

Statement calling on Iran to end economic oppression of Bahá'ís

In early November 2016, over one hundred and thirty-two Bahá'í-owned businesses in cities across Iran were sealed by Iranian authorities after they were temporarily closed to observe Bahá'í holy days.

The closing of Bahá'í-owned businesses is one of the many tactics employed by the authorities to undermine the Bahá'í community, the largest non-Muslim minority in Iran, as a viable entity. Other measures of the deliberate and government led economic apartheid against the Bahá'ís include categorically denying Bahá'ís access to governmental jobs, delaying or preventing them from acquiring private job licenses, pressuring companies to dismiss Bahá'í employees, forcing banks to block Bahá'í clients' accounts and depriving Bahá'ís from access to formal university education.

We call on the Iranian authorities to undertake an immediate review of their policies and to take immediate, visible, and substantive steps to remove the obstacles which prevent Bahá'ís from earning a living and contributing to the progress and prosperity of their country.

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