already made, because this will, due to its limited nature, gradually limit and stop our activities.

"This proclamation by the leader of Iran's Bahá'ís virtually directs the followers of this perverse sect that, through penetrating the Iranian families and propaganda, they should raise the scope and number of Bahá'ís living in Iran.

"…Such that today, according to Bahá'ís, the number of Bahá'í facilitators and missionaries is up to ten thousand people and this is a warning that the Islamic Republic's ideological and cultural officials should not neglect the issue of confronting Bahá'ís, because the enemy is awake and alert and sitting in ambush to trap our youth."

The article continues by indicating that based on instructions from the House of Justice, Bahá'ís should make contact with non-Bahá'ís, infiltrating small and rural communities in the disguise of health workers or others providing service to them, and by every other means, in order to identify predisposed individuals and attract them to the Bahá'í Faith. Examples are provided.

The article further explains the history of the Bahá'í Faith in the time of Shoghi Effendi and links to Zionism. Then it says: "Based on available evidence, this cult today acts as follower of world-devouring imperialism and Zionism; is not this in contradiction to the claims of Bahá'í leaders as to the non-political nature of their activities and that, based on Bahá'u'lláh's statements, they consider as forbidden any political work? (...) A look at the Bahá'í activities in Central Asian countries, the Caucasus, Afghanistan and Iraq and their propaganda efforts in these areas, [indicates] their political nature along with long-standing hostility to Islam and Shiism."

Alleged Joint Plan of Israel and Bahá'ís to Support the Leaders of Sedition

Source: Fars News Agency, government-affiliated

Content: On 5 May 2010, Fars News reported that allegedly the Bahá'í head of television network WIN (Washington International Network), in a meeting with the foreign minister of the Zionist regime in Jerusalem, assessed how to support the leaders of "sedition" in Iran.

The article states that Behrouz Behboudi, allegedly a Bahá'í and the head of a network, collaborates with the Zionist regime to support the dissident movement in Iran. It also refers to the arrest of some Bahá'ís following the demonstrations of 'Ashura.

"To Consider Sunnis and Wahhabis as the Same is a Betrayal of the Islamic World"

Source: Fars News Agency, government-affiliated

Content: On 10 May 2010, Fars News reported that Mohammad Nabi Habibi, Secretary General of the Unified Islamic Party in his meeting with Sunni's Friday prayer leader of Aghghola County of Golestan Province, has said regarding the Wahabbis: "To equate the Sunnis and Wahabbis is a betrayal of the Islamic World. In the same way that Bahá'ísm is separate from Shi'ism, so is Wahabbism from Sunni'ism."

"Sects: Bahá'ísm Principles"

Source: Javan Online, affiliated with the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC)

Content: On 11 May 2010, Javan Online published an article to introduce the Bahá'í Faith, beginning with the history of the Bahá'í Faith by saying, "Ali Mohammad Shirazi claimed to be the Báb of the Twelfth Imam followed successively by claims of being the Mahdi himself, then a prophet and lastly God. After his execution, Mirza Hussein Ali claimed to be his successor, saying he is God whose good news the Báb gave. And after him, Abdu'l-Bahá took over."

The article listed the countries that allegedly supported the Bahá'í Faith, namely Russia, England, the United States, the Ottoman king and Israel.

The article continues by mentioning the Bahá'í beliefs and mentioning that the Bahá'í Faith believes it is better than all other religions, Islam is no longer valid and the Bahá'í Faith is valid for a thousand years.

The next section of the article shares a list of Bahá'í laws including obligatory prayer, fasting, pilgrimage to Shiraz and Baghdad, monogamy, purity of everything, Bahá'í centres and temples, education of children, blood money, adultery, the 19-day feast, cleanliness, Bahá'í Holy days celebrations, burial, and inheritance.

In conclusion it says that "…based on its illogical claim, Bahá'ísm is not a religion but a colonialist plan to hurt and dominate Muslim nations. Because if people accepted its claims, there would no longer be any fight against injustice or holy war or enjoining the good and forbidding evil. Instead people would send their valuables to the House of Justice as opposed to Islam's treasury in order to complete of total domination of Muslim countries by global arrogance."

Seminars and Symposia

Seminar on Reviewing "Bahá'ísm in Iran" at Khorramshahr University of Marine Science and Technology

Source: Iranian Quran News Agency (IQNA), government-affiliated

Content: On 8 May 2010, IQNA published an announcement regarding a seminar on reviewing "Bahá'ísm in Iran" on Monday 10 May 2010. The event has been organized by the Basiji students of the University of Khorramshahr (Khozestan Province). The session will be led by Hojjatoleslam Adel Ruyvaran, the deputy director of the Office of the Supreme Leader at the university. Mr. Bayat, a film critic for the students, will also be attending the event.

"The Way to Confront Newly Manifested Sects"

Source: Fars News Agency, government-affiliated

Content: On 8 May 2010, Fars News published an article by one of the scholars of Qom's Seminary (Hozeh Elmieh Qom) reporting on a question and answer meeting with Hojjatoleslam Babaei at the girls' college of technology in Shahr-e Kord, which was held on 8 May 2010 at noon. According to this report, Babaei, addressing the Basiji students, said that in order to defeat the enemies' plots they must understand the enemies' policies and then fight back using effective methods. Calling Bábism and Bahá'ísm perverted sects, he said that the promotion of such sects is part of the enemy's well-organized plan, before and after the revolution, in order to create division in the society and discredit the religious manifestations.

According to him many of these current distorted issues were founded at the beginning of Islam and once the plans of the enemies of Islam failed they concentrated on the promotion of these perverted sects, which, if not challenged, will cause irreparable damage. Referring to Khamenei's comments regarding the enemy's cultural attacks and the advancement of perverted sects in the society, he emphasized the need to be even more aware of the dangers involved, saying that in the past the enemies, through spreading friction, ignorance, corruption and even certain diseases, managed to distract nations and then plunder their wealth; now, in addition to their old methods, they use more advanced approaches such as promotion of liberalism and secularism and the use of narcotics amongst the youth in order to achieve their objectives. He said that what worries the enemies is the religion of Islam, which is a religion for one's life and teaches its followers generosity and integrity together with a spirit that will not tolerate abasement and submission before strangers.

According to him, in order to prevent the youth from falling into the trap of the false ideology of these minorities and their advancement in the society, people, especially the youth, must strengthen the connection between the people and the clergy and stress the importance of the Islamization of the education system and the universities in accordance with the guidelines of Khamenei in order to defeat the evil plans of the enemy.

Bahá'ís are blamed for promoting improper veil

Source: Fars News Agency, government-affiliated

Content: On 16 May 2010, Fars News published an article titled, "Promoting Improper Veil is Second Phase of Recent Riots". The article indicated that Iranian Bahá'ís say they have explicit orders from the U.S. and Israel to promote fashion and immorality in our society.

In his sermon, the temporary Friday prayer leader of Varamin (Tehran Province), Hojjatoleslam Seyyed Hussein Mahmoudi, talks about the centrality of the Islamic covenant first through the Imams and then their successors, the [supreme] jurisprudents, and that obedience to the Supreme Leader strengthens the unity and strength of the nation.

He says that all other Muslim nations are being oppressed and exploited because they lack the legitimate authority of the Imams and the supreme jurisprudent.

The enemies of Islam use any means to weaken the Muslim nations, including promoting immoral behaviour and fashion in opposition to the will of the Supreme Leader.

17 -23 May 2010

Web sites

"Perverse Sect of Bahá'ísm Launching a New TV Channel to Attract New Followers"

Source: Ayandeh Roshan [Bright Future -BF] News Agency—government affiliated news agency

Content: On 14 May 2010, BF News reported that the sect of Bahá'ísm has, in a new venture to increase the number of its followers, launched a Persian-speaking TV channel. It states:

The TV channel, which operates from Los Angeles, uses a report and discussion format for its programmes to promote the goals and teachings of the Bahá'í sects; for example, its report on commemoration of the Riḍván celebration. Additionally, discussion with Persian-speaking youth who have joined this sect, and exploring reasons for doing so, is another technique used by this network to promote Bahá'ísm amongst the Persian-speaking population, particularly Iranians.

On the other hand, their efforts in the use of radio have, through launching an additional satellite Bahá'í radio station, taken on a modern format.

The article continues by referring to an old report quoting a Bahá'í, initials T.D. who talked about the persecution of Bahá'ís in Iran, especially the denial of education, and said, "We have serious problems with the regime in Iran, in the area of human rights and the violation of the human rights of the Bahá'ís, but taking part in the university entry examination and accessing higher education at the universities by the Bahá'ís is an issue that can easily be resolved by simply eliminating the question regarding one's religion." T.D. has also admitted: "During the early years after the revolution the Bahá'ís launched an underground university in various cities of Iran, which after some time was discovered by the Ministry of Intelligence and completely destroyed."

The article concludes with a fabricated history of the Bahá'í Faith and ends with, "The claims of this new religion made by the Báb and Bahá'u'lláh contradict the belief in the Khatamiyyat [being last] of the Prophet of Islam that has been accepted by all the Muslims. Therefore, despite vast publicity, the Bahá'ís did not find any place amongst Muslims."

Allegation that the United States Financially Supports Needy Bahá'ís

Source: Fars News Agency, government-affiliated

Content: On 18 May 2010, Fars News reported that the son of a member of the perverse Baha'ism, along with a few other Bahá'ís, has set up an institution to financially support the poor members of this misguided sect.

Quoting the virtual service of Fars News Agency, Javan wrote: "It is said that after the consultations carried out by these individuals within American circles, the cost and desired budget comes from this country (USA)".

Other related news suggests that an active member of the sect of Baha'ism in Isfahan, who is involved in making plastic freezer bags and garbage bags, is considered to be among the financial sponsors of this Bahá'í fund in the region.

Seminars and Symposia

Seminar on "Baha'ism and Israel and Satanism"

Source: Iranian Quran News Agency (IQNA) — government affiliated news agency

Content: On 22 May 2010, IQNA reported that the eleventh session of a series of meetings on Zionism was held Thursday afternoon May 20, titled "Baha'ism, Israel and Satanism", through the efforts of the Enghelab (Revolution) Cultural Centre in cooperation with the Nur (light) of Quds (holiness) Youth Institute.

According to the Quran News Agency (IQNA), quoting the Nur Quds Youth Institute, Seyyed Kazem Mousavi, an expert on misguided sects, said that Zionism is confronted by Shia. Both movements are seeking to become global. First, Zionism tried to prevent the return of the twelfth Imam. Later, since the twelfth Imam went into the greater occultation, Zionism changed tactics. One of the ways in which Zionism tried to deal with Shia was by coming up with false Mahdis (12th Imam) and hence Bab'ism and Baha'ism were created through the two great powers, Russia and Great Britain.

Seyyed Kazem Mousavi said that Baha'ism started after the death of the second Shaykhi leader when 38 individuals claimed to be the promised Mahdi, one of whom was Seyyed Ali Mohammad Shirazi, the Báb. The Báb changed his claim six times, from being the gate of the Mahdi all the way to being God. After the Báb, Mirza Hossein Ali Nuri, one of his disciples, claimed to be his successor and Baha'ism comes into being.

Most of the Bábís were of Jewish descent, from either Kashan or Hamedan. Next to them, there were a few Christians. The rest were mostly Zoroastrians.

He also said that it is interesting that England, in its attacks on Islam, granted the title of Sir both to 'Abdu'l-Bahá and to the author of the book "Satanic Verses".

Referring to the late imam Khomeini's calling Baha'ism the creation of international Zionism, he added that after the creation of Israel and Mossad, about 60 to 70% of the Baha'ism in Iran and the world became immediate agents of Mossad. But only the leaders of the Baha'ism administration, the 10% at the top of this pyramid, are aware of this fact. The remaining 90% are misguided and unaware of it.

Seminar on "The development of the Baha'ism and its historic and social background"

Source: Fars News Agency—government-affiliated

Content: On 18 May 2010, Fars News reported that Hojjatoleslam Valiollah Mesbahi, the head of the Islamic Development Organization in the city of Garmsar (Semnan Province), referring to the development and historic background of perverse sects of Bahá'ísm among youth, said that the real Islam has to be shown to the youth so they will not be attracted to the sect. These sects are formed by attracting youth when the needs of the youth are not answered by Islamic religious organizations, or their curiosity is not satisfied, or they cannot earn a living through legal means. He added that over a short period these sects, such as Wahabbism and Baha'ism, have been spread all over the world, and unfortunately they also exist in Iran. These two sects are developed and supported financially by the international arrogance of the Zionist regime, the U.S. and U.K.

He continued by saying that in the contemporary history of Iran, Baha'ism has played a very negative and destructive role. This political group, pretending to be a religious sect, absolutely served the interests of the enemies; the prime example of this action is Abbas Effendi. In fact the Bahá'ís have collected all the great religious ideals and claimed them as their own.

According to Hojjatoleslam Mesbahi, these sects attract and exploit the educated portion of the youth population by using special schemes, such as weekly ceremonies, sexual liberty, addiction and pop music. Lack of knowledge of Islam and the distancing from prayers and the mosque are the reasons for the attraction of the youth to these sects, he said, and individuals promoting such sects must, in light of article 20 and article 23 of the constitution on freedom of belief, be identified based on their actions and if they intend to teach or cause confusion amongst the public they should face legal consequences.

According to him, organising conferences identifying cultural problems, as well as planning cultural programmes to understand the enemy, are some of the activities that religious and cultural organisations should engage in and that the duty of the parents must conform to Islam, to monitor the actions of their children from childhood.

24 -30 May 2010

Web sites

"Going To Extremes in Religion is the Main Cause of Divisions Among Muslims"

Source: Fars News Agency, government-affiliated

Content: On 22 May 2010, Fars News reported that Hojjatoleslam Siadati, an expert in sects and religions at the Organization of Islamic Propaganda of Sistan and Baluchestan, considers going to extremes in religion as the main cause of divisions among Muslims.

He viewed walking the straight path and moderation in religion as the most important means in the fight against misguided sects such as Wahhabism and Baha'ism and said: "These two sects, which have caused so much harm to the religion of Islam, were in fact created in a plot by the arrogant colonialists to strike Islam."

Siadati said that Islam, like all religions, is based on unity and without unity it is doomed.

He described the activities of the Arrogants in promoting Baha'ism and Wahhabism and asked the border guards to carefully study and familiarize themselves with the cults and sects of Islam and avoid extremism in religion in order to neutralize the efforts of global arrogance.

"Ayatollah Alavi Gorgani Warns Families [against sects]"

Source: Tabnak New Agency—government-affiliated news agency

Content: On 24 May 2010, Tabnak reported on Ayatollah Alavi Gorgani's warning to the families against sects.

"He said: To prevent intellectual deception by the enemies of Islam in the form of perverse, false and dangerous sects such as Baha'ism, Wahhabism and . . . we should all gather under the banner of the supreme jurist.

Ayatollah Alavi Gorgani, referring to the activities of fake religions and sects, warned: "Unfortunately, sometimes we see an individual, though the son of devout parents, influenced by the ideas of misguided sects and religions".

He said that in order to protect our children against such dangers, "We need to introduce them to Islamic and Shia thought."

Seminaries having difficulty finding missionaries to deal with Bahá'í Faith

Source: Mehr News Agency, government-affiliated

Content: Mehr News reported that Ayatollah Jafar Sobhani, on 27 May 2010, at the twelfth session of high level seminary professors and other religious scholars, gave a talk criticizing the system of tuition payment in the seminaries and asked seminary students not to be lazy. Giving an example of students' laziness, he stated that they are having difficulty finding missionaries to send to one of the neighbouring countries to deal with Bahá'í and Christian propaganda. He said, "For this we need 20 seminary students and we will provide for all their needs and their tuition fees but they still have not given us a positive answer. Even the small number who have responded positively are hesitating, and this shows a lack of responsibility in the field of missionary work."

He said the students must be encouraged to solve difficult problems in order for them to grow to their full potential. Also, he criticized the system of tuition payment as hurting the self-esteem of students.

He further added that we should make sure that after four years the students have learned enough to be able to guide others. He mentioned one reason for this lack as being the greater proportion of students to teachers in seminaries than in the past.

31 May – 6 June 2010

Web sites

Qom seminary continues to purvey allegation that Bahá'í Faith is a creation of the British

Source: Fars News Agency, government-affiliated

Content: On 23 May 2010, Fars News reported that Musa Haqqani, a research assistant at the Institute for Contemporary History of Iran in Qom, had pointed to the role of British intelligence services in the formation and expansion of the Bábí and Bahá'í Faiths; he further asserted that the Bahá'ís are still active today in the "soft war" whose seeds the colonialists had planted 168 years ago in the heart of the Shia religion and added that were it not for the likes of Amir Kabir who defended the Shia position in Islamic Iran, perhaps the colonialists and British intelligence services would have taken possession of the country.

Allegation that Bahá'í Faith infiltrates municipalities in Iran under the guise of social service activities

Source: "Bahaism News". "Bahaism News" is a relatively new Web site whose focus appears to be the publication of attacks against the Bahá'í Faith which have been carried in various state-controlled media. It takes the form of a Web log ("blog").

Content: On 30 May 2010, Bahaism News reported that it had uncovered evidence that a group of Bahá'ís, under the guise of extending social and cultural service to unsupervised children, had in fact gradually revealed themselves as seeking to gain influence over certain organizations of civil society. The article pointed out that "some members of this group of volunteers have penetrated the Karaj Municipality through their connections". It noted that the group, using the name "Kiana", has been active for close to 7 years in the city of Karaj and has undertaken many joint programs with City of Karaj and reports that the group is associated with "the leader of the Vardavard Bahá'ís, who is also being directed by a group of newly declared Bahá'í youth."

Attack against Mrs. Shirin Ebadi for her support of the Bahá'ís

Source: Bahaism News Web log, government-affiliated

Content: On 30 May 2010, Bahaism News published an article based on reports carried by Fars News and Kayhan concerning Mrs. Shirin Ebadi. The article refers to her support of the Bahá'ís, citing her as having stated: "I am a defender of human rights and not a political activist. In this connection, I've always defended people whose opinions I may not agree with. But to the extent that I could, I helped them to be able to express themselves. In this connection I have defended the Bahá'ís without being one and ... So the question of which people I defend goes back to my belief in freedom of expression and not to any agreement with them. Difference between a political activist and a human rights defender is

the same. I'm not going to ever enter the political arena." The article asserts that Elahe Hicks and Abdolkarim Lahiji ("counsel for the terrorist MKO") were instrumental in the decision to award the Nobel Prize to Mrs. Ebadi and asks: "After all this can we expect the likes of Shirin Ebadi to support anyone other than terrorist Mujahedin and Bahá'ís and monarchists?"

Assertions that Bahá'í Faith took advantage of recent unrest to gain acceptance as element of civil society

Source: Bahaism News Web log, government-affiliated

Content: On 22 May 2010, Bahaism News published an article warning against the acceptance the Bahá'í Faith has gained following recent civil unrest in Iran, as follows:

"the colonialist current has always tried to destroy the religious and national authenticity of Iranians by strengthening the deviant and perverse Bahaist sect. The cooperation of the Bahá'ís with the Russians and Mohammad Ali Shah during the Constitutional Movement of Iran, will never be forgotten…While the land of Iran was under the influence of foreigners, the Bahaist sect was chanting the "internationalist" slogan and in order to serve the goals of foreigners, challenged two important elements of Iran's identity: Islam and nationality, the former by seeking to abrogate Islam and the latter under the slogan of world government. Today, the missionary activities of the Bahaist sect, which is seeking to eliminate the gap between itself and society, must be noted. It is worth mentioning that the current unrest which started after the [June 2009 presidential election] has today become a tool for the Bahaist perverse sect. Today, according to Bahá'ís, "the reformists have moved the Bahá'í community of Iran from the margins to the centre of contemporary ideas and the subversive elements have accepted Bahaism as part of civil society". However, the goals of the subversive Bahaist group, which are being pursued by the Bahá'í administration, are:

1. *To remove the topic of the Bahaist from the agenda of Maraje-i-Taqlid [The religious source of authority] and the clergy*
2. *To lay the groundwork for admitting the Bahá'í community as a member of civil society.*
3. *To remove the topic of the Bahaist sect from the agenda of intelligence-security services and recast it as an entirely cultural and social issue.*
4. *To remove [from public consciousness] the Bahá'í historical background of colonial service and turn the Bahá'ís into ordinary citizens.*
5. *To enter into discussions of human and civil rights through engagement with seditious elements in the society, which is now the only way into civil society for the Bahá'í community in Iran, and it is precisely here that the role of people like Shirin Ebadi stands out.*
6. *To focus at this stage on having the Bahá'ís in Iran become an accepted element of Iranian society, rather than on attempting to have the Iranian people become Bahá'ís en masse.*

7 -13 June 2010

Web sites

Press coverage of conclusion of trial of former members of the Yárán (leadership group)

Sources: Javan online (Web site for youth), Asre Iran , Tabnak , Shia Online – all mainstream web sites affiliated with government. Also, News Online, ATY News, Parto News Agency, Montajabnia Personal Web site – Rasoul Montajabnia, Cleric, Limonat Personal Web site – All pro government web sites

Content: On 14 June 2010, Javan online reported the following news about the conclusion of the Yárán (leadership group) trial; the sites identified above also carried the Javan article.

The last court session of the trial of the leaders of the perverse sect of Bahaism was held this morning.

The court reviewed the allegations presented in the case of the seven leaders of the perverse sect who under the name of the Yárán have been engaged in criminal acts, such as organizing illegal activities with the aim of violating national security, conspiring against the sacred regime of the Islamic Republic, spreading propaganda against the regime, engaging in espionage for foreign countries and spreading corruption on earth.

During this court hearing the defence lawyers of the accused individuals, as well as some members of their families, were present. The public prosecutor's representative presented his case and the accused presented their defence statements. At the end of public prosecutor's remarks, the court's presiding judge concluded the hearing in order to render the appropriate ruling, which is to be announced in due course.

Allegations on Bahá'í approach to obtaining higher education and distributing free literature when visiting homes of others

Source: "Bahaism News", a Web site whose focus appears to be the publication of attacks against the Bahá'í Faith which have been carried in various state-controlled media. It takes the form of a Web log ("blog").

Content: On 7 June 2010, Bahaism News reported that according to informed sources, since there are some limitations on Bahá'ís' studying at national universities, they register with international universities via the Internet. In addition to continuing their education, the Bahá'ís seek by these means to spread negative propaganda in the international community against the regime on the grounds that it violates the rights of religious minorities, using the fact that the Bahá'ís are prevented from gaining access to higher education as an example.

The article asserts that "higher education and academic qualifications and promoting the social standing of the members of the sect have been defined as one of the main priorities by the heads of the perverse sect". It also states that recently the Bahá'ís have adopted a priority "increased propaganda activities in some provinces such that the missionaries of the sect have been requested to offer free packages containing books and propaganda brochures related to the sect when visiting homes of citizens".

14 -20 June 2010

Web sites

Report on support extended by daughter of Shapour Bakhtiar to Bahá'ís and Green Movement

Source: Parcham Web site – government affiliated

Content: On 9 June 2010, Parcham Web site reported that Rodabeh Bakhtiar who lives in Virginia in the U.S. and who is the daughter of Shapour Bakhtiar, a former Prime Minister of Iran called for people to support the Green Movement so that it does not die off. The article indicates that in a meeting that included appeals for the release of Bahá'í prisoners in Iran, Ms. Bakhtiar claimed: "I follow my father's way in supporting freedom in my country and the release of prisoners." She asked Americans to contact American authorities and senators by email and telephone, to ask that they place pressure on Iran's government to release Bahá'ís and political prisoners. The article asserts that in her speech Ms. Bakhtiar attacked Ahmadinejad and invited the Iranians in Virginia to assemble in front of the office of the Interests Section of the Islamic Republic of Iran (located at the Pakistan Embassy in Washington, D.C.).

"Members of unofficial religious minorities are banned from studying at the universities"

Source: Shargh Newspaper – daily newspaper in Iran, affiliated with the reformists. It has been closed several times and reopened again.

Content: On 12 June 2010, Shargh Newspaper published the following article:

> *"Students who are members of fabricated religions or illegal religious minorities in the country do not have the right to study at universities", said the director of the Secretariat of Central Student Eligibility Evaluation Committee, also reported by Fars news yesterday. At the summit of the education deputies of the universities, which was held at Kurdistan University, Murtidá Núrbakhsh presented further details regarding the decision made by officials at the Ministry of Sciences and explained that members of fabricated religions and unofficial minorities do not have the right to study at universities in the country and should they be currently studying at university their files must be submitted to the Central Student Eligibility Evaluation Committee for approval… in response to a question from "Sharq regarding the conditions surrounding the decision-making process regarding fabricated religions or unofficial minorities Núru'lláh Haydarí Dastaná'í, a member of the Majlis Commission for Education and Investigation, said that the recognized religions have been identified in the constitution and any sect or religion other than the religions recognized in the constitution must be dealt with according to the regulations.*
>
> *Students who follow sects that are not recognized in the constitution will not be permitted to continue their education should their beliefs, teaching, and propagation activities be proven. Additionally, he said that devil-worshiping, Sufism, Buddhism and Bahaism are among those fabricated and unofficial sects. These groups, he emphasized, are not recognized by the constitution and since we are taking steps towards creating Islamic monotheistic universities, we must confront these people through legal means, regardless of what level they may be at in their studies.*

According to Haydarí the religious minorities are divided into two groups: "those who conceal their beliefs or those who belong to one of monotheistic religious minorities can continue with their university education, on the condition that they will not teach or promote their religion, but the followers of fabricated religions will be banned from studying at the universities." In response to a question as to how unofficial religions can be recognized, he said that this is a very delicate subject because there are also different sects in Shi'a and Sunni Islam whose followers are living as minorities, but so far they have not been the subject of any discussion…

"A review of historical and intellectual relations between Bahaism and Sufism"

Source: "Bahaism News" Web site

Content: On 12 June 2010, Bahaism News reported that Hojjatoleslam Sayyid Hadi Sayyid Vakili, defended his thesis at a special meeting for this purpose on 12 June 2010, at the University of Religions and Faiths. The thesis was presented under the title of "A review of historic and intellectual relations between Bahaism and Sufism". The author states that Bahaism, under the shadow of Shi'ih culture, although Bahaism has been exploited by colonial states, this group also emerged out of a religious and cultural context, which within a political framework turned into a political party.

He presented his thesis in six chapters, in which he effectively addresses the historical and mystical contexts in which Bahaism was formed and certain factors such as anti-science, dismissal of reason, visionary practices, discovery and testimony concepts, as well as unity of religions, which are considered to be some of the mystical teachings of Bahaism. Additionally, he added that despite Bahá'u'lláh having drawn upon Sufism, Bahaism in not part of Sufism.

Dr. Fakheri, a referee professor, called the thesis a useful resource and added that Bahaism is a perverse sect which has accumulated in one place all the ideas that have pervaded other sects in one place…At the conclusion of the meeting, Dr. Musavi-nejad said that Baha'is not only exploited Sufism but also took advantage of Shi'ism and Mahdaviyat. He said that is it quite clear that all of these concepts have been proven and confirmed and Bahaism.

"Bahaism is supported by Israel"

Source: IQNA and "Bahaism News" sites

Content: On 13 June 2010, Bahaism News reported that during an interview with Islamic Quranic News Agency (IQNA), west Azarbayjan branch, "Reza Samandari, lecturer and scholar of social sciences and the writer of distinguished articles on Bahaism, gave detailed explanations on activities of the perverse sect of the Bahaism in Islamic Iran. Alluding to the background of this sect's activities, he said that its formation and continued endurance have been due to constant and direct support of the number one enemies of Islam, such as Israel and the West…Bahaism is controlled and supported by Israel and they have targeted the authentic Quranic path…unfortunately in the teaching programmes of this antihuman group the real objectives are not mentioned and it is only stage by stage, after individuals joined the Bahaism, that their evil aims are promoted.

Samandarí believes that the idea of unity of religions is a deceptive instrument used by the Bahaism and emphasized: 'Baha'is intend to present their religion as an official religion in the world and in extensive propaganda emphasize that they are kind, sympathetic, and peace loving'… 'the attention of families in regard to their children is absolutely necessary as a means of blocking the teaching activities of this perverse group… the evil Ruhi plan is one of the teaching goals of this group…this plan started in 2002 with the purpose of confronting Islam and various books and articles have been published regarding how to promote the Ruhi plan'…Referring to the fact that the Ruhi plan has targeted youth between the ages of 12 – 15, he emphasized: 'These youth, through community service activities, become attracted to these Baha'i groups and learn about intensive training… the perverse Bahaist sect, having been defeated in the battle of religious concepts and beliefs…has now penetrated amongst children and youth of Muslim families, targeting them for the promotion of Bahaism.'"

"Once again Bahaism has proved its animosity towards Islam"

Source: Javan Online Web site, affiliated with Revolutionary Guards Corps

Content: On 19 June 2010, Javan reported that on that same day, an article published on a Bahá'í Web site under the heading "the true meaning of the Seal of the Prophets" was full of insults against Islam and Quran. The article asserts that since this item was published in one of Persian-language sites belonging to the Bahá'í administration, "the foot prints of the Bahaist leaders, Bahaism, the guiding force behind this issue, can clearly be traced. Therefore, it is necessary for Muslims, especially the scholars of Islam and the leading clerics, to deal with the matter seriously. It should be noted that the Bahaist administration has been active under the title of enemy's fifth pillar since its formation in our country and especially after the revolution; to verify this, one can refer to the messages of the House of Justice, especially those dated 31 December 2009 and 2 January 2010."

The article concludes: "Now, bearing in mind that the last court session in the trial of the leaders of the Bahaist administration has ended, it is highly desirable that the honourable judge use this report and similar cases as measuring sticks and issue the most severe punishment for these people. This is the demand of the whole Iranian nation so that the hands of these spies will be cut from the country.

21 -27 June 2010

Web sites

Ayatollah lauds the late Aqa Nooroldin-Iraqi for his fight against the Bahá'í Faith

Source: Iranian Quran News Agency (IQNA), government-affiliated.

Content: On 21 June 2010, IQNA reported that in a memorial service for Aqa Nooroldin-Iraqi held on 20 June 2010 at the headquarters of the Governor General of Central Province, Ayatollah Dorri Najafabadi, representing the Supreme Leader observed that great men like Aqa Nooroldin-Iraqi struggled to combat threats such as the Bahá'í Faith and that we must learn from the example of individuals such as this how to carry on this fight.

Allegation that the Bahá'ís have links to the Mujahedin

Source: Fars News Agency, government-affiliated.

Content: On 12 June 2010, Hojjatoleslam Mohammad Taghi Rahbar, representative of Isfahan and the member of the Legislative Commission of the Parliament, stated in an interview with Fars News that there is an "organic connection" among the Mujahedin, the monarchists, and the Bahá'ís and that they "have joined forces to destroy the regime, the will of the Nation, and the law of the land".

Allegation that Bahá'ís deliberately misrepresent facts in reports of persecution on Persian Bahá'í World New Service Web site

Source: "Bahaism News".

Content: On 18 June 2010, Bahaism News, in an attempt to prove that Bahá'ís manufacture or exaggerate accounts of their persecution, purported to provide the actual facts surrounding a report published on the Web site of the Persian-language Bahá'í World New Service under the heading: "Marvdasht, persecution of a large number of Bahá'ís".]:

28 June – 4 July 2010

Web sites

Distribution of 1000 brochures and books on "Babism" and "Bahaism"

Source: Islamic Development Organization (IDO), government-affiliated.

Content: On 27 June 2010, IDO published a news item, based on a report received from its branch in Kerman, quoting Hojjatoleslam Mohammad Hassanizadeh, expert in religions and sects, that 1000 brochures about devil worshipers, and 1000 books with the title "Babism and Bahaism" have been distributed at Friday prayers, memorial and funeral services and to businesses, trade union trades, and cities where Bahá'ís are active. A number of these books and brochures, along with a number of books on "the roots of Bahá'í ideology" have also been distributed to various reporters and news agencies, in celebration of the anniversary of the Office of Islamic Propaganda.

Attempt to discredit BBC reports of destruction of Bahá'í-owned properties in Ivel

Source: ATY News, government-affiliated.

Content: On 30 June 2010, ATY News published an article which called into question the details presented in a BBC Persian-language news report regarding the demolition of 50 Bahá'í homes in Ivel village in Mazandaran. ATY stated: "the BBC has claimed that 50 summer villas[3] belonging to Bahá'ís were destroyed in one of Iran's villages. Following the BBC's broadcast of this rumour, a journalist from ATY News contacted some informed sources [and determined] that there has been no destruction to such an extent in the past few days. The broadcasting of such news indicates another conspiracy by the BBC—the spreader of falsehoods." The ATY article continues with the usual allegations that the

[3] The first time BBC aired the story, the term "summer villas" was used. However, they were contacted about this and removed the term from their subsequent reports. It is noteworthy that the ATY article asserts that destruction has not occurred *to such an extent*.

Bahá'í Faith is a creation of Britain and that Bahá'u'lláh enjoyed the support of both Great Britain and Russia.

Representative of Supreme Leader states that the Bahá'ís are expanding their activities

Source: Fars News Agency, government-affiliated.

Content: On 30 June 2010, Fars News published an article quoting Ayatollah Mohsen Mojtahed Shabestari, the representative of the Supreme Leader in Eastern Azerbaijan, as having said: "the misguided Bahaist sect has openly expanded its activities and has penetrated various locations…In addition to their current activities, Baha'is were also part of the sedition during the year 88 [2009]…Their goal is to weaken the Revolution, therefore just to "stick it to them" the programs for the mid-Shabban anniversary (birth of the 12th Imam) should be celebrated with evermore splendour and magnificence…activities to publicize the culture of Mahdaviat (related to the future coming of the 12th Imam) are a necessity as this is the foundation of today's society."

Representative of Supreme Leader in Fars warns that Bahá'ís are active in Shiraz

Source: Fars News Agency, government-affiliated.

Content: On 30 June 2010, Fars News published an article quoting Ayatollah Shaykh Asadullah Imani, the Imam Jumih of Shiraz, who is also the Supreme Leader's representative in the province of Fars: "Wahhabism and the Bahaist sect are active in the province of Fars, and, using the province's resources, have managed to finance and establish businesses and become self sufficient…In Shiraz Baha'is have a cemetery; in the schools they often reveal that they are Baha'is…the Baha'is, by going to poor and under-privileged areas under the pretence of looking after people, helping them with work, or giving them medical treatment, manage to penetrate these areas. The article further cited Hojjatoleslam Zekavat as having indicated that a branch of the Office of Islamic Propaganda would be established in Fars with its base in Shiraz and would organise activities to inform the public "of newly manifested sects and false ideologies".

Allegation that Bahá'ís were among groups that conspired with presidential candidate to "destroy the regime"

Source: Fars News Agency, government-affiliated.

Content: On 1 July 2010, Fars news published an article citing Parviz Sorouri, member of the Majlis Commission for National Security and Foreign Affairs: "during the election process, the monarchists, Bahá'ís, Communists, MOK and even the Association of Combatant Clerics and other colourful anti-revolution fronts not only did not boycott the elections but also participated in making a deal to overthrow the regime after the election…the formula this group had in mind was to weaken the Supreme Leader and the Velayat Faghih, for which they had done a lot of planning…

Attacks on Shirin Ebadi and Mohsen Kadivar for their support of the Bahá'í Faith

Source: Jahan News, government-affiliated and supporter of Ahmadinejad.

Content: On 3 July 2010, Jahan News reported that Mrs. Shirin Ebadi and Ayatollah Mohsen Kadivar, "two of the leaders of sedition" are again openly supporting the "perverse Bahaist sect". The report alleges that Mrs. Ebadi "has called the head of this sect is the latest messenger of God" and that Ayatollah Kadivar has confirmed "the truth of this sect" and "defended its followers". [Note: This is a distortion of statements made by each of these individuals in the recently aired BBC Persian-language documentary "The Bahá'ís in Iran". However, the Jahan News article makes no explicit reference to the documentary, referring only to "BBC reporters".] The article further states: "It is noteworthy that the leaders of the Baha'ism at the House of Justice in Israel have repeatedly expressed their 'sincere' appreciation for the 'services' of Shirin Ebadi, to the misguided sect of Baha'ism through letters of commendations.

5-11 July 2010

Web sites

"Baha'ism Sect's Special [New Method] For Propagation"

Source: Javan Online, affiliated with the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC).

Content: On 2 July 2010, Javan online reported that *Bahaism Has Employed a New Method for Propagating its Devious Thoughts*, as follows:

The misguided sect of Bahá'ísm has employed a new method for propagating its devious thoughts. According to Javan online, in following the movements and propagation [activities] of the misguided sect of Bahá'ísm, they noticed that lately, an individual, pretending that he/she is regretful of his/her beliefs, will undertake the writing of a book, and masterfully publish all beliefs of this sect; when these thoughts are considered by the students and other people, a destructive doubt is created in their belief system which will place all their religious convictions under question, and in a way indirectly be used for the propagation of Baha'ism.

It is worthy for those in charge to pay more attention to watching the destructive and penetrating activities of this misguided sect.

Radio

Study of "association of the perverse sect of Baha'ism and dissemination of doubt about the Quran"

Source: Fars News Agency, government-affiliated. Radio Quran of Islamic Republic of Iran, a broadcasting radio channel with a Web site: The radio programs can be heard both online and on radio live.

Content: On 30 June 2010, Fars News reported that in the third seminar on "Quranic Reflections", the association of the perverse sect of Baha'ism and dissemination of doubt about the Quran will be studied.

Fars News Agency: Radio Quran presents the third seminar of the series on “Quranic Reflections” on 3 July on the theme of the association of the perverse sect of Baha’ism with dissemination of doubt about the Quran.

Citing Quran-Radio’s Public Affairs office, Fars News Agency reported that, based on the need for assessments carried out in society, the third seminar of "Quranic Reflections" has been set on the theme of the perverse sect of Baha’ism and its association with increases to the dissemination of doubt on topics of the Quran.

According to this report, in order to scientifically and methodically evaluate the dissemination of doubt by the perverse sect of Baha’ism, especially on the topics of the Holy Quran, Mr. Musa Haghani, head of the Institute for the History of Iranian Contemporary Studies, Mr. Mehdi Goljan, head of the Foundation for Islamic Thinkers, and Mr. Mohsen Sharifzadeh, researcher of Baha'ism, will discuss the nature of these doubts and the logical response to them.

In addition, considering the significance of the subject matter under discussion in our country’s Islamic society and the proper broadcast of these discussions in the media, representatives of the media may participate in this seminar by coordinating with the Quran-Radio Public Affairs office.

The third seminar on “Quranic Reflection”, with its focus on the perverse sect of Baha'ism and its relationship to increases of dissemination of doubt on the topic of the Quran will be held on 3 July from 16:00 to 19:00 in one of the radio studios at the Martyrs Building.

Seminars and Symposia

Training Seminar on Identifying Methods for Deviation

Source: Fars News Agency, government-affiliated.

Content: On 9 July 2010, according to a Fars News report from Bojnord, as conveyed by the public communications of the office of Islamic Propaganda of Northern Khorasan province, in this gathering which was conducted specifically for the executive consultants of the province on women’s matters, the head of this branch and professor at the University said that after the Holy Defence [sic], the mental and ideological deviation movements have dared to show themselves off in Islamic religious society, and pose a threat to the pillars of the religious beliefs of people, and the pivot of this assault was in the form of a cultural attack.

Hojjatoleslam Abdollah Tavanaie said that the enemy’s main foundational channel in this regard is, and has been, the spread of Sufism and Gnosticism, and this mission is in the instruction books of Western colonizers.

He added that the propaganda around the anti-religion movements, which is executed by digressing sects, aims to alter the pure face of Islam and abolish its duties and obligations. These hollow sects, such as the deviated sect of Baha’ism, grow and thrive with the help of political movements and colonizing forces, and establish a presence like a weed in a garden of flowers.

Hojjatoleslam Tavanaie mentioned that in this encounter we have to use the methods of the pure apostle martyrs of Islam (Peace be Upon Them). He pointed out that to stop such deviations we need to follow the school of Ali (Peace be Upon Him).

In this gathering some concepts around the ways of dealing with propagation and the progressions of deviant methods of the Gnostics was discussed.

Training on Identifying Methods for Deviation Was Conducted at the Shahid Mazhani Hall of the Provincial Offices.

12-18 July 2010

Web sites

Allegation that Bahá'ís are teaching door to door

Source: Javan Online, affiliated with the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC). The same news was published in 12 other government affiliated Web sites and Web slogs, including ATY news and Shia online.

Content: On 12 July 2010, Javan online reported that the teachers of the misguided Bahaist sect, have taken a long leap in inviting their fellow citizens to this sect, using a method of "showing up at people's doors" and offering financial inducements—particularly the youth—to encourage them to become involved in the Bahá'í Faith. The article also referred to large numbers of Bahá'ís' having increased teaching activity "within their framework", notably in northern cities.

"Exclusive" purporting to uncover new documents about Bahá'ís

Source: Javan Online, affiliated with the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC). The same news has been published in 23 additional government affiliated web sites and web logs including, Fars news, Raja news, Adyan news (Religious news), and Farhang news (Cultural news).

Content: On 13 July 2010, Javan online reported that new information and documents about secret activities of the misguided Bahaist sect in Iran had been unearthed. According to the report, investigations of the files of the Bahá'ís detained over the past two years, in particular those arrested on the day of Ashura, had unearthed documents that prove the influence of these individuals in certain industries and guilds, their contacts with and influence in NGO organizations, the presence of some of their agents in certain [government?] offices, their relationship with "a well-known lawyer" [Mrs. Shirin Ebadi] and the acceptance of the Bahá'í Faith by one of that lawyer's children.

19-25 July 2010

Web sites

"Ways to deal with the misguided Bahaist sect"

Source: Javan Online, affiliated with the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC). The same news was published in nine other government-affiliated Web sites and Web logs, including Mehr News.

Content: On 21 July 2010, Javan Online reported that during an interview Siyyid Kazem Mousavi, a researcher on the topic of newly created sects, explained in detail about the recent activities of the perverse sect of Bahaism and warned against the invasion of these perverse movements in political, economic and especially cultural institutions. He emphasised that lack of awareness has been the cause of the growth of such perverse movements in Iran.

He said that the progress of Bahaism in Iran has not been significant, but many of the new perverse sects will lead to the same 160 years' experience as with Bahaism. He added, "Although a number of institutions are in charge of confronting and dealing with such phenomena, so far only security and intelligence forces have dealt with them appropriately; dealing with them by security and intelligence forces alone is no longer effective, unfortunately, because of our poor performance in the cultural field."

Mousavi emphasized that the absence of legal means has been one of the main reasons for not dealing with these perverse sects in more severe terms and added, "In addition to clarifying and informing, the only way to prevent the growth of Bahaism and confront this sect is to cut off all communications between the Bahá'í administration and the Bahá'í community".

Ali Motahari said: " I did not know this was a picture of 'Abdu'l-Bahá"

Source: Kayhan, the ultra-conservative, government-backed daily newspaper.
The same news has been published in 11 additional government-affiliated Web sites including Iran Press News, Raja News, and Jahan News.

Content: On 13 July 2010, Kayhan reported that after the publication of the photograph of the leader of the colonial small group of Bahaism on the cover of the book *"The Islamic Movements in the Past One Hundred Years",* Ali Motahari, director of Sadra Publications, announced, "I thought this picture was of Muhammad Abduh and not 'Abdu'l-Bahá".

In the design on the cover of the book of Ustad Murteza Motahari, there are three large photos of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, Iqbal Lahouri and Siyyid Jamlu'd-Din Afghani. In the background there is a photo of Hazrat-i-Imam [Khumaini].

The publication of this cover on the book has aroused much protest:

> *Ali Motahari, representative of Tehran, and the director of Sadra Publications, in reaction to these objections, said, "I saw the pictures on the cover of the book and asked who the third one was. They said, '[we think] it is the picture of Abdu'lvahhab (the head of Wahhabi sect), but we are not sure.'"*
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> *In reaction to the certainty that the picture is that of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, one of the founders of the sect of Bahá'ísm, he added, "I thought that this was the picture of Muhammad Abduh, the Egyptian scholar. This must be investigated to find out whether or not it really is a picture of 'Abdu'l-Bahá. We must tell them to change the cover. Today I gave the order to phone the designer of the cover immediately. I will definitely investigate this matter".*

In answer to the question of the reporter of Fars News as to whether the change of the design of the cover had been with his cooperation, he said, "Yes. I had told them to design a cover with photos of Siyyid Jamlu'd-Din Asadabadi, Iqbal and Muhammad Abduh but I did not know this photo was the photograph of 'Abdu'l-Bahá".

It should be said that the small group of colonial Bahá'ísm was created by England and its headquarters is now in occupied Palestine. 'Abdu'l-Bahá, the head of this colonial sect, received the title of "Sir" from the Queen of England.

Recently the Iranian Parliament (Majlis), by enacting a law presented by Ali Motahari, gave the copyrights of publications by authors and poets to their heirs. Before this law, the copyrights were for in effect for 30 years; for that reason the publishing copyrights of the writings of Ustad Motahari would have expired. The enactment of this law means the limit is increased from 30 years to 50 years.

"The new approach of Bahaism for increasing their population"

Source: "Bahaism News"

Content: On 24 July 2010, Bahaism News quoted from the Basirat News Web log:

"Following the decreased marriage rate among the misguided Bahá'í sect, the elements of this deviant sect are trying to establish a public program to attract an audience".

ATY News reports, "Recently, in order to encourage couples to increase the population of the misguided Bahá'í sect, it plans to pay 500 thousand tuman (approximately $500) for mortgage payments and 500 thousand tuman in cash gifts to the infants of these young couples as gifts for each [new] Bahá'í child as of 23 July this year.

"Bahaism has become more active than at any other time"

Source: Fars News Web site, government-affiliated

Content: On 26 July 2010, Fars News reported that Ayatollah Mohsen Mojtahed Shabestari, the Supreme Leader's representative in Eastern Azerbaijan, speaking at a Quran studies gathering of students, urged them to [be aware of] their duty to prepare for the coming of the 12th Imam through countering the activities of Bahá'ís in Iran.

[He said that] the time for manifestation of divine promises has arrived. Islam is going to dominate all of the religions and although these promises have not come into fruition just yet, when the Promised One of God manifests Himself all of them will become realized. The Islamic revolution was the precursor for the arrival of the Promised One at the time when humanity reaches intellectual maturity. He also said that the occurrence of the Islamic revolution had been prophesied in certain Hadíth.

He said that the manner in which the population deals with those who cause sedition is a sign of their intellectual maturity. He asked the young Quran activists to be present on the scene of the soft war and by using Quranic reasoning and kind and soft language familiarize the youth who are not well-acquainted with Quranic and Islamic culture.

"Understanding the false campaign of Bahaism"

Source: Iranian Quran News Agency (IQNA) Web site, government affiliated

Content: On 24 July 2010, IQNA published an article about a new publication called "*The False Campaign of Bahaism*", which is a compilation of questions and answers at an academic/university students' level, published by Alireza Muhammadi at the Office of Belief Studies. According to IQNA news agency, the book deals with questions regarding the history and actions of Bahaism in contemporary history and politics. The questions are divided into three categories:

- Bahaism historic background, including important factors in the inception of Bahaism, the role of colonialism, Jews and Zionists, relations with the Pahlavis and the stance taken by Khomeini regarding Hojattieh society.

- The Islamic Republic of Iran and Bahaism, including reasons for confronting Bahaism, methods that Bahaism uses (acting as innocent victims in Iran), the danger of Bahaism spreading again and the teaching methods of this perverse and superstitious movement.

- The ideology of Bahaism, including teachings, beliefs, political perspectives and responses that Islam and Muslims have given.

The above book is in 304 pages, in 5000 copies at 3000 tuman ($3).

26 July – 1 August 2010

Web sites

"Arrest of a Bahá'í terrorist team in Tehran"

Source: Jahan News—government-affiliated news agency. The same news was published in over 30 other government-affiliated Web sites and Weblogs, including Fars News, Shiah Online, ATY news, Raja news, Bahaism News, and Khabar online.

Content: On 1 August 2010, Jahan news reported that members of a Bahá'í terrorist team that had tried to recruit forces from among the leftist students were arrested by security agents. The report, headlined "Arrest of a Bahá'í terrorist team in Tehran", states:

According to a report by the eastern political correspondent, members of the terrorist group called the "global liberation army", which had previously announced its existence, had gathered in Tehran's Taleghani Park for an organizational meeting, where they were arrested by security forces.

According to an informed source, two instigators of the team by the names of "Afshin H." and "Jamal R.", who had taken action to procure weapons, stated that their aim was to assassinate several of the country's officials.

It has been said that the heads of the teams comprising the terrorist group are members of the misguided Bahaist sect, and that they had on several occasions travelled to northern Iraq and in their recent trips to Iraqi Kurdistan, had held meetings with the

heads of the Kurdish Komala and Pejak terrorist groups.

Article denounces Shirin Ebadi; mentions her defence of the Bahá'ís

Source: Tabnak New Agency–government-affiliated news agency

Content: On 26 July 2010, Tabnak reported that according to Raja News, Shirin Ebadi, "an individual who claims to be a lawyer," is conspiring with foreigner against the people of Iran. The article states that in comments that had been published that same day in the Aljazeera newspaper, "by painting a dark picture of Iran, [she] insulted the people of our country and said that because of misery and the desperate condition of the people of Iran she is travelling constantly and making every effort to illustrate the terrible situation of the country to the world." Raja News further pointed out that the Aljazeera article had included a statement of assurance by Mrs. Ebadi "that she has not abandoned her duty as the defence lawyer to the arrested members of the misguided Bahaist sect [the Yárán]. She denied their involvement with the United States and Israel in any form, and said that she had read their entire files and there is no evidence to support such accusations."

"The misguided Bahaist sect; the product of the mistaken views and beliefs of ignorant people who have accepted the coming of the 12th Imam"

Source: Islamic Republic News Agency Web site (IRNA), official government news agencies.

Content: On 23 July 2010, IRNA posted an article titled "Isfahan's Imám-Jum'ih: Bahaism was the product of the misguided views and beliefs of ignorant people who believed those who claimed to be connected to the 12th Imam":

At a prayer gathering in the Imam's Mosque in Isfahan, Ayatollah Seyyed Yousef Tabatabaie-nejad, the Supreme Leader's representative and Isfahan's, Imám-Jum'ih, said that if the public had discovered that the real intention of those who claimed to have a connection with the 12th Imam was the annihilation of the roots of Islam and Shiism, we would not have had anything called Bahaism today. He added that the enemies are well aware of the Shia anticipation of the arrival of the Mahdi and that is why enemies attempt to weaken this belief by introducing misguided thoughts into the principles concerning His advent and Mahdism. The other objective of these enemies is to strengthen men and women who have the false claim of connection with the Lord of the Age. Ayatollah Tabatabaie-nejad also referred to the anniversary of the first Friday prayer after the Revolution and added that currently such prayers are being held in 800 locations around the country.

Seminars and Symposia

Special meeting held on "Bahaism: Past, Present, Future"

Source: Iranian Quran News Agency (IQNA) Web site, government-affiliated.

Content: On 26 July 2010, IQNA reported that the previous day a special meeting had been held "on the misguided Bahaist sect", at which "Hojjatoleslam Ahmad Haj Gholi, a

scholar and a lecturer at theological schools, referring to the hostile attacks of the enemy" is cited as having stated:

'Since the hands of colonialist Russia, England and then America and Israel were supporting the misguided Bahaist sect in the world, this sect managed to turn into an international party that is now active at international level…Currently, based on the news published by the Bahá'ís themselves, they have National Assemblies in more than182 countries and 12,000 Local Assemblies and spread their work and activities through satellite radio and television channels in many different languages around the world'.

[Hojjatoleslam Ahmad Haj Gholi] said, "Contrary to the mottos used by this sect, their past is quite troublesome and their history is filled with much killing and plundering.'

Contrary to their slogan of peace, under the pretext of which they ban the [Muslim] practice of 'instructing people to do good deeds and prohibiting them to do evil', the Bahá'ís have created many atrocities and horrible events on many occasions, especially in the cities of Zanjan and Mazandaran,.

Referring to the involvement of Bahá'ís in the assassination of Nasíri'd-Dín Shah during the Qájár dynasty [Hojjatoleslam Ahmad Haj Gholi] said, 'Mirza Hossein Ali Nuri, who was the leader of the misguided Bahaist sect, was kept alive because of Russian support and then was exiled to Russia.'

Regarding the Bahá'í teachings on the prohibition of becoming involved in partisan politics and political affairs, [Hojjatoleslam Ahmad Haj Gholi] said, 'By penetrating all aspects of society in Iran during the Shah's reign, including the economy, culture and politics, the Bahá'ís had planned to form a new government and advance that type of government from Iran to other countries, but fortunately, after the triumph of the Islamic Revolution in Iran, they were stopped.'

[Hojjatoleslam Ahmad Haj Gholi] continued, 'In the ideology of the misguided Bahaist sect, the measuring stick for being a Bahá'í or not is politics and if any of them become involved in politics they are not considered Bahá'ís anymore. But considering their actions, this ideology is just a slogan that is intended to deceive and disarm nations and governments and one should not be deceived by it.' He added, 'The ultimate goal of the Bahá'ís, contrary to their claims that they are not seeking to take over the government, is to establish an international government that they have copied from the discussion on 'the Lord of the Age'(12th Imam), under which they intend to establish justice in the world.'

Regarding the efforts made by the Bahá'ís to dominate the economy in Muslim countries [Hojjatoleslam Ahmad Haj Gholi] said, "When people come to depend on others for their economic needs then they have to obey them too, and this is what the misguided Bahaist sect is after".

[Hojjatoleslam Ahmad Haj Gholi] added, 'Imitation, an important principle in Shia Islam, has been prohibited in the Bahaist sect; this is, however, in contradiction to their actions; the followers of this religion must obey the instructions of the nine-member elected body.

2-8 August 2010

Web sites

"Increase in Activities of the Buddhist Sect in Iran" (also refers to the Bahá'í Faith)

Source: Tabnak New Agency—government-affiliated news agency.

Content: On 3 August 2010, Tabnak reported that the Buddhists, like the Sikhs, have found the internet the best place for their teaching activities and many personal and group weblogs in the Persian language have been set up by the followers of Buddhism.

According to Shia online:

"In recent years the followers of various religions and misguided and perverse sects such as Christianity, Bahá'ism, Wahhabism, Zoroastrianism, devil worshiping and so on, as well as some of the false theosophical sects, have intensified their teaching activities in our country, in order to attract more followers and mislead the minds of the Shiite believers, especially the youth.

"Followers of these perverse sects use different tactics in order to lure the youth. For example the Christians, by distributing free copies of the Bible and the Old Testament, and putting emphasis on issues such as peace, friendship, love and kindness, have intensified their teaching activities.

"The followers of the Bahaist sect also have their own methods, in particular the use of sexual attraction. However, Wahhabism, of which Saudi Arabians are the main supporters, emphasises the oil money of the Saudi princes and by giving money to poor families in the cities and villages on the borders they try to deceive them. The devil-worshipers, however, use certain symbols that seem interesting to some young people.

"The number of followers of 'Sikhism' is very small in Iran, but in recent months they have intensified their teaching activities, using the internet and personal and group weblogs.

"The Buddhists in Iran have a similar situation to the Sikhs—few in numbers but quite active in their teaching activities."

Kayhan again derides Mr. Ataollah Mohajerani by calling him "Bahá'u'lláh Mohajerani".

Source: Kayhan Web site, government-affiliated news agency.

Content: On 3 August 2010, Kayhan published two articles, again calling Mr. Ataollah Mohajerani, "Bahá'u'lláh Mohajerani" and titled one of the articles "Bahá'u'lláh [said]: Mr. Obama, destroy Iran; why are you asking to negotiate?" In these articles reference is made to collaboration between Mohajerani and Kadivar and how they are not happy with Obama because he wants to negotiate with Iran, and called them anti-Iran and [anti-]Iranian. They were called by Kayhan "Bahá'u'lláh Mohajerani" and "Kadivar Effendi".

Television

Iranian TV seeks to rebut recent BBC Documentary -- edits statements to falsify responses in interview

Source: Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB), Channel One TV

Content: On 4 and 5 August 2010, IRIB, Channel One TV, at 7:00 p.m. (Tehran time), broadcast a two-part TV programme specifically made as a rebuttal of the recent film documentary produced by the Persian-language service of the BBC about the Bahá'ís of Iran. We do not have access to the first section; in the second part, they connected the Bahá'í Faith to the launch of BBC Persian Radio, and played Mr. Balyuzi's voice announcing its first broadcast. It was mentioned that Mr. Balyuzi is a prominent Bahá'í historian. The Iranian documentary also included the film footage of 'Abdu'l-Bahá. In one part of the programme, they had an announcer, behind whom the BBC logo was visible and below it had imposed the title: "Brisbane Bahá'í Cluster". They also re-edited a segment of a BBC interview with Dr. Farhad Sabetan (at minute 4:11) so as to give the appearance that Dr. Sabetan had affirmed that Bahá'ís are seeking to establish a Bahá'í government :

> The BBC interviewer says: Now, what is the Bahá'í view; are there possibilities of establishing a Bahá'í government (Dowlat)? Will Bahá'ís do that? I mean, is this part of the Bahá'í principles (Maram)?
>
> Dr. Sabetan says (edited in from a different section of the interview): Of course, without any doubt.

This short documentary segment started on Wednesday, 4 August. As of now they have broadcast two parts during their "news magazine", each about seven minutes and it appears that these are but the beginning of a series of such broadcasts.

Link to second part: http://irannegah.com/Video.aspx?id=2067

9-15 August 2010

Web sites

Allegations that Bahá'í Faith played a leading role in events of Ashura and is actively engaged in attempting to undermine the Islamic Republic

Source: Resalat, daily morning newspaper, Web site, official government news agency

Content: On 7 August 2010, Resalat News Agency published a relatively long article which contained an interview with Siyyid Kazem Mousavi, who was introduced as a scholar and researcher of Iranian contemporary history. After defining a sect as a product of pluralistic ideology and differences of understanding of various beliefs, and indicating that in Western languages the term cult is also used to refer to strange ritual practices, Mr. Mousavi carried on, giving examples of sectarian activities in the history of Islam and then clearly stated that Bahaism is a non-Islamic sect because it does not believe in Islam and it [has been] and clearly continues to be an enemy of Islam.

The article purveys the usual distortions of Bahá'í history including reference to the role of Shoghi Effendi: "Before Shoghi, Bahaism was treated as a sect but during his time it

gradually turned into a cult. During his time Bahaism formed its administrative centres and destructive organisations…after the establishment of Bahaism in Palestine, they gradually tried to create the centres of power in Iran." It also asserts:

Bahaism started its activities against the Islamic Revolution exactly 12 days after the triumph of the revolution, on 4 March 1979. According to volume 37 of the documents of the spy nest [U.S. Embassy in Tehran?] from very early on they filed a human rights case against Iran. On the other hand, the Bahaists were actively involved in all the movements, riots and organisations that were in some way acting against the Islamic Revolution; they even cooperated with the Monafeghin (Mujahedin). But as a result of the establishment of the reformist government, Bahaism flourished and, using the government's open economic policy, they managed to strengthen their economic roots. For example, during that time the Bahá'ís penetrated many industries and managed to receive large grants to increase the financial resources of their administrations.

During the reformist government, the Bahaist administration, by taking advantage of the open political atmosphere, managed to penetrate a number of political processes in the country. The prime example is related to the events of the aftermath of the elections; for example, some of the candidates had given the defence of the Bahá'ís top priority in their agenda. Of course, as I mentioned at the beginning, such actions stemmed from the reformist era when the Bahá'ís managed to penetrate certain political processes in the country; for example, during the presidency of Muhammad Khatami, Bahá'ís officially announced their existence by sending him a letter. In the discussions over the green sedition in 2009 the presence of the Bahá'í administration was clearly witnessed and felt. Also in an interview that the Shafafiyyat magazine had with one of the former members of this sect this person confessed that Bahaism has special [interest in] the Green Movement. On the other hand, the most important action taken by the Bahaist administration during the events of the elections aftermath was to guide and be actively present at the events of Ashura last year. In fact, we can say that many of the insults to the sacred station of the Imam Hussain on that day were made by the Bahá'ís. Additionally, on 1 and 3 January 2010 we witnessed that the House of Justice, the heads of Bahaism, issued clear and severe instructions to cause riots and insecurity in Iran."

Mr. Mousavi then said that Bahaism has penetrated cultural and social affairs in Iran, spreading misunderstanding and doubts against Islam on the Internet and in cyberspace, seeking to cause the collapse of the family system, damaging the image of the regime of the Islamic Republic; promoting feminism in books and certain magazines they publish and in other visual and graphic arts; attack the Islamic Republic of Iran on the international stage by using the issue of human rights as a weapon; set up pyramid companies to attract lucrative income for their followers and promote Bahaist teachings in the country.

Bahá'ís among invitees of the "Grand Conference of Iranians Living Abroad"

Source: Fars News & Kayhan Web sites, government-affiliated news agencies.

Content: Fars News, based on a post on the Jonud Rahman Web log, published a news item on 2 August 2010 regarding the Grand Conference of Iranians Living Abroad, which had started on that day at the Summit Hall in Tehran, stating that "among the invitees there are those who have [a record of] political abuse, and a criminal record, even misguided sects like the Bahaist sect. There was a rumour amongst the opposition outside of Iran that

the invitees were assured of judicial and security protection—news which, of course, none of the security and judicial authorities, confirmed or denied."

The Congress was hosted by the High Council of Iranian Affairs Abroad and had guests who are specialists in the fields of science, education, culture, and art. The keynote speakers of the Congress were President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, Vice President Esfandiar Rahim Mashaei, head of the Council and head of the president's office; and Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki. The aim of this Congress was to create better relations between the Iranians living overseas and Iran. The article further indicates that the Council claims that they invited 1200 academic experts but only 476 from the United States, 210 from England, 100 from Germany, 49 from Canada, 28 from France, and 15 from Sweden were actually invited to this $3,000,000.00 Congress. About 450 to 500 attended. All the invitees were scheduled to travel to the states of Esfahan, Fars, Razavi Khorasan, Western Azerbaijan, Bushehr, Ardabil, Gilan, Mazandaran, and Asalouyeh on a chartered plane.

Kayhan also published an article on 8 August 2010 regarding the same Congress and wrote the following: "First, it [would be] good if Mr. Mashaei [were to] publish the complete list of the guests of the Congress, so that the people can judge for themselves as to what Mrs. P.S., the wife of a known Bahá'í, and Mr. R.D., who is accused of espionage, and another person who had a position of authority during the Pahlavi regime, and … were doing among them." The rest of the article included the following criticism: "Secondly it [would be] good if Mr. Mashaei explained why he did not allow the Ministry of Information and other responsible organizations to check the passports of these individuals who were returning to Iran after thirty years. Thirdly, it [would] also [be] good if Mr. Mashaei, [were to] tell the people how much this gathering cost, which apparently had no other aim than his own two speeches. He should only say a number, and nothing else.
Fourthly, [and] this is also a very important issue that should be [addressed], how much did the individuals who came to Iran two years ago for the Congress—and millions were spent to entertain them—invest in Iran, how did they defend Iran in the world community, and to what extent did they improve the image of Iran?"

"Attraction" to Bahá'í Faith among preeminent causes of "cultural damage" in Shiraz

Source: Fars News Web site, government-affiliated news agency.

Content: On 8 August 2010, Fars News published an article titled "The Deputy of the Sepah in Fars Province: Stronger Threats Exist [in contrast to] the Available Capital/Resources in Shiraz". It was reported that on Saturday afternoon in a gathering of members of the "Insight Program" and of the Scientific Group of Basij of universities in the southern parts of the country, Saeed Kouchaki said, "The preeminent widespread cultural damage done in Shiraz is [caused by] attraction to the perverse Bahaist sect, Wahhabism, and Satan worshipers. Mr. Kouchaki also referred to other causes of social and cultural decay throughout Shiraz and Fars Province, including unemployment, drug dealing, addiction, dealing in arms, cultural abnormalities, tendencies towards the West, contradictions with the native way of life, lack of appropriate cultural management in Shiraz. He suggested combating these forces by focusing will and energies of the Basijis hand in hand with planning. He also indicated that Basij students at the universities can rally the students around them and that if they do so, many problems will be resolved.

Allegation that Bahá'ís are establishing children's classes and free schooling "to influence future generations"

Source: Fars News Web sites, government-affiliated news agencies.

Content: On 9 August 2010, in a report concerning "various threats to the Islamic regime" Fars News identified the Bahá'í Faith as one such threat and stated: "Bahaism, which has established children's classes and free schooling in various localities in order to influence future generations." The article also referred to Hojjatieh as "one of the trouble-making entities" and identified education as "the enemy's most important pillar in opposing the Islamic regime".

"Bahaism and Wahhabism are trying to disseminate suspicion and doubt about the concept of the return of the Promised Mahdi"

Source: Ayandeh Roshan [Bright Future] News Agency, government-affiliated news agency.

Content: On 11 August 2010, Ayandeh Roshan News Agency reported the following:

The previous parliamentary representative of the City of Khoy [in the Province of Western Azerbaijan], Mr. Hashem Hejazifar, has expressed his concerns, in an interview with Ayande-i-Roshan news magazine, that various trends now indicate a pattern of deliberate efforts by Bahaists and Wahhabists to disseminate suspicion and doubt among the populace on the concept of Mahdaviyyat [the return of the Promised 'Mahdi']. He stated, "Mahdaviyyat is an absolute truth and anyone introducing suspicions on this matter should be severely dealt with…These groups have particularly targeted the youth to create doubt in them about their beliefs." He added, "There [is] no uncertainty that the Promised One is on the earth amongst us and will manifest Himself. This idea must become firmly established within the fabric of our society. Courses on the Promised One must become part of the educational curriculum and conferences, and seminars must be conducted widely on the concept of Mahdaviyyat and belief about His return."

16-22 August 2010

Web sites

"The connection between Bahaism and England"

Source: Kayhan Web site—government-affiliated news agency.

Content: On 15 August 2010, Kayhan published an article titled "The Connection between Bahaism and England" written by Javad Taqva'i. The first part of the article contains negative statements about the BBC. The criticism is about the weekly programme titled "Nobate Shoma" [Your Turn], which had been broadcast on the BBC's Persian-language service and which that particular week had focussed on the Bahá'í Faith. In this program the audience responds to a topic chosen by the producers, and recently its topic was about Baha'is. The article claims that BBC prints only comments that are favourable to Bahá'ís and that responders can fake their identity. It then quotes a few of the comments, most of which are in support of the Bahá'ís and a few of which are not. The article states that "the excuse for choosing this topic is also the announcement of the sentence of the seven members of the head of this sect, by the judicial authorities". Kayhan adds that Shirin

Ebadi one of the lawyers of the seven (who, it alleges, supports Monafeghin, homosexuals, and the Bahá'ís), said in an interview with BBC that "Judge Moghiseh at Branch 28 of Revolutionary Court has sentenced each of the seven to 20 years' imprisonment. Mrs. Ebadi has called the sentence a political sentence and has stated that she will appeal the verdict and will request acquittal for them". Kayhan further states that since one of the major reasons to receive the Nobel Prize was her immense support of the Bahá'ís, Mrs. Ebadi's statements in this interview are understandable. At the end of the article a section contains offensive language about the central figures of the Bahá'í Faith and claims that Bahá'ís were initially connected to Russia and that after the fall of the Tsar they linked themselves to England.

This article continued on 18 August, opening with the line that after covering the "mad reaction of the BBC to the sentence of the seven spies" in the previous article, it will follow-up further on the "the connection of Bahaists with British colonialism and their influence on the BBC." A section titled "Betrayal: Ancient Tradition of Bahaists" presents a distorted version of the history of the Bahá'í Faith before and after the fall of the Ottoman Empire. Quoting books such as 'The Chosen Highway' and what the writer considers historical documents, the article states that at various times 'Abdu'l-Bahá was spying for the Ottoman Empire and England. The next section is titled "Reward of Spying" and contains references to 'Abdu'l-Bahá's knighthood, some of His Tablets in which he praised the government of England and references to the history of the BBC and how it supports Bahá'ís with its almost daily proclamation and news in favour of Bahá'ís. The article concludes: "A hundred or so years ago 'Muhammad Ali Bab' claimed to be the successor of Imam Zaman (Lord of the Age); this deviation, which had a holy disguise, has reached a point today where Israel supports them, BBC does their teaching, America issues official statements in support of their spying, and in all probability very soon they will receive a medal for their freedom and bravery…." Much of this article was a transcription of the Iranian TV program specifically made as a rebuttal to the recent film documentary produced by the Persian-language service of the BBC on the Bahá'ís of Iran.

Criticism of US House of Representatives for supporting Bahá'ís but not objecting to injustice against Shiites in Saudi Arabia

Source: Iranian Students News Agency (ISNA)—official government news agency.

Content: According to an article posted by ISNA on 15 August 2010, Ayatollah Makarem-Shirazi has publicly criticised the Saudi government for the way they have been treating the Shiites in Saudi Arabia. He stated that the Shiites were not authorised to build mosques or places of worship in Saudi Arabia, while Sunnis in Iran are not only free to worship in their own mosques and study in their own schools, but also they elect their representatives to parliament. He also said, "As soon as a member of the perverse sect is arrested, the House of Representatives in the United States raises a grievance about how such actions could take place. However, while the Shiites of Saudi Arabia are being treated so poorly, no objection is voiced by a country which claims to be the defender of human rights." At the end of his comments, he emphasised that all Shiites are united and Iran will defend them.

Anti-Bahá'í workshop in Jiroft

Source: Islamic Development Organization (IDO) Web site—government-affiliated.

Content: In an article posted on 15 June 2010, IDO reported the following:

On 9 June 2010 a workshop on understanding the Bahaist sect was held in Jiroft at the seminaries of religious sciences [sic], with religious scholars and a visiting professor in attendance.

According to the report of the Department of Public Relations of the Office of Islamic Development of Kerman, Mr. Khodadad Amini Ravash, the head of [the Office of] Islamic Development of Jiroft, while announcing this news, added that for the purpose of better acquaintance with the misguided Bahaist sect a meeting was held in the conference hall of Azad University with clerics, cultural figures, and scholars in attendance. The speaker was Hojatoleslam Ali Reza Ruz Bahani, head of the Department of Religions and Sects of Qom's Seminary of Sciences.

At this meeting, Hojatoleslam Ruz Bahani said that when the Islamic system was formed after the revolution the Bahaists launched their first attack on the sacred system of the Islamic Republic. The people of Iran, before the establishment of the Islamic system in Iran, saw Iran [as being] at the disposal of the Bahaists. The sovereignty of Iran in its political, social, economic, and cultural elements had a hatred of the Bahaist element, and this hatred and enmity was not only from the clerics but from others as well. He said that this sect was created by colonialism in Iran and that Bahaism has been active against the sacred system of the Islamic Republic and the people from the beginning.

"When Bahá'ís use the Zoroastrian mask"; and "Exploitation of the Zoroastrian minority by Bahaists

Source: Bahaism News Web site

Content: On 14 August 2010, Bahaism News posted two articles entitled "When Bahá'ís Use the Zoroastrian Mask" and "A section of velvet war project: exploitation of the Bahaism of the Zoroastrian's minority". Above the first article is a depiction a monster-like person playing an instrument and whose face is covered by the shadow of his veil, and above the second article is an ominous depiction of the eyes of a man.

The first article states that according to a report by Mashrigh [News Agency], "the followers of the perverse sect of Bahaism introduce themselves as Zoroastrians to carry out their cultural and [illegal] activities and under that cover engage in promoting their perverse ideologies. They pretend to be Zoroastrians to gain their business licences and afterwards they use their places of business as centres for teaching and promoting this perverse sect and attracting young Muslims. It has also been said that some of the religious leaders of the Zoroastrian community have expressed their discontent about the exploitation made by the perverse sect of Bahaism and demanded an official inquiry into the matter."

The second article states that according to a report by Patogh Shishaie, the "Students News Agency", "as part of a Western cultural attack in the form of "velvet war", the religious beliefs of our [Iranian] people, especially the young people, are targeted. The arrogance of the stern enemies of Islam and Iran has reached a point where they have dared to contemplate the idea of changing the religion of Iran. One of the instruments used by the colonialists to engage in activities against the religious beliefs in our country is the

perverse sect of Bahaism. The headquarters of this sect is in occupied Palestine and is supported by the international Zionist [movement]. The connection between this sect and the former Russian empire and Britain, the two colonizers of Iran during the Qajar dynasty, appears in undisputed historic records and its role in the government and the court of Pahlavi is evident. It should be noted that marrying close relatives, the practice of usury and other acts of corruption are common amongst the Bahá'ís, actions that are derived from their teachings."

"Analysing effective ways of opposing the enemy, including Bahaism"

Source: Iranian Students News Agency (ISNA).

Content: On 16 August 2010, ISNA posted an article, as follows, about the statements of Mr. Parviz Soruri, the representative of the people of Tehran at the Islamic Consultative Assembly, in his weekly meeting with "Ansar-e Hezbollah" [the supporters of the Party of God].

He began by explaining one of the religious obligations of Muslims, known as 'Amr-e be Ma'ruf Va Nah-ie az Monkar' translated usually as "commanding good and forbidding wrong". He indicated that some people are trying to deal with results rather than causes of [society's ills]. He said that, for example, during the Pahlavi regime, one could have found wrong [those who deny the teachings of Islam] everywhere, but some people are only opposing Bahaism [as a cause of problems], while Bahaism is merely one of the effects. Another group believes that if due to unfavourable situations implementing "commanding good and forbidding wrong" proves to be difficult, then society should be left as it is, or that they should go along with the wrong. There is yet another group that holds the belief that the wrong should be dealt with in a random and [violent] way without consulting with anyone, which has resulted in the wrong having more power in the society. In the opinion of Imam Khomeini, [he said,] people should explore all opportunities to create favourable conditions in society so that the obligation of "commanding good and forbidding wrong" can be implemented, and thereby not assist the wrong to increase their power.

He said that there is a new need to identify the wrong in society. We need to determine why, after 30 years since the victory of the revolution, the wrong has taken advantage of our weaknesses, and is rearing its head, imposing itself on us. We need to investigate this, and find out why the enemy pays seven billion dollars to ensure that the activities of the misguided sects in the country use political approaches. Various processes in our country are directed towards politicizing some sects which are inclined to Sufism, and happen to be traditional [or Sunnis], and make them confrontational to the regime. These sects, whose names [he says he] does not want to mention, have for years lived peacefully side by side with the Islamic regime and continued their activities; recently, however, owing to some changes in their central [leading] body, they are adopting political approaches and are starting to enrol people in order to increase their activities. This demonstrates that the enemy is under the impression that by penetrating society's belief system, they can develop activities against the regime. But regardless of such factors, we should not confront these groups with strictly negative reactions.

Ayatollah refers to the regime's attitude towards other religions

Source: Tabnak New Agency—government-affiliated news agency.

Content: On 19 August 2010, Tabnak posted an article according to which Ayatollah Makaram Shirazi, in response to a priest who has called on the members of the Christian community to burn the Quran on 11 September, has said that all the clerics as well as Al-Azhar have condemned this action and if carried forward it will attract even more hatred of Muslims towards them. The Ayatollah said, "We have no problem co-existing with the members of other religions except for the perverse sect, which is a type of espionage apparatus.

23 August – 5 September 2010

Web sites

Reuters, AFP report on Javan Online story alleging that a Bahá'í in Golestan was arrested for "illicit sexual relationship"

Source: Javan online and other government-affiliated news sources. Also Reuters, AFP

Content: On Monday 6 September 2010, Javan online carried a story alleging that a "Bahá'í missionary" had been arrested in Golestan for attempting to seduce a woman into having an "illicit relationship" with him. The report was also carried by several Iranian government-affiliated news sites Web sites and Blogs.

A translation of the Javan article, and the texts of the Reuters and AFP stories, are provided below.

JAVAN ARTICLE: http://www.javanonline.ir/Nsite/FullStory/?Id=314926
Javan Online, 6 September 2010

Exclusive / ***Teacher of the misguided Bahaist sect arrested for adultery in Golestan:***

One of the teachers of the misguided Bahaist sect was arrested in Golestan Province for indulging in "illicit relationships,"

Someone by the name of "P. P.", who is considered one of the teachers of the misguided Bahaist sect, was detained in the province of Golestan with charges of indulging in "illicit relationships."

Javan Online reported that Mr. "P. P." is *an active Bahá'í and a member of the institutions (administration) of the misguided Bahaist sect in Golestan province, and has been detained/arrested for deceiving women and girls, leading to "illicit relationships" (adultery) with them. The case is currently under judicial process. The news has resulted in a sharp and emotional reaction from the local population, to the point that inhabitants have requested the judge to issue a well deserved judgement for this guilty Bahá'í. They have asked the judge to publicly execute the verdict.*

It is noteworthy to state that the said individual is a Bahá'í from the town of Kalaleh who previously held membership in the misguided sect's "Family life" and "Youth" committees. He is currently one of the active teachers of this sect.

REUTERS STORY:

Iran arrests Baha'i for illicit relations - report
Mon, Sep 6 2010
TEHRAN (Reuters) - An Iranian Baha'i missionary has been arrested in northern Iran for allegedly having an illicit sexual relationship," the semi-official Fars news agency said on Monday without giving a source.

The man, identified by Fars only as P.P., is accused of seducing women to have illicit sexual relationships with him, the agency said, a punishable offence in Iran which implements strict sharia, Islamic law.

"The man is an active Baha'i missionary ... His case is being investigated by the judiciary," it said. Judicial officials were not available to comment.

The Baha'i faith was founded in Iran in the 19th century and activists say more than 300,000 adherents live in Iran today. Iran's Shi'ite government considers the faith a heretical offshoot of Islam.

Exiled Baha'i leaders say hundreds of followers have been jailed and executed since the 1979 Islamic revolution. The Iranian government denies it has detained or executed people for their religion.

Baha'i activists said in August that an Iranian court had sentenced seven leaders of the faith, five men and two women, to 20 years in prison after charging them with espionage and engaging in propaganda against Islam.

Iranian media reported in January that the seven, arrested in 2008, had gone on trial on charges of spying and collaborating with Israel, an enemy of the Islamic Republic.

The international Baha'i community denied the charges.

AFP STORY:

Baha'i arrested for 'illicit relationships' in Iran: report
Tehran, Sept 6, 2010 (AFP) -
A Baha'i missionary has been arrested in northern Iran for indulging in "illicit relationships," hardline newspaper Javan's website reported on Monday.

It identified the detainee by only his initials, P.P., saying he was arrested in the Islamic Republic's northern province of Golestan.

The newspaper which is close to Iran's Revolutionary Guards did not provide a source, but added that the case was being investigated by the judiciary.

The Baha'is, who are barred from higher education and government posts in Iran, are regarded as infidels and have been persecuted both before and after the country's 1979 Islamic revolution.

In August, Iran sentenced seven leading members of the community to 20-year jail terms on charges ranging from spying for foreigners, spreading corruption on earth, undermining Islam and of cooperating with arch-foe Israel.

Their jail term has sparked criticism from the international community, including the United States.

The Baha'is consider Bahaullah, born in 1817, to be the latest prophet sent by God and believe in the spiritual unity of all religions and all mankind.

The group now reportedly has seven million followers, including 300,000 in Iran, and has a large temple in Haifa, northern Israel.

Baha'i leaders believe a total of 47 members of their religion are imprisoned in Iran simply for their beliefs.

Basij warns that activities of "certain members of the perverse Bahaist sect in Abadan" are being closely monitored

Source: Fars News Agency, government-affiliated.

Content: Following is the text of an article published by Fars News:

In an exclusive interview with Fars News Agency published on 21 August 2010, the commander of the mobilization forces—Niruyeh Moghavemat Basij— in Abadan, Mr. Saeed Sobhani said, "Activities of certain members of the perverse Bahaist sect of Bahaism are being closely monitored in Abadan." He expressed his opinion that Abadan was one of the cities where the populace, particularly the youth, faithfully supported the religious traditions. "Despite the enemy's efforts to influence various strata of the society and to weaken the foundation of the religion, the populace has been alert and aware enough not to allow the enemy to penetrate…Many funds had been set aside by the enemy, but the people of the Islamic nation of Iran have shown steadfastness in their belief." Mr. Sobhani continued that the activities of Wahhabism had recently decreased and, by the grace of God, he has been notified that the activity of the perverse sect of Bahaism is now under strict observation by the Intelligence authorities. His office stood ready to assist in severely encountering these elements.

Allegations about Bahá'í refugees, and about Bahá'í institutions in Iran continuing to work "secretly"

Source: Shia Online—government-affiliated Web site

Content: On 24 August 2010 Shia online posted an article entitled "Facilitating the refugee status of the Iranian Bahá'ís", in which a related news item on ATY News is cited. The article alleges that Bahá'ís who are seeking to obtain refugee status from the UN no longer require a letter of introduction from the Bahá'í administration to obtain refugee status from the UN. [Although the article makes no reference to Turkey, it is understood that it is referring to Bahá'ís who have left Iran for Turkey.] The article states that it is now sufficient if a Bahá'í [involved in an administrative institution] from outside Iran attests that the applicant is a Bahá'í. That said, the article then goes on to assert that "even after the Bahaist administration was closed down in Iran in 2009, we are still witnessing the issuance of introduction letters for individuals who are applying for refugee status, even though we know that before the closing of the Bahaist administration, the Bahá'ís who did not serve in the administration were not happy with those who were members of the institutions…Further, an informed source said to ATY News that some individuals who were previously members of administrative institutions claim that now there is no Baha'i administration in Iran. However, these same individuals are secretly guiding some of the individuals who had previously been involved in administrative institutions towards the fulfilment of this sect's goals."

"Relocating Baha'i families from Iran to the United States"

Source: Javan Online, affiliated with the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)

Content: On 28 August 2010, Javan Online reported that the "central Institution" of the Bahá'ís has been focussing on relocating certain Bahá'í families who are currently residing in Iran to the United States. Following a visit of a number of Bahá'ís from America with Iranian Bahá'ís, they have invited the Bahá'ís residing in Iran to emigrate to the United States.

Hojjatieh Society exhibition in Karaj

Source: Mashregh News Web site, government-affiliated

Content: According to an article published in Mashregh News on 25 August 2010, the Hojjatieh Society has recently launched a five day exhibition in Karaj, called "The path of truth". As stated by the Mashregh cultural reporter the exhibition contained various booths, including a literature exhibition. In the booth on literature certain books on the theme of Bahaism, Wahabbism and the Lord of the Age, written by "Mehdi Tehrani" were on sale. The article criticises the exhibition by indicating that one of the booths was focused on the idea of the selection of the last Navvab [people who are believed to have had contact with the Twelfth Imam after his disappearance] and that the following statement attributed to the Twelfth Imam was emphasized: "During my disappearance no religious leadership will exist and all the religious leaders will be absolutely false". The article mentions that this is simply an effort to sow the seeds of doubt in order to reject the position of the Supreme Leader.

Article on December 2008 arrests of Bahá'ís on Kish Island; allegation that Bahá'ís use women to attract young Iranians to the Bahá'í Faith

Source: Tabnak New Agency—government-affiliated news agency

Content: The following article was published by Tabnak News on 25 August 2010:

"The leaders of the deviant Bahaist sect use malicious ruses to misdirect the youth and teach Bahaism. According to Javan Online the rulers of this deviant sect, who have resided for years in the occupied lands [of Palestine] using the billion dollar budget of the United States and England and under the special protection of Israel…for a long time they have been selecting women [as teachers] to influence and attract young Iranians to Bahaism. Meanwhile, some of these teachers were reported [to the authorities] by these same youth and a few of them were arrested on Kish Island a while ago. The detainees, who were mostly from Tehran, along with some who had come from abroad, had pamphlets with them that were printed in Germany and were deceiving the youth and visitors to Kish. They were faced with the objections of people and were reported to the authorities and arrested. It should be said that the use of sexual ways to attract the youth and to pull them into moral deviation has been one of the early and well-known principles of Bahá'í teachers."

"The misguided Bahaist sect seeks to promote the sect among families"

Source: Iranian Quran News Agency (IQNA) Web site, government affiliated

Content: On 28 August 2010, IQNA published an article that included the usual misinformation regarding the relationship of the Bahá'í Faith with "Zionists". The article cited Reza Samandari, "a social scientist and lecturer at Tabriz University", as having warned readers that the Bahá'ís are targeting children and junior youth through public service activities. He cautioned that the best defence against these to remain alert to the efforts of Bahá'ís to build relationships, such as with their children. He was further quoted as having asserted that the Bahá'ís use the concept of being a "transnational religion" to gain legitimacy as an official religion. The article also referred explicitly to the use of the courses of the Ruhi institute by Bahá'ís, referring to this as "the evil plan of Ruhi in Iran".

Film critic alleges that promotion of Bahaism and Babism is an of the 'soft war' against the Islamic Republic

Source: Fars News Web site, government-affiliated

Content: On 28 August 2010, Fars News published an interview with the film critic Mr. Yusef Bayat, a member of the Office of the Representative of the Supreme Leader at the University of Zanjan. Mr. Bayat was quoted as having stated that "Promulgation of perverse networks such as Bahaism and Babism is indeed one of the enemy's tactics on the Internet warfront." The article refers to Mr. Bayat's analysis, in a series of seminars, of Hollywood's misrepresentation of Islam, He is reported to have defended the practice of 'stoning' in his lectures as a spiritual law, customary in Judaism or Christianity. He also reportedly stated: "Motion pictures such as 'The Stoning of Soraya' have been produced by Bahá'ís and Jews, who are the masters of misrepresentation in the world… once they clearly recognized that they will never win the war against Iran and Muslims, the Zionists started to promulgate the perverse networks such as Bahaism and Babism through cultural material, including movies, in an effort to generate a negative opinion of Islam and the Islamic world."

Cultural programs at public libraries of Isfahan to include anti-Bahá'í activity

Source: Fars News—government-affiliated news agency

Content: On 23 August 2010, Fars News reported that public libraries in Isfahan will undertake a series of cultural and development projects to honour Government Week. Among the various projects to be undertaken will be a series of book-reading contests, the first of which will be on "Bahaism".

"Those who defend human rights should not be silent about pressure against the Shiites"

Source: Khabar Online, government-affiliated news agency

Content: According to an article published by Khabar Online on 28 August 2010, in a continuing series of discussions about interpretations of the Quran which is being held at an Islamic shrine, Ayatollah Makarem Shirazi criticized "centres that claim to be defenders of human rights", as well as the United Nations, for their silence about the pressures

against the Shiite world. He claimed that some Bahraini Shiite scholars have been arrested and Wahhabis have been transferred there to change the religious make-up of Bahrain and Saudi Arabia. He stated that these nations should know that unlike Al-Qaeda, Shiites are "the most loyal people" and asked that the authorities in these countries protect them. He also stated that if a person belonging to the misguided Bahaist sect is arrested in Iran, those who claim to defend human rights cry out over it. He added that these same claimants "have destroyed the reputation of the United Nations and of human rights, because they maintain silence when it is in their interest, and cry out when things are against them".

"Shahbazi, Juan Cole and Bahaism"

Source: Website of Abdullah Shahbazi

Content: Abdullah Shahbazi, who is a long-standing and inveterate enemy of the Bahá'í Faith, in part of one of his long series of articles analyzing an article in a recent "Atlantic Monthly" by Jeffrey Goldberg regarding the possibility of Israel's bombing Iran, has written the following:

"Juan Cole, the Latin American professor of history at Michigan University, was once a fanatic Bahá'í. I do not know why. I have heard that his parents were attached to the Bahá'í sect, and maybe his motivations were his emotional attachments to a "dream-like East", or his investigative concerns as a researcher. At any rate, the viewpoint of Cole in recent years is completely contrary to the views of the heads of the Bahá'í sect in the United States, such as Abbas Amanat. Although individuals like [Abbas] Amanat have the same viewpoint as Paul Dundes Wolfowitz and the renowned heads of the neoconservative lobby—and the various institutions and conventions of Iranian Studies and Islamic Studies are fed by this financial, political and advertising source—Juan Cole has chosen another way and is a serious critic of the warmongering policies of neoconservatives and the administration of Bush. Cole, during the time that he had access to the archives of the "House of Justice" in Haifa, has provided valuable sources regarding the history of Sheikhism, Babism and Bahaism and has put them on the internet, which is a useful source of information for researchers."

6 – 19 September 2010

Web sites

Allegations that Bahá'ís are manipulating the press to reduce 20-year sentence of former members of Yárán (leadership group)

Source: Javan Online, affiliated with the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), Fars News, and over 15 other government-affiliated and pro-regime news sites and Web logs

Content: On 19 September 2010, Javan Online reported that in recent days, the institutions of the Bahá'í Faith had engaged in widespread utilization of the media to apply pressure on the judicial system to reduce the 20-year prison sentence imposed on the former members of the Yárán (leadership group). The reports further noted that the BBC and VOA had been assisting the Bahá'í institutions in this respect.

The Javan article asserted that, to generate higher ratings, a news broadcaster had disseminated rumours that the sentence against "the agents of the perverse Bahaist institution in Iran" has been reduced from 20 years to 10 years. Javan further stated:

This, despite the fact that the Muslim nation of Iran had specifically requested the prosecutor, on the third Friday of the holy month of Ramadan in 2008, in a signed and sealed scroll of more than 100 meters in length, to issue the most severe sentence for these intelligence officers of the Zionist regime; and it still took two years for the Judiciary to pronounce these seven Bahá'í agents criminals, and sentence them to [only] 20 years of imprisonment. Nonetheless, the institutions of the perverse Bahaist sect, along with their chief administrators, started a media campaign to pressure the judiciary to reduce the sentence for these agents.

This is all happening while we, the Muslim nation, have repeatedly requested the respected officials of this country, and in particular the respected officers of the judiciary, to safeguard the martyrs' blood in the court of appeal and pay special attention to this case in order to impose the most severe sentence against these seven agents of Bahaism, whose actual felony is espionage for foreign interests.

Allegation that Bahá'ís are engaging in a "new wave of insults against the religious sanctities of Islam "

Source: Javan Online, affiliated with the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)

Content: The following exclusive report was published by Javan Online on 14 September 2010:

During the sacred nights of Qadr, on the second night of which the martyrdom of Imam Ali is commemorated, Bahá'ís from the cities of Tehran, Karaj (Fardis) and Hamedan gathered in a village in Hamedan on the eve of the twenty-first night of the holy month of Ramadan and held a celebration where men and women wearing inappropriate outfits were singing and dancing together until midnight."

"Water-coolers: A tool to attract people to the misguided Bahaist sect"

Source: Javan Online and several other government-affiliated news sources

Content: the following article was published by Javan Online on 8 September 2010:

Recently the misguided Bahaist sect has started sending water-coolers to hot areas of the country to attract young adults.

Shia Online writes: To attract more numbers, the misguided Bahaist sect is renting shops and gardens in Muhammad-Shahr, Abbas-Abad, Karaj and its suburbs. Some of these activities are done with the assistance of some foreign citizens.

Serving alcoholic drinks, dancing and holding various celebrations and parties are among the activities of this misguided sect. Previously, on the 15th of Sha'ban [birth date of the 12th Imam] these people [Bahá'ís] also appeared in public with satanic emblems. Some of these emblems are carved on rings and necklaces of members of this sect.

It is interesting that to attract the young adults they send a number of water coolers to some tropical areas of the "south and southeast" of the country."

Report that that activities of Bahá'ís have increased in central provinces in Iran

Source: Javan Online and a few other government-affiliated news sources

Content: The following "exclusive report" was published by Javan Online on 4 September 2010:

The misguided Bahaist sect has increased its activities in several central provinces of the country. According to a report by Javan Online, this sect has recently placed some of its teachers in some provinces and formed classes in the name of cultural activities. Reading books together, mountain climbing, collective camps, etc., are among the activities of this sect in these provinces."

"Agents of the misguided Bahaist sect have been identified and are under close watch"

Source: Javan Online

Content: Following is the text originally published by Javan Online on 30 July 2010:

"The Minister of Intelligence, while referring to the spread of the misguided Bahaist sect and false claims of the Mahdaviyat in Mazandaran and the country, said, 'All agents of these sects are identified and are under close watch'. According to the report of the Reporter's Club, during the memorial for the martyrs and Ayatollah La'ini, the late Imam Jum'eh of Neka, the Minister of Intelligence also mentioned the terrorist incidents in the city of Zahedan and talked about the useless activities of Mossad, NATO, the CIA, and intelligence services, adding, 'Some of the agents of this [terrorist] act were arrested; to arrest these people, complex intelligence steps were taken.' It should be mentioned that on 15 July, in two terrorist explosions in front of Jame' Mosque of Zahedan, 27 people were martyred and 169 were injured."

Allocation of 520 million rials [~US$50,000] to seminars/workshops in Kerman on "the perverted sects"

Source: Iranian Quran News Agency (IQNA) Web site, government affiliated

Content: On 5 September 2010, IQNA reported that this year the Office of Islamic Propaganda has allocated 520 million rials [~US$50,000] to the section of the Office of Islamic Propaganda of Kerman that deals with sects and religions. According to Hujjat'u'l-Islam Hasanizadeh, these funds have been allocated from the president's travel fund, authorised by the Cultural Committee.

Hasanizadeh had referred various programmes to the Cultural Committee prior to the third round of the president's travels to Kerman Province. Hasanizadeh said, "The most important plan to be executed in the current year is the Islam Mysticism Summit and Training workshop on the perverted sects [which include] training workshops for understanding

Wahhabism, Bahaism and devil worshiping"; he added that these programmes will be conducted throughout the Province of Kerman by experts.

Political education: addition of a new subject to junior high and high school curriculum

Source: Persian BBC and Reporters and Human Rights Activists News Agency –RAHANA

Content: On 13 September both Persian BBC and RAHANA Web sites reported that according to a report by the Iranian Labour News Agency ILNA, the Ministry of Education in Iran has recently produced a new textbook titled "Political Education," for junior high and high school students in order to familiarize them with concepts such as "political movements, parties and factions, political analysis, study of the sects, authority of Islamic jurisprudence, and propagation of the ideology of the return of the Promised One". The reports indicated that the stated intention of this new textbook is to promote the analytical abilities of the students while preventing them from falling into perverse movements. The Ministry of Education is planning to train over 2000 human resources to teach the material around the country. Currently 400 have been trained in Tehran and trained human resources from Tehran, Isfahan and Khorasan will be training other provinces. In the section concerning the study of sects, there are a number of lesson plans that deal with "Devil worshiping, Wahhabism, Mahdaviyat, Velayat-e Faghih, and Bahaism".

[The production of] this textbook, and in general this sort of broad transformation in the educational system in Iran is a result of the Iranian government's desire to establish the office of "Fundamental Transformation of the Educational System in Iran," and a response to the call of the Supreme Leader in 2006. Some of the recent efforts made by the Ministry of Education to implement this system include: the plan to have a full-time clergyman in every school, to turn the management responsibility of 4200 schools [over] to the theology school (Houzeh), to dispatch 33,000 religious teachers to all schools around the country, and to establish the centre of attracting brilliant students to the schools of theology; and these are only "fundamental transformation in the educational system in Iran."

"Judicial Committee of the Islamic Council is investigating the spread of perverted sects"

Source: Arya News Agency, government affiliated

Content: On 15 September 2010, Arya News reported that Mohammad Taghi Rahbar of Isfahan, head of the group of clerics who are delegates to parliament, indicated that since the spread of perverted sects causes the destruction of beliefs, and endangers social and cultural security, heavy punishment must be meted out for those who seek to propagate such sects. He also blamed the spread of "devil worshippers" on Zionist politics, which is attempting to destroy the beliefs of the youth and added: "Confidential information which is sent to us and reports received by the Ministry of Intelligence show that the teachers of Bahaism, Wahhabism and devil worshipping have even extended into the villages." He attributed the spread of such sects to "foreign cultural assault programs, which will deal a blow not only to Islam, but to Christianity, and other monotheists."

[Comment: In addition to cautioning the Muslim population, the foregoing article also warns Christians "and other monotheists" in Iran against the activities of the Bahá'ís, Wahhabists, and Satanists.]

20 - 26 September 2010

Web sites

The concept of Mahdaviat and "creating false sects"

Source: Bahaism News site, government-affiliated

Content: On 20 September 2010, "Bahaism News" published an article about how the concept of Mahdaviat has been harmed; in one section of this article there is a reference to the Bahá'í Faith:

> *"Another deviational tool is to create sects that are in some way related to the concept of Mahdaviat. Over the last two or three hundred years, colonizers have initiated such religious sects. [Two] such false sects that have been able to pose difficulties for Islam have been the Babist and Bahaist sects. In investigating them, it becomes apparent that the claim of Mahdaviat is the key in shaping these sects, and it seems as though one of the main goals in establishing this them has been to deviate [from] the concept of Mahdaviat."*

"A number of false religions have been formed to create division in the Islamic world"

Source: Fars News Agency, government-affiliated

Content: On 21 September 2010, Fars News reported that Ayatollah Noori Hamedani, emphasized in an address to college and high school students in Sanandaj, the importance of standing firm in the face of the enemy and those who aim to divide Islam in order to conquer it. Hamedani referred to the noble spirit of sacrifice and martyrdom and proclaimed that the city of Qom is exalted and that the pure voice of Islam at the time of the Promised One will arise from there. "He described how the enemy collaborated with the United Nations and its General Counsel after World War Two to cause division in the Islamic world, stating, 'the invention of wicked sects such as Bahaism and Wahhabism, etc., was only to create disunity and conflict amongst Muslims, for there is nothing as defeating as divergence and nothing as constructive as unity.'"

"The misguided sects are exploiting youth with economic problems"

Source: Fars News Agency, government-affiliated

Content: On 19 September 2010, in an interview with Fars News Agency, Ali Azam-Khosravi, a professor and an expert on cultural issues, claimed that the misguided sects are exploiting youth with economic problems. He said that preying on the youth started in the early years of the revolution but this fact has been discovered recently.

Mr. Khosravi mentioned that the enemies are using more sophisticated tools in combating "us". In addition to ideological tools, they are now using the more subtle tools of arts, media, and satellite broadcasts to seduce and entrap the youth and have even managed to

seduce more experienced and informed individuals without their noticing it. He said, "The young heart is like an empty and fertile land that is ready for planting and whoever moves faster to conquer the hearts of the youth comes out as the victor. So the priority should be to try to move faster so the hearts of the youth are not conquered by the enemy." He continued, "When we arm our youth with the weapon of ideology any of them can become a learned Hussein; otherwise, neglecting to do so will end up in [our] losing them… without a doubt the nature of the youth is pure and a pure nature is in search of the truth. If truth is presented in a good light we cancel out the wrong and eliminate some of our concerns. Otherwise, the youth run away from religion and go after false alternatives."

Mr. Khosravi concluded that the root cause of the youth's tendencies towards misguided religions is economic and not intellectual and the enemy has invested in this strategy to attract the youth with economic difficulties. He declared his readiness to train and mobilize 20 youth to be sent to 20 areas where the enemy has a presence in order to destroy this misguided sect. He stressed the importance of training successors from among the youth population for it is the youth who can easily penetrate the hearts of other youth and thwart the enemy's evil intentions.

27 September–3 October 2010

Web sites

Allegation that it is a law of the Bahá'í Faith that holy books of past Dispensations be burned

Source: Shia Online—government-affiliated

Content: On 22 September 2010, Shia Online reported:

"One of the [binding] laws of the misguided Bahaist sect is to burn all the holy books [of the past] except for the sacred scriptures of this misguided sect. It is notable to mention that this law was initially introduced by "Mirza Ali Mohammad Báb" in "The Bayan" and was later confirmed by the leader of Bahaist sect, "Mirza Husseyn Ali". Based on this sacred law, and following the humiliation brought upon the Holy Book of the Qur'an in the United States of America last week, a member of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United States expressed his joyfulness and pleasure on a television interview. It should be pointed out that this member of the Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United States, who is closely linked to the American intelligence services and security agencies, did not only fail to condemn the action, during a television interview justifying the act as being within the parameters of freedom, but also expressed an attitude of happiness and pleasure at the disgrace brought upon the Sacred Qur'an."

Minister of Intelligence warns against Bahá'í activities

Source: Iranian Students News Agency (ISNA), Fars News Agency, and Iranian Labour News Agency (ILNA)—government-affiliated

Content: On 23 September 2010, ISNA reported that Hojjatoleslam Haidar Moslehi, the Minister of Intelligence, speaking in a ceremony in Qom unveiling a comprehensive software program for seminary education, stated that the enemy is trying to establish and

organize Shiite-Christian societies. He said, "Today, Shiite Zionism is being formed and announcing its presence, and the Bahaist sect is continuing with its activities extensively, and is trying to attract the masses of people and even the clergy." He further asserted: "The troubles of 1388 (June 2009) attracted all types of people, from atheist to religious, to fight against the revolution. People who have no links to religion, even the opposition, Wahhabis, and the followers of Bahaism were present; however the painful fact is that unfortunately, despite clarifications by the Supreme Leader, some are still not awakened from their slumber, and have not developed the appropriate level of insight." He added, "Today, the Bahaist sect has come out of its thirty years of obscurity and is planning widespread propaganda to attract people systematically." He added, the "Hojatiyyeh Society is another enemy group which has been spending large amounts of funds to sharpen their sword against Shia."

Ahmadinejad's response to a question about the Bahá'í Faith at a press conference

Source: Iranian Students News Agency (ISNA), government-affiliated

Content: On 24 September 2010, ISNA reported that on Friday (24 September), at a press conference in New York City, in response to a question from a reporter who asked him, "Why are some religious minorities in Iran such as the Bahá'ís not free?", Mahmoud Ahmadinejad answered: "Our constitution has delineated legal religions and these religions have complete freedom in the framework of the constitution…individuals can personally have their own religion but they should act according to the constitution for propagation [of their religion]. Our constitution has delineated legal religions and the legal religions, according to the constitution have delegates in the Islamic Parliament. In Iran no one is questioned about their religion, but, as I said, official religions have been recognized by the constitution."

Acceptance of Bahá'ís to universities questioned

Source: Shia Online,—government-affiliated

Content: On 27 September 2010, Shia Online reported:

> *"Despite the acceptance of the Bahá'ís by the public and private universities, continuous propaganda against the regime pivots around the claim of not accepting [Bahá'ís] in the universities. One must ask the authorities, with the teaching activities of the Bahá'ís and the spread of their superstitious and misguided beliefs, what is the reason for this population's entrance to the universities?*
>
> *According to Shia Online, per some unofficial reports from the National Education Measurement and Evaluation Organization, this year, 700 followers of the misguided Bahaist sect have entered public universities.*
>
> *It is said that last year as well, some of the followers of this misguided sect were accepted to the public universities.*
>
> *One must ask the authorities, with the teaching activities of the Baha'is and the spread of their superstitious and misguided beliefs, what is the reason for this populations' entrance to the universities?"*

Cultural Exhibition

Inauguration of an exhibition named "Secrets" for "defending the sacred" in Karaj

Source: Fars News Agency—government-affiliated

Content: On 25 September 2010, Fars News Agency reported from Alborz Province that an arts and culture exhibition on the topic of "defending the sacred" had been inaugurated in Karaj under the title of "Secrets". The main objective of this exhibition is reportedly to familiarize youth with the nature of the "sacred" and how it can be defended, including from "misguided sects" such as the Bahá'í Faith.

Seminars and Symposia

Series of discussions on religions and sects in Zahedan

Source: Iranian Quran News Agency (IQNA)—government-affiliated

Content: On 28 September 2010, IQNA published an interview with Hojjatoleslam Morteza Zainali, the director of Quran institution Rahrovan-e Nour in Zahedan. Hojjatoleslam Zainali stated that twenty students from Zahedan University will be participating in a series of discussions to become familiar with religions and sects. The section on "Recognition of Bahaism" will begin in November 2010 and will cover "Bahaist" history and beliefs.

4 - 10 October 2010

[Overview/comment: In the past few months, a new term to refer organizations or groups that are regarded as anti-revolutionary or otherwise illegal —"Gorohak""—has begun appearing in government-controlled mass media. Literally translated the term means "insignificant group" and is clearly meant to be derogatory. Kayhan's report on the sentencing of Jinous Sobhani (the first item under "Attacks" below) uses this term in relation to the Centre for Defenders of Human Rights, and also repeatedly in reference to the Bahá'ís.

The first two items under "Courses, Seminars, Workshops, and Symposia" (section 1.B. below) concern announcements that have been carried in state-governed media regarding the establishment of large numbers of "Quranic training centres" in two provincial jurisdictions—450 in Kerman and 227 in Hamadan. These reports are indicative that the authorities are continuing to pursue their aim, announced in October 2009, to establish 3000 such institutes across the country. In this respect, articles published by government–affiliated Web sites over the past two years have repeatedly stated that youth in Iran are vulnerable to overtures from the Bahá'ís because these Muslim youth have not been educated about the "misguided Bahaist sect" and properly taught the Quran. This sentiment has also been expressed by many Friday prayer leaders and other Hojjatoleslams who hold government positions. While there have long been Quranic institutes in Iran, the government-controlled press has focussed explicitly on their role of these institutions in combating the influence of the Bahá'í Faith, particularly over Iran's youth. The two announcements reported below coincide with the beginning of the academic year, the time when such initiatives are often instituted and highlighted in the media..]

Web sites

Sentencing of Shirin Ebadi's secretary to two years of imprisonment

Source: Kayhan Newspaper–ultra-conservative, government-affiliated

Content: On 2 October 2010, Kayhan reported:

The Baha'i Secretary of the "insignificant group" the Centre for Defenders of Human Rights, (CDHR) was sentenced to two years of imprisonment by the Revolutionary Court. Jinous S. had been arrested with other Bahá'í elements that were active in the intrigues of Ashura Day in January of 2010. She, along with Artin Gh. (her spouse) and several other members of the insignificant colonial group had been arrested.

Seven of the leaders of the insignificant Bahá'í group were arrested two years ago on charges of espionage for Israel and were sentenced to 10 years in prison.

The CDHR insignificant group was launched by elements such as Abdolfattah Soltani, Mohammad Ali Dadkhah, Shirin Ebadi, Mohammad Sharif, Mohammad Seif-Zadeh, Nasrin Sotoudeh and … and was directed by the former U. S. Vice President Dick Cheney. Meanwhile, the French and German governments allocated money to Ebadi for funding the grouplet and she was also asked to provide part of her Nobel Peace Prize to fund the grouplet.

The arrest of the secretary of the small group amid the chaos of Ashura intrigue was yet another scandal for Ebadi and her co-conspirators, and this is while this monarchist had previously claimed to be merely representing them as their attorney. But now it seems that not only are some of the members of the grouplet Bahá'ís, but this monarchist herself may also be a Bahá'í.

Mir-Hossein Mousavi had described the rioters who were involved in the intrigues of last January 6 (Ashura), as God-fearing men. Later, the ring in London (connected to Bahá'u'lláh Mohajerani), Kadivar Effendi, and certain participants and organizers had also defended this Bahá'í element. This is while Kadivar, Soroush and Ganji, who are credited with being anti-religion and anti-Mahdavism, are accused of being Bahá'ís or of having [Bahá'í] tendencies or being aligned with the group.

Courses, Seminars, Workshops and Symposia

Establishment of 450 Quranic training centres in Kerman

Source: Fars News Agency —government-affiliated

Content: On 6 October 2010, Fars News reported that Mr. Majid Sajjadi, the Deputy for Physical Education of the Ministry of Education in Kerman Province, announced, "With approval from the Ministry of Education, 450 Quranic training centres will be established." In a joint meeting held with teachers of the Quran in educational facilities, Mr. Sajjadi emphasised, "Today the world's exploiter, the falsified regime of Zionism, is making short films and some of most graphic motion pictures against the Shia and the Promised One.

They support the Bahá'ís and Wahhabis, who are deceiving the Islamic communities." He added, "By raising consciousness and knowledge the teachers must improve their own capacity to react and respond to students' doubts and confusion, offering them an all-inclusive perspective from pure Islam." In his address Mr. Sajjadi revealed the Ministry of Education's new guidelines to establish 10,000 to 15,000 Quranic training centres throughout the country. Mr. Sajjadi encouraged the teachers repeatedly to be more elegant and gentle in their approach towards the youth. He stated, "In the books of the Bahaist sect, the Quranic verses that refer to their own sect have been interpreted with such beauty and elegance that they are being taught at schools in Saudi Arabia. The Bahaist sect sends their prominent teachers with a pristine presence and graceful demeanour amongst the youth in order to attract them towards their religion." He emphasised that Islam was not aggressive and its grace must be communicated to the children through programs with components of art, theatre and motion pictures.

Establishment of 227 Quranic training centres in Hamadan

Source: Iran Quranic News agency (IQNA) —government-affiliated

Content: On 9 October 2010, IQNA reported that Mr. Abbas Tajri, the head of [a group to promote] the expansion of obligatory prayers and Quranic studies in Hamadan Province, announced on 9 October 2010, that there were 227 schools currently geared up to execute the Quranic training centre project, managed directly by the Ministry of Education. These schools were carefully chosen from a large pool of schools and educational facilities, for the execution of this project. He made this announcement in a conference held together with principal of the Quran study centres. In the conclusion of this address he stated, "In an environment where our competition, meaning the West, has started their machinations of conspiracy and conflict, and where Bahaism is [experiencing] rapid growth, principals of schools must expand their efforts by taking constructive points into consideration."

Workshop on "analysing movements of perverse sects"

Source: Fars News Agency—government-affiliated

Content: On 6 October 2010, Fars news reported:

> *Based on a statement released by the public relations office of the Islamic Propaganda headquarters in Azerbaijan Province, Mr. Hamid Azimi stated, "The objective of holding this one-day workshop is to increase the journalists' capabilities in shaping public opinion, throughout this province, on matters involving the perverse cults, the interpretation of principles of Islamic learning, developing various human resources to familiarise other classes of the society with Islamic learning, visualisation of threats by the perverse sects toward themselves, and prevention of twisted perspectives from penetrating in public, and especially amongst the youth." This workshop will be held for the first time in Azerbaijan on 22 October. Mr. Azimi added, "In this workshop our beloved journalists will be familiarized with an overall understanding of the perverse cults, while learning how to critique such groups as Osho Rajnish, Sai Baba, Eckankar, Devil Worshipping, Bahaism, and Wahabism." Each journalist attending this workshop will receive a certificate of expertise on perverse cults from the Department of Islamic Propaganda.*

11-17 October 2010

Web sites

Bahá'ís alleged to be "driving force" behind strike by gold merchants in Tehran

Source: Javan Online, affiliated with the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)

Content: On 14 October 2010, Javan Online reported:

"According to a report by Kalame News the strike by gold merchants in certain provinces of the country, and in particular in Tehran, was orchestrated by the Bahaist movement, which is reported to have penetrated certain parts of the country.

In this respect, some of the gold-merchants of --Street are members of the perverse Bahaist sect and throughout last year's election unrest, and even up to today, have been supporting the "sedition" movement.

Based on enquiries, three persons under the names of (T), (Z), and (M) were instrumental in planning for the strike of gold-merchant's union. All three are residents of America and threatened Tehran's gold-merchants that they would either agree with the strike or will be debarred from gold purchases.

It should be pointed out that the strike of gold merchants in Tehran, and in other provinces, was indeed a pilot project to start similar strikes by other unions and business associations during the implementation of the nationwide evaluation of the [government] subsidies [of various essential goods].

18-24 October 2010

Web sites

Supreme Leader refers to the Bahá'ís in a speech in Qom

Source: Islamic Republic News Agency Web site (IRNA), official government news agencies. Payvand English Web site – Affiliation is not clear

Content: On 19 October 2010, IRNA reported that Ayatollah Khamenei had presented a speech on 17 October at a large gathering in Qom. Following are excerpts from IRNA's article:

"Enemies of the Islamic Revolution who intend to inflict damage on the revolution have two main targets, the religion of the people and their devotion to the revolution," said Ayatollah Khamenei.

"An establishment which is based on religion will not yield to the pressure of enemies and bullying powers," Ayatollah Khamenei said.

He emphasized that the country's enemies had failed to create a rift between the Iranian nation and the officials of the Islamic establishment.

He further added that the country's enemies have raised doubts about religious values in an attempt to weaken the pillars of people's faith, "especially the young generation through promoting immorality, false Sufism, promotion of Bahaism and promotion of home-based churches. These are tactics that enemies of Islam, today, carefully study and plan with the objective of weakening religion in the society." He continued, "Enemies intend to disappoint people with the country's officials and sow the seed of pessimism."

[Comment: The speech was broadcast in its entirety on National Iranian Television and it has also been posted on YouTube.]

Reference to Bahá'í Faith in report commenting on Supreme Leader's speech in Qom

Source: Raja News Agency, government-affiliated

Content: On 24 September 2010, Raja news published an interview with Mr. Said Ghasemi, "one of the chief commanders of the Holy Defiance" [reference to the Iran-Iraq war, 1980-1988].

Mr. Ghasemi stated that the Supreme Leader's speech clarified matters related to the upheaval after 2009 presidential election. The people responsible for the upheaval were Bahá'ís, Monafeghin (Mujahedin - stirrers of sedition), Mr. Mousavi himself, Mr. Karoubi, and many other figures inside the government such as Ayatollah Hashemi Rafsanjani and his children, reformists, monarchists, the son of the late Shah and the princesses, and even Mr. Masuod Rajavi. They were all in it together.

Mr. Ghasemi continued by saying that the interesting point is that "the Baha'is, who had never participated in any of the elections before, were suddenly instructed to stand behind the sedition of the Green Movement. It would be an interesting debate to clarify how every one of them was able to gather together behind a unified line of action or what mysterious power integrated them into one body."

Further reference to Bahá'í Faith in report commenting on Supreme Leader's speech

Source: Fars News Agency—government-affiliated

Content: On 23 September 2010, Fars news published an interview with Hojjatoleslam Mohsen Gharavian, faculty member of the Imam Khomeini Institute. Hojjatoleslam Gharavian stated, with respect to the Supreme Leader's speech in Qom, "One of the warnings of the Supreme Leader was the growth of the Bahaists. His intention in issuing this warning was to make sure that the seminaries are sensitive to these misguided sects, especially the Bahaists and Wahhibists, which are colonial sects and were created by Britain and Russia in Iran. The seminaries should exert their utmost effort in educating their students in confronting these 'deceptive ideologies'…the Supreme Leader warns, about the growth of these 'deceptive ideologies'… and it is the duty of the seminaries to provide forces to confront these groups."

Article denigrates Mrs. Shirin Ebadi by linking her with the Bahá'í Faith

Source: Fars News Agency — government-affiliated

Content: On 19 October 2010, Fars news published an article clearly intended to ridicule the character of Mrs. Shirin Ebadi. The article states that Mrs. Ebadi has written an open letter to the world appealing for justice on behalf of Mrs. Nasrin Sotoudeh "whose crime is her efforts to bring an end to execution of children younger than 18". The article asserts: "This was articulated by Ebadi while sources have reported on her widespread link with the Bahaist headquarters in the occupied territories of Palestine. Other sources report on her daughter's conversion to the perverse sect of Bahaism, which Ebadi has denied." The article also refers to the office of Mrs. Ebadi as a" safe haven for Bahá'ís" and to the arrest of Mrs. Jinous Sobhani: "A while back the secretary of this trivial group, defenders of human rights centre, was arrested and sentenced to two years of imprisonment by the Islamic Court. Jinous S.' was arrested on 3 January 2010, following the Ashura unrest, along with a few other active operatives of Bahaism engaged in the Ashura uprising. Her husband 'Artin Q.' was also arrested along with her, and other members of this trivial group, exploited by Bahaism. Seven leaders of the Bahaist faction were arrested two years ago on charges of espionage for the Zionist regime, and were sentenced to 10 years of imprisonment." The article ends with the statement: "In conclusion, Mrs. Ebadi is mocked again and again called a fugitive monarchist old lady, the proof of whose being a Bahá'í is becoming more and more apparent."

"A perverse sect's trap for the school students"

Source: Tabnak News Agency—government-affiliated

Content: On 25 October 2010, Tabnak reported:

"By offering hard cash, the Bahaist sect's missionaries have now been encouraging middle school and high school students to take part in the perverse sect's related study classes…after a widespread propagation of the perverse sect of Bahaism amongst the general public, and recruitment from different segments of the society, it is now the pupil's turn to be the target of study classes by this sect…Bahá'í missionaries distributed CDs and pamphlets to the middle and high school students during the end of school ceremonies. In the material disseminated there was information on the principles and cultural rituals of this sect. This teaching campaign is currently conducted in the suburbs of the city of Tehran and southern parts of the capital. According to the parents of these pupils, the Bahá'í missionaries offered 20 thousands tumans [$20] to any pupil who attended each class and the related rituals of this sect. It is notable to mention that, in the past the active members of this perverse sect would anticipate expanding their sect among the people by offering economic assistance like job creation or free public health centres."

25 -31 October 2010

Web sites

Bahá'ís accused of supporting sanctions against Iran because they would lead to the rise of the Green Movement and the downfall of the regime

Source: Javan Online, government-affiliated

Content: On 25 September 2010, Javan Online reported:

"*Certain operatives of the Bahaist sect, through alliance with the sedition movement, have taken advantage of the sanctions to emphasize it and declare, 'recent pressure has caused opportunities for the Green Movement and their allies.' This is based on a scenario expressed by the West and the Green sect.*

"Based on reports by Javan Online, certain operatives of the Bahaist sect have referred to the sanctions by the West against Iran at their Nineteen Day Feasts. While expressing their full support and pleasure regarding the imposition of the sanctions, they [also] expressed hope that the sanctions will soon prove effective in obstructing the regime of the Islamic Republic.

"It is worthy of mention that certain dynamic operatives of this sect declared that, based on promises made by the West to the Green Movement, they too would have freedom within the new political arena.

"It should be noted that the leaders of sedition, including the closest candidates of sedition and Mr. Mir Hussein Moussavi, have repeatedly emphasized that Iranian sanctions have been engineered entirely to support the Green sect."

Minister of Intelligence comments on Supreme Leader's reference to the Bahá'ís in speech

Source: Iranian Students' News Agency Web site (ISNA), official government news agencies. Gooya Web site – unaffiliated

Content: On 27 October 2010, ISNA reported that in the first gathering of political officials and leaders of the armed forces which was hosted by the Military, Hojjatoleslam Haydar Moslehi emphasized that there is a 20-year history behind the sedition that was perpetrated in relation to the recent election. He added, expressing that the enemy is using all its power in this soft war:

"The gathering of the Bahaists and the Hojjatiyeh Society in the recent acts of sedition was worthy of attention.

"One of the noteworthy issues in discussing this sedition is that the organization that was running the sedition was not created and organized [just] before the election; rather, this issue has a 20-year [history].

"These organizations, with their impressive crowds who were the centre of these seditious activities, had in reality been waiting for an opportunity, and with the use of their planning mechanisms, especially in cyber-space and its social networks, they saw the tenth elections as a perfect opportunity [to carry out their plans].

"The plan of the arrogant [powers] was that the Hojjatiyeh Society, the Bahaists, anti-union elements, communists, those opposed to the Islamic revolution, even a group of religious people who were against the Islamic revolution, would congregate; and the most remarkable thing in the recent acts of sedition was the involvement in this gathering of both the Bahaists and the Hojjatiyeh Society.

"The enemy is targeting schools to promote Bahaism and Wahhabism"

Source: Basij News Agency—government-affiliated

Content: On 28 October 2010, Fars News published an interview with General Mohammad-Saleh Jokar, head of the students' and missionaries' Basij Organization, on the occasion of the commemoration of the week of the Basij. General Jokar reportedly referred to "a project across the country and in the schools" aimed at promoting "Bahaism and Wahhabism". In response, a number of initiatives are being undertaken to combat such influence among students, including "study circles to raise students' consciousness and awareness in schools; changing basic educational material so as to protect students… and undertaking new approaches in both the theoretical and practical spheres of the cyber war; enhancing Quranic culture; launching cultural writing contests; promotion of the culture of the Hijab; and supporting the production of computer games—four games have already been produced by our internal Internet experts."

"Heads of two "Oriflamme" branches turn out to be Bahá'ís"

Source: Javan Online, affiliated with the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)

Content: On 28 October 2010, Javan Online published the following article:

"Two individual Bahá'ís [who are in charge of] branches of the Bahá'í pyramid company [pyramid scheme] Oriflamme were arrested in Mashhad.

According to a report by Javan Online, pyramid company activities, including Oriflamme's, are banned in Iran, but the pyramids are still recruiting and financially abusing people.

Meanwhile, the Bahá'í administration, which has always been seeking to strike a blow to the economy of Iran, this time has utilized the tool of pyramid companies to advance its aims. The heads of the main branches of the Oriflamme Company in Mashhad were two Bahá'í women named "M. T" and "S. G.", who were arrested under a judicial warrant.

Recently, because the Oriflamme Company in Tehran was shut down, the ambassador and foreign ministry personnel in Sweden protested in support of those arrested and are still looking to revive the company."

Bahá'ís alleged to be seeking recruits through financial inducements

Source: Fars News Agency—government-affiliated

Content: On 29 October 2010, Fars News reported that Hojjatoleslam Jalal Razavimehr, General Director of Dispatching Religious Missionaries under the Endowment and Charitable Affairs Office of Qom, has raised his concerns on the critical need to rapidly enhance the capacity of Islamic missionaries. He stated, "Unfortunately, Christians are knocking door-to-door searching [for new] team members, and through financial ploys, Bahaists are hunting for individuals who are weak in their faith. If a solution to this is not put forth we have not done justice to Islam." Mr. Razavimehr stated the following concerning enhancing the capacity of Islamic missionaries:

- There are 8,000 missionaries enrolled with the Endowment and Charitable Affairs Office and all of them participated in all five phases of the training aimed at enhancing their capacity as missionaries.
- Missionaries must be able to recognize sedition and appropriate materials must be prepared for to prepare them for their role as missionaries.
- The way must be swiftly prepared for propaganda campaigns.
- Missionaries must have the 12 Imams as their role models and be the first to defend Islam.
- Teaching Islam can no longer be performed at the level of the mosque. Missionaries must take [Islam] to everyone, as the society is thirsty to hear the message.
- If the missionaries are divided properly and sent to universities, sports clubs, schools, travel and transportation agencies, families, and even villages, they will be more effective in promoting Islam. Strategies for the teaching and promotion of Islam must be devised, because we have come to realize that it is necessary to educate and train the missionaries.

1-7 November 2010

[Overview/comment: Since 19 October 2010, when the Supreme Leader referred to the Bahá'í Faith in a public speech while in Qom to meet with the Grand Ayatollahs there, ("especially the young generation through promoting immorality, false Sufism, promotion of Bahaism and promotion of home-based churches. These are tactics that enemies of Islam today carefully study and plan with the objective of weakening religion in the society") many officials and clerics, particularly Hojjatoleslams, have used Khamanei's comments to attack the Bahá'í Faith. A Web site affiliated with the Green Movement reported that the Global Stewardship Forum of Human Rights in Iran has called the statements made by Khamenei in his speech in Qom the beginning of the repression of religious minorities in Iran.]

Web sites

Purported exposé of Bahá'í teaching methods and tactics

Source: Radio Maaref Web site, government-affiliated

Content: On 31 October, Radio Maaref Web site published a report by Hojjatoleslam Ahmad Hajqoli, a so-called "expert on Bahaism studies", which followed on the speech made by the Supreme Leader recently in Qom, in which Khamenei had asserted that the Bahá'í Faith and other "enemies of Islam" are wielding a destructive influence in the Islamic Republic. The article published recently by Radio Maaref cites Hojjatoleslam Hajqoli as having stated:

"The misguided Bahaist sect is using direct and indirect [teaching] techniques, and in particular, destructive methods to teach its evil ideology…Bahaism directs all Bahá'ís to teach their Faith; therefore, a Bahá'í is an individual and at the same time a teacher of Bahaism. On the other hand, it is forbidden to recant or conceal one's faith." Further, he said that "Teaching is a serious subject for Bahá'ís, and they put to use all kinds of different means or methodologies, such as printing books and journals in various languages; they claim their books have been translated and distributed in 800 languages

and dialects. They use television, radio, satellite, the Internet, and even offer financial assistance to advance the teaching work in their sect…The direct teaching method of teaching Bahaism consists of 'proclamation,' and 'destructive' methods. Proclamation includes printing books and pamphlets, the creation of attractive songs and publishing material on the life of their leaders and Bahaist history."

"Destructive methods consist of posing questions and creating doubts in the minds of Muslims, particularly the Shia. In addition, mocking and insulting illustrious Islamic and religious dignitaries are considered destructive methods."

"Since the House of Justice has instructed Bahá'ís to be obedient to the government, and take no action contrary to the law of the country in which they reside—although they are not following this—indirect teaching methods are widely used….

"In their indirect teaching, they use applied and active teaching methods which include friendliness [towards people], compassion for other human beings, visiting the sick, sending presents [to others], offering cheaper prices [in businesses], interactive visits with their neighbours, and assistance to the vulnerable class in the society. These are but a few of the methods used by Bahá'ís in their applied and active teaching effort."

"In their teaching efforts Baha'is target all age groups, in particular youth and pre-youth. Lower income and vulnerable groups are also among Bahaism's interested groups. That is why Bahaism targets poor African nations and Latin America…In addition, exploitation, encouragement of music, promotion of immorality, and lack of boundaries between men and women are employed to attract individuals."

Kayhan-affiliated Web site alleges 700 Bahá'ís accepted at universities this year

Source: Mohakemeh (Trial) Web site, affiliated with Kayhan Newspaper–ultra-conservative, government-affiliated

Content: On 25 October 2010, Mohakemeh Web site reported:

"It would perhaps interest you to know that the presence of Bahá'ís in various key positions, and critical [governmental offices] in the country is quite limited. The reason for this is very clear; it is because the beliefs of Bahaism are significantly more poisonous and hazardous compared to other existing sects in the country, to the degree that if Bahaism were ever to take charge, starting at that moment, they would show no mercy over anything.

"The universities are similarly centres for intellectual debates amongst the faithful Moslem youth of this Iranian nation. Should the deceptive ideology of this sect ever penetrate the universities and among the students and youth, we should then expect to witness [confrontational] incidents, and deterioration from within, as experienced in the Islamic Andalusía [reference to the invasion in the year 714 when, as the Spaniards were unhappy with their government, they united with Moslems to defeat the Spanish political system].

"During this year [alone], over 700 individuals from the perverse sect of Bahaism entered national universities. In spite of this level of acceptance . . . this sect is still

claiming, as one of their major grievances against the system, that they cannot get acceptance to any university.

"Based on the efforts made by Bahá'ís to spread their superstitious and deceptive beliefs, these [university] officials must be questioned about their rationale for accepting this group into their universities. Various unofficial reports by the National Education Measurement and Evaluation Organization reveal that during the current year over 700 of the followers of the perverse sect of Bahaism entered the national universities.

Bahá'ís alleged to be attempting to link those who oppose the Bahá'í Faith to the Hojjatieh Society

Source: Mohakemeh (Trial) Web site, affiliated with Kayhan Newspaper–ultra-conservative, government-affiliated

Content: On 26 October 2010, the Mohakemeh Web site published a report claiming that the Bahá'ís have adopted a new tactic: to try to discredit those who oppose the Bahá'í Faith by linking them to the Hojjatieh Society. The article states that this information has come from "reports from the private/internal meetings of the heads of this sect." The article further asserts that the Bahá'ís are attempting to undermine Islamic groups awaiting the return of the 12th Imam by "falsely labelling them" as Hojjatieh.

8-14 November 2010

Web sites

Friday Prayer Leader says Bahá'í Faith and Wahhabism are "Islamic society's greatest dangers" and "true face" of the Bahá'í Faith is a "political movement"

Source: Iranian Students News Agency (ISNA) —government-affiliated

Content: On 9 November, ISNA reported that at the closing ceremony of the fourth Cultural Arts Festival of the Noble Dweller of the House of Prophet, Seyyed Ahmad Khatami, acting Friday Prayer Leader of Tehran, stated:

"The nature of the Prophetic Mission of the Prophet (Muhammad) was cultural, and the Islamic revolution was created as a result of this Prophetic Mission.

Bahaism and Wahhabism are the greatest dangers threatening Islamic Society. Bahaism is a political movement, and is British espionage. This is true face of Bahaism, but they have adulterated themselves under the Shia sect, they are very different from Shia. Their ways is in complete contrast to the aims and ideals of Shia."

Bahá'í Faith accused of indoctrinating children

Source: Javan Online, affiliated with the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)

Content: On 10 November 2010, Javan online published an article by Siyyid Kazim Mousavi [note: this is not Mir Hossein Mousavi of the Green Movement] that attacks Bahá'í children's classes. Mousavi suggests that the system of Bahá'í children's classes is

designed indoctrinates children from an early age, so as to turn them into blindly obedient adults. As a result, they refuse to question their own belief system or look elsewhere for truth later on in life. He also suggests that girls are deliberately chosen as tutors for children classes so that later on the same women can "be given the task of secret, and undercover, teaching amongst the Muslim society and Muslim children; a phenomenon that we have recently witnessed, and it has created much worry for officials and parents alike."

"Emerging Sects, Fabricated Mysticism"

Source: Iranian Students News Agency (ISNA) —government-affiliated

Content: On 13 November in an interview with ISNA, Hojjatoleslam Ahmad Zadhoush, assistant director of culture and propaganda, Islamic propagation office of Qum Seminary, stated that the Jews establish "sects that are like marionettes whose strings are pulled by filthy Zionist fingers …Of course this peril is very significant and for the first time, the Supreme Leader, in a public address in Qum, warned about fabricated churches and the spread of Bahaism, and [other] emerging sects."

Rabbani: « Baha'i administration promotes immorality »

Source: Fars News Agency, government-affiliated

Content: On 14 November 2010, Fars News Agency began a new series of editorials titled "Bahá'ís, mercenaries of Zionism". In its first article, Hojjatoleslam Ali Rabbani Golpaygani, faculty Member of the Imam Sadeq Institute stated that "Bahaism permits immorality and lures the people into the trap of Satan…If those who do not adhere to Islam are placed within the rank of clergy they will strike the biggest blow to Islam, and Baha'ism is the result of labour by the same individuals."

University Magazine

Special edition of University quarterly magazine

Source: magazine described below

Content: a special edition of "Sepher", the quarterly magazine published by Kashan University of Medical Sciences focused on anti-Bahá'í material taken from government-affiliated Web sites such as Javan Online and was disseminated among university students in the city of Kashan. In addition to the anti-Bahá'í material, there are short articles on well-known Iranian women who are human rights activists and residing outside of Iran, including Shirin Ebadi, Mehrangiz Kar, and Shadi Sadr. These articles refer to them as anti-hejab, anti-Islam secularists.

15-21 November 2010

Web sites

Accusation that the Bahá'ís are inflating membership numbers in Iran by creating graves in Bahá'í cemeteries that are empty

Source: Shia Online—government-affiliated

Content: On 14 November, Shia Online published a piece claiming that authorities have identified eight empty graves in the Bahá'í cemetery in Hassanabad/Marvdasht. The article alleges that although the graves had burial stones with names written on them, they in fact did not contain bodies. It further claims that "the sect's leaders have done this shameless act in order to make the number of their followers in Iran appear larger" and that "the same situation exists in other cities such as Najafabad, Abadan, Ghaemshahr, Damavand, etc." The report concludes: "one of the old policies of the misguided Bahaist sect is to exaggerate the number of its followers in Iran."

Allegation that "Bahá'í girls" sent to universities in India are recruited/supported by "spy agencies"

Source: Javan Online, affiliated with the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)

Content: On 16 November Javan Online reported: "Since the beginning of the current year, a few girls from the misguided Bahaist sect have been dispatched to universities in India to continue their higher education. Since the members of this misguided sect are considered by foreign intelligence services as the right kind of people for recruitment, many spy agencies are seeking receptive individuals by providing for their education in other countries."

Seminars and Symposia

Seminar to "Assess Bahaism" at University in Qazvin

Source: Iranian Students News Agency (ISNA)—government-affiliated

Content: On 20 November 2010, ISNA announced that a seminar to "assess Bahaism" would be held the following day at the College of Sociology of Imam Khomeini International University: "This seminar has been organized by the Islamic Society of Imam Khomeini International University in Qazvin and Hojjatoleslam Anjavinejad, the director of Rahpouyan Vesal Shiraz Cultural Organization will be present."

Television

TV Interview with Javad Larijani: Baha'is are prosecuted because they "prevent their followers from leaving the cult"

Source: Press TV —Official English Television Channel of Islamic Republic government. The link to partial interview, comments of Larijani about Bahá'ís is posted at iranian.com as well.

Content: On 22 November 2010, several Web sites posted a video (2 minutes) of a Press TV interview with Mohammad Javad Larijani, judiciary deputy for human rights. He is the brother of Iran's Chief Justice, Sadeq Larijani, and of Ali Larijani, Speaker of the Majlis. In

this interview Javad Larijani alleged that the Bahá'í Faith is a cult and that it should be dealt with as such. Following is the transcription of the interview:

"Bahaism is not a religion in Iran. The Jews are a minority [religion] and they have even members in the Parliament. The Christians are a minority [religion] and they have members in the Parliament. Zoroastrians are a minority [religion]. Bahá'ís are a cult and they are governed by the law which deals with various cults. To the extent that this cult does not prevent its followers from leaving, they are tolerated. Consequently, you can find Baha'is in universities as students and as teachers. There are more than 300 Bahá'í students in universities and there are [Bahá'í] professors. They are very affluent people; they have big factories and companies. So, they are protected by law according to the law which we refer to as a "citizenship contract"—regardless of their religion, so long as they [i.e., Bahá'ís] function within the structure of the law they are under protection [of the law]. But the trouble begins when they start to act as a closed-door cult—meaning that people can get in but they can't get out. We have had numerous such cases; some young Bahá'ís who wanted to leave this cult said this doesn't make sense to us. So they have been summoned to meetings and have been warned that if they leave this cult they'll be punished, will be debarred from inheritances and put under pressure. Accordingly, here the law steps in and will prevent the use of this much exclusivity or cultish domination.

Any cult, whether Bahá'í or Shia—it doesn't matter—will be prevented by law from operating. We have had numerous cases of cults' practices, even with Shia group. People have been jailed because they were putting people in some farms and not permitting them to leave. So we will fight with any cult that prevents its followers the freedom to leave the cult, whether Shia or Bahá'í; it doesn't' matter."

22-28 November 2010

Web sites

Monitoring the Book Market

Source: Kayhan Web site—official government newspaper

Content: On 22 November 2010, Kayhan published an article about the status of the book market and its need for tighter monitoring so that unauthorized books do not find their way into the book market. The author of the article stated that "In yet another central avenue in the city this writer noticed, amongst other books sold by a street vendor, photocopies of books on subjects [such as] how to teach Bahaism and Communism. Naturally, if the distribution of unauthorized books continues with the current process, we shall encounter a serious cultural clash".

The Mosque should "confront misleading social currents"

Source: Fars News Agency—government-affiliated

Content: On 24 November 2010, Fars News Agency published a statement by Hojjatoleslam Abdulhussein Khosropanah, faculty member of the Institute of Culture and Islamic Thought, who elaborated on the importance of the mosque as an important

institution for confronting misleading social currents, including "sectarian Sufism and Freemasonry, Satanism, Bahaism, Wahhabism, nationalism, cultural degeneracy, religious pluralism, and feminism."

Mahnaz Raoufi: "A Basiji liberated me from the vortex of Bahaism"

Source: Javan Online—affiliated with the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)

Content: On 25 November 2010, Javan Online published an article with extracts from a newly published book by Mahnaz Raoufi, *Sayey-i Shoom- Khaterat-i yek nejat yafteh az Bahaiyyat* (Shadow of Gloom– memories of one liberated from Bahaism). This is a sequel to her previous books. The article explains that Mrs. Raoufi was a Bahá'í who became a Muslim and has been writing anti-Bahá'í books in recent years. The article began with a short introduction saying, "Mrs. Raoufi grew up in the Bahá'í community where she observed many discrepancies in the teachings; and corruption and immorality amongst the members, in particular amongst the Bahaist leaders, to the point that she left the community in immense distress and was liberated by a Basiji who rescued her out of Bahaism. She then became a Moslem after carefully studying Islam."

Her new book is published by Kayhan and the article outlines the main topics of the book, including: Bahá'ís consist of two groups; immorality is promoted and encouraged; it is prohibited to contact clergy; children are brainwashed; Bahá'ís wished for the death of Muslim during the Iran- Iraq war; Bahá'ís were gratified at the passing of Imam Khomeini; the author no longer believes in Bahá'u'lláh and 'Abdu'l-Bahá.

"When Sedition Yields No Results, Go for Immorality"

Source: Kayhan Newspaper Web site, official government newspaper

Content: On 24 November 2010, Kayhan reported on the launch of an "offensive television network, Manoto TV, (You and I), stating that it is "directed by fugitives" (Iranian immigrants) "and the Bahá'ís…The satellite television network organizers are stationed in London…the network was launched by a vulgar singer, Mrs. G. (Googhoosh, the popular Iranian singer) with the help of BBC and the British Secret Intelligence Services (MI6), which dictate the direction the network should take."

The article links this network to the Bahá'í Faith, stating,

> *"Some of the television personalities and their producers clearly express their support of Bahaism in London; with the aid of the British Secret Intelligence Services they aim to strike a damaging blow to the culture of Islamic Revolution. In addition, the Persian BBC television network supports this channel and its loyal Bahá'í employees [among whom is also] 'Amir Ali', one of this network's hosts and a Bahá'í employee.*
>
> *"It should be remembered that in last year's Ashura incidents some of the operatives of the Bahaist group and other infidels were arrested.*

"By promoting dancing, music and other offensive acts, the 'Man-o-To' network is trying to spread insurgency while at the same time furthering its political activities against the Islamic Revolution."

[Comment: Manoto TV was launched in October 2010, and Kavosh TV later in 2010. Both of these new TV networks were launched by Marjan Television Network (based in London, U. K., for the Persian speaking audience), with original programming, interviews, viewer-created content and other entertainment created exclusively for Persian speakers.]

29 November - 05 December 2010

Web sites

"A New Era of Activities in the Virtual World by Misguided Bahaist Sect"

Source: Javan Online—affiliated with the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)

Content: On 28 November 2010, Javan Online reported:

"It [Javan Online] has learnt that with new plans from the House of Justice of the misguided Bahaist sect, training booklets, video CDs, and misguided books of this sect have now been uploaded on the Internet for downloading and distribution.

The leaders of this misguided sect have instructed their followers to make every effort to download these folders, print them, and widely disseminate them.

In this connection, a while back, some of the leaders of the misguided group were indentified and arrested in certain cities of Mazandaran Province."

"The Goal of Baha'ism is the Destruction of Shia Beliefs"

Source: Fars News Agency—government-affiliated

Content: On 1 December 2010, Fars News Agency reported on a talk given by Majid Mahdavi[4], the Deputy Vice Chancellor of the Islamic Propaganda Office in Isfahan, while he was in Birjand (capital of South Kohorasan Province). He pointed to the history and the formation of the Bahá'í Faith and said, "Baha'ism has its roots in world-arrogance[5] but the main roots of this sect are in the ignorance of those who gravitate to it. Seyyed Kazem Rashti, a religious teacher from Najaf, resorted to extremism in explaining the Jafari jurisprudence. After him, one of his pupils by the name of Seyyed Ali Muhammad Báb claimed to be the Twelfth Imam. The Báb, however, changed his claim after a while by saying that he was the gate to the coming of someone who was the last prophet from God and His manifestation."

He added that "the peak of Bahá'í activity in Iran goes back to the time of the Pahlavi. For

[4] He published a research paper in 2005: A Study of the Activities and Development of the Bahá'í sect in Isfahan.

[5] A phrase often used in the political arena to refer to the United States.

instance, at the time of Abbas Hoveyda, one of the prime ministers of this time, centres with Bahá'í activities increased from 24 to 48 locations in a span of three years. One of those locations was Birjand. It was only after Ayatollah Boroujerdi expressed dissatisfaction that Pahlavi was forced to limit Bahá'í activities."

He ended by saying, "Bahá'ís exert most of their influence through economic and cultural means. They seek to destroy other cultures, especially the Shia culture."

Baha'is accused of being involved in attack against two Iranian nuclear scientists

Source: Khorasan News—government-affiliated

Content: On 2 December 2010, Khorasan News reported on the funeral procession of Dr. Majid Shahriyari. He is one of the two scientists who were recently attacked in Iran. He was killed as a result of an explosion; the other scientist, Feraydun Abassi, survived the attack.

In the same report it is mentioned that Habeliyan Information Centre (the national centre for the families of the martyrs) has confirmed the involvement of the opposition faction in the above mentioned attacks. Seyid Javad Hasheminezhad, chief director of the Habeliyan, stated that "identification and exposure of the martyr Shahriyari and Dr. Abassi was done by the infidel opposition faction. The information was passed on by the Bahaist sect to the Zionist regime, which carried out this cowardly assassination."

Seminars and Symposia

"Bahaism Created by the British"

Source: Fars News Agency—government-affiliated

Content: On 1 December 2010, according to a report by Fars News from Birjand (capital of South Kohorasan Province), a seminar was held on the study of movements, and analysis of perverse ideologies, dedicated to the "misguided Bahaist sect". Kazim Lotfiyan, the Chief Director of the South Khorasan Society for the Propagation of Islam, said, "the Bahaist sect was formed by the British and their allies." He further expanded and made the following remarks about the Bahá'í Faith:

- Sometimes erroneous ideologies establish themselves as sects; this is indeed impossible to advance without defensive, political, and financial support in order to stand firm in opposing a divinely ordained doctrine;
- Should Bahaism be examined in the context of a misguided political ideology, it becomes clear that Russia and Britain formed it in the 19th century with the objective of encountering Shi'ite doctrine;
- Bahaism's zenith of power was during the Pahlavi regime, and since the revolution this ideology has been in decline;
- It is the divines' and clergy's responsibility, at this important juncture, to fully study this sect's ideologies and design programs to dispute these vain beliefs;
- Currently, political pressure is applied on countries to recognize Bahaism;

Followers of this sect became optimistic during the 2009 upheaval. Many families participated and were later arrested

13 - 19 December 2010

Web sites

Bahá'í Faith mentioned in article on "degeneracy" in student dormitories at universities

Source: Jahan News—government-affiliated news agency

Content: On 13 December 2010, Jahan News reported on the state of degeneracy in the student dormitories in all of Iran's best known universities. The articles states that, owing to the presence of the Internet, the university residences are centres for prostitution and other immoral activities among the students. In addition "in some places, especially the dormitories of the Tehran universities, the spread of ethnocentrisms, devil worshiping, and Bahaism is clearly visible…Atheism is widespread, and the authorities are so busy with political debates and other issues that they have totally overlooked the morality issues at the residences." The article warns that if left unchecked, this could severely threaten the stability of the university environment.

Allegations about teaching activities of Bahá'ís in Isfahan

Source: Javan Online—affiliated with the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)

Content: On 13 December 2010, Javan Online reported on the "teaching" activities of Bahá'ís in the City of Isfahan (referring to the study of the Ruhi books). According to the report, Bahá'ís have resorted to targeting people from the poorer strata of the society, such as labourers and workers, who are taught the basic tenets of the Bahá'í Faith and who then take Bahá'í booklets to their cities and villages in the neighbouring province, resulting in the further dissemination of Bahá'í materials.

The report notes that this Bahá'í literature pays tribute to the Holy Imams. It also states that in a deliberate attempt to reduce negative publicity and to keep the readers happy, the Bahá'ís do not claim, as they have done in the past, that the Bahá'í Faith is an independent religion. The report goes on to describe the books as follows:

"Among the published booklets is a book called "Reflections on the Life of the Spirit"...also a booklet entitled The Hidden Words, with a CD of the same name, has been distributed among the workers.

The Hidden Words, after the Iqan, the holy book of the Bahaists, is one of the authoritative and holy books of this sect, which contains sentences and words of guidance for the devotees.

One of the policies of the misguided Bahaist sect is to provide [financially] for the individuals who support this sect. It seems that the policy of approaching and attending to the economically vulnerable strata with the aim of material support is for the purpose of gaining the confidence of these individuals.

In the meantime this misguided sect has targeted a section of the society which is not

sufficiently endowed with analytical power and easily believes the lies of this sect."

"Disrespect Towards Muharram by the Misguided Bahaist Sect"

Source: Javan Online—affiliated with the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)

Content: On 17 December 2010 Javan Online reported that the Bahá'ís organized joyful gatherings during the [solemn Islamic observance of the] month of Muharram. The report further elaborates:

"After the activities during the election last year and in particular the disrespect shown on the day of Ashura, the followers of the misguided Bahaist sect, on the excuse of celebrating the birth of their leader ... conducted joyous gatherings and celebrations.

A report has been received from one of the cities in the northern part of the country that in the home of one of the leaders of this misguided sect a special gathering had been organized."

Seminars and Symposia

Isfahan holds first Teacher Training Programme on "refuting" the Bahá'í Faith

Source: Iran Quranic News agency (IQNA)—government-affiliated

Content: On 9 October 2010, IQNA reported that through efforts of the deputy of Isfahan's Educational Department for the Propagation of Islam, the first teacher training aimed at equipping participants to refute the Bahá'í Faith had been held in that city. Following three workshop sessions, which had over 500 participants, 30 were selected to enter the research phase of the programme. Abdul-Majid Khatib, the director of the Isfahan Educational Department is cited as having said, "The objective of this program is to familiarize the clergy with newly emerging ideologies. It is to prepare them to respond, research, explore, and debate on the subject of Bahaism. Keeping in mind the credulity of the youth and their unfamiliarity with these types of cults, it is important to familiarize and educate the clergy regarding these perverse sects. This mandate is already included in the guidelines of the Deputy of Education. This educational programme will continue until May 2011.

"Bahaism Not Worth Critiquing"

Source: Iran Quranic News agency (IQNA)—government-affiliated

Content: On 27 November 2010, IQNA reported on a conference on the "Critique of Bahaism," held at Imam Khomeini International University in Qazvin and attended by Hojjatoleslam Seyyed Mohammad Anjavynezhad, the Secretary of the Rahpouyan Vesal Shiraz Cultural Organization.

The article reports that in his speech to the university's students, Anjavynezhad criticized the selection of the name for the topic of discussion and said, "There is nothing about the Bahá'í sect that is worthy of being critiqued… at the time of the Qajar dynasty, as the kings were busy with their own decadent lives, the Zionists were busy planning the creation of a new

world order, based on their own ideology. The Zionists distorted cultures to suit their own goals and to attract people. They created changes in all the areas of people's lives. The only area they could not touch upon was people's religion, because people were strong and committed to what they believed in. The Zionists began their war on religion by creating the so-called Bahá'í religion… at that time ninety percent of the Iranians were illiterate." The Zionists took advantage of this and created a religion "that appealed to the youth and to those who wanted to maintain the appearance of a religion without observing any laws."

The article also points out that Anjavynezhad pointed out inconsistencies in Bahá'í teachings and principles and said that the Bahá'í Faith is nothing but the free interpretation of teachings borrowed from other religions. "And even though Bahá'ís question the station of the last prophet of Islam, their leaders refuse to get into a debate with others today."

Anti-Bahá'í meetings held weekly at University in Arsanjan

Source: The information site for the Ministry of Science, Research and Technology (www.dof.ir)

Content: On 13 December 2010, the information site for the Ministry of Science, Research and Technology reported on a series of anti-Bahá'í weekly meetings held at the Payam Noor University in Arsanjan (Fars Province), focussed on the Bahá'í Faith and on Satanism. The posting on the Web site states that students looked into the Bahá'í Faith's origins, and learned about its basic facts and principles. In addition, they examined the subject of "devil worship" in relation to "Bahá'ísm".

Training Workshop for Teachers of Islamic Studies

Source: The information site for Islamic Development Organization (www.ido.ir)

Content: On 17 December 2010, the Web site of the Islamic Development Organization reported that a one-day training workshop had been held in South Khorasan for teachers and researchers of Islamic studies. It focused on developing scientific methods for responding to uncertainties and religious doubts concerning the principle of Theological Protector (Válí-i-Faqíh), and regarding "misguided sects". The training was conducted by Hujjatu'l-Islam Hassan Ziya'i Touhidi, a professor at the Qom Seminary. One hundred people attended the training session. Each participant received an educational handout that included books, along with a number of CDs. It was announced that similar workshops will be held on Bahaism in selected cities, including a debate on the Bahá'í Faith to be conducted in coming weeks at the University of Birjand (the capital of South Khorasan).

20 - 26 December 2010

Web sites

"Enemy Has Targeted the Nation's Religion in the Internet War"

Source: Fars News Agency—government-affiliated

Content: On 18 December 2010 Fars News published an article concerning a speech of Ayatollah Muhammad Ja'far Khoshnevish (Alhadi), the Director of the Centre for Studies

of Hadith in Qom, at a gathering in Omidiyyeh (Fars Province). The speech focussed on the use of the Internet to undermine the religious beliefs of the people, which the Ayatollah referred to as the "soft war". During his presentation, the Ayatollah, whilst accusing the Bahá'í Faith of being a creation of and assisted by the United States and Israel, added that "every time a Bahá'í is arrested in Iran, the Americans' cry is heard, which is a sign of the support of the White House for the Bahá'ís." He also stated: "When Iranian pilgrims travel to the Arab regions, the Bahaist sect makes every effort to deceive them by setting up shops in these countries. This can cause individuals to turn away from religion…"

He further added, "After the victory of the Revolution, heads of the Baháíst sect fled Iran, but unfortunately some of them have recently returned and have been making every effort to reach their evil goals."

Article asserts that "two Bahá'í operatives" fled to America while free on bail

Source: Javan Online—affiliated with the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)

Content: On 18 December 2010 Javan Online ran a short piece claiming that "two Bahá'í operatives", who were released on bail after their jail sentences, fled to Turkey and are heading towards America. The two, with the initials "Z. S." and "J. D.", who were arrested on charges of propaganda against the Islamic Republic and the spread of immorality, have reportedly received their American visas.

The article further claims that in order to force the two operatives to go back to Iran, the Bahá'í institutions tried to prevent the issuance of their visas to the U.S., but they did not succeed and the two are fleeing to America.

Steps taken to centralize training for groups that promote and defend Islam

Source: Rasa News Agency (www.rasanews.ir)

Content: On 20 December 2010 Rasa News Agency reported on an interview with Hojjatoleslam Vahid Babada'i, the vice president of propaganda for the Seminary Centre in Tehran Province, in which he described the plans of the centre for the current year. He indicated that the intention is to centralize the various groups that promote and defend Islam ("propaganda groups") so as to make their efforts more effects. He further stated that those who are engaged in these activities must be prepared through teacher training and workshops and that they also need to become familiar with "sects such as Wahhabism, Christianity, Bahaism and Zoroastrianism."

Bahá'í Children's Publication

Source: Shia News—government affiliated; story has been carried on several other pro-regime sites.

Content: On 21 December 2010 Shia News wrote that recently a children's magazine, *Nineteen*, was distributed at one of the townships in the Province of Fars. The content of the magazine aims to influence the minds of the children with the Bahaist sect's destructive ideas. One of the goals of the sect is the educational program known as Ruhi, which was created for

the ideological deviation of children.

Iran Seda Network begins series of anti-Bahá'í radio programs

Source: Jam-e-Jam Online (*www.jamejamonline.ir*)

Content: On 21 December 2010 Jam-e-Jam Online reported on a special series of radio programs being broadcast on Iran Seda, an Internet based radio station. The series is titled "Rootless Clusters" and purveys the usual distortions of the Bahá'í Faith's history and teachings. The article states that eight segments of the program have been recorded and are ready for listeners.

Warning about activities of Bahá'ís and Christians in Iran

Source: Shabestan News Agency (www. shabestan.ir)

Content: On 21 December Shabestan News published an article regarding a warning issued by Ayatollah Moghtadaie, the Director of Seminaries in the country about the exerted efforts of the Bahá'ís and Christians to attract youth. Addressing the members of the Board of Directors of the Association for Religious Studies, he is reported to have said: "Our expectation of you is to hold activities across the country, and in order to prevent corruption, you must plan, design, and carry forward the scholarly activities within universities." He also pointed out that 120 billion tuman (approximately US$100,000,000) is needed to combat the present situation.

Seminars and Symposia

Seminar in Qom reviews role of the Islamic Revolution in dealing with the Bahá'í Faith

Source: Ayandeh Rowshan News (www.bfnews.ir)

Content: On 21 December 2010 Ayandeh Rowshan (Bright Future News) reported that the Supreme Leader's foundation at Pardis University in Qom has considered offering educational programs on the subject of deviant sects. One of the programs is titled of "The Role of the Islamic Revolution in Dealing with Bahaism".

Consequently, a conference was held on 29 December at Qom University and a speech was given by Hojatoleslam Mohammad Mehdi Nasouri, one of the veteran teachers in the area of Mahdism. The meeting was attended by students and the faculty at the university. Nasouri offered documents from the former regime pointing to the regime's role in increasing the influence of the Bahá'ís among the masses. Nasouri further delineated the Islamic Republic's role in halting these activities in the country. He said that the revolution was one of the elements that saved the nation from the conspiracies that the active elements of this sect had planned and were executing against the population. Clips and documents about the activities of the Bahá'ís were displayed at the conference and explanations surrounding their activities were presented.

27 December 2010 - 2 January 2011

Web sites

Bahá'ís accused of seeking to undermine relationship between Iran and India

Source: Fars News Agency—government-affiliated

Content: On 28 December 2010 Fars News published an article insinuating that through the support of Bahá'ís in India, America is trying to damage the relationship between Iran and India. The article further explains that India is still a virgin territory with a vast amount of natural resources. Not only has it a large consumer society, it is also rich in mines and other resources, which makes is attractive to the greedy Western governments. The increased trade between Iran and India has made the American government worried. Americans fear that they may be losing their grip in Asia. As a result, they are trying to establish various religious sects in India, so that they can quietly increase the gap between Tehran and New Delhi. The article goes on to say that the American government is trying to strike a blow to the Islamic Republic by three means: support of the Bahaist sect in India, support of Al-Qaeda and Jund-ullah in Pakistan and Afghanistan, and support of reformist groups such as the Green Movement.

It is further insinuated that the American support of the Bahá'ís in India serves two purposes. On the one hand, Bahá'ís are used as a means to chase away the competition in the region, and on the other hand, they help to gather information and intelligence on the economic and military status of the Israeli government in India. Even though Israel and the U.S. are allies, in reality they do not trust each other, the article said, and that is the reason Washington has decided to use Bahá'í s as its intelligence-gathering arm in the region.

Assertion that Bahá'ís are colluding with Israel to undermine national subsidy cut plan

Source: Iran Newspaper on Network (www.inn.ir)

Content: On 25 December 2010, INN published an article in which Majid Abhari, Consultant for the Majlis' Social Affairs Commission, gave an optimistic view of the economy despite the sanctions imposed by the international community. The article stated: "He believes that the nation has reacted positively to the government's subsidy cut plan. Referring to the efforts made by the Zionist lobbyists to sabotage the efforts made by the government in relieving the sanctions, Abhari said, 'After the victory of the nuclear programme and the disappointment of Zionist lobbyists, the insurgency, and Bahaism, this ill-fated triumvirate now has devised a new machination. Through dissemination of rumours, they wish to emphasize the shortcomings of the national plan.' Under the leadership of President Ahmadinejad, the ill-fated triumvirate has failed once again."

Bahá'ís accused of using pyramid marketing schemes to instil doubts about Islam among unwary Muslims

Source: Javan Online—affiliated with the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)

Content: On 1 January 2011, Javan Online reported that one of the most common tactics of misguided sects is to plant doubts in the hearts and the minds of the faithful about their religious beliefs. The article further asserted that Bahá'ís employ knowledgeable people to

insert doubt in the minds of those who believe in a single God and that it has recently been observed "that the misguided Bahaist sect has turned to pyramid schemes and Gold Corporation tactics. The operatives of this misguided sect extend invitations to pyramid gatherings, with the assistance of charismatic individuals under the guise of clerics and gather in these meetings to conduct such economic violations, only to tear down the beliefs of the invitees."

University student Web site attacks the Bahá'í Faith

Source: The site of the Student Mobilization Group of Shiraz Industrial University (www.zaminesazan.com)

Content: The site has begun the publication of a series of anti-Bahá'í articles, the first of which was published on 24 December 2010. The article presents a grossly distorted view of the history of the Bahá'í Faith. It also paints the Bahá'ís as a blood-thirsty group that is merely pretending to be peaceful. Among the assertions made in the article are the following:

- Bahá'ís pretend to be peaceful, whereas in reality they are hostile towards Islam and the Shiites; therefore, combat against them is essential.
- The Bahá'í Faith is "a sect of Babism"; Azal is the true successor of this movement."
- The Bábí history was written in the *Noqtatu'l Kaf*. The Bahá'ís destroyed all the copies of the book except for one.
- The aggression between Bahá'ís and Moslems has resulted in violence on both sides. Bahá'ís have used this to influence public opinion and to portray themselves as a wronged community.

Publication of a new periodical, *Cult Studies*, at Mahalat University

Source: Iran Quranic News Agency (IQNA)—government-affiliated

Content: On 25 December 2010 IQNA reported that Yasser Haeri, an expert in cultural issues at Azad University–Mahallat branch (Markazi Province) said that through the efforts of the university, the periodical *Cult Studies* will be published during the month of Mohharram. In it, subjects such as Satanism and related issues will be examined. The purpose of the publication is to train students to deal with the spread of various sects, "including Bahaism". Yasser Haeri is cited as having stated that "introducing young people to and educating them about the goals of Bahaism and other sects, and ways of dealing with them, are among society's priorities today."

"The Difference Between Bahaism and Other Divine Religions"

Source: Tebyan-Zanjan—Tebyan is a network of sites affiliated with the Islamic Propaganda Organization (www.tebyan.net)

Content: On 25 December 2010, Tebyan published an article outlining the reasons why the Bahá'í Faith should not be considered a divine religion. The article asserted: "…all monotheistic religions adhere to three principles: belief in a single God, belief in an eternal life, and belief in reward and punishment in the afterlife. Since the Bahá'í Faith is lacking in all these three principles, it should not be considered a divine religion." The article went on

to say that the Bahá'í Faith "was created by the enemy, especially Russians, intentionally to bring harm to Islam."

Article asserts that Bahá'ís sought to topple the government during Ashura last year

Source: IUS News (Iranian University Students News)

Content: On 25 December 2010, IUS News published an article reiterating many common false allegations against the Bahá'í Faith, whilst also claiming that the Bahá'í s were among the anti-government groups who had planned and failed to topple the government during last year's Ashura incident. The article asserts that under the direction of the Americans, "the enemy had implemented soft war tactics to overthrow the government, but their hopes were dashed at the end. Further, with the presence of the Bahá'í World Centre in Israel it was evident that the Zionist regime had played a part in the activities against the Islamic Republic. At the same time, Obama's government supported the insurgents on the day of Ashura."

Headmaster of seminary calls for measures to combat propaganda by "sects such as Bahaism"

Source: Rasa News Agency (www.rasanews.ir)

Content: On 25 December 2010 Rasa News quoted Hojjatol-Islam Amir Abbas Akbari, the new headmaster of the Elmol-Hoda seminary in Tehran as having stated that "religious tendencies in the society are amongst the concepts that require research by religious activists." The article further indicates that Akbari had noted that "today, with the propaganda from misguided sects such as Bahaism and with the emergence of new religious concepts, it has become essential to give logical answers to the youth regarding their theological questions. It is also essential to remove their doubts with the aid of research, so that their concerns can be dealt with in a practical manner."

Bahá'ís accused of spreading their teachings through "Western-style fashion houses"

Source: Jangnarm—a site dedicated to preserving Islamic values and combating the ongoing soft war (jangnarm.com)

Content: On 25 December 2010 Jangnarm reported on the threat of the opening of "a number of Western-style fashion houses in the capital": "They operate secretly and are spreading fast in various corners of the city. In addition to selling brand name clothing, they also spread the teachings of misguided sects like Bahaism to the youth. According to the statements obtained from the customers, the price of merchandise in these fashion houses is high, and gaining access even requires an admission fee. Only the very affluent sector of society is able to frequent these places. According to Majid Abhari, an expert in behavioural sciences, "in order to confront these centres and in order to meet the needs of young women in society, women's organizations must invite and ask for the cooperation of dedicated designers and artists among them."

Warning that satellite networks are "spreading misguided religions"

Source: Masir-Sabz (masir-sabz.ir)

Content: On 25 December 2010 Masir Sabz reported: "According to the latest available information, of the 1,900 free and coded satellite networks which can be received in Asia, 322 are networks that spread materials about misguided religions— Bahaism and other quasi-religious groups. An official from the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting network (IRIB) has recently created a documentary aiming to explain the nature of religious satellite networks and helping viewers to distinguish between authentic and quasi-religious networks. According to him, the best strategy to confront satellite threats is to familiarize families and especially the youth to avoid the pitfalls associated with such networks.

Seminars and Symposia

Anti-Bahá'í symposium at Tehran University

Source: DOF -- The site of the Office of Cultural Affairs of the Ministry of Science and Technology (www.dof.ir)

Content: On 25 December 2010, DOF reported on the Fifth Research Exposition at the University of Tehran, conducted under the auspices of Pardis (a research faculty in Qom). The main speaker at this conference was Muhamad-Reza Ziyaei Bigdeli, who is the son of the founder of the College of Qom. In his address he stated that Pardis had been established 40 years ago "for the purpose of combating Bahaism". He then gave an overview of his father's achievements over the past few years.

Anti-Bahá'í courses in Markazi province

Source: Fars News Agency—government-affiliated

Content: On 26 December 2010, Fars News reported on plans outlined by Mostafa Mashayekhi, the Director General of Islamic Culture and Guidance of Markazi Province, for training courses in Mahdism. According to Mashayekhi, the holding of short training courses in Mahdism is an effective tool for combating various sects. He asserted that the enemy is invading the culture of Islam with the help of soft war, and an increase in the level of insight and knowledge is required to combat the enemy invasion. To do so, proper deepening in Mahdism is needed. The courses will have 40 hours of in-class and 20 hours of outside training time. At the end of the courses, students will receive certificates from Qom's specialized centre in Mahdism. The courses will include a number of topics such as: critique and familiarity with Wahhabism, Salafism, Bahaism, Christianity, and Zoroastrianism; learning about women's rights and the unit of family according to Islam; responding to doubts; learning methods of advertising, propaganda, and oratory. More than 100 people have registered to take part in the courses.

3 January - 16 January 2011

Web sites

Iran's former Foreign Minister accuses Bahá'ís of "serving foreign interests" to undermine the Islamic Republic

Source: Fardanews—site dedicated to news and analysis (www.fardanews.com)

Content: On 26 December 2010, Fardanews published an interview with Ali Akbar Velayati, the former Minister of Foreign Affairs. Velayati, who has 30 years' experience in foreign policy, 16 years with the Foreign Ministry, and 13 years as consultant to the Supreme Leader on international affairs, is of the opinion that there is no possibility of diplomatic relations between Iran and America in the near future. Further, he believes that when Communism finally left the political stage, the West began to seriously contemplate a policy of guided democracy, meaning that countries were no longer able to independently form their own governments. This resulted in staging a number of velvet revolutions, as was witnessed in Ukraine, Georgia and Kyrgyzstan.

Velayati asserts that a similar plan was devised for Iran with the aid of various groups. He offered an example, saying, "Look at Bahaism, what an organized system it is. From the time of Muhammad Shah Qájár until today it has been serving foreign interests. There are a number of other networks similar to them. They all joined in, and this continued until 2009 when they aimed to topple the Islamic Republic. Their fight was not with weapons but through the internet. This meant undermining the Islamic government from within. Only when the truth came out, it became clear what a grave danger had passed the country."

Criticism of call by Canada's Foreign Minister for release of former members of Yárán (leadership group) and others

Source: Journalist Club (science.yjc.ir)

Content: On 2 January 2011, Journalist Club wrote a short article criticizing the call by Lawrence Cannon, Canada's Foreign Minister, for the release of the former members of the Yárán (leadership group). The article states, "Lawrence Cannon, on the eve of the new Gregorian year, in a bizarre broadcast statement, demanded the freedom of the misguided Bahaist sect leaders. In the same statement he supported Nasrin Setoudeh and demanded freedom for Sakineh Ashtiani, who is in prison for the crime of murdering her husband."

Allegations of pressure exerted on Bahá'ís by the Bahá'í administration; and Bahá'í Faith accused of using pyramid marketing methods

Source: Resalat News—government-affiliated (www.resalat-news.com)

Content: On 2 January 2011, Resalat News (a political, cultural, economic and social newspaper) dedicated a full page to the topic of the Bahá'í Faith. In a series of three articles, the Bahá'í Faith was discussed from three perspectives.

The feature article was an interview with Sayed Kazem Mousavi, a "scholar and researcher". His statements, in response to a series of questions, included many common misrepresentations of the Bahá'í Faith's history and aims. He was also cited as having indicated that the Faith "is currently involved in widespread propaganda throughout Iran", and that it "should not be considered a religious minority, but a political faction". He further

asserted:

The Baha'i administration negatively affects the lives of individuals and their families. The obligation of teaching the faith has caused individuals to fall behind in their academic and career goals. Many are also suffering from mental illnesses due to the structure imposed by the Bahá'í administration.

A number of pyramid companies in Iran are related to Bahá'ís. In particular, the start of the work of Gold Quest in Iran coincides with that of Ruhi. They employ the same methods to attract and delude people.

The second article accused the Bahá'í Faith of being one of several instrument used by "Zionism" in its "soft war" against Iran.

The third article presented a distortion of early Bábí history. According to the article, "the Báb claimed to be the Twelfth Imam with the support of the Tsarist Russian Embassy. Under the leadership of Bahá'u'lláh, the Bábís later on changed their name and called themselves Bahá'ís. He [Bahá'u'lláh] was followed by 'Abdu'l-Bahá. At this time, a closer tie was established between the Bahá'ís and Great Britain. He was formally involved in preparing the land for the Jews in Palestine. Until the time of Shoghi Effendi, Bahaism was considered a sect, but during his time it changed to become a cult and the Bahá'ís became more organized and more destructive. Bahaism should be considered the root cause of the formation of the Zionist state in Palestine."

"From 'Abdu'l-Bahá to Simon Gass: who are those that England makes "Sir"?

Source: Sedaye Shia (the voice of Shia)—site dedicated to news and analysis (www.sedayeshia.com)

Content: On 4 January 2011, Sedaye Shia commented in an article on the bestowal of a knighthood on Simon Gass, the former British ambassador to Iran. The article claims that most of those who have been given knighthoods have committed the highest acts of treachery against Iran. Among other examples, the article presents the case of 'Abdu'l-Bahá: "'Abdu'l-Bahá received the title "Sir" for espionage and other services that he rendered for the British government." In the case of Simon Gass it is written that he has received the title for being a British operative during the recent troubled times in Iran, referring to the Ashura incidents. He has written an "offensive" book about Iran, which proves that "in order to be called "Sir" by the English, no fewer traits than rudeness, treason, espionage, a willingness to oppose Islam and a readiness to start a coup are required."

Allegation that Baha'is were in coalition with other groups in riots

Source: Kayhan Newspaper Web site—official government newspaper

Content: On 5 January 2011, Kayhan quoted Hussein Shariatmadari, the Supreme Leader's spokesperson, as having said:

During the 88 riots, Khatami and Mousavi, openly and without any hesitation, formed a coalition with the participation of Bahaists, the monarchists, Marxists, and all other

terrorist groups who were against Islam. According to records, they followed the model of the velvet coup, which is adopted from the Zionists... the triangle of the U. S., Britain, and Israel clearly provided financial and other support to the leaders of the revolt, to the extent that Shimon Peres called them 'Israel's greatest assets in Iran'. Netanyahu named them the Israeli soldiers, who are fighting with the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Zionist regime. Obama also called the support of conspirators one of the important strategies of America in confronting Islam, and the Islamic movement.

Cultural Commission member calls for report on activities of Bahaism and Christianity

Source: Ayandeh Roushan (Bright Future) (www.bfnews.ir) with reference to the site of the Journalist Club (www.yjc.ir)—affiliated with the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting)

Content: On 7 January 2011, Ayandeh Roushan wrote about the need for the Ministry of Information to provide a report of the activities of the Bahá'í Faith and Christianity to the Cultural Commission, as follows:

Concerned about the spread of Bahaism and Christianity, Sayed Ali Taheri, the representative from Gorgan and Agh-Ghala (Golestan Province) and a member of the Cultural Commission in Majlis (parliament) said that 'The Ministry of Information should provide a complete and accurate report to the Cultural Commission about the institutions and the centres that promote these sects.' The submission of the report in a timely fashion will enable the Commission to investigate these centres in more serious and consistent ways. He further added that the Ministry should provide the details of the activities of these two within the framework of NGOs and at the same time, with a letter, request the Commission to deal seriously with these anti-Islamic activities.

Accusation that the Bahá'ís are engaged in proselytizing aimed at children

Source: Javan Online—affiliated with the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)

Content: On 7 January 2011, Javan Online published an article claiming that the Bahá'ís have placed on their agenda a new round of planned proselytizing activities for children. It stated that one of the methods is the use of animated films that have been employed over the years by the colonial governments for cultural induction. Further:

"One of the veteran Bahá'ís, with the initials B. A., who also has a position at BBC International Network, in partnership with one of the Hands of the Cause, with the initials H. T., is planning to produce an animated film especially for children, with a focus on introducing the teachings of the misguided Bahaist sect. It is noteworthy that this is in line with the close cooperation that this group has [demonstrated] in the production of programs for the Manoto network. Informed observers are surprised that a television network headquartered in London can be constantly using the voice of the Hand of the Cause in the U. S."

Hojjatoleslam calls for methods of combating the Bahá'í Faith to be improved

Source: Hawzahnews.ir

Content: On 8 January 2011, Hawzah News ran an article in which Hojjatoleslam Alireza Trashiyun, the director of the office of sects and religions of the district, criticized the amateurish ways with which the emerging sects are dealt, which will only result in their gaining popularity. He said, "Unfortunately we see that sometimes great seminars and gatherings are held for criticism of sects like Bahaism, which only make them more important; and in turn give great satisfaction to their followers. Many followers of Bahaism would like its name to be mentioned, even if negatively." He further implied that the Bahá'ís have found new grounds for their activities in educational centres and preschools. In addition, Wahhabism and Zoroastrianism are active in the guise of concepts such as national identity. "Fortunately, the training of 3500 clergy in the field has great potential to combat and confront the spread of the misguided sects."

Cultural Commission special meeting to deal with the Bahá'í Faith

Source: Journalist Club (www.yjc.ir)—affiliated with the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting

Content: On 8 January 2011, the Journalist Club wrote that the vice chairman of Majlis' Cultural Commission, Mohammad-Javad Aryan-Manesh, has reported that special sessions were held to deal with "the secret cult activities of Bahaism". Aryan-Manesh, who is Mashhad's representative in Parliament, is reported to have said, "The misguided Bahaist sect is involved in several activities, such as holding secret meetings, organizing parties and get-togethers, and creating various Web sites, all with the purpose of creating diversion and confusion in the minds of the general public, especially those of the youth. Several of these activities have been stopped through the wisdom and hard work of the officials…The commission has had several meetings to deal with the Bahaist sect and hopes to eliminate this cult altogether."

Study of orientalists' role in contemporary Iranian history re-examines Browne's work

Source: Kayhan Newspaper Web site—official government newspaper

Content: On 10 January 2011, Kayhan ran an article in which it examined the role of orientalists in the context of contemporary Persian history. The article looks at Edward Browne in particular and examines different aspects of his work as it relates to Iran:

Regarding Browne's writings and reflections on Bábí history, it is said that Browne reported that segment of the Persian history with bias and sympathy towards the Bábís. One should not accept his claims of being unbiased as he purposefully intended to highlight the Bábí movement. "Notwithstanding the harsh objections of the people towards the Bábís, Browne insists on their innocence and the oppression suffered by this group. It is further noted that the volume of work he produced and the attention he gave to the plight of the Bábís are all indicative of his favouritism. It could be said that he was the most influential figure who acted from outside the organization of this group."

"Bahaism is the new product of colonialism"

Source: Mashregh News (www.mashreghnews.i), Ebtekar News (ebtekarnews.com)

Content: On 10 January 2011, at least two Web site published details of an interview with Fatimeh Alia, the Majlis representative of the people of Tehran and a member of the National Security and Foreign Policy Commission, in which she repeated many common distortions of the Bahá'í Faith's history. She is also cited as having stated:

> *While initially [the Bahá'ís] pretended not to be politically active, they are now permitted [by colonialists] to take part in politics. They were active during Pahlavi regime; and their involvement was witnessed once more in the elections of last year and during post-election riots. They operate by deceiving youths; reports received throughout the year are indicative of it. Based on these reports the National Security Commission has had many sessions and has asked the assistance and cooperation of other units, including the Ministry of Information, Protection Corps, police and other institutions to combat the emergence of such a sect.*

Shah accused of having given Bahá'ís access to public endowments

Source: Fars News Agency—government-affiliated

Content: On 10 January 2011, Fars News published the opinions of Hojjatoleslam Hujjat Gonabadi Nezhad, the director of Khorasan-Razavi gift donations and endowment fund. First he spoke on the importance of oversight and proper expenditure of the endowment funds by suggesting a number of solutions to stop wastage. He then said, "Before the revolution, the perverse Pahlavi regime took management and control of the endowment funds away from the clerics and gave it to individuals within the royal palace…Bahaism has taken the most advantage of the endowment funds and the Pahlavis had given this sect too many opportunities." He then goes on to praise the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic for his leadership in enforcing proper oversight.

Anti-Bahá'í programs on Sima television on 15 and 16 January

Source: Raja News Agency—government-affiliated

Content: On 15 January 2011, Raja News reported on the airing of episode nineteen of a documentary series called "the Zionist sects", which is to focus "on the roots of the misguided Zionist sects, such as Babism and Bahaism". The program aired on the Sima television channel on 15 and 16 January. The article announcing the programs stated:

> *In episode nineteen, for the first time on national media, historical documents, evidence, and explanations of experts and renowned historians are employed to demonstrate the role of underground Zionist groups in the formation of the misguided Babist and Bahaist sects. This is done at a time when the Western media, in particular BBC and VOA, are being firmly controlled by Bahaists, who are continuously active in the propagation of these Zionist sects in an effort to give them the façade and validity of religion. The program will include the verbal, written, and visual evidence that will show links between the misguided Babist and Bahaist sects with the Zionist groups...Further, viewers further will discover how Zionist associations had established the foundation of the Zionist regime in Israel more than 80 years ago by bringing the person of Hussein Ali Nouri to those regions. This not only reinforced the foundations of the Zionist regime, but also*

created ideological ties between Iran and Israel in anticipation of future plans to control our country and erect the second Israel."

Seminars and Symposia

Second round of anti-Bahá'í seminars in Isfahan

Source: Iran Quranic News agency (IQNA)—government-affiliated

Content: On 2 January 2011, IQNA announced that the second round of seminars critiquing the Bahá'í Faith will take place in Isfahan and that one hundred people will participate in the thirty-hour training sessions:

Abdulmajid Khatib, the deputy chief of the Islamic Propagation Office in Isfahan, said that the seminar will aim at analysing and explaining the root cause of the existence of this deviant sect. It will also look at its system of beliefs, objectives, policies and structure. He further explained that the training will familiarize scholars with the emerging concepts and prepare and empower them with research and analysis so they can respond to and debate on the subject of Bahaism. He further reminded [readers] that the vulnerability of the youth and their lack of familiarity with such sects require trained instructors. Therefore, training teachers in the subject is included in the education agenda.

Anti-Bahá'í seminar in Aligoodarz

Source: Iran Quranic News agency (IQNA)—government-affiliated

Content: On 2 January 2011, IQNA wrote that the head of the Office of Islamic Propaganda of the City of Aligudarz (Lorestan Province), has announced that a session on the topic of "Critique of Bahaism and Wahhabism" will be held for the guidance and information of the general public in Aligoodarz. He said that the "Pure Muhammadan Islam is the greatest blessing of God…it is watered with the blood of the martyrs. The enemy is trying to attack the unwavering and strong foundation of our beloved Islam. With God's blessings these corroded weapons will not have the strength to confront the power of faith and the insight of Shia."

Upcoming conference on "Iran and British Colonialism"

Source: Fars News Agency—government-affiliated

Content: On 3 January 2011, Fars News and a number of other sites reported that a special conference titled "Iran and British Colonialism" will be held in February 2011. The event will "investigate England's influence and operation within recent history in Iran". The association has invited scholars and historians to submit their research papers, preferably based on recent sources and reference documents, on a wide range of topics. One of the topics is "the role of England in developing ethnic, sectarian, faith and sect-related issues in Iran". Under this topic a number of themes are suggested, including "establishment and strengthening of misguided sects such as Bahaism".

Anti-Bahá'í training sessions in Qom

Source: Rasa News Agency (www.rasanews.ir)

Content: On 8 January 2011, Rasa News Agency wrote that, according to the officials in the Institute of Islamic Propagation in Qom, for the first time, a training session is being held in Qom aimed at "critical analysis of deviant sects". The head of the Training and Research Department of the Office of Islamic Propagation stated that at the first session 200 students participated, and two seminars have now been held. The Bahá'í Faith is among the topics to be covered in these sessions.

Discourse on "understanding misguided sects" for seminarians in Ashtian

Source: Islamic Development Organization (www.ido.ir)

Content: On 11 January 2011, IDO wrote that at the initiative of the Islamic Propaganda Headquarters in the Central Province, a discourse on understanding "misguided sects" was held for seminarians in Ashtian. The report states that Hojjatoleslam Azizi, a university professor and a teacher at the Qom Seminary, "identified the principles and pointed to the absurd belief system of Bahaism… the Bahá'ís practice certain principles without understanding their validity... if they are asked the reason for these principles, they have no answer. They consider the practice as an end in itself."

Reading competition in Hamedan focussed on anti-Bahá'í book

Source: Shabestan News Agency (www.shabestan.ir)

Content: On 11 January 2011, Shabestan News Agency ran an article about a major upcoming reading contest in Hamedan Province to be held in the next three months:

The competition will focus on a book entitled, "*Bahaism: a Foundation Weaker than the Spider Web*". Mohammad Kazem Sajjadi, who is in charge of Hamedan's Rooyesh Bureau of Cultural Studies and Research, the sponsoring organization, said that "the competition is aimed at familiarizing the people with the Bahaist sect and the harms of this evil cult." The competition is sponsored by Rooyesh Bureau of Cultural Studies and Research in partnership with the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, the Monitoring Committee, and the cultural and artistic centres at the Department of Religious Affairs. The official in charge said that 14 other government agencies are supporting the event. Sajjadi further emphasised that "people should become familiar with different denominations and their goals, because they are created to mislead Muslims, especially the future generation of Islamic society. Prizes are going to be given to those who provide correct answers to the 18 questions."

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Use of doors manufactured by Bahá'í-owned company banned for security reasons

Source: Fars News Agency—government-affiliated

Content: On 12 January 2011, Fars News announced a ban on the use of products by Achillan Door, a Bahá'í-owned company that manufactures doors. The ban is reported to be for security reasons: "Achilan Door is a company with Zionist ideology that belongs to the Bahá'ís. Their products have been used widely, for some time, in various sensitive centres and government agencies… And some time ago intelligence agencies in the country warned that these doors are used for covert intelligence operations and espionage purposes."

Bahá'ís accused of seeking to derail government's subsidy cut plan by hoarding goods

Source: Javan Online—affiliated with the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)

Content: On 23 January 2011, Javan Online reported on "the discovery of several warehouses that belonged to Bahá'ís and contained goods such as foods and petroleum products". According to Javan Online, this is an attempt by the Bahá'ís to derail the subsidy cut program that is currently underway in the country.

The subsidy cut is a major economic plan that the country has taken on, but it faces external and internal attacks before it has even begun.

As a result of the discovery of several new warehouses of hoarded goods, new dimensions to the opposition of the subsidy cut program have emerged.

Although some items were for their personal use, careful study indicates that the owners of a number of warehouses were Bahá'ís and that they had hoarded the goods based on orders from their administration... They have done this so as to create concern and tension among the public about food and other shortages in society.

Grand Ayatollah in Qom pleased with Islamic Seminary of Isfahan's opposition to Bahá'í Faith and other "ungodly and deviant sects"

Source: Fars News Agency—government-affiliated

Content: On 12 January 2011 Fars News published a report indicating that Ayatollah Saafi Golpaygani, who currently resides and teaches in the seminary of Qom, had expressed pleasure at the actions taken by the seminary of Isfahan "to oppose the spread of ungodly and deviant sects, including the misguided Bahaist sect." The Ayatollah also stated that aid and assistance must be provided to all the subordinate seminary schools in the region to increase their effectiveness.

Bahá'ís accused of awarding paid trips to those who join the Bahá'í Faith

Source: Raja News Agency—government-affiliated

Content: On 16 January 2011, Raja News quoted an unnamed source responsible for the admission of new people to the Bahá'í Faith, with the following misinformation:

Those who [convert] to Bahaism are sent on several trips abroad over the course of one year with all expenses paid for them. They are sent to the occupied territories of Palestine to visit the Baha'i grounds and their passports are not even stamped with the exit seal.

In recent Feast meetings in Isfahan, a statement from the House of Justice was read. The statement asks Bahá'ís to observe caution while teaching in public places. They are also asked to attract back [to the Bahá'í Faith] excommunicated members and those Muslims who have married Bahá'ís. With regard to teaching others, they are instructed to teach simply by defending [the Bahá'í Faith]. The same statement says to avoid teaching activities on a large scale.

Reports from Kermanshah indicate that teachers are asked by the [Bahá'í] administration to report back to them the details of their teaching activities. They report [to certain "centres"] on a daily and sometimes weekly basis, information such as statistics and the names of the newly attracted.

The emergence of a new generation of the Hojjatieh Society

Source: Jahan News (www.jahannews.com), and a number of other sites

Content: On 16 January 2011, Jahan News and a number of other sites reported that according to a site linked to Rahim Mashaie, a top advisor to the Iranian president, the Hojjatieh Society has changed its name to the "True Path." According to Hussein Allah Karam, a well-known political figure from Ansar-e Hezbollah:

Mashaie and his clique believe that "the time of the advent has arrived, and we must get close to four countries: Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Jordan, and Egypt". Allah Karam further criticizes [the Society's] version of the four principles around which this new approach is revolving: spirituality, kindness, peace, and justice, as follows:

1) Spirituality: by promoting the idea that religious law is not the only way to the spiritual truth, and that truth can be reached by way of [false] mysticism.
2) Kindness: by promoting the kind of fellowship that allows friendship with Israel.
3) Peace: by replacing the idea of holy war with that of peace, with the justification that if we summon [people] for peace we get five billion followers, but when we summon for holy war we get only one billion followers.
4) Justice: by taking the emphasis off of the fight for justice and battle with the oppressors, and putting it on man's own nature, by promoting ideas such as love, peace, kindness, etc. These are surely methods adopted by new age mysticism.

Broadcasting of panel discussions on Quran and foreign policy

Source: Shabestan News Agency (www.shabestan.ir)

Content: On 18 January 2011, Shabestan News Agency reported on the start of a new series of discussion panels in the month of February, which will focus on the Quran and foreign policy. These discussions will be broadcast from the Quranic radio network, Andisheh, and will include many experts in the field. The director of the radio network said that it was the responsibility of his network to respond to doubt and confusion prevalent in society regarding the Holy Book. Among the possible topics to be covered

are: Islamic consciousness, a perspective on the Quran and the tests of time— a topic that is often emphasized by the Supreme Leader, and on issues regarding the hijab, Israel, distortion of truth, and dispersion of doubt and confusion. The article further states: "At the conclusion of the series the focus will be on Bahaism and its role in causing confusion and projecting doubts about the Quran." The programmes are to be broadcast every week from Saturday through Thursday.

Severe criticism of Mrs. Shirin Ebadi for her defence and support of Bahá'ís

Source: Raja News Agency—government-affiliated

Content: On 19 January 2011, Raja News wrote that recently, at the University of Zanjan, a new journal is being distributed for free which has a biased ethnic approach. It is called *Bayram*, and while it is not a student journal, its source remains unknown. The article states that although recent issues of the journal have promoted ethnic discrimination, its distribution has not yet been restricted. It further states that the most recent issue, entitled "Nobel Women", included an article that strongly supported Shirin Ebadi, "the advocate for Bahaism and the anti-revolution fugitive." Raja News continues:

> *The story behind the presentation of the so-called "Nobel Peace Prize" to Ebadi goes back to 2003 when she was running against the Pope, who only lost because of his opposition to homosexuality, as a Swedish member of the Nobel Committee admitted. Shirin Ebadi supports and approves of illicit relationships between women. The other leading reason for receiving the Nobel Prize is said to be her open support of Bahaism.*
>
> *Ebadi's defence and support of Bahaism is so apparent and obvious that the "House of Justice"—the centre of Bahaism in Haifa, located in occupied Palestine—issued a statement in praise of and commending Ebadi for her courage in defending them.*

Concerns about pamphlets and sites promoting "false mysticism and misguided ideologies"

Source: Javan Online—affiliated with the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)

Content: On 19 January 2011 Javan Online published an article in which it warned: "In the last five years 197,000 titles containing material about false mysticism and the ideologies of deviant sects were illegally and secretly distributed in the country. In addition to that, there have emerged 440 Persian internet sites and more than 1,200 web logs, all promoting false mysticism and misguided ideologies. If even 500 pamphlets were published for each title, it can be concluded that more than 98 million booklets were created and distributed among people."

The same article expresses the opinion of Majid Abhari, a university professor and sociologist. According to him, the production and distribution of more than 98 million leaflets on the subject of false mysticism is alarming and is the result of poor management and policy planning by the 22 cultural institutions in the country. He is reported to have stated: "Unfortunately, despite spending a huge budget, the only output we have had are conferences, speeches and articles. While this is happening, the enemy has engaged in a soft-style war and is aiming to strike at the root of our system, which is our youth." According to him, the diversity of opinion among the policy makers themselves at the level

of political and cultural institutions has given rise to this problem. He further theorizes that "historically, tragedies like this have happened as a result of the existence of an ominous triangle. For example, in the Middle Ages, it was the triangle of the priests, the capitalists, and the politicians that brought about the exploitation of people. In this [current] situation, the emergence of false mysticism in Iran is the result of a triangle that consists of Cabbalists, Eckists (Eckankar) and the Bahaists." Abhari reminded readers that in this situation, cultural entities must remain more sensitive and become more proactive.

Education and development programmes to enable schools to deal with "deviant sects"

Source: Fars News Agency—government-affiliated

Content: On 19 January 2011, Fars News published an article concerning education programmes at schools that are to deal with "newly emerging deviant sects". The item reported that in an interview, Mohammad Javad Akhundi, assistant deputy at the Department of Education in Tehran Province, described the three steps that are required to combat the spread of deviant sects among students at schools: "The first step is to educate and empower the teachers who teach at all the secondary schools. The second step is to bring awareness and empower the school principals regarding the problem. For that reason, a twenty-hour training seminar was held last year which will be repeated this year. And finally, the third step is to hold twenty-hour empowerment and training sessions at the provincial level".

He further indicated that "an agreement has been signed between the Ministry of Education and the seminary of Qom, which will see to it that from the beginning of the school year, the clergy and teachers trained in theology will be active in Tehran Province. Teachers from seminaries within the province of Tehran also will be more active in the schools... Teachers from Qom seminaries have been asked to be available to go to schools on a weekly basis, to speak to students and answer their questions. Currently, these activities in Tehran Province are being vigorously pursued. Between 200 and 250 weekly meetings are held by these religious teachers in schools."

Akhundi also said that "the aim of deviant sects is not always religious. Sometimes their goal is political. Political ideas are being expressed in their meetings, ideas which are often against the Islamic Republic. Amongst the deviant sects are Bahaism, Satanism, Wahhabism, Hojjatieh, and New Christianity. Although the Ministry of Education has adopted good measures in dealing with these sects, the trend is growing day by day". He added that the British, Americans and Israelis are behind the emergence of these sects. Their books and pamphlets are published and disseminated in Iran with their help. To combat the trend, 900 Quranic schools have opened throughout Tehran Province."

Article on "newly-born" sects that attacks the Bahá'í Faith

Source: Fars News Agency—government-affiliated

Content: On 19 January 2011, Fars News published an interview with the contemporary historian, Siyyid Kazim Mousavi, on the underlying motivation for the creation of new religious sects in Iran. He stated, "The activities of evil ideologies and newly-born sects in Iran during the reformist government were escalated by the invitation from the Ministry of

Culture and Guidance to Paulo Coelho[6] (Brazilian lyricist and novelist) [to come to Iran]. This led to the widespread activity of sects in the country, and created favourable conditions for the penetration of foreign influence." Mousavi also stated, "The intention of the West in creating various sects is to create a widespread rift within Moslem societies, particularly Iran." To demonstrate his point, he gave some historical background of the Second World War and the Vietnam War and linked it to the post-election upheavals in 2009 in Iran. He said, "The sedition of 88 is living proof of the perverse sects' activities in their attempt to strike at the foundation of Islam." He also made a historical comparison between the Bábí movement and that of 88 Ashura. He further insinuated that Zionism is behind all this, making explicit reference also to the Bahá'ís: "One of the most vivid examples of this is Bahaism, which can simply be referred to as the birth of Zionism. The focus of this sect is to damage the essence of the religion [of Islam] that is indeed the Iranian national identity." Mousavi declared, "Currently, with the support of international Zionism, these sects are making every effort to strike at our national heritage and contest our cultural values. They have targeted [Iranian] national security and have been supported by the West, under the leadership of international Zionism, America, and Britain."

He ended by implying that even pyramid schemes are a paradigm of newly-born sects: "A casual look at the behaviour of pyramid schemes reveals that they function in the same way as sects do. Pyramids may be motivated by financial gain, but they serve the same purpose, which is to damage the religious beliefs of people through the spread of new ideologies. Evidence shows the collaboration between Bahaism and pyramid schemes. The launch of the Quest Pyramid scheme in Shiraz was simultaneous with the launch of the 'Ruhi Plan.' There are a number of similarities between their training methods."

Finally, he warned that the newly emerging sects are targeting the youth and that only by strengthening religious beliefs among the youth, can they be immunized against the influences of these deviant sects.

Bahá'ís accused of attracting adherents by creating "friendships" with others

Source: Javan Online—affiliated with the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)

Content: On 23 January 2011, Javan Online wrote that one of the ways that the misguided Bahaist sect has been able to spread its views is by creating friendships with people. Through that method, whenever they mention their misguided and deviant beliefs, the audience would simply think that a friend is sharing his or her own personal experiences.

Javan Online goes on to report: "…in Semnan there is a Bahá'í with the initials K.P., who by pretending to be a sewing instructor, gets close to young women in that city and starts to teach them about Bahaism. The mentioned individual claims that the Imam Zamán [Qaim] has appeared, and was executed during the Qajar reign. It is further claimed that now the

[6] In an article in Mashregh News (http://digarban.com/node/287), Paulo Coelho was characterized as "a perverted writer whose writings promote lawlessness, homosexuality, adultery, witchery, and use of drugs among other things. His work aims to destroy any and all moral values and advocate uselessness of religion in society." The same article concludes that the import of the works of Coelho to Iran is part of the plan by the West to infiltrate and destroy Iranian society with imported cults and false mysticism."

governing body of Bahaism is the trustee of the religious affairs of all the peoples of the world."

"The rapid spread of Wahhabism, Christianity and Bahaism, a warning that should be taken seriously"

Source: Sedaghat News (http://www.sedaghatnews.ir)

Content: On 24 January 2011, Sedaghat News warned that the promotion in universities and schools of sects such as Bahaism, Christianity and Wahhabism should be taken seriously. Vali Esmaili, the representative in parliament from Garmi (Western Azerbaijan), was cited as having stated that "in the past few years, the activities of various poisonous and deviant sects sponsored by the Christian missionaries, the misguided Bahaist sect, and Wahhabism have been witnessed in every nook and corner of the country, and despite confrontations these activities still continue today. Following the activities of these misguided sects in regions such as Western Azerbaijan, Kurdistan, Khorasan, Semnan, and Sistan and Baluchistan, now the activities have extended to the distribution of their CDs and films in schools and universities in the country." The report also stated that he had said: "This is the hand of the enemy at work to promote misguided ideologies among the Iranian youth…if this trend continues, we will witness the rise of a generation that is faithless, lawless, and irresponsible."

Library specializing in sects and religions inaugurated in Tabriz

Source: Rasa News Agency (www.rasanews.ir)

Content: On 25 January 2011, Rasa News reported that a library specializing in sects and religions had been launched for the use of researchers and scholars in the seminaries of Tabriz in East Azerbaijan. The article indicated that in this library there are more than two thousand books on religions and sects, including some books that are considered rare and unique. Hojatoleslam Mikael Eskandari reportedly said that "contributing to the awareness of deviant sects and false mysticism was of utmost importance" at his office and that training sessions on sects are being held across the province. He emphasized that these training sessions are for the purpose of empowering the influential strata of society to be able to "confront deviant sects, familiarizing educators with Islamic mysticism, and preventing the penetration of deviant thoughts into society".

"The aim of the soft war is the weakening of culture and the weakening of moral values through infiltration of the educational system"

Source: Isfahan Metropolis News Agency (IMNA) (http://www.imna.ir)

Content: On 27 January 2011, IMNA published an article in which the fundamentals of the ongoing soft war were discussed. In an interview, Lotfali Sheybani, head of the department [responsible] for recreation, art and culture at the Ministry of Education in Isfahan province, reportedly said that "the enemy has chosen culture and the moral value systems as grounds for engaging in soft war. As a result, their main focus is the schools. He further stated that the ministry had organized eight training workshops in the months of December and January and invited coaches and educators to take part in them. Sheybani also indicated that "the perverse sects, including Bahaism, devil-worship, Wahhabisim, the

Hojjatieh Society, modern Christianity, etc., are busy with activities around the country. One of the activities is the promotion of Bahaism in the schools around the country. By establishing educational centres, day care facilities, and non-profit organizations, Bahaism is able to reach its evil goals." He asserted that "the intentions of perverse sects in schools are also political because they discuss political themes in their meetings and promote hostility against the Islamic Republic of Iran". He announced that from the beginning of the new educational year, religious educators and the clergy will conduct weekly activities in the provincial schools of Isfahan Province, and that the main function of these religious educators is to present the Islamic teachings and respond to the religious questions of the students.

30 January 2011 - 06 February 2011

Web sites

Bahá'ís accused of seeking to corner the pharmaceutical goods market on instructions from Israel's Mossad

Source: Jonbesh (www.jonbeshsh.com), news and political analysis site, and Jahan News

Content: On 1 February 2011, Jonbesh and Jahan News published the following report:

It has been reported that recently, through well-organized plans and with the help of members outside Iran, members of Bahaism have decided to enter the market for the importation of pharmaceutical goods, with the intention of completely dominating it in the future.

According to instructions given to the Bahaist sect by Mossad, the [Israeli] spy agency, taking hold of the import of pharmaceutical drugs has the potential to cause challenges and disturbance in the country at opportune times.

Article includes reference to alleged activities of Bahá'í optometrists

Source: Sedaghat News (sedaghatnews.ir)

Content: On 30 January 2011, Sedaghat News issued a repeated warning to its readers in an article about the increased activities of "the misguided schools of Christianity, Wahhabism, and Bahaism", with particular reference to the Bahá'ís in Chabahar (Sistan and Baluchestan Province). The report states that

"...some of the members of Bahaism have initiated new activities in the city. In particular, those who are in the optometry profession are holding bimonthly meetings where political and other issues regarding the province and the country are being discussed. As part of their activities, they distribute hats with English and Persian propaganda slogans such as "Khan Bahai" and "Brave Baluch" written on them. They are distributed among students. These are also sold openly in the bazaars.

"A warning to young women about the spread of newly born ideologies"

Source: Khedmat Online (www.khedmat.ir)

Content: On 31 January 2011, Khedmat published an article in which it issued a warning about the spread of newly emerging sects and cults in Iran. The article states:

Mahi-Alddin Ghanbari, a researcher in the field of theology studies, is of the view that the attraction among youths towards newly-emerging ideologies is on account of social pressure. He explained that social pressures on young women, between the ages of 18 and 30, causes them to join these new sects. In his analysis, he referred to the teaching method employed by various groups in their efforts to attract the youth. The practice of Yoga, the cult of Osho, the sects of Sunni and Bahaism were given as examples of these newly emerging ideologies. Ghanbari explained that some of these sects are born out of the previous religions in an effort to revive them and make them attractive to the youth; such is the case with Bahaism. It is claimed that both Bahaism and Osho have devised the same method for attracting the youth. 'These sects use various methods to teach, through the publication and dissemination of books and booklets, Internet outreach, face to face discussions, study circles, etc.'

"The Bahaists' claim of non-involvement in politics is nothing but a lie"

Source: Javan Online—affiliated with the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)

Content: On 1 February 2011, Javan Online criticized Bahá'ís for allegedly not observing their own principle of non-involvement in politics. According to this report, one of the official Bahá'í sites (whose name was not mentioned in the article) had recently published news of the death of a well known political figure during the reign of the Shah. The article states:

Based on their beliefs, they never involve themselves in politics. But looking at their actions, you can easily see a considerable disparity between what they claim and what they do. By observing the actions of this group, one can firmly assert that what they claim is nothing but a mirage of lies and deceptions.

A few days ago an announcement was released by the Global Network of Iranian Green Seculars [http://www.seculargreens.com] regarding the passing of Dariush Homayoun, the Minister of Tourism during the rule of the Bahá'í-born [Prime Minister] Hoveyda. The message was immediately reflected in the outgoing messages of an official Bahá'í site. With this action, they have clearly stepped beyond the Bahaist institutions' slogan of non-involvement in politics.

This destructive cult violates its own slogan whenever it can and acts according to its malevolent character. Another example of this is the instruction given by the administration to all the followers to take part in the unrest of 1388, particularly on the day of Ashura. We continuously witness the evil triangle of Bahaism, the Monafeghin (the enemies of the government), and the Monarchists, linked together in an unbreakable chain. They have shown their presence in all of the bitter incidents that this nation has had to withstand from the beginning of the revolution until today. This is all because of the refusal [of this nation] to surrender to superpowers headed by America and the totalitarianism of Britain.

Now, judge for yourself with a fair mind! Can the release of this announcement on their official Web site be anything but involvement in politics?

Seminars and Symposia

Symposium on the study of "misguided sects, cults, and other denominations" in Bam

Source: Islamic Republic News Agency (www.irna.ir)—government-affiliated news agency

Content: On 29 January 2011, IRNA reported that the Islamic Propaganda Organization hosted a one-day seminar to study the misguided sects, cults, denominations and various religious factions in the city of Bam (Kerman Province). Invitees were the staff of the Ministry of Education, various officials, the divinity, university students, pupils, and other layers of society.

Director of the Sects and Religious Organizations, and professor of the Divinity Centre, Hussein Rajabi, was the speaker at this symposium. He explained how fragile the road ahead is and how the enemy is making every effort to strike at the core of pure Islam by means of a soft war. They have targeted directly the youth, who have delicate hearts and can easily be attracted to the methods employed by the enemy. He then focused on the activities of "newly-born sects", including the Bahá'í Faith. In his concluding remarks he stated that "Bahaism's stronghold is in the occupied territories of Palestine and they have branches of operation in the cities of Shiraz, Karaj, Tehran and northern parts of Iran such as Gonbad".

"Academics attend a seminar to learn more about the misguided Bahaist sect"

Source: Hamandishi (hamandishi.net)—site of seminars for faculty and academics

Content: On 30 January Hamandishi reported that 36 professors from various disciplines had participated in a meeting of professors of Islamic Azad University, Shiraz unit, "to familiarize the professors with the origins, and analyze the activities of the misguided Bahaist sect". The article further reported that the professors requested another such meeting "to further familiarize themselves with the beliefs of this misguided sect".

Training session to familiarize young scholars with "newly emerging sects and religions"

Source: Hawzah News (www.hawzahnews.ir)

Content: On 31 January 2011, Hawzah News announced that the Institute for Sects and Religions is holding training sessions for religious scholars, in order to familiarize them with newly emerging religions, sects, and mystical concepts, including the Bahá'í Faith. The report also stated that participants must be 35 years of age or younger and would be chosen following a phone interview,

7 - 13 February 2011

Web sites

Bahá'ís accused of helping Mujahidin leave Iran for Palestinian territories

Source: Raja News Agency—government-affiliated

Content: On 5 February 2011, Raja News published the following piece:

The Bahaist sect was called upon by the Mujahidin for consultation about the transfer of the Mujahidin to the occupied Palestinian territories.
The Mujahedin also asked the Bahaist administration to help in removing the name of their group from the black list maintained by the American CIA. The Bahaist sect agreed and further consulted with the clique about transferring them to the occupied Palestinian territories.

Bahaism has great influence in America. The return of Jalal Talebani and Nouri Al Maleki to power in Iraq has caused fear among the Mujahidin. They have therefore turned to the Bahaist sect regarding this.

"The Islamic Propaganda Office is monitoring the activities of misguided sects"

Source: Fars News Agency—government-affiliated

Content: On 6 February 2011, Fars News published an article quoting from the head of the Islamic Propaganda Office in Dena (a town situated on the boundary of the Isfahan, Kohgiluyeh va Buyer Ahmad, and Chahar Mahal va Bakhtiyari provinces). He stated, "The Islamic Republic has full oversight of the activities of deviant sects and religions in Iran, including those of Bahaism." He further confirmed that the scope of the activities to combat such sects is wide and vast in his office, so much so that the office is also monitoring the teaching activities in other towns, including the towns of Chitab and Pataveh (in the region of Kohgiluyeh va Buyer Ahmad). He added that "representatives from his office visit the village of Kata, which is the centre for the activities of the misguided Bahaist sect, on a regular basis and stop the progress of their activities in the village."

Bahá'í Faith accused, alongside other "cults", of brain-washing people

Source: Khabar Online (khabaronline.ir)

Content: On 7 February 2011 Khabar Online published an article about "the new concern of the Iranian society, which is the rise of newly emerging sects and cults". According to the article, even parents of the youth in the country are expressing concerns that their children are being manipulated, brain-washed and led to believe in sects such as "Bahaism, devil worshiping, Wahhabism, and Neo-Christianity with a Zionist approach, and even mysticism and spiritual beliefs such as Buddhism and Yoga with specific inclinations, Osho, meditation, etc…In the second half of the twentieth century, the modern world witnessed the appearance of new religious groups and sects. Some of these new religious cults originated from major and traditional world religions, and some claim to be new and independent; some have organized institutions similar to the classical religions and others

have not. Numerous sociologists and religious scholars have tried to find the reasons for the manifestation and formation of these new sects and their increase in popularity, especially in the modern world and societies." The article concludes with a description of the Jonestown incident as an example of the kind of hold such cults have over their followers and as a warning to the people of Iran.

Muslim clergy urged to be proactive and systematic in "confronting" the Bahá'í Faith

Source: Iran Quranic News agency (IQNA) —government-affiliated

Content: On 8 February 2011, IQNA wrote about the role of the clergy in confronting perverse sects in the country. By being proactive and through wisdom and systematic actions, the clergy is in the position to combat deviant sects, which are currently growing with international support.

Hujatul-Islam Mohammad-Sadegh Yosefi Moghaddam, the director of the Centre for Culture and Education on the Holy Quran at the Department for Islamic Cultural and Scientific Research, stated: "If the clergy does not take responsibility for this, these sects will deceive our youth. Along with the clergy, the government, families, and every member of society must shoulder this responsibility." He declared that "Bahaism is one such misguided sect that is undoubtedly political, while its headquarters are in Israel. They are secretly conducting their activities in our country and the clergy must, with a systematic approach, stay proactive against this perverse sect." He pointed out that "in some parts of the country, houses of individuals are turned into home-based churches...these individuals trap our youth by various methods, and deceive them through illusory activities."

Bahá'í Web sites named among "opposition" Web sites

Source: Digarban (digarban.com), and Parsdailynews (parsdailynews.com)

Content: On 11 February 2011, Digarban and at least one other site published a report about sites and weblogs that support the opposition in Iran (the "Green Movement"). The report, produced by the "Observation and Evaluation Unit" of the Strategic Office for the Security of the Islamic Republic, presents a breakdown of the numbers and indicates that there are currently 1700 sites and Weblogs belonging to the monarchists; 970 sites belonging to the Mujahidin (sometimes this can reach up to 1500); 39 sites belonging to the communists; 100 sites belonging to the Bahá'ís; and another 2500 sites belonging to various other opposition groups. The report calls the collection of all these sites the "overthrow media".

Bahá'ís mentioned in unity prayer gathering in Rafsanjan

Source: Islamic Development Organization (IDO) (www.ido.ir)

Content: On 9 February 2011, the public relations representative of the Office of Islamic Propagation in the city of Rafsanjan reported that at the unity prayers organized in the city of Rafsanjan—attended by the temporary Friday prayer leader, the Governor, and the head

of the Office of Islamic Propaganda—Hojatol-Islam Rezanejad, an expert in sects and religions from the seminary of Qom, gave a warning about the Bahá'ís. He said: "Bahaism is the product of Western policies of exploitation and seeks to shift the foundations of thought and the social makeup of the Islamic population. Bahaism's goal is to overthrow the governments, and assume power in various countries."

Three episodes broadcast in documentary series on the Bahá'ís

Source: From a Web log (smostaghaci.persianblog.ir/post/398/)

Content: "The Secret of Armageddon 4: Project Ghosts[7]" is the name of the fourth collection in a series of documentaries that has been airing on Iranian State television, the Símá[8] Television News Network, since 2008. This particular collection has 26 episodes. They have been written and directed by Said Mostaghasi and produced by Reza Jafariyan. The three episodes that aired on 19, 20, and 21 January 2011, focussed on the Bahá'í Faith. Following is a summary of some of the points made in each of these episodes, as described on the Weblog.

Episode 19: "Zionist Sects"—This episode focuses on the origin and the formation of Zionist sects such as Babism and Bahaism.

- *One of the most fundamental aspects of Shiite Islam is the belief in Mahdavíyyat[9] which has throughout the centuries been the regenerating power for growth and development of the Shiites against all injustice and discrimination. That is the main reasons that Zionists have tried to destroy this belief.*

- *The enemy has created falsified sects to derail the efforts of Islam and the belief in the Promised One. During the Middle Ages, the Zionists created Kabalah[10], in order to create falsified ideologies to derail Islamic beliefs. Amongst such misguided sects are Babism and Bahaism, which were created during the Qajar dynasty.*

- *Historic documents and evidence will be presented to demonstrate the role of the underground Zionist groups in the formation of the misguided Babist and Bahaist sects. This will air while the loudspeakers of Western media, particularly those of the BBC and VOA, which are controlled by the Bahá'ís, are making every effort to give the façade of legitimacy to these sects.*

- *Evidence will reveal the relationship of the Báb with the Sasouns clan that orchestrated the world Zionist kingdom in Baghdad.*

- *The handwriting of Hussayin-Ali Nouri (Bahá) in prayers revealed for the health of the British Queen will be seen.*

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[7] The Weekly Standard published an article on 11 February called "Iran's Conspiracy Industry" where extensive references are given to this documentary. The link : http://www.weeklystandard.com/blogs/iran-s-conspiracy-industry_547321.html

8 Sidá va Símá: Iranian Government official Radio and Television programming

[9] Promotion and propagation of the ideology of the return of the Promised One (Mahdí)

[10] Kabbalah is a discipline and school of thought concerned with the mystical aspect of Rabbinic Judaism

- *Viewers will see Abbas Effendi ('Abdu'l-Bahá) bestowing honour on Israel as the promised land; his pictures with the Zionist heads of state; and a unique picture showing him at the British knighthood ceremony.*

- *This episode will portray how Zionist groups began to plan the formation of an Israeli state even 80 years prior to when it was formed. They did that by sending Hussein Ali Nouri and Abbas Effendi there. Later on, the administration centre of the misguided Bahaist sect was also established there. In the meantime, they tried to create ideological ties between Israel and Iran to execute their future plan, which was to conquer Iran and change it into the second Israel.*

- *A photocopy of Ali-Muhammad Báb's repentance letter and the evidence of his illiterate personality will be shown.*

  <u>Episode 20: "Revolutionary Terrorists"—</u>This episode will establish the link between the misguided Bahaist sect and various anti-Iranian and anti-Islamic activities during the past few decades.

- *Reliable sources will confirm how this misguided sect and its agents directly participated in a number of incidents aiming to wipe out and destroy Islam in the past two centuries. Among such activities were the efforts of Bahaism and Azalism to derail the goals of the Constitutionalist Party of Iran, and to push it towards the British, all in an attempt to destabilize Iranian society.*

- *Following the establishment of the Constitutionalist Party of Iran, terrorist organizations such as "The Punishment Committee" were formed to make it possible for Reza Khan Pahlavi to come to power. He and others were trained under the Freemasonry and Zionist organizations.*

- *The secret meetings of Abbas Effendi with the Freemasonry from Britain will be revealed. It will also reveal the collaboration between the Bahá'í leaders in Akka, Israel and the British Embassy.*

- *The atrocities of individuals like Nabil-ul Dawlih Unsur, the chairperson of the Bahá'í Assembly and the chargé d'affaires of the Iranian Embassy in Washington will be revealed. He was the person responsible for the coming of the Americans to Iran and the Middle East.*

- *Shocking documents from SAVAK[11] will show that the high ranking officials at the time of the Shah such as Amir Abbass Hoveyda and Assadullah Alam belonged to Bahaism. Their confession of espionage for the Bahaism headquarters in Israel and their link to it will be revealed.*

- *It will be revealed that the Shah's physician, General Ayyadi, and other high ranking staff of SAVAK, such as Parviz Sabeti and Nimatullah Nasiri, as well as a number of other government officials, and nine members of the cabinet at the time of Hoveyda, were Bahá'ís. This is in spite of their claim that Bahaism does not involve itself in politics.*

[11] SAVAK (Sāzemān-e Ettela'āt va Amniyat-e Keshvar, National Intelligence and Security Organization) was the secret police, domestic security and intelligence service established by Iran's Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi

- *A shocking document will be released that will show that the service of Hoveyda as the prime minister was actually approved by the House of Justice in Akka.*

- *This is the first time in the history of this nation that the terrorist plots and espionage activities of the misguided Bahaist sect are revealed on national media.*

  Episode 22: the "Dream of the Promised Land"—In this episode some of the previous themes are repeated along with other new revelations.

- *With the efforts of the misguided Bahaist sect the strategy, prior to the Islamic revolution, was to turn Iran into a second Israel.*

- *The misguided Bahaist sect acted as an arm of international Zionism during the monarchist regime to systematically influence the political, military, and cultural branches of the Shah's regime.*

- *The timeline to take over Iran and turn it back to the hands of international Zionism will be revealed. Both the Bahaists and Zionists consider Palestine as their promised land. The Bahá'í administration in Israel also calls Iran the Promised Land or the land of God.*

- *The message of Shoghi Effendi in 1944 to the Bahá'ís of the world to conquer Iran will be shown.*

- *A map will be shown that is based on nineteen plans to conquer Iran as instructed by Shoghi Effendi in his writings.*

- *A letter of gratitude from the Bahaist Assembly to General Parviz Khostavani after his massacre of Muslims on 5 June 1963 will be revealed.*

- *The role of Habib Sabet in the execution of Tayyib Haj Rezai will be discussed.*

- *Documents by SAVAK on the involvement of the Bahá'í Assembly in the attack on Fayziyyih school will be discussed.*

Seminars and Symposia

Commencement of training on Bahaism in Rafsanjan

Source: Islamic Development Organization (IDO) (www.ido.ir)

Content: On 9 February 2011, IDO reported about the commencement of training on Bahaism in Rafsanjan (Kerman Province). Amir Zynly, the public relations representative for the Office of Islamic Propaganda in Kerman said, "Due to the expansion of deviant sects across the province of Kerman, training [is being provided] on Bahaism with the purpose of familiarizing the sections of society which are more vulnerable within the city of Rafsanjan." He added, "In this training course, 200 of the resident clerics, Friday prayer imams, and missionaries of the city of Rafsanjan were present." In this event, one of the

scholars from the seminary in Qum gave a speech about Bahaism. He said, "Through and through, Bahaism is for the interests of Israel. It stems from Babism, while Babism stemmed from Shaykhieh." He requested the cooperation of the clerics and the Friday prayer imams to prevent the expansion of deviant sects, and assist with cult awareness, especially awareness of the youth as regards Bahaism.

14 - 20 February 2011

Web sites

Families of the Bahá'í prisoners present their case to the US Commission

Source: Serat News (www.seratnews.ir)— pro-regime Web site for news and analysis

Content: On 13 February 2011, Serat News wrote about the few family members of the Yárán (leadership group) who recently met the US Commission. It reports:

The families of the Bahaists who are imprisoned for the crime of spying for the Zionist regime and acting against the national security are appealing to the US government for help. They attended the commission known as "Religious Freedom" and asked the members to use all their power and take action to follow up the situation of these Bahá'í prisoners and to improve the condition of the followers of this misguided sect in Iran.

The members of the US Commission are chosen by the White House, and the Congress, and their duty is to review the cases of religious freedom violation around the world. In practice, however, they apply the same double standard and use their power to pressure those countries that are not in line with American policies.

During the meeting, Leonard Leo, the director of the commission, disregarded the exclusive freedoms given to religious minorities by the Islamic Republic of Iran, to the extent that they are free to perform their own worship and even have representatives in the Islamic parliament, saying, "The government of Iran has a horrendous record of human rights violation and particularly freedom of religious minorities in Iran, especially the Bahaists. It is important to us to clarify what is happening to the Bahaists in Iran."

It is worth mentioning that from the time of its inception in the mid-nineteenth century, the misguided Bahaist sect was supported by British colonialism, and later by the Americans. This was done with the purpose of creating divisions among the Shia community of Iran, and exploiting it whenever it was needed. It was also for the sake of service to colonial England that 'Abdu'l-Bahá was honoured with the title of Sir from this colonial government during world war one.

In the process of its formation, Bahá'u'lláh, the founder of this sect, first announced himself as a messenger of God, but later on claimed Godhood; at present his grave is in the city of Akka in occupied Palestine, and is the Qibleh (point of adoration) for the followers of this misguided sect.

Also, the individual members of this misguided sect, if not involved in misleading activities, are as entitled as other individuals of this country to all the rights of citizenry.

Bahá'ís accused of being among those who fomented anti-government riots

Source: Irib News (www.iribnews.ir)— pro-regime Web site for news and analysis, including the international news

Content: On 16 February 2011, Irib News published a talk of Hojjat'ul-Islam Kabbi, a member of the Assembly of Experts in Iran. While praising the nation's bravery on 22 Bahman (11 February, the anniversary of the Islamic revolution), he reminded the audience that the riots of 25 Bahman (14 February, day of protest against the government) were instigated by the enemy, including the Americans and the Zionists. He blamed the "foreign media, Twitter, Facebook, and Bahaism" for bringing people out to the streets to riot. He said, "They have orchestrated Internet protest to achieve their ends."

Bahá'ís accused of taking part in the "Israeli turmoil of 25 Bahman" in recent rallies

Source: Javan Online—affiliated with the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), and several other sites

Content: On 16 February 2011, Javan Online and several other sites reported:

Seven people from the deviant sect of Bahaism, who were highly influential in the turmoil of 14 February[12], and were operating according to instructions from the House of Justice in Israel, were arrested by the Intelligence forces.

With the arrest of a number of Bahaist elements, it is now evident that the Israeli government, along with a number of other leaders of revolt, orchestrated the rallies and created the turmoil on 14 February in Iran.

"Bahaism is looking for legitimacy in Iran"

Source: Mofid News (www.mofidnews.com)— pro-regime Web site

Content: On 19 February 2011, Mofid News published an article from the Centre for the Strategic Studies of the Student Movement in which an analysis of the situation in Iran after the tenth presidential election was given. A considerable part of the article dealt with the role of the Bahá'ís.

Following the tenth presidential election, certain incidents occurred in the country that indicates a new trend of machination in the Islamic society of Iran. This machination is based on a new wave of attacks through the soft war that the enemy had begun several years ago.

The collaboration of foreign enemies and international Zionism was able to create the right environment to encourage all opponents of the Islamic Republic including the monarchists, members of the Communist party, liberals, nationalists, Bahaists, devil worshipers, etc., to gather under a unified political movement, in an effort to create a political upheaval in Iran and finish off the Islamic Republic. It was this expectation that led to the post-election events.

[12] 14 February 2011 (25 Bahman) was the day of protest against the government, organized by Green Movement in Iran.

The article then went into the role of Bahá'ís more specifically, and under the sub-heading "Giving legitimacy to the misguided Bahaist sect" it said:

A review of the political, economic, social, and cultural changes in contemporary Iran indicates that the colonialists are exerting every effort to strengthen the presence of the misguided Bahaist sect in Iran. This is in an effort to wipe out the essence of religious and national identity in Iranians. During the years of Mashrutiyyat (Constitutionalist Party of Iran), cooperation between the misguided Bahaist sect, the Russians, and Muhammad-Ali Shah is never forgotten by the modern thinkers of Iran. While the country was under the influence of foreigners, Bahaism's slogan was to consider the "world as one country", and in their effort to serve the evil objectives of the foreigners, the Bahaists tried to take away two of the most important identities of an Iranian: Islam and nationality. They challenged this by firstly, denouncing Islam, and secondly, calling for an international world government. But what needs to be focused upon today is that the misguided Bahaist sect is seriously trying to eliminate the gap between itself and the Iranian society with the help of its missionaries. This point should be kept in mind, that right after the tenth presidential elections, the reformist movement has become an effective tool in the hands of the misguided Bahaist sect, to the extent that Bahaists themselves have publicly stated, "The reformists have brought the Bahá'í community from the periphery to the centre of those with forward thinking." And in return, the sedition has "accepted Bahaism as a member of the Iranian civil society." But the real objectives of Bahaism's institutions that they wish to reach through reformist movement are:

1. *That the topic of Bahaism should come off of the agenda of the clerics and the ayatollahs;*
2. *Preparation of the right environment for the Bahá'í community to become a part of the Iranian civil society;*
3. *The subject of Bahaism should come off the agenda of the intelligence or the security services, and that it should be recognized as part of the cultural and social domain of society;*
4. *The elimination of the historical background of Bahaism that has thus far been in the service of exploitation, and subsequently treating Bahá'ís as ordinary citizens of this country;*
5. *One of the important goals of the Bahá'í administration is to enter the civil society debates such as human rights and citizenship rights. Currently the only way the Iranian Bahá'í community could penetrate into the Iranian civil society is through citizenship rights. In this effort the role of certain individuals such as Shirin Ebadi becomes more pronounced.*
6. *Another significant objective of the Bahá'í administration is to make it known that it is not necessary for large numbers to become Bahá'ís at the first stage. It is enough that the rest of Iranians accept the Bahá'ís alongside themselves in the beginning.*

It seems that today the movement of sedition is part of a number of secret layers of the Bahá'í administrative institutions that supports them under the pretext of human rights and religious freedom.

<u>Representative of Supreme Leader in Semnan warns students against involvement with "emerging sects and Bahaism"</u>

Source: PANA (Pupils Association News Agency) (www.pana.ir)—government affiliated Web site for students. PANA has branches in all the provinces.

Content: On 13 February 2011, in an interview with PANA, the representative of the Supreme Leader in Semnan Province emphasized that the students must avoid becoming involved in recently emerging sects and the Bahá'í Faith. He further said that in the soft war the enemy is aiming to create a divide between students and the clergy. "The enemies' intention is to separate students from their education, families, and the Supreme Leader and they should be prevented from successfully carrying out their sinister schemes. The enemies of Islam are targeting the educational system and in particular the students."

"Wahhabism and Bahá'ís are the invention of the enemy to weaken the nation of Islam"

Source: IRNA (Islamic Republic News Agency) (www.irna.com)—the official news agency of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Content: On 16 February 2011, IRNA published excerpts of a talk given by Rahimpour Azghadi, a lecturer and political analyst on the subject of the necessity for unity within the Islamic world and in which he stated: "Wahhabism among the Sunnis, and Bahaism among the Shiites, are inventions created by the enemies of Islam to weaken the nation of Islam… These days the enemy has entered the arena with a new and unprecedented strategy of creating disunity and discord between Muslims, by forging new sects such Bahaism and Wahhabism, aimed at weakening the nation of Islam, by the Muslims and from within."

Referring to the bombing of a number of mosques during the past several years as examples of "new conspiracies by the enemy", he asserted that, "These actions have been launched by those groups that... are making every effort to destroy Islam." He also referred to the use of satellite television services as "a tool, under the pretext of supporting religious minorities in the Islamic countries".

He concluded by referring to the recent unrest in the Arab world and said, "Following 100 years of oppression, the Arab nations have now arisen, as we witness the circumstances of the Islamic world taking a [dramatic] turn. Two of these regimes have already fallen apart and several others are in line for their turn to fall."

Representative of Supreme Leader analyzes the world of Islam

Source: VeyQ News (news.veyq.ir)—its orientation is not known. Claims to be service oriented, while presenting news about various areas of general interest.

Content: On 16 February 2011, VeyQ News reported on a talk by the Representative of the Supreme Leader at the Iranian Revolutionary Guards Corps. He said that "creating division between Shiite and Sunni is one of the objectives of the universal arrogant powers in order to achieve their ominous plans."

He also highlighted recent developments and said, "The victory of the Islamic revolution had a great impact on the revolutions in Egypt and Tunisia and the Islamic revolution's reach is expanding every day."

He continued, "In the past four hundred years four different discourses have entered the country's political arena. The first and the second are nationalism and liberalism. The followers of these theories defined all of life based on liberal thoughts... The third is the Marxist and the atheist leftist views. The fourth discourse is of religious thought that advocates that all human life should return to the Quran, religion and the Islamic views." He noted that great men like Jamal-eddin Asad-Abadi and Ayatollah Boroujerdi were leading the discourse.

He further noted that in the past 200 years, two parallel currents have been at work, both "created by the international arrogant powers to isolate the world of Islam". The first is of an intellectual nature, while the second current is of a political nature, designed for the disintegration of the Islamic world. He further noted that the world of Islam must be grateful for the bounty and the blessing of having the Imam [referring to Khomeini] for preventing the disintegration of the Islamic world.

He also emphasized the efforts of the international arrogant powers in creating "phony religions such as Bahaism and Wahhabbism", "which have no foundation and are merely attempts to destroy the world of Islam."

"Bahaism among the fabricated religions" made by the English

Source: Khabaryaab (www.khabaryaab.com)—presents a collection of news items taken from other sites. Its orientation cannot be determined.

Content: On 17 February 2011, Khabaryaab published an article in which Mohammad Karim Abedi, a member of the National Security Commission of Majlis (Parliament) talked about the station of the Velayat-e Faqih (protectorship of the Islamic jurists). He implied that the creation of such a station in the Iranian political system was the first gift given to the nation by the late Imam himself [Khomeini]. His second gift was the strengthening of pure Muhammadan Islam. He is reported to have said, "The enemies had succeeded in derailing Islam after so many centuries. Islam had become Americanized. His Highness the Imam considered the governments of Hejaz [Saudi Arabia], Jordan, and Iran during the shah's time as governments with a fake practice of Islam, and pawns at the hands of the enemy. Britain is the first and foremost country for fabricating religions. All the fake religions, even communism, [were] designed by the British and by Zionism. Their plan is to conquer the entire world with the help of the Jews. The British created Bahaism. Then, to oppose Bahaism, they created another religion by the name of Hojjatieh Society. This very act delayed the occurrence of the Islamic revolution, because this society pretended to be fighting Bahaism while it was a fake all along."

Abedi then referred to "three important elements that the enemy uses for defeating the Islamic revolution, namely, the media, drugs, and fabricated religions...The enemy had realized that they could not fight Shiites with Sunnis. In order to combat the Islamic Shiites, they needed to come up with a different fabricated religion. That is how the Hojjatieh Society was formed, and later on Bahaism was created to strengthen the bonds among the Hojjatieh Society. Bahaism then gained access in sensitive and strategic places in the market place. They also began to promote superstitions such as Satanism and fortune telling, all of which have roots in the religion-fabricating habits of the British and the Americans."

"Iran will soon enter fields of battle" in Tel Aviv and Haifa

Source: Mashregh News (www.mashreghnews.ir)— pro-government Web site, with the mandate to help combat the soft war

Content: On 19 February 2011, Mashregh News quoted Mohammad Reza Naghdi, the commander of Basij and former chief of security and protection, as having stated to students and other academics at a gathering at the Islamic Azad University in Bandar Abbas, that: "The Islamic Republic of Iran will soon enter [for combat] into the fields of Tel Aviv and Haifa. This will not be for killing students or terrorizing academics, it will be to take revenge for the blood of the martyrs such as Sane Jaleh[13], Shahriyari[14], and a thousand others."

21 - 27 February 2011

Web sites

Bahá'ís alleged to be among those behind the protests of 25 Bahman

Source: Javan Online—affiliated with the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)

Content: On 19 February 2011 Javan Online called the protests of 25 Bahman (14 February) the "Israeli riots" and pointed out that "it was orchestrated by the Monafeghin (the exiled opposition group, Mujahidin-e Khalgh), monarchists, Bahaists and other terrorist cliques. The report further alleges that the organizers planned the protests along the lines of "the model used by the Mujahidin...of small isolated gatherings with a high level of violence."

Bahá'ís accused of having monopoly in one of the trade unions in Karaj (optometry)

Source: Alborz News (www.alborznews.ne)—News and analysis site, pro-regime

Content: On 22 March 2011 Alborz News and at least two other sites wrote about the economic activities of the Bahá'ís in Karaj (a suburb of Tehran):

Bahá'ís of Karaj, who have had a large presence in one of Karaj's trade unions, and have controlled it, are now trying to take over the union's key positions.

The presence of the Bahaist sect in Karaj goes back to the formative years of this sect. Some historians believe that a small number of them moved from the Shiraz area to Tehran; however they stayed in Karaj due to its good climate.

Due to the sect's practice of internal marriages, the city of Karaj has become the group's

[13] Sane Jaleh was a young student killed in the riots of 14 February 2011. After he was killed, the Iranian government claimed that Jaleh was a member of the Basij killed deliberately by the enemy. The opposition denied that claim and said that Jaleh was a member of the Green Movement. After he was killed, they said, the government had made fake credentials for him to announce him as a Basiji in an attempt to gain sympathy and to claim him as a martyr.

[14] Majid Shahriyari was a university professor who was killed in an explosion in November 2010.

community over the years. The financial affluence of many of these individuals and their practice of buying and selling land before and after the revolution demonstrate their keen attention to business ventures.

The presence of this group has provided the opportunities to infiltrate one of the trade unions in Karaj [refers to the optometry profession], and they are now seeking to infiltrate the executive positions within the union.

It is worth mentioning that recently some of these cult members who are working in the industry have protested against reading verses from the Koran at union meetings. They say that the place for reading prayers is at the mosques and not the union meetings.

At this time, many union members criticize the close ties that the more affluent members of this sect in this economic sector have with each other and they call for decisive ways to deal with this type of behaviour.

Bahá'í Faith is focus of sixteenth issue of monthly publication

Source: Rasa News Agency (www.rasanews.ir)—pro-regime site, initiated by scholars and researchers of Qom Seminary

Content: On 16 February 2011, Rasa News Agency reported the publication of the sixteenth issue of Shafafiyat[15]. It claims to be the first magazine specializing in supporting the victims of sects in Iran. A few of the topics dealt with in this issue of the magazine are: "Violence against Muslims, the first and last resort of the Bahaist Administration", "The struggle of Wahhabists to hide miracles begotten in Kaaba", "A look behind the curtain of Wahhabism and Islamophobia", "The security recommendation of the House of Justice to Bahaism's missionaries", "The activities of the Hojjatiyeh Society in the virtual network", "Mossad warned about the growth of Islam in Europe", "The anger of the CIA over the broadcast of Mokhtar-Nameh (a TV serial)".

Under the sub-heading of "The public disgrace of Bahaism by the Islamic Revolution," Rasa News wrote:

Part of this publication states: "The contempt of the leaders of Bahaism for the distinguished ecclesiastics and the seminaries who supported, encouraged and guided the people in their fight against the tyrannical Pahlavi regime, is evidence of the hostility of this sect towards the Islamic government.

Yes, in the thirty-year life of the Islamic revolution, Bahaism has never shared the joys and the sorrows of the people of Iran. Its view of the people and the Islamic revolution of Iran has been the same view as that of the American and the Israeli leaders. They claim to be religious, but their behaviour is quite different from that of other Iranians who belong to other divine religions like the Jews, Christians, and Zoroastrians. They perpetually await the downfall of the sacred Islamic Republic, in the hopes of regaining their lost position. Alas! Vain Imagining!"

[15] A monthly periodical, published by the Science and Cultural Institute [for] Spiritual Health. Website: http://behdashtemanavi.com/index.php

Bahá'ís said to be financial source for recently published encyclopaedia

Source: Mashregh News (www.mashreghnews.ir)— pro-government website, with the mandate to help combat the soft war, and a number of other sites

Content: On 16 February 2011, Mashregh News and number of other sites reported extensively about the publication of the "Danesh Gostar[16]" encyclopaedia, claiming that it was sponsored and financed by the Bahá'ís. The article mentioned Hussein-Ali Soudavar as the person responsible for the financial support for the encyclopaedia and claims that he comes from a Bahá'í family.

What is important about this encyclopaedia is the sponsorship of Hussein-Ali Soudavar, who is referred to very often in the media. All those involved with the production of the encyclopaedia attest to his financial influence and support in the compilation and production of it. That the family of Soudavar is among the veteran Bahá'í families in Iran explains the special attention that this publication is getting in the media, and also shows how the Bahá'ís are interested in having an influence on cultural issues.

The article then goes on to give the family history of Soudavar and mentions the following:

The Soudavar clan (going back to the grandfather of Hussein-Ali Soudavar) was among the many pioneers to Eshghabad in Russia, which was an important centre for the Bahá'ís.

They returned to Iran after the Bolshevik Revolution. In Iran the Soudavar brothers (Hussein-Ali Soudavar's father and his brothers) established the "Merrikh Company" and won the rights to Iran's Mercedes Benz company; as a result, they became one of the wealthy families in Iran.

Their sister, Leila Soudavar, was a high-ranking member of the office of Farah Pahlavi (Diba), and was the spouse of a close relative of Farah Pahlavi.

Fereydoun Soudavar, Hussein-Ali Soudavar's father, financially sponsored the Danesh Gostar encyclopaedia. He was the youngest son.

In the final years of the Pahlavi regime, Fereydoun "was very close to the Bahá'í members of Amir Abbas Hoveyda's government..."

Hussein-Ali Soudavar, the son of Fereydoun Soudavar, by using his maternal grandfather's fame, established a foundation in Iran by the name of Danesh Gostar Institute. This institute has published a number of encyclopaedias.

The interesting point is that whenever the public media wants to write the story of Hussein-Ali Soudavar, they remember him as the eldest son of the eldest daughter of Haj Hussein Malek, that a museum in Tehran is named after him, and do not mention

[16] Danesh Gostar encyclopedia is an 18-volume publication containing general and relevant information about all fields of knowledge, from the historic past to the present day. This information is presented in the form of short articles. Altogether, it consists of 59,000 articles, of which 40 percent (23,000 articles) are about Iran, and the rest (36,000) are related to other cultures.

anything about his father, Fereydoun Soudavar, who was a disreputable element of the Pahlavi dynasty.

Hussein-Ali Soudavar is now 70 years old and is the executor of his grandfather's endowments. He was educated in Iran and then in the United States; prior to the revolution he was the CEO of Benz Khavar in Iran. After the victory of the revolution, he left the country and returned to Iran after two decades and became active in philanthropic activities.

In 1380 Soudavar, together with two others, founded the Danesh Gostar Scientific Cultural Institute with accreditation from the Islamic Culture and Guidance Ministry. This institute began its activities by helping cultural institutions and after it was established it began developing encyclopaedias.

The obituary published in the UK is given below:

Independent.co.uk

Obituary: Fereidoun Soudavar

Peter Avery

Friday, 2 May 1997

Fereidoun Soudavar was one of Iran's leading entrepreneurs and industrialists, and was instrumental in ensuring the continuing study of Iran's great cultural heritage both in the universities of Britain and elsewhere.

He was born in 1908 into a family of prominent tea merchants, in the frontier city of Eshqabad, close to the border of Iranian Khorasan with the Turkmenistan Republic, of which Eshqabad today is part. After the Russian revolution in 1917, the family returned to Iran and settled in Tehran. On completion of studies in Europe, with his elder brothers, Samad and Ahmad, he founded the Merrikh Company which represented Mercedes Benz in Iran. This company subsequently grew into one of Iran's largest industries, the Khavar Industrial Group.

The group included the assembly of lorries and textile manufacturing among its activities; these were crucial to the economic expansion of modern Iran. It was one of the first companies admitted to the Tehran Stock Exchange on the latter's inauguration early in 1968.

Although from 1978 Soudavar chose voluntary exile in Britain, he never voiced a criticism of his homeland; and not many years ago he endowed a hospital in Tehran.

This was only one of the many acts of philanthropy, in education, Iranian studies and cancer research, to which he devoted himself, particularly after the death of his two sons. Besides endowing a Chair in Persian Studies at Oxford University in 1987, Soudavar made the generous provision which ensured the continuation of the long-established Persian Studies course at Cambridge University.

Similarly, at Princeton University he endowed undergraduate scholarships for Iranian and Third World students and in memory of his sons Alireza and Mohammed, and contributed large sums for residencies in the field of cancer research. Latterly he furnished support for the study and presentation of Persian Art and Culture at the Brooklyn Museum of Art in New York.

Fereidoun Soudavar was an admirable example of Iranian dignity, courtesy and beneficence; and, with his shrewd wit, excellent company. He introduced to his

associates something of the light of those Iranian qualities that, throughout a long history, have survived the most grave adversities.

Peter Avery

Fereidoun Soudavar, businessman and philanthropist: born Eshaqabad, Iran 7 May 1908; married 1939 Shamsi Amiralai (two sons deceased); died London 4 April 1997.

"The universal arrogant powers are trying to uproot the Islamic Republic"

Source: IRNA (Islamic Republic News Agency) (www.irna.com)—the official news agency of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Content: On 18 February 2011, IRNA published excerpts from the remarks of Asadullah Abbasi, the representative of the people from the cities of Amlash and Roudsar (Gilan Province) in the Parliament. According to him, "the global arrogant powers, through their agents in the country, are trying to uproot the values of the Islamic revolution. Therefore, both the system and people should take these threats very seriously." His remarks included the following reference to the Bahá'í Faith: "The formation of the misguided sects of Bahaism and Satanism is among actions of the global arrogant powers to mislead the younger generation. Therefore, families must take better care of their children [and can do so] by practicing Islamic rituals."

"Failure to remove the members of sedition from government posts leads to further damages to the Islamic Republic"

Source: On 22 February 2011, Daneshjo News (www.daneshjonews.com)—a student site for news and analysis, pro-regime

Content: On 22 February 2011, Daneshjo News published a speech by the chief director of political activity and security for Boushehr Province, which focussed on "the inner roots of what led to the 2009 presidential election upheaval and sedition." The article states that the director's main message is that the presence of the perpetuators of sedition inside government offices and executive branches has caused a decline in the values necessary to defend the Islamic government. He strongly believes that the leadership no longer has any patience for these individuals to remain in management and executive positions in the government. He considers last year's post-election upheaval to be the result of a strategy set in motion two decades ago, as a multi-faceted approach by the British, the Americans and the Israelis to penetrate layers of the government in order to destroy its very structure. To reach their objective, he said, they gradually laid groundwork to transform the beliefs and attitudes of the people so that they could then change the structure of the Islamic Republic. He alleges that the following five groups of operatives united hand in hand against the Islamic government last year:

1. Intelligence services of America, Britain, and Israel, united under the British embassy in Iran;
2. Liberal groups which traditionally opposed the revolution from within and abroad;
3. Reformists from within who started to openly oppose the revolution after the reformist government came to power;

4. Imprudent members and children of religious families and high ranking divines who opened their arms and let the operatives close to them, such as Said Imami; in addition, election losers who turned against the Islamic government after their losses;
5. Newly born sects such as Hujjatiyyeh and Bahaism.

He says that these groups had the following objectives:
1. Topple the Islamic Republic, because this government is awakened and has been the cause of awakening for other governments in the Middle East and the world;
2. Take down the foundation of Velayat-i-Faghih—Guardianship of Shi'a Islam;
3. Weaken the influence of the government from within and in the international arena.

"Unity is the key to victory for the Nation of Islam"

Source: ISNA (Iranian Student News Agency)—government-affiliated

Content: On 23 February 2011, in an interview with ISNA, the director of mosque affairs, Hujjatul-Islam Ebrahimi, said, "None of the religions would agree with the rift that divides the Nation of Islam", because Islam brought all nations under one single God. He stated that the freedom of the Nation of Islam from exploitation of the West in countries such as Egypt and Tunisia, and hopefully others in future, shows an increased awareness of Muslims and the fruit of the Islamic Republic of Iran. He reiterated that Muslims have now awakened to the deception of the West. He further said, "Shiite and Sunni are against Wahhabism and Bahaism and all the Muslims must clear the stage of these shameless sects so that the populace may not be deceived by them."

"Believing in Islam, without believing in divinity, is covenant-breaking"

Source: Iran Quranic News agency (IQNA)—government-affiliated

Content: On 23 February 2011, IQNA quoted from Hujjatual-Islam Ahmad Mobaleghi, the dean of the Scientific Research and Islamic Culture**,** who, in a national conference on religious intellectual revitalization, said, "We face two intellectual threats. One is the presence of ideologies and perverse sects such as Wahhabism and Bahaism. These two ideologies are misguided and full of superstitions and of course they promote and teach constantly. The second threat is the school of thought [that] claims that to believe in Islam without having to believe in the clergy, which in reality is covenant-breaking."

Parliamentary special committee find Moussavi and Karoubi to be "corruptors on earth" and "Bahá'ís, among others, cooperated with them"

Source: Javan Online—affiliated with the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)

Content: On 24 February 2011, Javan Online published an article regarding a report submitted by a special committee to Parliament about the events of 25 Bahman. According to the special report, "Moussavi and Karoubi were acknowledged as corruptors on earth and the judiciary branch must try them as soon as possible... currently the decision has been made for the two to be confined in their homes and their relationships are to be kept limited.... It is unlikely that Karoubi and Moussavi did not know that they were working with the U.S., the Monafeghin, and the Bahá'ís."

Iran's Minister of intelligence quoted on protests of 25 Bahman and the Bahá'ís

Source: BBC Persian

Content: On 26 February 2011, BBC in Persian and a number of other sites published comments made by Heidar Moslehi, Iran's Minister of Intelligence, in a television interview regarding the protests of 25 Bahman. He viewed the presence of the opposition groups at the protests of 25 Bahman as minimal and said that the event had "caused a drop in supporters of the sedition". He referred to the events as a "big scandal" for the protesters and claimed that the pictures that were broadcast by satellite networks were old images that had been manipulated and that the people seen in these pictures were ordinary people who were out shopping for the New Year. Moslehi further stated, "On 25 Bahman the seditious movement could not bring the social networks into the field .... Those that showed up were the counter-revolutionaries—Bahá'ís, the monarchists, and the Monafeghin—they were not part of a network."

28 February - 06 March 2011

Web sites

Reprinting of a booklet in Mashhad "to refute claims put forth by cults"

Source: Rasa News Agency (www.rasanews.ir)—pro-regime site, initiated by scholars and researchers of Qom Seminary

Content: On 16 February 2011 Rasa News reported that a booklet titled, "*New Conspiracy, or Yamani's Claim*" had been reprinted. This booklet, which was published in Ahvaz (Khuzestan Province), deals with "false claims of the arrival of the Promised One". The publication's introduction stated: "Recently, in various parts of the country, some individuals have started promoting the claims of Ahmad Al-Hassan Yamáni that he is the return of the Mahdi. This has caused some concerns amongst the believers as to how to respond to such false claims." The article then goes on to present the content of the booklet. Among other things, the booklet includes the allegation that the Bahá'í Faith was a creation of imperialist powers and further asserts that these same powers continue to establish and create such cults, particularly in Iraq and Iran, in an efforts to "gain more territories and political and military dominance over Islamic countries:

> *Accordingly, the imposing governments, under the pretext of fighting terrorism, have recently occupied the Muslim countries of Afghanistan and Iraq. They have made the establishment and support of such cults—especially in Iraq and Iran—their highest priority. In this regard, dozens of cults have appeared since Saddam's fall in Iraq...*
>
> *Most of these cults claim that either the Mahdi has come, or that they have established connections with Him. Their association with the spying agencies of the colonial governments has already been proven. The main goal of these diversions is to defeat the Shiites, since history has shown that they have always resisted and defeated colonialism.*

"Following the success of the Egyptian revolution the situation of the hated Bahaist sect has worsened"

Source: Serat News (www.seratnews.ir)—pro-regime Web site for news and analysis, and a number of other sources

Content: On 23 February 2011, Serat News and a number of other sites, quoting from an Egyptian publication, reported the following:

A number of youths in a village near Maragheh, in Sohag Province in Egypt, attacked the residence of a Bahá'í in that village and burned his house, his farm and farm equipment. It is reported that fire trucks rushed to put out the fire, but the youths prevented them from entering the burning property.

Muhammad Abdurrahman Mohammad Ammar is a Bahá'í in the same village, whose house was set on fire by the Egyptian revolutionary youths. Similar attempts were made last year by the residents of the village to burn down Bahá'í homes; but with the support of Mubarak's government, their revolutionary action did not yield results.

According to the city police chief in Maragheh, the Bahá'ís, who were hated for their support of the tyrant of Egypt [Mubarak], have now fled the city. The youths set on fire their empty houses, while the representative of the Bahá'ís in Egypt severely criticized the failure of the police to stop the fires.

Manufacturing company discredited as being "nothing but propaganda for Bahaism"

Source: Serat News (www.seratnews.ir)—pro-regime Web site for news and analysis, and a number of other sites

Content: On 23 February 2011, Serat News published an article critical of a previously published item that had recounted the achievements of a few people in various industries in Iran in the past [at the time of the Shah]. With respect to Arj, a producer of home appliances, Serat wrote the following:

Arj was nothing but propaganda for Bahaism. It was in direct contact with its [Bahá'í] administration, while the Mafia was giving it power and facilitating its monopoly in the market. Iskandar Arjmand, the major stockholder of Arj companies, founded the Arj Company by using interest from the funds of the "Trustee Company", the custodian of the endowments of the misguided Bahaist sect. Then, with the support of Habib Sabet Pasal, a member of the Global Power Organization [Freemasonry], and using low interest loans from industrial credit banks, he advanced the company in the direction of the monarchy's goals.

Alleged links between Bahá'ís and acts of "violence and terrorism"

Source: Rahpouyan Web site (Bahá'í research section), which is devoted entirely to propaganda and attacks against the Bahá'í Faith, under the Rahpouyan Vesal Cultural Organization, and a number of other sites

Content: On 26 February 2011, Rahpouyan and a number of other sources published a presentation made by Siyyid Muhammad Husseini, the Minister of Culture and Islamic guidance at a poetry festival, in which he stated: "We are currently being widely attacked by ideologies such as Bahaism and Salafiism. They have brought our belief system under question. They encourage the people and the youth to carry out suicide missions, as we witnessed in Sistan and Balouchestan. These are the same people who now want to promote their own ideologies. However, we will not allow that to happen. We will not allow violence and terrorism to be systematized in the country."

Report to discredit Shirin Ebadi as the "lawyer of the illegal Bahaist sect"

Source: Parset (www.parset.com) —a site for news and information, claiming to have no affiliation with a group or organization

Content: On 26 February 2011, Parset published a reply to an article by Shirin Ebadi which had appeared on Deutsche Welle earlier that day. It calls her the "lawyer of the illegal Bahaist sect" who, "while trying to defend her clients, has shed light on the Israeli sedition with her implicit comments." The article focuses on what Ebadi had said about the non-participation of the Bahá'ís in politics. In an earlier article, reaffirming that Bahá'ís do not take part in politics, Ebadi had said, "It must be taken into consideration that politics, in a wider definition of the word, involves the lives of every citizen." Offering an example to explain this point, she continued, "For example, when the price of gas increases fourfold and the cost of basic food dramatically increases, even those who are not in politics will get involved and protest..." The article in Parset stated that the words spoken by her "are indicative of the plans by the Israeli groups of sedition to affect the government's subsidy cut plan, by creating disturbances and possible inflation in the market". Other comments made by Ebadi in regard to the Green Movement's being an active part of society were also ridiculed.

Following is a summary of what was actually published in Deutsche Welle:

On 26 February 2011, Deutsche Welle reported on the Islamic Republic's arrests of participants in the street demonstrations of 14 February 2011 organized by the Green Movement. The report also refers to the relocation of the former Bahá'í leaders Fariba Kamalabadi and Mahvash Sabet to an extremely hostile area of prison as a subtle strategy to threaten the lives of these inmates. The report cited Mrs. Shirin Ebadi, who claims that the recent wave of arrests is a clear testimony to the government's panic, stating, "These demonstrations have shaken the very foundations of the government and have shown that the Green Movement has not gone away. Following the crackdowns of 2009 and 2010, the government felt that the storm had settled; but the recent demonstration showed that the fire is still hot beneath the ashes and can break out at any time to bring down the government. That is the reason they have become so violent and it is in this context that violence against the Bahá'ís has also increased." In a question regarding the Bahá'ís' non-involvement in politics, Ebadi replied that non-involvement in politics is part of the religious beliefs of the Bahá'ís, which they obey; but in today's society when speaking of the basic necessities of life, such as the rise in the cost of fuel, the government perceives it as a political movement, then it brands everyone as political, regardless of who they are. None of these demands is political; but rather, social and they are related to citizenship rights, while clearly the purpose of them is not to attain power in the political structure.

"Preaching with practice is one of the most effective methods adopted by various sects to promote themselves"

Source: Iran Quranic News agency (IQNA)—government-affiliated

Content: On 1 March 2011, IQNA published a statement of Hojjatu'l-Islam Mohsen Rouhani, an "expert in sects and religions and Islamic propagation", regarding "the need to protect people from joining cults and sects". He indicated:

We try to prevent peoples' tendency to join sects by increasing their awareness, by showing them various displays [pictures] relating to the internal meetings of the heads of sects, and introducing their deviant views, both in writing and visually.

The sects and religions unit within the Light Print Exhibition contains sections relating to a summary introduction of the commonalities within all sects. It also provides an overview of sects such as Sufism, Bahaism, illegal Christian sects, Freemasonry, and Satanism.

These sects are extremely active in the virtual environment [cyberspace], as well as through satellite networks. They try to display a positive outlook by pleasant behaviour, giving away gifts, attending to the needy, visiting the sick, and even selling merchandise at cheaper prices. People should be vigilant; the deviant sects display a deceptive front.

"Preventing the spread of deviant sects" a focus in Karaj

Source: Karaj News Network (www.jkaraj.net)— government-affiliated

Content: On 1 March 2011, Karaj News Network wrote about a news conference held in Karaj that focused on developments in the Karaj Metropolitan area (a suburban community, about 40 kilometres from Tehran). The conference was attended by city officials. Among the points raised, Ali Ghassempour, Director of the Social and Cultural Department in Karaj, pointed to some of the negative influences on the lives of the people in Karaj. Regarding the presence of satellite networks, he said, "Satellite networks have targeted the foundation of family life in Islamic society through their deceptive programs. The enemies, using special methods, seek to instil decadent Western cultural values in families." He added that, in response to these cultural intrusions, his office has implemented cultural programs for the "defence of the integrity of Islam, and for greater recognition of the Imam of the Age and to combat the newly emerging sects... Prevention of the spread of deviant sects such as Satanism and Bahaism is crucial within Islamic society... Karaj Municipality has added various educational programs for the next year, in order to uplift the people's spirit with joy."

"Bahaism propagated directly and indirectly"

Source: Javan Online—affiliated with the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), and a number of other sites

Content: On 1 March 2011, Javan Online and a number of other sites published the following article:

The misguided Bahaist sect uses two methods for propagation, direct and indirect. They do it through the methods of proclamation and destruction. By way of proclamation, the Bahaists print books and pamphlets, create attractive slogans, publish stories about the life of their leader and the history of Bahaism; and with destructive methods they keep the minds of the Muslims, especially the Shiites, busy with questions and plant doubts. Ridiculing and insulting the great Islamic and religious figures is also part of their destructive method.

One of the propagation methods of the misguided Bahaist sect, which is always emphasized by the House of Justice, is promiscuity, use of music, loose behaviour, and the mingling of men and women for the purpose of luring individuals.

Some time ago, in one of the coastal cities in the country, some of the Bahaists, under the guise of celebrating their sinister Riḍván Festival, acted promiscuously and contrary to chaste behaviour.

When people reported and complaints were raised by the indigenous people of the neighbourhood, the security officers went to the place and after inspection arrested the guests who were present in this gathering.

It is noteworthy that the leader of this gathering (B. L.) was an intimate companion of the Pahlavi court, before the revolution.

07 - 13 March 2011

Web sites

Book by Ayatollah Rafsanjani to be published (includes reference to "Zionist Bahaist sect")

Source: Mashregh News (www.mashreghnews.ir)— pro-government website, with the mandate to help combat the soft war

Content: On 27 February 2011, Mashregh News and other sites reported the imminent publication of a book by Ayatollah Rafsanjani. The book is reported to be an exposé of the circumstances surrounding the civil unrest following the 2009 presidential election. To promote the book, a number of sites provided excerpts from it, which include the following:

A construction company that belongs to the Zionist Bahaist sect has attempted to import a huge volume of ceramic [products] and plumbing supplies from China. The name of this company is derived from the Bahá'í Lotus Temple in India.

National conference on new approaches needed in religious thinking in Qom; reference to the Bahá'í Faith

Source: Rasa News Agency (www.rasanews.ir)—pro-regime site, initiated by scholars and researchers of Qom Seminary

Content: On 1 March 2011, Rasa News Agency published an article reporting on a national conference on "new religious thinking" that was held in Qom in collaboration with the Islamic Propagation Office and the Office of the Supreme Leader's representative

at universities. The conference was attended by scholars from the seminary and universities. The article provided the following highlights of the event:

In its path to building a new civilization, the Islamic Republic requires broad and new religious thinking. Imam Khomeini provided the unique groundwork for religious theories and presented new horizons for fresh thinking. He did this by formulating the perfect religion and by emphasizing the political aspects of the religion. He further established that jurisprudence should provide governments with the practical aspect of governance.

New religious thinking means referring the new and emerging questions of man in the contemporary world to the fundamentals of religion and trying to extract answers from those. Of course, new religious thinking is different from being innovative. Innovations are forbidden in Islam; therefore, we must be careful to refer new questions to the fundamentals of religion and not innovate answers in the name of religion. New thinking in Islam is based on certain principles. These should guide and provide rules to follow.

Today we are at a critical juncture as Wahhabism and Bahaism are exerting widespread efforts.

Member of Parliament asserts that inclusion of a photograph of 'Abdu'l-Bahá's on the cover of his book is evidence of fairness in Iran

Source: Javan Online—affiliated with the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)

Content: On 2 March 2011, Javan Online reported that Ali Mottahhari, a Member of Parliament who represents Tehran, had made an address in which he emphasized that in order to understand history better, one must "learn to look at two sides of a story". At the end of his speech, he referred to the inclusion of a photograph of 'Abdu'l-Bahá on the cover of his new book, *Islamic Revolutions in the Past Century*, as evidence of the fairness with which the Islamic regime treats everyone: "Only to show that we look at both sides of the story, we have included Bahaism as a sect evolving from Islam. This way no one can say their rights are neglected. We want everyone to know how fair we are."

New online site with "comprehensive information" about the Bahá'í Faith

Source: Aviny (www.aviny.com)—site of Martyr Aviny, with religious and cultural content

Content: On 6 March 2011, it was announced on the Aviny Web site that a new site offering special and comprehensive online information about the Bahá'í Faith will be established and will consist of the following:

- *Getting to know the misguided Bahaist sect;*
- *The speeches and views of the religious leaders about the Bahaist sect;*
- *Interviews with those who escaped the grips of Bahaism;*
- *Book reflecting the history of Bahaism;*
- *Politics and Bahaism, and its part in Ashura of 88;*
- *The PDF versions of 76 books to study about Bahaism;*

- *Economic corruption of the misguided Bahaist sect;*
- *Crimes of Bahaism.*

Other Web sites carried the same news.

Bahá'ís accused of being among groups "assisting the leaders of dissension"

Source: Fars News Agency—government-affiliated

Content: On 7 March 2011, Fars News published an article in which Mahmúd Saláhi, the governor of Khurásání Razavi, was cited as having said: "The leaders of dissension are worse than the United States of America and the Zionist Regime because [they] support and aid the interests of the Western countries such as the United States, England and the Zionist regime, their sins are far greater than the countries themselves." The article indicated that Salahi had suggested that the leaders of the opposition should be considered anti-Islam and no longer loyal to the ideals of the Islamic Revolution. "A person is considered loyal and faithful only when they obey the will of the Supreme Leader unconditionally... The goal of the leaders of dissension is to contest with the government and the Supreme Leader. In this atmosphere anti-revolutionary forces from outside of Iran, such as the monarchists, the Bahá'ís, Mujahidin and others obeying the United States have joined in and are assisting the leaders of dissension." He called for the prosecution of the opposition leaders, saying, "These individuals were very close to Imam Khomeini at the beginning of the revolution, however, today they are working against him."

30 "mega-projects""to deal with religious questions and religious doubt among people"

Source: Fars News Agency—government-affiliated

Content: On 8 March 2011, Fars News Agency published an article detailing the views of Hojjatol-Islam Sadegh Golzadeh, the director general of public relations and international affairs at the Office of Islamic Propagation in Qom. The article indicates that Golzadeh had addressed a number of representatives of centres for information and technology from various parts of the country and that he had indicated that the Office was expanding and becoming more organized to deal with religious issues at hand. He said, "The office carries out its mission through projects, and currently there are more than 30 mega-projects underway."

He confirmed that a special branch has been established to address and deal with issues related to "newly emerging mystic sects such as Wahabbism and Bahaism... if we do not know the enemy, we are not able to devise appropriate strategies, and we will not succeed... We must seek to provide information that is both qualitative and quantitative in nature. If we are to reach the goal, we need to have a specialized look at Bahaism and Wahabbism." Directing his attention to the special needs of the children and youth in society, Golzadeh is also reported to have said: "If the children and junior youth receive appropriate religious education, in later years it will be easier to deal with their religious doubt." He also emphasized the need to answer with wisdom and expressed the need for standardized responses to questions related to religion: "We need a comprehensive and far-reaching automated system for providing standard answers to all those reaching it. This will provide for an effective way for all."

Attempt to discredit Mrs. Zahra Rahnavard and Mrs. Shirin Ebadi, by associating them with Bahá'ís

Source: Fars News Agency—government-affiliated

Content: On 8 March 2011, Fars New Agency published a talk that had been given by Payam Fazlynezhad, a member of the research department of the Kayhan Institute, at a conference of the Rahpouyan Society for women. Fazlynezhad spoke of the importance of finding the roots of feminism in Iran. Referring to Zahra Rahnavard (the wife of Mir-Hossein Moussavi, one of the opposition leaders) Fazlynezhad stated that during her directorship of the Al-Zahra University, established to educate intellectual Muslim women, Rahnavard had turned this university into "an assembly for Bahá'í feminists who had come to Iran after the establishment of the Ashraf Pahlavi Foundation". The article states that Fazlynezhad indicated that "secular feminism is a monarchist movement which supports and promotes prostitution. The reconstruction of the feminist process started at the time of the second Pahlavi regime and gained strength with the negligence of politicians and the women themselves."

In his address he also turned attention to discrediting Shirin Ebadi. He linked her to the families of Freemasons, and continued, "Two of those who had strong bonds with the Bahá'í community in Hamadan were Gholam-Reza Nasiri Gara-Guzlu, professor of the branch of Kassra Masons during the Pahlavi period and Parviz Yeganeh, a member of Molavi, Kassra, Kamal, and Soghrat branches of the Masons. These individuals brought the Ebadi family into the Freemason Society."

Attempt to discredit Mrs. Shirin Ebadi and International Women's Day

Source: Jahan News—government-affiliated news agency

Content: On 8 March 2011, aiming to discredit International Women's Day, Jahan News wrote an article, which began with the notion that "liberal feminism is trying to promote many anti-religious ideas and behaviours such as lack of Hijab, promiscuity, abortion, homosexuality, etc." However, "the free women of the Islamic Republic have rejected this ideology by declining to participate in it." The article then goes on to focus on the life of Shirin Ebadi as the symbol and the promoter of feminism. It presents a detailed report about her life and claims that both she and her father have been active members of the Freemason Society. The article also alleges that Mrs. Ebadi's father has had close connection with the Bahá'ís. In this short biography of Ebadi, it is written, "Ebadi was educated in a high school that was established and run by the Baha'is, the Freemasons and Farokhro Parsa, who herself was a homosexual Bahá'í." The language of the article is offensive throughout.

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Web sites

"Centre run by Bahaism in Kerman functioning under the guise of humanitarian work"

Source: Javan Online—affiliated with the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), and other sites

Content: On 10 March 2011, Javan Online and a number of other sites wrote:

One of the goals of the misguided Bahaist sect is to misguide our children and the youth, especially through an educational system which is known as Ruhi.

A ruse that the misguided Bahaist sect always uses is posing as human rights activists. They make use of foreign organizations such as UNICEF under the UN as a cover-up to stay connected with their directors. By the same token, one of the centres of propaganda of the Bahaists, which was functioning under the cover of helping the children, was discovered in Kerman. The centre, under the leadership of someone with the initials S.B., was involved in teaching the misguided Bahaist sect.

Bahá'ís are accused of taking advantage of the post-earthquake situation

Source: Khabar Online (khabaronline.ir)—site for news and analysis; claims to be independent, but functioning within the framework of the Islamic Republic; article also carried on a few other sites

Content: On 12 March Khabar Online and a few other sites published the news of the arrest of a few Bahá'ís in connection with activities in Bam, as follows:

Mohammad Reza Sanjari, the public prosecutor of Bam, announced the arrest of several members of the deviant Bahaist sect, who were operating under the cover of educational and cultural activities, in some of the preschools in Bam, Kerman, and Tehran. This was done in an attempt to expand their programmes. Close to nine months of intelligence work by the Unknown Solders of the Imam of the Times has led to these arrests.

Various investigations have revealed the existence of a wide network with complex activities performed by these individuals, following orders from their command centre.

Sanjari further pointed to the penetration of this group into one of the local publications in Kerman Province, and said, "Introduction of the material and points of view of the deviant Bahaist sect, in the guise of stories of children, is evident in this publication", and, "It is clearly evident that the administration of Bahaism took advantage of the post-earthquake circumstances in Bam in 82 [2004] where there was a need for various cultural, social and educational assistance. The authorities should pay closer attention, and be more sensitive to such circumstances and take leadership."

Warning to the authorities to deny Bahá'ís permission to act "under the cover of NGOs"

Source: Mellat Online (mellatonline.ir)—pro-government website

Content: On 15 March 2011, Mellat Online wrote the following:

A spokesman for the cultural commission of the Islamic Majlis [parliament] stated that NGOs should follow the legal process and meet the specific regulations for their cultural

and social activities in the country. He further clarified, "In order to prevent colonial forces from penetrating and working against the Islamic Revolution under the cover of NGOs, the responsible authorities should identify the specific organizations working under these covers and prevent their activities. The colonialist sect of Bahaism has no right, under any circumstances, to conduct activities in the Islamic Republic; hence anti-revolution elements who are infiltrating [society] under the cover of NGOs should also be identified by the monitoring agencies."

Allegation that Bahá'ís are seeking to assist the Green Movement

Source: Qom News Network (qomnn.com)—pro-regime website, and other sites

Content: On 12 March 2011, Qom News Network and other sites wrote the following:

The Universal House of Justice, situated in occupied Palestine, has recently released new instructions to its members. In confidential correspondence, the Universal House of Justice asked all the Bahá'ís living in large cities to invite others to their homes for the purpose of teaching the children, the junior youth and ultimately the adults. Teaching is an obligation for the followers of the misguided Bahaist sect. It is said that the leaders of this misguided sect are seeking to attract more members in order to assist the Green Movement and create further chaos in the community. It is worth mentioning that members of this sect had an active role in the disturbances of the Ashura commemoration last year.

Basijis visited exhibition that includes anti-Bahá'í materials

Source: Aryanews (www.aryanews.com)—site of Arya Strategic Studies Centre

Content: On 5 March 2011, Aryanews informed readers that the Basijis (the Mobilization Corps) had visited a recent exhibition called "Black, White, and Grey" in Semnan. Through pictures and brochures, the exhibition gave visitors information about various topics, including the hijjab, devil worshiping, the Bahá'í Faith, Sufism, etc. Further, a Muslim cleric made a presentation to the Basijis about the Bahá'í Faith.

Current issue of monthly focuses on Wahhabism and the Bahá'í Faith

Source: Rasa News Agency (www.rasanews.ir)—pro-regime site, initiated by scholars and researchers of Qom Seminary, and other sites

Content: On 6 March 2011, Rasa News and a number of other sites announced the publication of the seventeenth issue of the monthly periodical, "Shafafiat". The Bahá'í Faith and Wahhabism are the focus of this new issue. Rasa News states: "One of the most important sections of this publication is the news [it provides] about the activities of misguided sects like Wahhabism, Bahaism and others [which are] trying to disseminate false knowledge." With respect to the contents of the present issue regarding the Bahá'í Faith, the article notes that it includes news of "the formation of a cultural institution in the name of a Bahá'í in Shiraz," "taking over the drug trade in Iran," "the review of a few Bahá'í Web sites," "Mahdism, from reality to the absurd claim of the Bahaists," "Ruhi courses", etc. On the subject of the Bahá'ís' influencing the drug trade, the report states:

Recently, activists of the misguided Bahaist sect, with the support of their fellow thinkers abroad [and] with an organized plan of action, are entering into the drug import business in Iran so that in the long run they will have full control of the market. According to the instructions given to this misguided sect by the spy agency Mossad, the taking over of the drug import trade by this sect may, in particular situations, put the country in a difficult position in terms of [supplies of] medicine in the future. It is worth mentioning that most of the Bahá'ís are in the optometry business."

Attempt to defame Mrs. Shirin Ebadi (notes her defence of Bahá'ís)

Source: Alborz News (www.alborznews.ne)—News and analysis site, pro-regime

Content: On 7 March 2011, Alborz News wrote about Shirin Ebadi and her intentions to call people to the streets for demonstrations against the Islamic Republic on 8 March, to mark International Women's Day. Using derogatory language, the article concludes with the comment, "It is not clear why the Nobel Foundation call this old woman a Muslim when she openly defends the misguided Bahaist sect and the rights of homosexuals."

Mrs. Ebadi characterized as "the Bahá'í witch"

Source: Kolbeh News (kolbehnews.com)—site for news and analysis

Content: On 16 March 2011, Kolbeh News reported the naming of a street in one of the suburban cities near Paris after Shirin Ebadi. "Naming a street in France after the Bahá'í witch Shirin Ebadi" was the title of the article.

"Bahaism is seeking to gradually overthrow the Islamic system"

Source: Rasa News Agency (www.rasanews.ir)—pro-regime site, initiated by scholars and researchers of Qom Seminary

Content: On 7 March 2011, Rasa News quoted from a talk given by Mirkazem Mousavi in the "Bahaism from beginning until..." conference. Mousavi, who is purported to be a "senior expert" on the Bahá'í Faith, expressed concern about the increasing activities of the Bahá'ís. The article cites Mousavi as having stated: "By creating doubts, this current [Bahaism] seeks the gradual overthrow of the Islamic Republic regime. This group currently uses cyberspace to shake up the beliefs of the youth and the Islamic elite in Iran, and is planning eventually to overthrow of the regime in a gradual manner." His comments included many common false allegations about the Bahá'í Faith being a creation of colonial forces and not being a religion.

Referring to the activities of the Bahá'ís before the revolution, Mousavi also said, "Since the victory of Imam Khomeini, this group has always been trying to return to their powerful days during the Pahlavi period, attack Islam and overthrow the Islamic regime and seize every opportunity to achieve this evil objective."

Mousavi pointed to the election of last year and said, "According to the confessions of one of the Bahá'ís who was arrested during the Ashura incident last year, they were encouraged by their administration eight months prior to this development to enter the political scene."

He considered the recent unrest in Tehran to be an example of the activities of the Bahá'ís to overthrow the regime. [He said,] "Seven people belonging to this current against the [national] security were arrested on 14 February of this year." Finally, he pointed to the international support for the expansion of the Bahá'í Faith in Iran and noted, "To weaken the regime internationally, this group in recent years has trumpeted the excuse of the oppression of the Bahá'ís in the Islamic Republic and has received some international support in this regard."

Bahá'í Faith accused of being among entities created to manage the "global village"

Source: Babolname (www.babolname.com)—an online weekly journal in Mazandaran Province

Content: On 9 March 2011, Babolname published an article criticizing the way the world is shaping up in modern times. Following a description of Marshall McLuhan's "global village" theory, verses of the Holy Quran and Nahjul-Balaghe are given as proof of Islam's steadfastness against this "deception of the enemy". The article ridicules the global village theory, stating that it is the West's medium of espionage against Islam. It says, "McLuhan believes that the world has now turned into a global village. This village needs a chief in order to be managed, and we [the West] should be its leader. In the guise of managing the village, they make decisions for it. They formulate and execute the plan; and the plan is for everyone to adhere to liberal democracy. Based on this construct, they make decisions for the entire world and plan for its future." The article further claims that "Wahhabism, the Taliban and Bahaism all exist as means to manage the Islamic world. Therefore, the establishment of Wahhabism in Saudi Arabia and the centralization of Bahaism in Israel cannot be coincidental." The article then goes on to talk about the role of the media and cyberspace and how the West dictates its messages through the mass media.

"The shocking confessions of a Bahá'í woman"

Source: Qom News Network (qomnn.com)—pro-regime website, and several other sites

Content: On 13 March 2011, Qom News Network and several other sites published an article about the purported experiences of "an excommunicated Bahá'í woman". The article, which is rather long, appears to be the translation of the writings of a Western believer who at one point was a Bahá'í and then left the Bahá'í Faith. The writer talks about the reasons for her initial attraction to the Bahá'í Faith. She also explains in detail the reasons for her disenchantment with the Bahá'í community and its administration. She talks about her reaction to the Bahá'í Faith as three shocks that made her leave it eventually. Those were the exclusion of women from the House of Justice, the mandate for every Bahá'í to teach the Bahá'í Faith and the requirement that believers serve in the administration, even against their own desires.

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Websites

Akbar Ganji defends right to teach one's faith

Source: Rooz Online—a daily published by independent and reformist journalists, advocating for human rights and freedom

Content: On 15 March 2011, Rooz Online published an article by Akbar Ganji. The article is in defence of the Christians in Iran. He takes the reader through a series of facts that explores the root of aggression displayed by ecclesiastical authorities. Ganji links such aggression firstly to educational ignorance, and secondly to the hypocrisy exercised by ecclesiastical authority, and finally to the inner fear generated by doubt that leads them to commit such human rights violations. Ganji is calling for an unconditional freedom that allows everyone to teach their religion in Iran and to give an opportunity for the truth to prevail. The essay debates the following statement made by ecclesiastical authority Ayatollah Vahid Khorasani on 9 March 2011:

> "With Christianity rooted the way it is in this country, it will eventually mislead the Shiite youth. The Christians disagree amongst themselves over authority. Not a single person has questioned this organization as to why they are teaching the ***perverse*** and ***misguided*** Christianity even in Qom. They are forcing it down the throat of our Muslim nation. If someone were to criticize or challenge their authority, they would all congregate at once to listen. But faith is being washed away from the hearts of these youth and everyone is in a deep sleep. All they care about is authority and power. ***The teaching of Christianity must be dismantled in this country at once; otherwise we shall lose face."***

According to Ganji, this is not the first time that an ecclesiastical authority has insulted Christianity. And if labelling a religion as "***perverse*** and ***misguided***" is not insulting that religion and its followers, then what is? He asks whether it is not true that if someone were to insult Islam, their punishment would be nothing short of death. Then what is the logic behind these ecclesiastical authorities' right to ridicule millions of honourable Christian followers? Ganji goes as far as stating that throughout the centuries Christianity has produced individuals of great character such as Mother Teresa, a unique personality, the likes of whom cannot be found in Islam. In various examples he clarifies that the root cause for such thinking is nothing but ignorance, as these ecclesiastics have never studied the holy writings of Judaism or Christianity.

"Grand Ayatollah gives advice for dealing with Wahhabism and Bahaism"

Source: Rasa News Agency (www.rasanews.ir)—pro-regime site, initiated by scholars and researchers of Qom Seminary

Content: On 16 March, Rasa News and a number of other sites published the reply of Grand Ayatollah Saafi Gulpaygáni to the question: "What is the responsibility of Shiite Muslims and lovers of the Ahl-i-Bayt in today's society where deviant sects such as Wahhabism and Bahaism are promoting and teaching their false ideas?" He replied:

> *Believers must, with complete understanding, defend the rightful Shiites' beliefs and protect themselves and others from the evil deceits of the enemy. They should try to guide them [the enemy], when possible. It is incumbent upon authorities to strictly prevent all propagators that are the sources of degradation and perversity. Their books and publications should be wiped out, and they should be subjected to criminal investigations. The clergy and the Muslims alike should take proper and decisive action to disclose the spy identity of these colonial supported groups.*

Allegation that Bahá'ís held a meeting to create insecurity in the country

Source: Javan Online—affiliated with the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)

Content: On 16 March 2011, Javan Online published an article that included the usual allegation about the Bahá'í Faith being a creation of colonialist powers, but which also made the following assertion:

Recently, a few Bahá'í individuals who have come from the US and Turkey, held a four-day-long meeting in one of the cities in the eastern part of the country. In this meeting they talked about the riots in Tehran and other major cities of the country. They expressed support for the heads of revolt. Further, they asked for the presence of the Bahá'í community in the street marches. It is said that in this meeting the message of one of the high officials of Israel, in support of the revolutionists, was read.

Bahá'ís accused of wanting to damage Iran-Arab relationship

Source: Mahramane News (www.mahramanenews.com)— pro-government website

Content: On 19 March 2011, Mahramane News wrote about a senior official of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs who was denying a claim by the Al-Arabia news network that had quoted two junior officials of that ministry. The article quoted the senior official as follows:

Unfortunately, the Iranian support of the oppressed people of Bahrain has caused the anger of the Saudis and the Bahaist media cartels. In retaliation, they have taken offensive measures to affect the relationship between Iran and the Arab countries.

To achieve this end, and to fulfil the goals of the Bahaist media networks, [it was pretended that] two officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in an interview, admired the Israeli regime, and questioned the integrity of the Arab cultures.

Unfortunately, the network of Bahaism and the media cartels of the Zionist regime, in order to overshadow the brutal crime of the Bahaist gangs in Bahrain and the massacre of the oppressed people of this country, and for the purpose of mobilizing Arab public opinion against Iran, have taken this deviant step. This is done so that they can continue their crime against humanity in Bahrain.

Our position against the wretched and inhumane Zionist regime is quite clear, and the Iranian nation has always had an ancient and close friendship with the Arab nations.

This senior official further emphasized that the claim of the Al-Arabia is absolutely false and was orchestrated for the political goals of "Zionism and the Bahaist media cartels".

Baha'is accused of causing separation between Shiites and Sunnis

Source: Irib News (www.iribnews.ir)—pro-regime website for news and analysis, including international news

Content: On 23 March 2011, Irib News reported about a meeting that was held in Qom to honour "the recent martyrs in Bahrain". A number of Iranian religious leaders and

ecclesiastical leaders of Bahrain were in attendance. The speaker of the Islamic Republic's parliament, Mr. Larijani, was also present.

In his address, Hujjatul Islam Abu-Turabi, the deputy to the Islamic Republic parliament said, "Governments that lack political power and authority are not competent enough to stand against the mighty power of the Nation of Islam even for a fleeting moment. This is indeed the American economic, military and media power that has taken the stance against Islam with all its strength."

The deputy to the Islamic Republic parliament declared Bahaism and Wahhabism as two factors aimed at creating divisions amongst the Shiites and the Sunnis saying, "During the past three decades of its supremacy over the Islamic world, with the guidance of the founders of the Islamic revolution and the Supreme Leader, it is the Islamic Republic of Iran that has brought about the unity of the Islamic world, and followers of the other religions."

New anti-Bahá'í software

Source: Iran Quranic News agency (IQNA)—government-affiliated

Content: On 23 March 2011, IQNA announced the release of new software in Isfahan about the Bahá'í Faith. The new computer software, which is called "Towards the truth, refuting the misguided Bahaist sect" and can be purchased online at: http://www.hozeh.org/SoftwarePage-47.aspx. The article claims that the software is "the biggest and most comprehensive source for the study of the misguided Bahaist sect." The work is produced by the Computer Research Centre of Isfahan Islamic Seminary. It consists of 360 books and articles.

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Websites

Bahá'ís accused of being supporters of the Saudi regime and Wahhabism

Source: Yalasarat (yalasarat.com)—pro-regime website, and other sources

Content: On 27 March 2011, Yalasarat and a number of other sites, quoting from "an informed source in Saudi Arabia", wrote the following:

The Bahá'ís who are residing in occupied Palestine, by sending a secret message to a senior official in the Saudi government, have announced that they are ready to support the Saudi regime and the Wahhabis. This message was delivered to the senior officials by an English diplomat who often travels to Saudi Arabia.

It is not clear why Bahaism is willing to support Wahhabism and the Saudi regime, but with a glance at the current situation in the area and the historical precedence of the Bahaist sect and the Wahhabis, it can easily be concluded that the senior officials of the Bahaist sect are concerned about their own future. They are also concerned about the fate of the Zionist regime, which is their only haven at this time.

The analysis of the senior officials of the Bahaist sect, like other experts in international affairs, is that if the revolt and protest continue in the same manner in the Middle East, the Saudi regime, which is a supporter of dictatorship in the area, will fall. Without a doubt, the fall of the Saudi regime, which is one of the secret supporters of the Zionist regime, and openly supports the United States of America in the area, will help in destroying the Zionist regime. As a result, the future of the Bahaist sect will be in jeopardy. This very fact has led them to support the Saudi regime and to want to stop its fall.

It is noteworthy that by looking at the history of the founding of these two misguided sects, Bahaism and Wahhabism, one can easily understand their goals and discover the true face of the founders of these misguided sects.

The Bahá'í Faith among subjects at Basirat Exhibition in Abadan

Source: Basij News (www.basijnews.com)—pro-regime

Content: On 23 March 2011, Basij News reported on the opening of an exhibition, Basirat ("Insight"), in a camp in Abadan. Describing the purpose and the content of the exhibition, Mehdi Sedigh, the director of the exhibition said:

This exhibition has been prepared in an area of 240 square meters and it is named Basirat, designed to bring insight to viewers... Participants can go through two paths, the path of truth and the path of adversity. When going through the path of adversity, with the help of symbols, participants experience a world full of deviation and curves, in a manner that they realize ultimately reaches nowhere. It is a dead-end path that goes only to destruction. The adversity path starts with the introduction of Freemasons and Zionist thinkers, and it continues with the subjects of Wahhabism, Bahaism, the Green revolt, and ultimately the worshiping of Satan. The second path in the exhibition is the symbol of divinity and religion, and the audience, by passing through this path, will come to a gate full of light and a spiritual and heavenly atmosphere with the symbol of Kaaba and the unknown martyr at the end of the exhibition.

Sedigh emphasized that the purpose of the exhibition is to show that whoever leaves the straight path of guidance will ultimately be pulled into the path of adversity and destruction.

More attention to the topic of Mahdavíyyat (the return of the Mahdi) at the seminaries

Source: Iran Quranic News Agency (IQNA)—government-affiliated

Content: On 27 March 2011, IQNA wrote about the recent increase in the activities of seminaries around the theme of Mahdavíyyat (promotion and propagation of the ideology of the return of the Mahdí). In an interview, Hujjatul-Islam Mohammad Ali Mohebbi, a scholar of Mahdavíyyat, stated, "As the level of attacks and misrepresentations of the concept of Mahdavíyyat has increased in recent years, the Qom Seminary has expanded its activities in an effort to clarify some of the prevalent misguided ideologies. The organizing of weekly programmes and frequent seminars at seminaries, particularly at the Fayziyyeh Centre, is a testimony to the importance of this topic."

He further expanded on the idea by saying, "One of the programmes adopted at these centres is discussions for raising awareness about the true nature of the claimers of Mahdavíyyat today, in particular those of Bahaism and Wahhabism. [These programmes

are] also for disseminating accurate information to the general public and the scholars alike. If we could make people understand [that they should] not trust and accept everything that is one-sided, and if we could encourage people to properly research new ideas, we could remove the biggest obstacle facing the general public."

Mohebbi concluded by saying, "Owing to the passionate interest that our nation has in the coming of the Promised One, they accept any conversation and any ideology that brings them closer to the subject of the re-appearance of the twelfth Imam. This is one of the most challenging issues of today."

Seminars and Symposia

Islamic Propaganda Office held 12 conferences to deal with "deviant sects" this past year

Source: Mehr News (www.mehrnews.com)— multilingual website for news and analysis

Content: On 13 March 2011, Mehr News reported that by the conclusion of the Iranian year, the Islamic Propaganda Office had held 12 conferences to deal with the subject of the rise and the spread of deviant sects in Iran. These meetings dealt with the "creation of Bahaist historical and societal contexts," "teachings of the Bahá'í sect," "Salafi trends of thought in the Muslim world," "review of the Salafi beliefs" and "critique of Wahhabi excommunication thinking, principles and votes". In addition, a number of other forms of "mystic cults" were looked at. All sessions aimed "to explain, review and critique the beliefs of the deviant sects".

Conference in Tonekabon to fight against "deviant sects", including the Bahá'í Faith

Source: Iran Quranic News Agency (IQNA) —government-affiliated

Content: On 15 March 2011, IQNA reported:

...a conference on the fight against deviant sects was held in Tonekabon (Mazandaran Province). Hojjatoleslam Seyyed Mehdi Hosseini, the head of the endowments and charity funds said, "The young people must increase their understanding and become familiar with the evil deviant sects and arise to fight them." He pointed to Satanist groups and added, "Today the enemy has changed its face and is imposing its evil objectives on [the younger] generation in the form of a new school." Hosseini continued, "The ideology of Satanism entered Iran in 1370 (1990) and Satanist cults are promoting devil worship with satanic beliefs and thoughts in their worst form." He pointed out that the enemy finances Satan worshiping, and will not come short of any effort. He added, "Muslim communities and children must be alert against the enemy's attacks. These workshops should continue, especially for the young people, to enhance their awareness of wicked and deviant thought such as Bahaism, Wahhabism and Satanism and to isolate themselves from these groups and fight them."

04 - 10 April 2011

Web sites

"The Islamic Republic is pleased at the fear" that recent a documentary generated among "Zionists"

Source: Fars News Agency—government-affiliated

Content: On 5 April, Fars News Agency published an article touting the effectiveness of the "The Secret of Armageddon[17]" documentary series, the latest episode of which was released a few months ago. The article declares that through this documentary series the Islamic Republic has succeeded in exposing political ambitions held by the Zionist regime in Iran and has instilled fear in Zionist circles around the world, including among the Bahá'ís and others. The article substantiated its claim by reporting that since its release the documentary has received 25,000 hits and responses by the media. The article purports to analyze the reactions of the media, by first discussing the reactions of the Zionist media and then those of anti-Zionist media. The Zionist media includes the Tel Aviv University web page, the Israeli anti-terrorist website, all the Bahá'í Web sites, satellite television channels such as VOA, etc.

Bahá'í Faith temporarily added to list of religions in biographical information (allegedly by hackers)

Source: Raja News Agency—government-affiliated

Content: On 6 April, Raja News and a number of other sites published an article indicating that, in a recent move, the Islamic Open University has added the Bahá'í Faith to the list of religions on the student biography page. The article reads as follows:

While the support and recognition of the misguided Bahaist sect is one of the main focuses of the anti-revolutionary movements and the opposition, the [Islamic] Open University has recently taken an unusual step, which has raised confusion for some.

Each student of the Open University, who logs onto their student web page for the first time and wants to fill in his personal data, must indicate his religion next to the place of birth, place of issue, military service, dormitory preference, and marital status.

The significant point is that some of the courses at the Open University have placed this perverse and misguided Bahaist sect next to the [major] religions of God such as Islam, Judaism, Hebraism [sic] and Christianity, and in doing so are considering it as one of the religions of Iran.

This is regardless of the fact that Bahaism is not even a part of any of these religions or religious sects; it is a perverse political sect created by the monarchy of England with its main headquarters in the occupied territory.

[Note: the day after the publication of this news, the site published an explanation stating that the Bahá'í Faith had been added to the list of legitimate religions in the biography page illegally by hackers.]

[17] "The Secret of Armageddon" is the name of a documentary series that has been airing on Iranian state television since 2008. "The Secret of Armageddon 4: Project Ghosts" is the fourth chapter in the series. Episodes 19, 20, and 21, which aired in January 2011, dealt directly with the topic of the Faith.

"The next president of Iran has already been chosen by God"

Source: Rooz Online—a daily published by independent and reformist journalists, advocating for human rights and freedom

Content: On 6 April, Rooz Online published an analysis of recent events focussed on the next presidential elections in Iran. According to the Rooz Online News Agency, President Ahmadinejad has already started the debate on the candidates for the next presidential election. He has declared that the next president will be "chosen by God." However, his fundamentalist opposition has a different perspective on this debate and believes that Ahmadinejad and his chief of staff, Esfandiar Rahim Mashaei, are organizing a campaign that will support the candidacy of Ali Akbar Salehi, the new Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The fundamentalists have responded quickly by alleging that Salehi is of Bahá'í heritage and hence cannot be considered a viable presidential candidate. Rahim Mashaei is also considering running for president, but some believe that he is fully aware of his unpopularity but that he will nonetheless run and, at the last minute, withdraw, only to endorse Ali Akbar Salehi to his supporters and ensure sufficient votes for Salehi's victory. Abdollah Shahbazi alleged not only that Ali Akbar Salehi is of Bahá'í heritage, but also that he is proud of his ancestry. The article explains the campaign strategy from the point of view of Shahbazi, who believes that Rahim Mashaei's strategy resembles that of Vladimir Putin during the fall of the Soviet Union and its transition towards democracy. The article asserts that Rahim Mashaei will make certain moves to disqualify himself, thus leaving Salehi as the only viable choice for president.

Seminars and Symposia

Thirty thousand seminars and meetings on religion or religion-related subjects last year

Source: Iran Quranic News Agency (IQNA) —government-affiliated

Content: On 4 April IQNA reported that according to the Islamic Propagation Organization, last year thirty thousand religious discourse meetings were held across the country. According to the report, the meetings and discourses were designed to help youth better understand various religious and social issues, and to teach them life skills. Issues such as the Islamic Hijab, chastity, the so-called "soft war", newly emerging religions, and deviant ideologies were tackled. In the realm of deviant ideologies, "Satanism, Bahaism, and other philosophies that claim to be new religions were investigated by experts and scholars." In these meetings and seminars it was shown that "with the help of the soft war, trickery and sometimes simply by cultural ambushes, the enemy is trying to push its ideology into the veins of the society at large."

11 - 24 April 2011

Web sites

Noting displeasure of foreign officials at doubling of sentence for Yárán (leadership group)

Source: Jam News (jamnews.ir)—pro-government news agency

Content: On 2 April, Jam News reflected on the increase in the sentence of the former members of the Yárán (leadership group) and wrote the following:

Catherine Ashton, the head of foreign affairs and security policy for the European Union, expressed her concern about the news that the prison sentence of the seven leaders of the misguided Bahaist sect had been doubled, and demanded their release. In a statement she said, "I am concerned to hear that the initial twenty-year prison sentence for the former leaders of the Bahaists might have been confirmed, and I want the Iranian officials to specify the legal situation of these seven individuals."

The other day, Mark Toner, the spokesperson for the US State Department [also] expressed his deepest regrets regarding the twenty-year prison sentence for the Bahaist leaders in Iran, and condemned the action.

It is worth mentioning that these individuals were spying against the Islamic Republic to help the goals of the Western politicians, and collaborated with the Zionist regime, and now that they have been captured, the claimers of human rights are raising their voices, while they are silent in the face of the massacre of the people of Yemen and Bahrain.

"Rise and spread of false knowledge" examined by university professors

Source: Javan Online—affiliated with the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)

Content: On 3 April, Javan Online published an article that addressed the problem of the emergence of false spirituality in society by presenting the points of view of six university professors in Iran. The subjects mentioned were wizardry, healing powers, personality disorders, colonial governments and the Shiite powers. In one segment Mohammad Moradi, an anthropologist, wrote:

The spread of false knowledge is visible in every corner of the country, and those who spread it have different motives. For some, it is a means of acquiring wealth, while for others it facilitates achieving immoral goals. In all cases, the support of foreign governments helps and intensifies the activities of misguided groups.

It is a ploy used by governments like the British and Americans to send individuals to India to be trained in such false knowledge. Later they dispatch the same individuals to different countries for the purpose of spreading perverse beliefs.

Throughout history we have witnessed the creation of the Babist sect during the time of Mohammad Shah of Qajar, the creation of the Bahaist sect during the time of Nasir-Al-Din Shah, and Wahhabism during the Ottoman Empire by the British colonialists. The spread of Wahhabism and devil worshiping in Iran and the neighbouring countries is for the purpose of confronting the Shiite religion, which has been spreading in recent years.

The cultural attacks in recent years have given rise to things such as the hippies, rap music, heavy metal, devil worshiping, prayer writing, energy healing, etc.

Sometimes we see that these people disrespect the Quran in their gatherings. Some of the youths who do not have a strong religious foundation are attracted to such groups. Once

they are members, it is impossible for them to leave. The main tool used by such groups to spread heresy is the Internet.

Mahmoud Abbas criticized and called Bahá'í

Source: Kayhan Web site—official government newspaper

Content: On 9 April Kayhan criticized the reaction of Mahmoud Abbas's government towards the Bahrain and Kuwait governments. It wrote that the "self-run Palestinian organization supports Bahrain and Kuwait while they are attacking their own Muslim nations." Further, it wrote that Abbas is annoyed at the fall of Mubarak because "he was one of the strongest mercenaries in the fight against Palestinian resistance." The article ends with the following claims:

Mahmoud Abbas's government in the West Bank is considered an illegal regime and lacks the backing of the Palestinian Muslims. Hamas is now the legitimate and democratic government that has emerged from a fair election by the Palestinians. According to documents leaked, the government of Mahmoud Abbas acts as a mercenary and spy against the Palestinian resistance, and in a number of cases has revealed relevant information to Mossad.

It is noteworthy that Mahmoud Abbas is a Baha'i immigrant to Palestine and a grandchild of "Abbas Effendi", from where he gets his name and lineage. Mahmoud Abbas's Bahá'í lineage has been confirmed by the great Palestinian impartial historian Moor Khan and the Zionist authorities have not denied it, but made reference to its validity.

Film festival in Toronto accused of being "anti-Iranian" and supported by Bahá'ís

Source: Kayhan Web site—official government newspaper

Content: On 10 April, based on a report by Kayhan, two Iranian filmmakers attended the "anti-Iranian" festival of Tiregan, held annually in Toronto, Canada in June. Kayhan declares that the festival is focused on art and is organized for the "so-called Iranian artists"; however, it adds that Tiregan is but a "venue designed by the Canadian intelligence services to promote activities of the anti-Iranian movements." Financial support for this festival comes from the Bahá'í newspaper Salam Toronto, and the Bahá'í radio and television, "with a six hour daily broadcast of programs to promote Bahaism." The article then focuses on ridiculing the director of the festival, Mehrdad Arinnejad, and the rest of the Iranian artists who collaborated with the festival. While portraying the organizers as people who are opposed to the Islamic Republic, the article points out that one the filmmakers removed her veil to attend this festival.

Bahá'í artist criticized for his views on architecture

Source: Fars News Agency—government-affiliated

Content: On 11 April Fars News wrote a review of a documentary called "I am Iran," which is about the life and work of Hooshang Seyhoun, a Bahá'í architect. The

documentary is a Canadian production that was filmed in Los Angeles and broadcast by the BBC. Fars News put the production of this documentary in the context of the continuing soft war against Islam and wrote:

> *The documentary "I am Iran" can be considered the continuation of a project that gives more prominence to "Iranism" rather than "Islamism." That is because Seyhoun believes that "Islamic architecture" does not exist, only "Iranian architecture" exists. He said, "What you have is the 'Iranian architecture' that is produced at the time of Islam." He also believes that a mosque is a fully Iranian edifice which is inspired by the Sassanid period, and is not a structure inspired by holy [Islamic] art. It is necessary to mention that Hooshang Seyhoun is one of the renowned Bahá'ís whose membership in pre-revolution Freemasonry has been proven.*

Hojjatul Islam defends the making of the documentary "The Return is Near"

Source: Khabar Online (khabaronline.ir) —site for news and analysis, claims to be independent but functioning within the framework of the Islamic Republic

Content: In March 2011, a documentary film was released to Internet users on the topic of the return of the Promised One, called "The Return is Near." While dealing with the theme of the Return, the film explores Islamic scriptures regarding the conditions of the world and the signs that would portend the return of the twelfth Imam. In the same film, the stations of Ahmadinejad and Khamenei are elevated to those who will aid and facilitate the process of the Return. They are introduced as two of the main figures whose presence is indicative that the time of the return of the Imam is close. The reactions to the film were mixed. Neither Khamenei nor Ahmadinejad ever publically denied the claims made in the film. A few clerics objected to the production of such a movie.

On 11 April, Khabar Online published an interview with Hojjatul Islam Jafar Shejuni, the secretary of the Society for Preachers in Tehran, about the production of the documentary "The Return is Near." Shejuni believes that at the present juncture in the history of mankind there are only two predominant and enduring forces in the world: democracy and Mahdavíyyat [promotion and propagation of the ideology of the Return of the Promised One (Mahdí)]. He narrows it down further by saying that, "Of the two forces, Mahdaviyyat is the most important force, since the concept of democracy has already been ruined by powers in Europe and the United States." Therefore, he believes that concentrating on the theme of Mahdaviyyat is worthwhile, as "all the religions of the world are waiting for the return of their promised Mahdi; however, their Promised One is different from ours. Our [the Islamic] Mahdi is the complete one."

Shejuni denied his involvement but defended the making of the documentary. He said that even if errors were made in the film, it was still quite effective in the promotion of the theme of Return. To this effect, he then was asked, "Then is this not what the Bahá'ís are suggesting? Did not the Bahá'ís begin preaching similar arguments? Does the conclusion of such analyses not lead us to Bahaism?" To which he responded, "I agree! But strongly disagree that the producers of this documentary should be reprimanded, because they are good people and they meant well. We must be very cautious with the Bahaist ideology. Bahaism was originally supported by British intelligence services and has now become a misguided ideology." The interview ended with the journalist reiterating his concern that this documentary may have had a negative impact on the public's perception of the theme of Mahdaviyyat.

Grand Ayatollah asks clergy to teach Islam with effectiveness

Source: Mashregh News (www.mashreghnews.ir)— pro-government website, with the mandate to help combat the soft war

Content: On 12 April, Mashregh News published the views of Grand Ayatollah Lotfollah Safi Golpayegani about the duty of the clergy in teaching Islam. He said, "Propagation of the religion is one of the most important responsibilities of the clergy. Teaching was the very essence of the life of the Prophets and their disciples." He then emphasised the significance of teaching effectively and in accordance with the cultural standards of every geographical region. He also proclaimed that teaching must become an international effort and teachers should take the healing message of Islam to the entire world. "Even though these days, misguided sects such as the misguided Bahaists, Christians, and Wahhabists, make a lot of noise, in reality they have no strength. In essence, they are nothing." Safi said, "Our religion is a religion of logic and through logic we must prove the reality of Islam to these misguided and perverse sects."

Warning against trends under which Babism and Bahaism were formed

Source: Khabar Online (khabaronline.ir) —site for news and analysis, claims to be independent but functioning within the frame of the Islamic Republic

Content: On 12 April, Khabar Online reflected the views of Seyyed Hassan Khomeini, son of the late Ayatollah Ruhullah Khomeini. He spoke on the popular radical ideologies that are fast spreading, aiming to displace the doctrine established by his late father. He spoke at length to the young clergy in the Theological Centre and urged them to adhere to Imam Khomeini's doctrines.

Seyyed Hassan Khomeini spoke on the theme of separation of religion and politics and stated that religion has always been independent of politics and he could not understand why there was such a debate. He also advised that rituals must be set aside and not confused with religious laws. The other subject he spoke on was the expulsion of those individuals from the centre stage who did not adhere to Khomeini's doctrine; but Seyyed Hassan warned the clergy against the radical ideologies that are trying to represent themselves as new doctrines. He said, "False ideologies are confronting the words of God." He compared these radical ideologies to secular nationalism and fascism. He stated, "One of these doctrines, which is extremely treacherous today ... is the deceitful ideology claiming to be associated with the hidden treasure of the Promised One. You must all reflect on how Bahaism was formed." He warned, "The ideology of Babism and Bahaism was not formed overnight; obviously the Sheykhis believed in the fourth principle and a false association with the coming of the Promised One under the title of 'the Bab', which later led to the formation of the false doctrine of Bahaism." Seyyed Hassan Khomeini believes that this is the reason that many ecclesiastical authorities have warned us against such superstitions.

Reconstruction of "Bahá'í sect's" headquarters: allegation that budget over $6 million was "funded by the Zionist government"

Source: Gerdab (www.gerdab.ir)—affiliated with the Iranian Revolutionary Guard

Content: On 14 April, Gerdab reported on the completion of the restoration of the Shrine of the Báb as follows:

The reconstruction work on this building in the occupied city of Haifa on Mount Carmel in Palestine took two and a half years; and all of the cost, which was over six million dollars, was paid by the occupier Zionist regime and the Americans.

The Bahá'ís designated Haifa as the centre of their activities after the establishment of the Zionist regime in 1948, with the support of the Americans. The Zionist regime also recognizes the misguided Bahaist sect as a "recognized religion." This of course helps them realize one of their longstanding dreams, which is an attack on the Muslims.

Jiroft leading city in cultural activities by the Islamic Propaganda Office during past year

Source: Islamic Development Organization (IDO) (www.ido.ir) —pro-regime website

Content: On 17 April, IDO wrote that the Islamic Propagation Office of Jiroft (Kerman Province) has been the most aggressive office in performing and promoting cultural activities in the area. Khodadad Amini Ravesh, the head of the Islamic Propagation Office in Jiroft, said, "Praise be to God, in the last year this office has been leading the way in cultural activities..." Holding sessions to introduce Bahaism was among activities mentioned in the long list of other activities. Ravesh expects and hopes that this year will be as successful as the past year.

Bahaism referred to as ancient tool of the British soft war against Iran

Source: Borna News (www.bornanews.com)— government-affiliated

Content: On 18 April, Borna News and other sites published an extensive article criticising the British Embassy in Tehran for reflecting news about the Bahá'í Faith. The article began with, "British efforts to support and expand the Bahá'í cult activities, especially in the midst of a regional Middle East crisis, is only an example of its soft war against Iran." The following is an extract from the remainder of the article:

While the regrettable events in Bahrain, Libya and Yemen, and the cruel slaughter of the defenceless people of these countries, have turned into the most important and most painful events of 2011 and require special measures and special efforts to solve the crisis, the British embassy in Tehran, in a questionable action, has dedicated the first page of its website to publishing news of the arrest of Bahá'í leaders in Iran.

The fact that the British embassy has dedicated a major part of its website to the subject of human rights in Iran, as well as the arrest of Bahá'ís, is deeply rooted in the distant past. The formation and expansion of Babism and particularly Bahaism, which is still active today, is one of the soft war attempts by the colonialists. It began about 168 years ago and aimed to plant a division at the heart of the Shiite religion in order to pursue its goals.

The members and leaders of the Bahaist sect and Babism received their training from the British intelligence, with the objective of creating division among Shiites. They aimed at

weakening the deepest roots of Shiite ideology by creating doubts and a void in the faith of the people.

About one hundred and fifty years ago, with the help of British colonialism and its guidance, a made-up group by the name of Babism and the Bahá'í Faith was formed in our country, and according to surveys and studies that have been conducted by researchers and experts, the overall orientation of Bahaism is to isolate the Iranian nation from the ayatollahs and to engage them in a man-made ideology—an ideology whose irrational aspect overshadows its rational one, an ideology that was gradually leaving the society and its political life. Ultimately, a tendency toward this ideology caused the separation of people from religion and spirituality and facilitated the peoples' adherence to ungodly schools of thought.

However, given the increasing activities of deviant sects in Iran, including Bahaism in recent years, and the atmosphere created by the British government with the news about this cult, it seems as though the country's [Britain's] politicians have doubled their efforts in this area following the rioting and disturbances of the post-presidential election period and assess this as the opportune time to achieve their objectives in Iran…

Member of National Security Commission welcomes closing of British Embassy in Iran

Source: Borna News (www.bornanews.com)—government-affiliated

Content: On 18 April, following the announcement that the British embassy has closed its office in Iran, Borna News published an article in which Mohammad Karim Abedi, member of the National Security and Foreign Affairs Commission of Majlis, expressed his pleasure at the decision. In an interview, he elaborates on the relationship between the two governments. The following is an extract of what he said:

Britain has [committed] the worst atrocities against various nations, including Iran... Britain brought to Iran the Freemasons, and allowed Bahaism, Wahhabism, and other false mystic sects to spread and gain roots in Iran. It also promoted and helped in the import of drugs and opium from farms in Afghanistan. While Britain has always benefitted greatly from Iran, Iran herself has never benefitted from relations with Britain.

Abedi went on to recount other "atrocities" committed by the British against Iran. He ended by saying that "Iran is welcoming the severing of ties with Britain because there is no advantage for Iran in maintaining such a relationship."

Seminars and Symposia

Centre at Qom Seminary will continue offering courses to clerics

Source: Fars News Agency—government-affiliated

Content: On 16 April, Fars News and other sites published an interview with Hojjatoleslam Ali Asghar Saná'í, the director of the Applied Cultural Learning Centre, at the Qom Seminary Islamic Propagation Office. Saná'í recounted the successes of the centre in the last year in training individuals in various religious practices. He referred to

various courses that were offered in different parts of the country to better educate clerics in practices such as Hajj, leading prayers, etc. He said that this training will continue into the current year. Saná'í further stated that this year "One hundred ninety students will participate in the first period of the training on topics such as Bahaism and Wahhabism and criticism or familiarity with Christianity and newly emerging ideologies, in order to better respond to the questions and concerns of the young generation...The general training will be held over the course of two six-month periods and there are currently 400 scholars that are undergoing training in these courses."

Finally, he noted, "Since four years ago every year 500 people go through the centre's training in Qom and these courses will continue to be offered this upcoming year as well."

Teacher training sessions in Amol to teach about "deviant sects"

Source: Mehr News (www.mehrnews.com)— multilingual website for news and analysis

Content: On 16 April, Mehr News announced the start of teacher training sessions on how to deal with and combat the emergence of deviant sects in Mazandaran Province. In this regard, Hojatol-Islam Jafar Ghafari, deputy of propagation and practical training at the seminary of Mazandaran, pointed out that each year his office holds training sessions aimed at teaching attendees about deviant sects. He added that a training session was currently underway with 80 clerics in attendance. "They get trained to become familiarized with the ways deviant sects begin and function in various ways," while adding that "participants from the seven cities of Amol, Babol, Nour, Mahmood Abad, Babolsar, Western Bandie, and Eastern Bandie are participating." The training session lasted for two days in the city of Amol. For these sessions, he added, "skilled scholars are brought from Qum who will discuss the most important issues regarding the deviant sects."

Ghafari further pointed to the expansion of the activities of the deviant sects in society and said, "Satanism, Bahaism, and various other newly emerging sects are trying to expand their activities, and increase their membership, with the support of the West and Zionism. In this ambush, the youth are most vulnerable, due to their curiosity and their thirst for the truth. With the utilization of false slogans, false claims and other means of trickery, deviant sects try to attract the youth. That is why the religious and cultural custodians should familiarize the youth with these activities."

While stressing that deviant sects are the West's operative in weakening the religious beliefs of the young generation, Ghafari reiterated that the "world arrogant powers are seeking to strengthen these sects by widely investing in them."

25 April- 1 May 2011

Web sites

Report on restoration of the Shrine of the Báb

Source: Fars News Agency—government-affiliated

Content: On 17 April 2011, Fars News quoted from a number of sources about the restoration of the Shrine of the Báb. Following are some extracts from the Fars News article:

The reconstruction of the golden dome of the Bahaist sect in the city of Haifa in Israel has cost tens of millions of dollars. It was eventually inaugurated after three years.

This building, which is situated in the Bahá'í Gardens in Haifa, was placed on the list of UNESCO's historical places in 2008, an action that is further indicative of the support of the UN for this misguided sect.

The inauguration ceremony was held in Colony Hotel in Haifa and a number of religious and political officials attended. The mayor of Haifa congratulated the followers of this misguided sect and added, "The dome of the shrine will be one of the important monuments of the city of Haifa. It is the symbol of this city."

There are eleven different places in northern Israel that belong to the Bahaist sect. Their head office is in Israel and they are under the full support of Israel and America.

Fast food restaurant purportedly associated with the Bahá'ís

Source: Alef (alef.ir)—pro-regime web site

Content: On 20 April Alef wrote that recently in one of the streets in Tehran a fast food restaurant by the name of "19" was opened. The article associates it with the Bahá'ís and goes on to explore the significance to Bahá'ís of certain numbers, as follows:

The misguided Bahaist sect considers number nine to be holy. The reason behind this is that the numerical value of the word Baha in Abjad reckoning is equal to the number nine. It is noteworthy to know that the numerical value of the two words vaba [cholera] and boz [goat] are also equal to the number nine in Abjad reckoning.

Many numbers are considered either sacred or auspicious by the Bahá'ís. Their most important and sacred number is nineteen which is the basis of their calendar. The number of months in a year, the number of days in a month, the number of fasting days, the amount of dowry for women, cash fines, and even the number of chapters in their Holy Book is all based on this number nineteen. More noteworthy is the number of indentations in Tehran's Azadi structure, which is also nineteen and its main entry points towards their Qiblih, which is indicative that the engineer of the building was Bahá'í...The reason behind selecting number nineteen, much like number nine, is because that is the numerical value of the word Bahá'í in Abjad reckoning.

The article then points to the negative connotation of the number nineteen in Islam by indicating that the Qur'an refers to nineteen "angels of torment" which may indeed "be a reference to the ignorance of this misguided sect." To support this view, the article ends with a quote from Ayatollah Makarem Shirazi, "A religion from hell revolves around a number from hell."

"Bahá'ís are used by Britain" to "create division in the Muslim world"

Source: Raja News Agency—government-affiliated

Content: On 21 April, Raja News published an extensive article portraying Britain as the great oppressor of the Islamic world throughout history. The article suggests that the Britain's foreign policy is based on an attitude of "divide and conquer," implemented through sundry means to create divisions among Muslims. This includes geographical divisions, such as the 1948 partitioning of Islamic countries, social divisions, and even religious schisms in order to create deep cultural divide among Muslim nations.

Describing the creation of sects as an instrument for discord, the article purveys the usual allegation that the Bahá'í Faith was a creation of the British. The article goes on to state that the recent turmoil in Tunisia and Egypt are directly linked to Britain, as clearly evident by the visits of high level British officials to those countries. It recalls at length the various events leading up to the collapse of these regimes, aiming to establish that Britain employs a range of strategies to disunite the Muslim nations.

Eighth school of applied sciences to combat social decline

Source: Fars News Agency—government-affiliated

Content: On 21 April, Fars News announced the launch of the eighth school of applied sciences in Ferdows (Khorasan Province). In an interview, Mohammad Karim Abedi, the representative of the people of Ferdows, pointed to some of the major social problems of the region and revealed his plan of action to address the region's rapid social decline. He identified extreme prejudice towards outsiders, greed, addiction, and gravitation towards perverse ideologies such as "Bahaism" as a few of the predominant problems in the area. Abedi stated that he hopes that the opening of the School of Applied Sciences will have a positive effect on the youth, and that it will help restore morality among them.

Islamic Revolutionary Guards determined to protect the Islamic Revolution

Source: Mardomak (www.mardomak.org)—claims to be an unbiased source for news and analysis

Content: On 23 April, Mardomak published an interview with Mohammad Ali Jafari, the General Commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC]. Jafari declared that "the Corps feels no constraint or hesitation when it comes to protecting the Islamic Revolution and its achievements." According to him, "The Corps' duty and mission [in protecting the Islamic Revolution] are total, complete, and all-encompassing." Jafari defined the IRGC as "an organization with security, cultural, ideological, political and military functions."

Pointing to the troubles of 2009, Jafari said, "It is very clear that the main opposition in the 2009 sedition was against Viláyat-e Faqih [the Supreme Leader], as it was obvious in their lack of obedience to the Leader's decisions." The Commander of the IRGC added that in a city like Tehran with a population of millions, it is not unusual to have two to three thousand people who are fundamentally opposed to the Revolution. They are "the members of the Mujahidin, the communists, the monarchists and the Bahá'ís".

Jafari reminded that the opponents of the regime are incapable of understanding the Revolution, and that the more the country advances the more they deviate from the path of Revolution.

University professor thinks doctrine of the Return has dangerous consequences

Source: Rahesabz (www.rahesabz.ne)— affiliated with the Green Movement

Content: On 24 April, Rahesabz published an interview with Sadigheh Vasmaghi, a university professor who is described as a scholar of the Qur'an. The interview revolved around the theme of the Return, focusing specially on the recent documentary called "the Return is Near." Vasmaghi is of the opinion that the promoters of the idea of the Return have political motives. She calls it a fake movement that has been gaining momentum in the last few years. She said, "Ever since 1997, with the rise of the reform movement in the country, the ruling class has felt vulnerable. In order to maintain their position of power and to kill the reformist movement, they have [once more] resorted to manipulating the religious beliefs of the people." To the question of who is directing this movement, she replied, "This movement has not openly introduced its supporters yet. Only the promoters of the movement are identified. But in a book in Arabic... the spiritual leader of the movement has been identified as Mesbah Yazdi. So far, neither he nor any other high ranking officials who are linked to the movement have announced their disagreement. In my opinion, their silence is a sign of agreement."

The interviewer states that "long after the wars in Iran and Russia, Shiite clerics such as Shaykh Ahmad-i-Ahsa'i and after him Siyyid Kazim-i-Rashti spoke about the imminent coming of the Imam of the Age. Sometime later Muhammad-'Ali [sic] the Báb declared himself to be the Mihdí." With that in mind, he asked about the roots of the present tendency towards the theme of the Return. To this Vasmaghi replied, "It is hard to know who is behind this particular movement. But there have been such claims throughout history and all have had horrible consequences. I recommend to the followers of the current movement to study similar historical events carefully... Given the characteristics of this movement and its support of the government, a special group of people tend to follow it. These are those who themselves support the government, and tend to be shallow in their religious beliefs and are not well informed. Although this movement has not penetrated all strata of the society, since it is supported by government, there is cause for concern."

Seminars and Symposia

Cleric warns that activities of "misguided sects" are on the rise

Source: Fars News Agency—government-affiliated and other sites

Content: On 13 April Fars News and other sites published the views of Hojjatoleslam Alireza Roozbahani Boroujerdi regarding the gravitation of people towards misguided beliefs as conveyed by him at a two-day conference attended by 80 clerics.

Regarding the issue of the Return, Boroujerdi said, "If the advent of the Lord of the Age is clearly explained to people and they understand the true essence of the Imam, they will not gravitate towards deviant sects." He pointed out that the expansion of Shaykhiyih , Babism, and the Bahaist sects is prompted by this lack of knowledge of the prophecies of the advent

by the people.

Boroujerdi, considers Hijab to be one of the main issues that separate the misguided sects from Islam. "One of the main issues that is the cause of enmity of the misguided sects towards Islam is the issue of Hijab… It represents our Islamic identity and is a symbol of Islamic society. That is the reason the misguided sects are working hard to abolish this Islamic value." With respect to the rights of women, he said, "The equality man and woman is only a pretence and a slogan among the sects, because in practice when you look into their organizations there is no evidence of women in leadership roles."

Regarding respect for other religions, Boroujerdi said, "How can the leaders of the Bahaist sect claim to follow the principles of unity and respect for all religions, while they themselves heap blame and insult on other religions?"

He expressed that the abolition of Islamic law is an important plan of these misguided sects, and reminded that while fasting, obligatory prayer, and pilgrimage exist in all religions, such things have no concrete foundations in the teachings of the misguided sects.

Boroujerdi further claimed that "while sects like Shaykhiyih prohibits war, most of the generals and high ranking army officials at the time of Pahlavi belonged to them." He added "Before the victory of the Islamic Revolution, these groups, specially the Bahaists, were taking over the main positions of power and in the ministries. About one hundred and seventy four key positions of the government were in the hands of the Bahaist leaders."

Conference to recognize and honour opponent of the Bábí movement

Source: Ayandeh Rowshan News (www.bfnews.ir)—pro-regime web site

Content: On 23 April, Ayandeh Rowshan published an article about a forthcoming congress in honour of Saiid-ul-Ulama Barforoosh who was born in 1808 and is known to be one of the adversaries of the Bábí movement in Mazandarán. The article gives a biographical account of his life, his work and his achievements. It also introduces him as a brave and a staunch opponent of the Bábi movement in Babul.

Series of seminars on the return of the Promised One (Mahdavíyyat)

Source: Fars News Agency—government-affiliated

Content: On 23 April, Fars News wrote that the dean of the educational foundation for Mahdavíyyat, Mohammad Bourzuei, has plans to organize the fifth seminar on the series "How to Await the Friend." The purpose of these seminars is to raise the awareness on the Return and train human resources among the university students who will be able to gradually disseminate the concept of Mahdavíyyat amidst the student body. These seminars will be conducted in sixteen sessions over a period of eight weeks.

Some of the themes covered in seminars are: Promised One as stated in Quran; the concept of spiritual bounties in the world of being; the philosophy of hiding; Mahdavíyyat and Islamic civilization; the signs of the Return; how to await and the duties of the expectant; the perverse Mahdavíyyat movements; the West and analysis of the misguided Bahaist sect (mirage of Bahaism)]

02 - 08 May 2011

Web sites

Friday Prayer Leader expresses surprise that after 30 years "Bahaism" still exists in Iran

Source: Fars News Agency—government-affiliated

Content: On 29 April, the Friday prayer leader of Yazd, in a speech recounting the successes of the past, said that what has helped the nation so far to withstand the onslaught of the enemy is first, faith and trust in God, and second, guarding the dignity of the Supreme Leader. 'Currently,' he said, 'we [the nation] are grappling with some perverse problems. Muslim nations all over have awakened, and we need to have something to tell them. We all need to gravitate towards Islamic teachings and achieve unity. More than anything we need unity now.' With respect to non-Muslims such as Jews and Christians, the imam advocated 'brotherly behaviour.' But regarding other sects the imam added, 'We have been doing cultural work for the past thirty years in the country. Considering that, one should ask what sects such as Satanism and Bahaism are still doing [here] after thirty years in an Islamic country.' In conclusion, the imam reminded [the congregation] that all political factions in the country must remember that they all have one common enemy and that is the combined forces of the US and the tyrant Zionist regime. He warned that 'This enemy has money and resources and facilities, and we need to deal quite cleverly with an enemy that is [so] well armed.'

"Bahá'í leader arrested in Mazandaran"

Source: Nedayeenghelab (www.nedayeenghelab.com)—pro-government website

Content: On 30 April, Nedayeenghelab wrote about the arrest of a "Bahá'í leader" with the initials "V. G" in Mazandaran Province. It was mentioned that "the accused was arrested for teaching activities and for misleading the youth." The announcement also reiterated lines from old articles: "Some of the methods emphasized by the Universal House of Justice in missionary activities for attracting individuals are the use of music, the promotion of immoral behaviour, the encouragement of the mingling of men and women, etc."

UK-based TV network accused of promoting godlessness and associated with Bahá'ís

Source: Asremroz (www.asremroz.ir)— pro-regime website

Content: On 1 May, Asremroz wrote a critique of Manoto television network, which is based in England. The article pointed to the high probability that this network is run and supported by the Bahá'ís. "Others have linked the sponsorship of this network to the London Bahá'í community. Considering the sizeable number of Bahá'ís employed as producers and anchormen on this network, this seems to be a convincing argument." One of the angles with which the article aims to discredit the choice of programming at Manoto network is to imply that there are alternative motives in broadcasting certain programmes. As an example, the writer points to documentaries about life, birth and the formation of the foetus in the mother's womb and says, "At first glance the programme seem to be

informative and in accordance with family ethics, but the reality is something else. It is quite obvious that the producers are trying to gradually and tactfully change the thinking of the viewers and persuade them to believe that God does not exist." The article continues to present other examples to prove that there are hidden motives behind the productions of certain programmes, all of which are contrary to the Islamic approach.

The West accused of double standards in ignoring plight of Shiites in Bahrain while supporting rights of Bahá'ís in Iran

Source: Javan Online—affiliated with the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)

Content: On 1 May, Javan Online published an article that focused on the injustice and recent acts of discrimination against Shiite Muslims in Bahrain. The writer focuses on exposing the double-standard of human rights policies of the West. The article catalogues atrocities that the Sunni leadership in Bahrain and Saudi Arabia have committed against Shiite Muslims, including the destruction of 35 mosques, the torching of 70 mosques, and the burning of 80 volumes of the Holy Quran. Then it questions the power of the American human rights media, which has totally closed its eyes to the atrocities of the Bahraini government's dismissal of Shiite workers, teachers, students, doctors, lawyers and nurses from employment. It implies that the West is supporting the cruelty that Wahhabis have shown toward the Shiites in the region.

The article goes on to cite the example of Syria and how the Western media is questioning the injustice of a minority Alavi family ruling over a majority Sunni country; but fails to question a minority Sunni family reigning over a majority Shiite country in Bahrain and Saudi Arabia. Although the article is not focused on the Bahá'í Faith, the writer seizes the opportunity to link the Bahá'ís to Western policies stating, "It is interesting to note that the Western defenders of free speech and human rights all launch their objections, declarations and back to back resolutions as soon as British-made Bahaism experiences the slightest grief, but in the face of one of the most cruel discriminatory Wahhabi operations against the Shiites, and other Islamic sects, the West has chosen silence."

Annual report of US Commission on International Religious Freedom accused of bias

Source: Students News Network (SNN) (snn.ir) — pro-regime website

Content: On 1 May, SNN wrote about the annual report of the US Commission on International Religious Freedom. The following are extracts from the article:

The US Commission on International Religious Freedom published its annual report on Thursday about 14 countries, including the Islamic Republic as among the countries that are in violation of religious freedom. Of course, the main concern of the named committee is the Islamic Republic's pressure on the misguided Bahaist sect.

The US Commission on International Religious Freedom has asked the US government to identify the responsible officials and organizations that are involved in violations of religious freedom in Iran and to exert sanctions on these individuals' travel and to block their assets in this country.

The report has stressed that the activities of Bahaism and Sufism must become free and there were expressions of frustration about the way the Islamic Republic treats the Bahá'ís.

The Bahá'í sect was manufactured by the British 172 years ago. After the formation of Israel, with the support of the British, this sect came to the attention of Israel due to its tenacity and sectarian hatred against Islam and the Quran. Israel even protects their property, and they are exempt from paying taxes there.

The British once awarded Abdu'l-Bahá (the false prophet of Bahaism) the title SIR.

There are many immoral teachings among the sect's beliefs; for example, in Bahaism only marriage with one's stepmother is forbidden. Otherwise, they are free to marry their daughters, sisters, aunts and uncles. They are free to have sexual relations with them.

Critique of Bahá'í Faith scheduled at upcoming book fair

Source: Tabnak (www.tabnak.ir) — pro-regime website

Content: On 7 May, Tabnak announced that the twenty-fourth International Book Fair would be held in Tehran on 14 May and that the Bahá'í Faith would be reviewed and critiqued by Hujatulislam Siyyid Hadi Salehi during the event.

Seminars and Symposia

Cleric states that the aim of the Bahá'í Faith is the destruction of Islam

Source: Borna News (www.bornanews.com)— government-affiliated, and other sites

Content: On 23 April, Borna News and a number of other sites wrote that a two-day training seminar was held with 60 participants in Yazd. The theme and the objective of the seminar was "combat with the deviant Bahaist sect." Hojjatoleslam Alireza Roozbehani Boroujerdi, the director of the centre for religions and sects in the Qom Seminaries stated that the "objective of the formation of the misguided Bahaist sect has been to nullify the liberating thought of Mahdaviyyat and the destruction of the purity of Islam." He continued, "Through exerting international influence, the leaders of this sect aim to force those governments that do not agree with this sect to accept it and accept its activities within their countries." Regarding the activities of the Bahá'ís he added, "They are trying to convince governments that they are not a threat and that it is a religion, merely aiming to promote morality and good values for living. However, [it is clear that] they are after an eventual world government."

Boroujerdi advised that preachers and other religious orators must try to promote the pure culture of Mahdaviyyat in society and that "the spirit of expectation [for the advent of the Mahdi] must become strengthened in the society."

He added that the Bahá'ís try to promote themselves through different means such as the "portraying of Muslim clerics as indecent, presenting Islam as ineffective, promoting free-

thinking, abrogating and altering Islamic principles, stealing and promoting Islamic slogans in their own name, penetrating the circles of power, and gaining authority."

Boroujerdi pointed out that the Baha'i Faith has also grown in other ways, such as economic, cultural, and political ways; and added that foreign powers such as Russia and Britain have had a notable part in this. He ended by saying that, "this new sect offers empty slogans and makes deviant claims intended to mislead the thinking in the society and abrogate Islamic values."

Two-day seminar in Kerman to understand operation and effects of "deviant sects"

Source: Islamic Development Organization (IDO) (www.ido.ir) —pro-regime website[18]

Content: On 1 May, IDO announced that a two-day seminar would be held in Kerman aiming to familiarize the attendees with various religions and sects, with particular emphasis being placed on Bahaism and Wahhabism. According to Fariba Assadi, a representative of the Islamic Propaganda Office of Kerman, "The aim of this session is to present a critical investigation that is both scientific and cultural about deviant sects and cults—in particular, Bahaism and Wahhabism. It is also to raise awareness and to build capacities among the clergy, so that they are able to effectively confront the misguided sects. They need to be able to prevent the penetration and the spread of misguided ideology among the youth. It is important to neutralize the activities of the enemies of Islam, which have increased a hundredfold with the spread of misguided sects." Assadi concluded, "The main focus of this session is to become familiarized with deviant sects, and to understand the damages that ensue as a result of the spread of their ideology among the youth and junior youth."

09 - 15 May 2011

Web sites

The House of Justice criticized for staying silent in the face of atrocities in the Middle East

Source: Rasa News Agency (www.rasanews.ir)—pro-regime site, initiated by scholars and researchers of Qom Seminary

Content: On 9 May, Rasa News published an article in which it criticized the Universal House of Justice for not reacting to the atrocities that are happening in Bahrain. The following are extracts from the article:

Hojatoleslam Seyyed Reza Sajjadi, a Bahá'í expert, in an interview with Rasa, said: 'The twelve principles lay the foundations of Bahaism. They are also repeatedly taught to others by their missionaries. Among these is the principle of the unity of humanity.'

[18] Note: There is a picture of Russian landmarks, the British flag, the American flag, the Israeli flag in the middle, and a picture of Bahá'u'lláh on the lower left hand side and a picture of 'Abdu'l-Bahá on the mid-right section. The title of the picture is "The Truth about Bahaism" in bold red.

This expert said, 'In this regard, Shoghi Effendi has said that the unity of humanity is the pinnacle of all the Bahá'í teachings; and 'Abdu'l-Bahá also talked about unity by encouraging people to see the enemy as the friend...'

While these sayings sound beautiful, one must ask who [it is that] Bahá'ís consider human beings. Do they also consider Muslims, Christians or Buddhists to be humans? Does it make a difference if one is a female or a male, white, yellow or red?

Since the formation of Israel nearly seventy years ago, Bahaism has always enjoyed the support of Israel. Despite the many injustices and oppressions to which Israel has subjected the Palestinians, Jordanians and Lebanese, not once has Bahaism shown any reaction.

Bahaism must answer the question as to why, thus far, it has not issued a statement concerning the injustices and oppressions suffered by the people of the Middle East. Aren't Palestinians, Jordanians, Lebanese and Iranians human beings? Why is it that they do not condemn [the brutal actions of] Americans and Israelis?

All the brutal events that took place in Afghanistan, and the Israeli actions in Gaza, were condemned by many countries, even by certain political groups in America, but despite the Bahá'ís' fundamental belief in the unity of mankind, they are silent about these crimes.

Despite the fact that Bahrain has been a safe haven for some Bahá'ís and despite the slogan of world peace, the Bahá'í House of Justice has never shown any reaction to the crimes in Bahrain.

Is not the saying in Aqdas by Hussein Ali Nuri "do not protest the government" contradictory to the beautiful slogan of "unity of humanity"? Doesn't this slogan mean that the majority of people must die for the sake of a few so that the unity of humanity is materialized for them? Doesn't this behaviour mean that the slogan of human unity is empty and meaningless?

Economic Jihad and gravitation towards Bahaism discussed by General Council in North Khorasan

Source: General Office of Culture and Islamic Guidance (www.ershad-khn.ir)—government-affiliated

Content: On 5 May, the site for the Department of Culture and Islamic Guidance announced that the fourteenth session of the council meeting was held in Esfarayen (in North Khorasan Province). The agenda for the meeting included discussions regarding Economic Jihad (the year 1390 has been named by Khamenei as the year of Economic Jihad), and the problem of emerging new sects, in particular, "Bahaism."

The Friday prayer imam present at the meeting said, "With the increasing sanctions of the Western countries against Muslim nations, particularly Iran, we must take the necessary steps to become self-sufficient."

On the topic of the problem of the newly emerging ideologies, the city's chief justice pointed to the teaching techniques employed by the Bahá'ís and other sects and expressed the need for the promotion of "a culture-building attitude among government authorities to combat the invading powers of global arrogance." He prescribed the spread of the

promotion of the spirit of happiness and societal vitality as a means to combat social ills such as gravitation to sects, addiction, lack of hijab, etc.

Islamic studies suggested as way to help the young to reach high moral standards

Source: Iran Quranic News Agency (IQNA) —government-affiliated

Content: On 8 May, IQNA published an article about the importance of Islamic education among the youth as a means to help them achieve high moral standards. Timor Gholizadeh, one of the staff in charge of prayers, emphasized the importance of the role of parents in educating their children. He then pointed to the responsibility of other educators and said, "In this juncture when, on the one hand, global authoritarian powers are trying to destroy the ideals and values of Islamic society, and also when various groups such as Satanism, Bahaism and various other groups have become popular with young people, the important responsibility falls on the teachers and university professors to start all their classes by training the young people against the enemies' intrigues."

Gholizadeh named the media as another factor in the development of Islamic culture and said, "The media, by implementing varied and attractive programs for the youth, can have great impact on their thought and spirit."

This official considers familiarity with the Quran a way to ensure an ideal life and added, "By introducing the word of God to the heart of society and by its interpretation in a style attractive to the youth, we can witness the formation of the ideal Quranic society."

He considered conditioning the people to increase their study of religious texts as necessary and important and continued, "Increasing their study, especially of religious and Quranic texts, will have a beneficial effect on their behaviour and conversations and will give direction to the decision-making process of the young people, which is, in itself, one of the initial steps in the forming of a young character."

Bahá'ís included in list of Monafeghin and accused of plotting to bring about separation between religion and politics

Source: IRNA (Islamic Republic News Agency) (www.irna.com)— the official news agency of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Content: On 8 May, an article in IRNA warned that the main purpose of the Monafeghin (those groups that oppose the government) is to create separation between politics and religion in Iran.

Seyyed Mohammad Javad Hashemi Nejad, who was introduced as a martyr's son, was the main speaker at the opening ceremony of the Basirat (consciousness) exhibition in Sháhrúd. Basirat is a week-long exhibition which, according to the article, aims to raise consciousness regarding the enemy's ploy during the 88 (June 2009) upheaval. Hashemi Nejad stated that "the exhibition will provide a comparison between the new and old enemies; analyze plans by the leaders of sedition to uproot the fundamental principles of Islam; demonstrate the historical patterns that bring together opposition groups; and portray the relationship of the opposition religious sects and societies of Hujjatiyyeh and Bahaism." In conclusion, he declared that these enemies are the instruments of American exploitation and the exhibits provide awareness and insight into these activities. He also

spoke on the historical incidents and various failed efforts made by the enemy to separate religion from politics.

"Bahaism is the result of the lack of understanding of Mahdism"

Source: Iran Book News Agency (IBNA) (www.ibna.ir)— government-affiliated

Content: On 8 May, IBNA wrote about a meeting that was held during the 24th Tehran International Book Fair. The meeting included Hojjatoleslam Seyyed Hadi Salehi, and aimed to critically review the Bahaist sect. Following are some of the extracts from the article:

Hojjatoleslam Seyyed Hadi Salehi expressed that 'the sect of Bahaism emerged because of people's lack of knowledge about the concept of Mahdism. Only by enriching the culture can this ignorance be overcome. The founder of this cult is Ali Muhammad Shirazi, who talked about his relationship with the Mahdi in 1220 [Hijri] by taking advantage of people's ignorance.'

Salehi further said, 'within six years, he [the Bab] made different claims—from being in contact with the Lord of the Age, to being the Mahdi, and to being God himself. He was finally executed by Amir Kabir in 1226.'

Salehi indicated that there are twenty-five signs that have been related for the advent of the world Saviour. 'The first sign of the appearance of the world Saviour is in the scriptures, the Holy Quran, the New Testament, the Torah, and the Psalms of the prophet David, as they contain direct and indirect prophecies about the advent of Imam Mahdi. Another sign is reference to his name, title, year of birth, city of birth, ancestry and forefathers, the characteristic features of his face, etc.'

Salehi pointed out that propaganda is the sustaining source of this sect and added, 'We must try to equip ourselves with the knowledge of the Mahdi and strengthen our beliefs so that we do not become victims of the ignorance of Bahaism.'

'One of the weapons used by this sect is the claim to being a religion. We need to confront this misguided sect by increasing our understanding of religion and its definition.'

In conclusion, Salehi noted that this sect has a unique position among the Zionists and added, 'Considering the relation between the misguided Bahaist sect and the Zionist regime, we need to do more cultural activities and try to increase the level of religious knowledge among the people in various strata of society.'

New book by Khatami criticized

Source: Kayhan News (www.kayhannews.ir)—official government newspaper

Content: On 9 May, Kayhan wrote a short commentary about the latest book written by former president of Iran Mohammad Khatami, *Religion and Conscience in the Pangs of Self-Pride*. The commentary, with the title "Why did you collaborate with the enemy, the Bahaists and the Zionists?!" aims to discredit the book by implying that the writer is a hypocrite whose words are different from his actions. It further presents quotes from the

book to link the person of Khatami to what the report calls the dictators of the Green Movement upheaval, monarchists and dictators of manmade sects.

Mohsen Kadivar accused of being a supporter of the Bahá'ís

Source: Kayhan News (www.kayhannews.ir)—official government newspaper

Content: On 9 May, Kayhan and other sites published a short article under the title; "Kadivar Effendi[19] confessed to his Zionists beliefs." Following are some extracts:

London has officially supported the exploitive and British-made Bahaist sect.

The site of Jaras, belonging to Mohsen Kadivar, published an article which claims that the rights of the Bahá'ís in Iran are severely violated. In a gracious tone, Kadivar has introduced the Bahá'ís as 'a peace-loving and dignified people whose religious beliefs in Iran have been gravely violated and [whose] human dignity has been virtually demolished under the boots of the Iranian Government.' Not only does Jaras support the leaders of Bahaism, but it also demands that Iranian officials be placed on trial.

Kadivar and Jaras website's continuous support of British-made Bahaism has a long-standing past. While the members of this Zionist sect were detained in significant numbers for disgracing the day of Ashura on 27 December 2009, Jaras stood firm in support of the detainees. Currently, the leaders of this sect are incarcerated under charges of espionage for Mossad. Some of the Bahaist beliefs are being echoed through secular individuals such as Kadivar, Soroush, etc.

It should also be noted that prior to this, Kadivar's sister was also involved in the legal defence of Bahaism. This group (like Saharkhiz) also shows support for the Karoubi and Mousavi campaigns.

The founders of the Bábí and the Bahá'í faith given as examples of individuals manipulated by political powers

Source: Fars News Agency—government-affiliated

Content: On 9 May, Fars News Agency published an article in which it claimed that the governments of the world exploit the world of Islam by employing various methods of sect creation in order to advance their ultimate objective, which is to destroy Islam. The article goes on to further claim that exploiters have historically made use of weak, sickly and morally bankrupt individuals to achieve their objectives. It then proceeds to describe the personal characteristics of those individuals who would be willing to claim to be messengers from God. It asserts that what motivates such persons are "utter arrogance" and "lack of religious insight."

To authenticate the claims put forth in the article, it presents the case of the Bábís and later the Bahá'ís as examples of deliberately created sects. It introduces the Báb as "an arrogant individual with no educational background."

[19] The article refers to Kadivar as Effendi, which is a sarcastic way of relating him to the Bahá'ís.

Following this , the article then goes on at length to describe how the Bahá'í Faith was supposedly created by the Russians and supported by the British, the Americans and later by the Israelis. It presents stories and conversations between the founders of the Bahá'í Faith and the learned clergy and government officials of their period. The stories are all referenced in a book written by Bahram Afrasiyabi. The memoir of another intelligence officer—this time Dolgorouki, who was a Russian diplomat in Iran—is interpreted for the readers. The article repeatedly states that the utter arrogance and lack of knowledge displayed by the founders of the Bahá'í Faith created a suitable venue for the Russian Intelligence officers to exploit the country through the creation of a newly born religion.

Mesbah calls Mashaie "The New Báb"

Source: Iran Global (iranglobal.info) —not affiliated with the government—and other sites

Content: On 12 May, Iran Global and other sites published an article in which Mesbah Yazdi, a prominent cleric in Iran, referring to Esfandiar Rahim Mashaie (Ahmadinejad's top adviser, close confidant and chief of staff), warned against the danger of a new trend of Babism in the country[20]. Mesbah Yazdi stated, "We need to be aware that the sacrifice of our martyrs' blood and the resistance against the enemy do not lead us to a new 'Siyyed Ali-Mohammad Bab'." Alluding to Mashaie, he also said, "An individual with the entire country's power at his disposal can lead the country to undesirable ends."

Mesbah Yazdi explained how such a way of thinking could gradually develop into deeper complications, stating, "Siyyed Ali-Mohammad Báb was only a pupil. He initially expressed his linkage with the Promised One and gradually claimed to be the Promised One; later he prophesied that he was a messenger and then claimed to be God. Both Babism and Bahaism were inventions of the Báb and his followers during the Qajar Dynasty."

Mesbah Yazdi also reacted against what Ahmadinejad had stated earlier—that "the Promised One Himself guides the society!" He implied that such a statement could be detrimental since it implies that an intermediary[21] is no longer needed. Mesbah Yazdi continues, "If such thoughts are disseminated in society...and with the assistance of foreign governments, negative consequences will surely await us [the nation]." Along the same lines, he continued, "If this [mode of thinking] continues, we should not be surprised to witness the rise of a new 'Siyyed Ali-Mohammad Báb' amongst ourselves." Then, referring specifically to Mashaei, he asks in a warning tone, "What can be expected of an individual who has absolute power and authority, money, know-how and the entire services of the government at his disposal, including a president who has repeatedly expressed that 'I have what I have from Mashaei'...?" The article continues with a demonstration of Mashaei's lack of transparency.

[20] Mesbah Yazdi is expressing his concern over Esfandiar Mashaie's new school of thought, as well as the administration's assertion related to the "return of the Promised One," leading to new allegations of sorcery. As it is his God-given privilege, the Supreme Leader cannot be pleased with any individual who predicts the Return without his consent.

21 The writer is referring to Ayatollah Khamenei.

In conclusion, Mesbah Yazdi makes several recommendations to Ahmadinejad. Among them are the urgency for becoming aware of Mashaei, and the need for him to admit to certain mistakes.

Larijani says no one in Iran is in prison for being a Bahá'í

Source: Gooya(news.gooya.com)—not affiliated with the government

Content: On 14 May Gooya published an interview with Mohammad-Javad Larijani, the head of the human rights council in Iran. Among other questions, he was asked about the situation of the Bahá'í prisoners in Iran. The following is what he replied:

In Iran, no one is being arrested for being a Bahá'í. Bahá'ís in Iran enjoy civil rights like any other Iranian citizen. But if they commit a crime, it is natural that the judiciary system will deal with them accordingly.

Bahaism is not considered a religion in Iran, it is a deviant sect. According to the laws of the country, teaching about Bahaism is a crime. As long as individual Bahá'ís conduct themselves according to the laws of the country, they are free and no one will bother them.

New book about the Bahá'í Faith to be released soon

Source: Shabestan News Agency (www. Shabestan.ir)

Content: On 14 May Shabestan announced the imminent publication of a new book called "Questions and Discourses on Bahaism." The article presents a short introduction about the book by stating that "the publication of this book is for the use of the more vulnerable individuals of society. While beautifully written, the book will contain topics such as Bahá'í history, Bahá'í laws, methods of teaching employed by the Bahá'ís, etc."

Faculty, staff and students visited exhibition where Bahá'ís were depicted

Source: Sháhrúd Payame Noor University (pnushahrood.ac.ir)

Content: On 14 May, the website of Payame Noor University wrote that a number of faculty, staff and students have recently visited the Basirat exhibition in Sháhrúd (Semnan Province), organized by the Habilian Association[22]. In the article, the nature of the exhibition was explained as follows:

With the help of visual aids, the tyrannical nature of the group of Monafeghin [the Mojahidin], their plots, their crimes and their ways of living at Camp Ashraf are depicted. The exhibition also sheds light on the leaders of the group and shows [how] their relationship with other groups of sedition was portrayed in the aftermath of the last election.

[22] According to its own website, Habilian Association is a human rights NGO, consisting of families who lost their loved ones in terrorist operations during the early years of the Islamic Revolution. (http://www.habilian.ir/en/About-us/habilian-association.html)

Shedding light on the misguided Bahaist sect and information about the Hojjatieh Society are among other topics covered in the exhibition.

Comments about BBC report on restoration of the Shrine of the Báb

Source: Ayandeh Rowshan News (www.bfnews.ir) —pro-regime website

Content: On 14 May, Ayandeh Rowshan News site reported on the recent BBC video coverage about the completion of the restoration work on the Shrine of the Báb. A picture of the Shrine of the Báb was accompanied with the statement: "Ali Mohammad Báb was a poorly-educated clergyman from Shiraz who first claimed to have a connection with the Imam of the Age. He then claimed to be the Imam himself, and later claimed to be the Prophet."

[After the release of this news, some readers left sympathetic comments such as "I wish they would leave the poor Bahá'ís alone." The comments were later removed by the site.]

University professor interprets the station of the Báb

Source: Ayandeh Rowshan News (www.bfnews.ir) —pro-regime website

Content: On 14 May, Ayandeh Rowshan quoted the following by Mansour Pahlavan, a scholar and university professor:

Babism was germinated out of the Sheykhi movement. Sheykhism has always had a discreet belief in the "Fifth Rokn [principle]." Later, the youth from Shiraz, Mirza Ali Mohammad Báb, claimed openly that 'I am the Fifth Rokn.' He replaced the "Fifth Rokn" with the Báb, and later claimed to be the mediator between the people and the Imam of the Age.

Bahá'í Faith among topics covered in exhibition in Yazd

Source: Shabestan News Agency (www. Shabestan.ir)—pro-regime website

Content: On 14 May, Shabestan News reported about an exhibition that was held by the Yazd Seminary in Yazd. The exhibition was visited by the women from the department of education from that city. Some of the themes in the exhibition were: Women and their issues, the burning alive of girls in the age of ignorance, idolatry, devil worshiping, the promotion of fashion in society and the promotion of Bahaism.

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Web sites

Mahmoud Abbas is called Bahá'í

Source: Tarikh Irani (www.tarikhirani.ir)—a site about Iranian history

Content: On 11 May, Tarikh Irani quoted from an earlier article from Kayhan

in which it was claimed that Mahmoud Abbas is an "Iranian Bahá'í and the grandchild of Abbás Effendi." The following are extracts from that article:

Abu Mazen Mahmoud Abbas is a Bahá'í of Iranian descent and he is the grandchild of Abbas Effendi. Following the total defeat of the Babism sedition, decades ago, under Nasiraddin Shah's reign (Qajar Dynasty), his family migrated to Haifa, Palestine.

The Palestinian writer Qader Yassin wrote an article… in which a new debate is opened about the character of Mahmoud Abbas. It is written in this article, 'Mahmoud Abbas is a Bahá'í and his real name is Mahmoud Reza Abbas Mirza. He is originally Iranian and when the Bahá'ís experienced persecution by the Iranian government, they all fled the country'. Mahmoud Abbas's home town is also noteworthy to mention. He was born in the city of Safed in the occupied territory. After Haifa, Safed is the second largest centre for the Bahá'ís in the occupied territory. Yet another interesting point is that Mahmoud Abbas is one of the few Fatah leaders who have never been on the Zionist regime's assassination list.'

"New trend of Babism" and warning against individual investigation of truth

Source: Adyan News (www.adyannews.com)—religious news agency, pro-regime website

Content: On 11 May, Adyan News published the warning of Hojjatoleslam Akhatri, the secretary general of Ahl-ul-Bayt World Assembly, against the emergence of a new trend of Babism, whose sole objective is to divert the Shiite school of thought in Islamic Iran.

Hojjatoleslam Akhatri issued this warning at the Rafat Mosque in Qom saying, "Nowadays, the enemy's number one intention is to mutilate Islam from within through suggestions that people should turn away from [religious] authority altogether. The enemy is making every effort to spread this ideology amongst the population and influence the youth with a school of thought that states that one no longer needs to understand religion through the intermediary of the Supreme Leader and other authoritative figures. It suggests that everyone is capable of recognizing religion independently for himself, and that is exactly what Babism teaches."

The secretary general of Ahl-ul-Bayt stated, "Fortunately, the Supreme Leader and other authoritative figures are prudently aware of this evil machination of the enemy and stand firm against it." In another part of his speech, referring to the necessity of active participation of the Shiite missionaries around the world, he said, "Considering the world's real thirst for religion and the teaching of Ahl-ul-Bait, the Shiites are in need of more missionaries to be continuously based throughout the world where they may share the principles of Shiism."

500-page report about activities of the Bahá'ís in cyberspace

Source: Islamic Development Organization (IDO) (www.ido.ir) —pro-regime website

Content: On 13 May, the office of public relations of the Islamic Development Organization announced that soon a 500-page report will be released about the activities of the Bahá'ís in cyberspace. The announcement indicated that the report will expand and

explore "the dubious nature of the misguided Bahaist sect and its efforts to spread gossip and rumours against the sacred Islamic regime in Iran..." The report will cover the activities of the Bahá'ís from 2009 to the present."

Islamic Propaganda Office CD about the Bahá'í Faith

Source: Journalist Club (www.yjc.ir)—pro-government news agency

Content: On 14 May the Journalist Club announced the imminent publication of a book series on students' questions and answers in religious discourse. This collection will be unveiled at the meeting of teachers and then at the Islamic Propaganda Organization's offices across the country. To offer some background, the article explained that "programs of religious discourse have been implemented in the country since 2005, which targeted the youth and junior youth in educational centres and in mosques." The article continues, "Considering the inquisitive nature of the youth, and as a way of helping them to solve and eliminate their religious doubts, a database of questions in religious discourse was collected as the first step. Later these questions were given to experts and professional writers for preparing answers. This resulted in the creation of a collection of questions and answers which began publication in early 2010 after approval. Among the subjects of these books were deviant emerging sects and misguided mysticism, life skills, chastity and the veil, women and family in Islam."

Simultaneously, Ali Lohrasbi, the director of the Office of Planning and Development of Applied Research and Education at the Islamic Propaganda Organization, announced the release of material about the Bahá'í Faith in the form of a CD. The CD's will be distributed in a series of meetings that are happening during the month. Lohrasbi explained, "The CD will give historical and social background information about Bahaism and discuss its teachings. It provides Hojjatoleslam Mehdi Boroujerdi Roozbehani's critical review and explanation of Bahaism, in which he explores its formation, theoretical basis, beliefs and its followers." Lohrasbi added, "Adopting a new approach, the office will continue to hold meetings on the subjects of deviant sects such as Bahaism, Salafi and Wahhabism in the new year. Explanation and the critique of the beliefs of misguided sects is among the priorities of the office."

Hoveyda presented as sympathetic towards Bahá'ís

Source: Tebyan (www.tebyan.net) — pro-regime website

Content: On 14 May, Tebyan published an article which concentrated exclusively on Hoveyda (one of the prime ministers at the time of the Shah) and the role he played for the Bahá'í community. The article begins with the premise that, "The claim of non-interference in politics by the Bahá'ís untrue. Bahaism has been active in politics ever since the time of the Báb. Its interference remains until today when they are even creeping into international politics." The article then looks back at the time of Hoveyda and introduces him as someone with a great deal of sympathy towards the Bahá'ís. Consequently, it is claimed that during his ministry he paid particular attention to the Bahá'ís and provided them with every opportunity, and at times ensured preferential treatment, so that they could rapidly progress to higher levels of society. It is further claimed that he appointed Bahá'ís to key government positions and that the minister of

energy, minister of commerce, minister of health, minister of defence and minister of education were all Bahá'ís. It is further claimed that Hoveyda's favouritism and assistance grew to a point that even the Bahá'í Assemblies were writing letters of appreciation to him. These letters were retrieved, according to the article, from the SAVAK intelligence files. The report says that the Universal House of Justice governed over Iran and supported Hoveyda for 13 years to stay in power and help the Bahá'ís become stronger in the Iranian society. The article claims that the daily reports to the king of Iran were first cleared though the Spiritual Assembly before they were given to the king.

Another claim put forth in this article is that Hoveyda was a staunch member of the Freemason secret society and attended all of their meetings at various branches, but that he never made this association public.

Member of Parliament includes Bahá'ís among those who wish to fight and destroy the Islamic Republic

Source: Fars News Agency—government-affiliated

Content: On 16 May, Fars News published an article detailing the views of Hojjatoleslam Mesbahi Moqadam, Tehran's representative in parliament, about the prevalent topic of Mahdism. Moqadam is of the view that the defeat of pure Muhammadan Islam is the main objective of the deviant current and the seditionists. He expands his views as follows:

The Islamic Republic has demonstrated its capabilities and strengths to the world, and the enemy is afraid that it is going to become a pattern for the rest of the nations to follow. It is natural that they want to fight with Islam in any way they can. Islamic Republic of Iran has enemies who are willing to do anything to fight the system and utilize any tool to combat the Islamic Revolution. One of the strategies is to create deviations in thought amongst people, by encouraging tendencies towards Bahaism and other false mysticism, and Satanism. These are all devious plots by the US and Israel to combat the Islamic Revolution. Therefore, in order to stabilize the system, and for the health of the Iranian nation, and to guarantee respect for the people of Iran, we have to fight these deviant thoughts and harsh behaviours against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Seminars and Symposia

Workshop in Yasouj: best way to deal with "deviant sects and Bahaism"

Source: Islamic Development Organization (IDO) (www.ido.ir) —pro-regime Web site

Content: On 15 May, the site of Islamic Development Organization reported that a workshop had been held in Yasouj (Kohgiluyeh and Booyerahmad Province), in which Hojjatoleslam Roozbahani Boroujerdi, a scholar specializing in the protection of the school of Ahl-ul-Bayt (Shiite Muslims) pointed to the problem of the spread of deviant sects in Iran. Further, he expressed the view that scientific methods are the best way to deal with this problem. Boroujerdi continued by explaining the methods by which deviant sects increase. He pointed to the case of the Bahá'ís and noted that it is the support of the arrogant governments such as the US that has helped them to stay strong. He then talked about the leaders of the Bahá'í Faith after talking about some of the Bahá'í principles. He

ended by saying, “Bahaism is filled with flaws and contradictions, in such a way that once these are explained to people, even Bahá’ís themselves will turn away from this sect.”

Friday prayer imam warns about “heavy investments” of “deviant sects” including Bahá’ís

Source: IRNA (Islamic Republic News Agency) (www.irna.com)— the official news agency of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Content: On 15 May, IRNA announced that a one-day seminar had been held in Tabriz that was attended by 200 clergy men. Ayatollah Mohsen Mojtahed Shabestary, the Friday imam of Tabriz who conducted the workshop, explained about the purpose and objectives of the workshop as follows:

> *The expansion of false mysticism with the intention of doing away with religion is included in the enemies’ agenda. The role of the clergy is to combat deviant sects. Therefore it is important that the clergy familiarize people with pure Muhammadan Islam.*
>
> *False mysticism is the product of the arrogant powers of the world, and it is a threat to the foundation of Iranian families.*
>
> *Both Wahhabism and Bahaism have made heavy investments in the country and are determined to distort and destroy the faith of our youth. The clergy, therefore, should stay alert. They cannot be indifferent in the face of this threat.*
>
> *The holding of various educational workshops, question-and-answer sessions, the showing of documentaries and broadcast clips from the deviant sects and an exchange of ideas with leading professors of seminaries of the province are among the most important programs of this training.*

Over 1,000 book titles banned from Annual Book Fair in Tehran

Source: Khabar Online (khabaronline.ir) —site for news and analysis, claims to be independent but functioning within the frame of the Islamic Republic

Content: On 10 May, Khabar Online reported that within the four days of the 24th Annual Book Fair in Tehran, more than a thousand books were banned from being displayed in the exhibition. Regarding the books that were banned, the article indicates, “More than 340 Arabic and 600 English books containing misguided and perverse material were collected at this book exhibition. In the Arabic collections, books on misguided religious belief, anti-Shiite ideologies, the propagation of misguided Wahhabist and Bahaist sects, superstitions and devil worshiping were confiscated, but they continue to sell the books at the exhibition. In the English collection similar patterns were observed, except that the books had more representational immoral photos to promote perverse religions such as Sufism, Buddhism, Sikhism, Bahaism, devil worship etc. The remainder of the books were related to the support of Israel.”