

Trial of Iran's seven Baha'i leaders

Question for interactive dialogue with Ms. Asma Jahangir, Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief, Tenth Session of the UN Human Rights Council, Geneva, 10 March 2009

<http://news.bahai.org/human-rights/iran/yaran-special-report/un-statements/bic3>

The Baha'i International Community extends its greetings to all Special Rapporteurs.

Ms. Jahangir, in your report, we note that you communicated with the government of Iran about the case of the seven Baha'is who have been detained in the notorious section 209 of Evin prison in Tehran for 10 months – without access to their legal counsel, Mrs. Shirin Ebadi. Your report states that the government has not responded to this communication.

As you know, the Baha'i Faith has no clergy, and the Iranian authorities banned its elected institutions. These seven detainees had been members of the group organizing the affairs of the Baha'i community at the national level.

They have still not been formally charged. However, some officials have made baseless accusations against them, such as “espionage, insulting religious sanctities, and propaganda against the Islamic Republic”. It is a cause for concern that these officials have made such statements to the media, while the government had not responded to your communication.

Have you received any information recently from the Iranian government about this case? And what do you think the next steps could be, to protect the (over 300,000) Baha'is in Iran?ss