

Bahá'í children are required to attend Islamic schools where many excel in Islamic studies. Bahá'í communities organise informal classes for their children and youth to instruct them in the teachings of their faith.

Bahá'is have been arrested and two are currently serving three year jail terms for providing moral education classes to Bahá'í youth. The 12 youth arrested with their teachers were given five year suspended sentences and were warned that they would serve their terms if they ever attended another moral education class.

Violations of freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief

The Human Rights Committee in paragraph 3 of its General Comment on Article 18 states: *In accordance with articles 18.2 and 17, no one can be compelled to reveal his thoughts or adherence to a religion or belief* and in paragraph 5 states: *Article 18.2 bars coercion that would impair the right to have or adopt a religion or belief, including the use of threat of physical force or penal sanctions to compel believers or non-believers to adhere to their religious beliefs and congregations, to recant their religion or belief or to convert.*

- Bahá'is arrested for Bahá'í activities are routinely asked to sign a statement in which they recant their faith in order to be released. Bahá'is executed by the Islamic Republic of Iran have been told that if they recant their lives will be spared.
- Most government application forms in Iran have a "religion" column which must be completed and "Bahá'í" is not among the four Faiths accepted. Bahá'is are thus denied access to those goods, services and employment opportunities afforded to all other Iranian citizens.
- Converting from Islam to another religion in Iran is considered apostasy, a crime punishable by death. Of the six Bahá'is under death sentences in Iran, two are charged with apostasy.

Violations of the right to life, physical integrity, and health

- Forced disappearances, arbitrary arrests, imprisonment and executions. Since 1979, more than 200 Bahá'is have been killed and another 15 have disappeared and are presumed dead. Arbitrary arrests continue, with a marked increase in short term arrests over the past three years in various areas of Iran. More than 200 Bahá'is have been detained for periods of 48 hours to six months. Since November 1997, 51 Bahá'is have been arrested and 41 released. 16 Bahá'is remain in prison, by reason of their membership and activities in the Bahá'í Faith.
- Bahá'is in Iran, remain, in law, unprotected infidels and have faced the persecution described above without legal recourse. They are routinely denied due process: written charges and judgements, legal representation.
- The Law of Qisas (Retaliation) and Diyah (Compensation) are not applied if victim is a Bahá'í.

These human rights violations are not the arbitrary work of fanatical individuals. Rather, they are elements in a co-ordinated campaign waged by the authorities in Iran to block the progress and development of the Bahá'í Faith in Iran through the implementation of policies identified in a