



**Human Rights violations against Dervishes from
Nematollah Gonabadi Sufi Order in Iran by security
forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran**

21.11.2011



International Organisation To
Preserve Human Rights In Iran

Content

Why are Sufis being persecuted in Iran?

Recent events

Female Dervish arrested to pressure her son

Earlier attacks against Dervishes in Iran

Recent Open letters by IOPHRI

Why are Sufis being persecuted in Iran?

We will look at this subject from three angles. What is Sufism? What is the position and the situation of Sufism and Sufis in Iran? Why are Sufis being persecuted in Iran?

What is Sufism?

Sufism is the path of the substantial evolution, the way to develop the soul and the capacities of the spirit. The school of Sufism has nothing to do with any religion. It existed before the existence of any known religion. It is the way to self-knowledge. It is built upon the principle of knowing yourself and knowing your creator. In other words Sufism is the way of self-knowledge and development of the reason of being in this world.

Sufism is a composition of different methods which enables the Sufi-seeker to develop the hidden capacities of the consciousness.

The word „Sufism“ appeared after the conquests of the Iranian territories by the Arabian army. Before, the monasteries which existed in the Iranian territory, were used as the places for meditation and praying of certain seekers, who were named Gnostics. After the rise of Islam and the invasion of the area by Muslim armies, the monasteries, which were named Gnostic monasteries, changed the name and became Sufi monasteries. For this reason, according to all of the historical facts Sufism appeared in the Muslim countries and the Muslim civilisation.

In Sufism one can distinguish different orders. The orders and the chain of initiation are going back to the traditions of the Saints like Ali, Mohammad, the Apostels, Jesus, St John and other spiritual teachers. The different chains of initiation, the different Sufi orders are like the different schools which are working in parallel with each other in different countries from Bulgaria to China. They are spread everywhere in the world and during these last 30 years we see the apparition of the Sufi orders and branches in Canada, USA and Australia, who are composed mainly of the migrant Muslim dervishes who went from their respective countries to those territories.

What is the position and situation of Sufism and Sufis in Iran?

The number of Sufi orders in Iran and the number of Sufi adepts in Iran is not based on any official statistics. But according to a global view you can tell that in Baluchistan, in Sistan, in Kurdistan, in Lorestan, in Turkemansachrah Sufism is mixed with daily life. It means that a new born child is a Sufi from his birth on. There are the very important families and Sufi tribes spread in all of these regions situated on the fringes of Iran. In other cities of the country like Isfahan, Shiraz, Tabris, Tehran, etc other Sufi orders exist as well like Ahl-e-hagh, Zahabi and Nematollahi. One of the branches of Nematollahi is Gonabadi order which is composed of about 4 Million dervishes who live in different cities in each corner of Iran. This order is named Gonabadi order because the shrine of certain high masters of this order is situated in the city of Gonabad. Nowadays in Iran a lot of Sufi orders like Oveissy, Ahl-e-hagh, Zahabi, the adepts of Dr. Nurbaksh from Nematollahi branch, etc. have been forced to leave the country and to stay out of Iran. One of the most important order whose adepts still live in Iran is the Gonabadi order.

From the beginning of the revolution the hardliners of the children of revolution started to break down the respect of the Sufi orders, especially the Gonabadi Sufi order in Iran. Since that moment Sufi centers which are named Hosseynieh, the Sufi worshipping houses in Iran, were under attack, destroyed by bulldozers and the Sufi adepts were under persecution. It was an open Apartheid, religious Apartheid, against the dervishes, even though the dervishes are Muslim and from the Muslim community, but their rights are not at all respected. Since the last six years under the guidance of Ali Khamenei the attacks against the dervishes became more regular and more organised. In 1384 (2006) after writing 40 books to blacken Sufism the force of Bassidschi under the umbrella of the Pasdaran attacked the Sufi center of Qom and destroyed during the month of Moharram (February) the worshipping house of the dervishes of Nematollah Gonabadi order with bulldozers. They arrested 1450 dervishes and took them to the prison of Sahedi beside Qom. This prison is under the control of the pasdaran. Two years later (2008) the same forces destroyed a center of the Sufi in the city of Boroujerd and in 2009 they destroyed the center of the Gonabadi order in Isfahan.

Why are Sufis being persecuted in Iran?

If we would like to know why the dervishes are under regular persecution in Iran we must analyse the real nature of religious fascism, which is guiding the country in this direction. They don't tolerate the existence of any religious or ethnic minority, any religious or ethnic diversity in Iran. They would like to

transform Iran in a country like North Korea: a uniform country, uniform people without any difference in opinion and political direction. They would like to bring everybody under the leadership of Ali Khamenei, not only as obedient people but as the believers to Velayat-e-faghi and to the leadership (Velayat) of Ali Khamenei. They would like to make Ali Khamenei an Imam, an absolute religious leader. They would like all people to be the slave of this man and absolute obedient. In this fascist system there is no room for any other school, any other opinion and any other religion. They are not against the dervishes because the dervishes do something against the system, but because it is related to the nature of the system. After the period of the presidential election a new stage of confrontation between the authorities and the dervishes started, because the dervishes had massively supported the candidature of Karoubi. Afterwards the authorities found a very efficient accusation and they are using the word of Fitneh (crisis making) and they accuse Karoubi and Mousavi to be the heads of Fitneh in Iran and the dervishes as the soldiers of this Fitneh against the stability of the country and the stability of the system in Iran. After the arrestation of Karoubi and Mousavi and after putting away Rafsanjani from the power we see again that a lot of Anti-Sufi sites and weblogs have been reactivated on which you find very insulting articles against the Sufis. This is a sign for the regime's plan of massive actions against the Sufis.

Recent events:

Vahid Banâni, a member of Gonabadi Sufi Order was shot and killed by the Iranian Security Forces.

On Sunday 4th of September 2011, Vahid Banani, a Gonabadi Dervish was travelling from Sarvestan to Kovar to attend the weekly Gonabadi Sufi Ceremony. However as he was entering the city of Kovar, he was unlawfully attacked and shot at with a firing gun by the Iranian Security Forces.

Vahid Banâni

Soon after he was taken to Namazi Hospital in Shiraz. After three days of intensive care he has died. His death was announced at 6:00pm on Tuesday 6th of September (Iran Time). □ Following the murder of Vahid Banani, his family has been threatened by the Security Forces and been told; “if any other Dervishes from different cities would like to attend Vahid Banani's funeral service, they will be harshly cracked down, and the body of Vahid Banani would be taken and buried in an unknown location. Three other Gonabadi Dervishes (Ibrahim Fazli, Asghar Karimi, Mohammad Ali Saadi) who were also shot at by the security forces, are now in a very critical condition. □ It has been reported,

that due to pressure of security forces, the Doctors and Nurses have not been able to treat the wounded Dervishes, as they should be taken care of. The security forces have handcuffed the wounded to the hospital beds and they are not allowing their families to visit them or to take them in a different hospital for treatments. □ Also some of the Gonabadi Dervishes who have been arrested by Security Forces and plain clothes Intelligent Services in the last few days in Kovar, have been transferred to Adel Abad Prison in Shiraz.

Name of the arrested Dervishes in Adel Abad Prison:

1. Asghar Zareh
2. Davood Mehrad
3. Pejman Kashefi
4. Rahim Pour-Roustam
5. Adoullah Parssian
6. Kazem Housain ZAdeh
7. Iman Karami
8. Saeed Ahmadi
9. Abbas Hagh-Verdi
10. Saeed Karimiyan
11. Aliasghar Saadi
12. Alireza Saadi
13. Hojat Vali Zadeh
14. Hamid Pahriz Kar
15. Jalil Khaleefe
16. Hekmat Naderi
17. Neimat Kazeminia

Mohammad Ali Asghar Saadi, one of the wounded Dervishes, who had been shot by the Security Forces in Kovar, has been removed from Rajae Hospital, Shiraz to Adel Abad Prison in Shiraz. His health is in a very critical condition. □ Furthermore, there is no news about the location and conditions of the Lawyers' of Gonabadi Dervishes, (Amir Eslami, Afshin Karampour and Gholamreza Shirzadi). The Governor of Kovar invited them to address the situation of Dervishes' who had been attacked in Kovar, however when they arrived at the Governor's House they were all arrested. □ Also the Human Rights activists, who were involved in running the website 'Majzooban Noor', have been kidnapped from their houses by Security Forces and Plain Cloths Intelligent Service on 5th September 2011.

The names of the 11 kidnapped Human Rights activists

- 1) Hamid Moradi Sarbestani
- 2) Reza Entesari

- 3) Alireza Roushan
- 4) Ali Karami
- 5) Mehdi Osanloo
- 6) Mehdi Hussaini
- 7) Ali Astaraki
- 8) Mostafa Abdi
- 9) Mehran Raahbari
- 10) Nosrat Tabasi
- 11) Ali Moazami

Growing pressure and arrests to Gonabadi dervishes, following the murder of Dervish Vahid Banâni

In the last week there has been a growing pressure on Gonabadis' Sufi Order. As a result of the attacks to Gonabadi Sufis, severely injuring and arresting them, one the dervishes called Vahid Banani, who was gunshot to one of his main arteries, died in Namazi Hospital in Shiraz, on 6th September 2011.

Also pressure has increased to dervishes' lawyers, whereby in the past few days three lawyers, a group of administrators and supervisors' on one of the News websites for dervishes have been arrested.

Follow-up to the press boycott on different religious groups in Iran, the followers of Nematollahi Gonabadi Sufi Order have been heavily under pressure by the Intelligent Security Forces.

A tight security atmosphere prevailing in the city of Sarvestan due to "Martyr Vahid Banâni" funeral.

It has been reported, Martial Law is been extended from Kovar to Sarvestan and the security of the city has been very tight.

According to witness's reports from Kovar, fifteen especial Police Force cars and three coaches of armed Security Forces have been escorting the body of "Martyr Vahid Banani" from Shiraz to Sarvestan, for his funeral service.

The Security Forces have threatened the family of Vahid Banani that "if anyone except the family participates in the funeral, they will be faced with brutal force" also they have warned to take the body of Vahid Banani and bury it in an unknown location.

In continuing the curfews in the Estate of Fars cities, all entrances and exits to the cities are being controlled by the Security and Plainclothes Forces. They are also restricting dervishes from entering to the city of Sarvestan in order to prevent them from participating in Vahid Banâni funeral.

Ignoring the wounded Dervishes complaints and not addressing to their conditions.

Three other Gonabadi Dervishes (Ibrahim Fazli, Asghar Karimi, Mohammad Ali Saadi), who were also shot at by the security forces, are now in a very critical condition.

Currently due to pressure of security forces, the Doctors' and Nurses' have not been able to treat the wounded dervishes'. The Security Forces have handcuffed them to the hospital beds and their families are forbidden to visit them or even to take them in a different hospital.

Furthermore, the wounded ones have objection to the authorities for ignoring their complaints against the Security Forces, for unlawfully shooting, attacking and severely injuring them.

According to this report, the families of the wounded dervishes have expressed their concerns to the transfer of the wounded from the hospital into the prisons, while having serious physical conditions.

Arresting the lawyers of Gonabadi Dervishes.

Following the ongoing systematic arrests of Gonabadis' Sufi lawyers, Mr Omid Behrouzi, as one of Gonabadi Sufis' lawyer was arrested by Security and Plainclothes Secret Agents, on Wednesday 7th of September at 10: 00 am, from Gole Sourkh Roundabout in Shiraz. His arrest was without any legal warrant, and Mr Behrouzi car was confiscated from him by the Police.

Mr Omid Behrouzi, license to practice law has been suspended by the judiciary system in the time of demolishing the Sufis Worship House in Qum.

The latest updates on the conditions of administrators, of one of the dervishes news websites

The dervishes who have been unlawfully arrested by the security and plainclothes agents on early morning of Monday 5th of September, are now transferred to Evin Prison. Up to this point there is no news about their conditions and why they have been arrested.

Due to dervishes' family pressure to the Evin prison authorities, they have announced dervishes are; "in a security section of Evin Prison, and are not allowed to have any visitors".

The follow up to the reports, dervishes are forbidden to have lawyers and are under pressure.

The Security Forces attacked into the house of the director, Maste Yar website.

On Wednesday 7th of September at 2:00pm the Security Forces with a warrant from court, entered to the house of director of Maste Yar website. By using force and fear to his family they confiscated all his computers, mystical books and pictures of the masters of Gonabadi Sufi Order.

Although the director of the website Mast Yar was absence at the time, the Security Forces harassed and abused his family.

Especial report by The International Organisation To Preserve Human Right in Iran” (IOPHRI)

7th September 2011

Basiji Forces Opened Fire at Gonabadi Dervishes

By: Translated by Laleh Gillani

HRANA News Agency – Sources related to Nimatullahi Gonabadi Sufi Sect have reported that a few hours ago, Basiji Militia opened fire at the members of this sect in the capital city of Kavar County, Fars Province. The shooting lasted almost an hour until Special Forces Unit dispatched from Shiraz put an end to it.

According to a report by Majzooban Nur, Nimatullahi Gonabadi Order News Site, clashes began when Basiji Militia shot tear gas canisters and also bullets at the members of Gonabadi Sufi Sect. Basiji agents then raided houses and set stores on fire. Following the outbreak of conflicts in the Kavar County, security forces had installed closed-circuit cameras in assembly halls where religious ceremonies were held and prevented the members of Gonabadi Sufi Sect to enter the city of Kovar.

This report also explains the reason for the outbreak of violence in Kavar County: Apparently, when a young Muslim seminary student distributed pamphlets and CDs amongst Basiji forces and chanted “Death to American Dervish,” militia members were incited to act against Gonabadi Sufi Sect and set dervishes’ stores ablaze.

During today’s clashes, a number of individuals on both sides of the conflict were injured. Kovar County is now under tense military and security measures.

Source: <https://hra-news.org/1389-01-27-05-24-07/9521-1.html>

Following the clashes in the province of Fars, the latest news from the conditions of detainees and wounded, is disturbing.

Mr. Afshin Karampour and Golam Reza Shirzadi - lawyers of the

dervishes – who a few days ago received an invitation from the governor's office and upon their visit disappeared. It is still not known where they are being held.

Based on a report from dervish's online conditions of Mr. Amir Eslami is critic. Amir Eslami was one of the lawyers that represented the Sufis and was also invited to the governors' office and had disappeared since then. He was seen after a few days in the 8th of September in the revolutionary court of Shiraz with a swollen face showing traces of severe damage due to violence.

Omid Behrozi, another lawyer of the Dervishes is now held at the prison of the intelligence service of the city of Shiraz. His conditions and the crime which he was arrested for is not known.

The latest status of some of the injured:

Mr. Hojjat Valizadeh, who was injured by the security forces and lost his ability to walk, was despite his critical health situation transferred from hospital to the prison of Adel Abad in Shiraz.

Mohammad Aly Saadi, another injured dervishes was also transferred to the same prison.

Fazli Ibrahim, another Sufi of the Gonabadi order followers who was shot during the clashes, has been transferred to an unknown location and his condition and his whereabouts are not known.

Asqar Karimi, another injured in clashes in the town of Kovar was shot in his bladder. He is having serious respiratory problems while being held in Shiraz Rajai Hospital and his family was given two minutes to visit him while no communications were allowed.

Mr. Pour Rostam, another detainee's was allowed a five minute visit from his wife behind glass.

The wife of another detainee was given five minutes for a visit.

Latest news from the burial of Darvisch Vahed Banani, the 22 year old who was shot and killed by the security forces:

Security forces prohibited his family from printing a recent picture of the deceased for the funeral where he had a mustache accustomed to many dervishes. They were forced to use an old picture of Vaheed Banani. It is important to mention that the security forces, upon the death of Vahed Banani tried to declare him as a martyr of the Basij and to falsely announce him as one of the security forces who had lost his life in the clashes.

The Intelligence service has prohibited the family to have a public speaker at the funeral and had brought a spokesman of their own to speak at the funeral of Vaheed Banani.

Some of the charges against the Sufi dervishes

Among charges which dervishes are arrested for is: "creation of confusion and chaos". These have been issued by Branch 101 from Judge

Hemmati.

According to eyewitnesses, Aly Salehy and Saleh Salehy were also severely beaten during their arrest and interrogation.

Reports coming from the Fars province state that security forces are dealing with any citizens they suspect of being a sufi dervisch in the open streets.

Saleh Moradi Sarvestani, the brother of one of administrators of a news site for Dervishes was arrested after the funeral of Vahid Banani by eight agents and taken to an unknown location.

Iran: Female Dervish Arrested To Pressure Her Son

By: Farhad Nouri

In an interview with the International Campaign for Human Rights in Iran, Farhad Nouri spoke about the 11th September arrest of his mother, Farzaneh Nouri, a Gonabadi Dervish, by Shiraz Information Office forces. Farhad Nouri also spoke about recent government persecution of other members of the Gonabadi Dervish sect, a Shiite Sufi order.

“Security forces came to our home on the evening of 11 September without presenting a warrant and after searching the house and confiscating spiritual books, photographs of Gonabadi Dervish leaders, and my computer, arrested my mother,” said Farhad Nouri, adding that his mother has not contacted the house since her arrest. “Unfortunately, the lawyers’ inquiries have not been fruitful so far and they did not allow me to visit my mother ... we learned after pursuing the matter that she has most likely been transferred to the Shiraz Intelligence Office, known as Number 100,” Nouri told the Campaign.

“My mother was arrested in 2005 in Qom, along with about 1,500 other Dervishes, during the demolition of the Qom mosque,” he said about his mother’s prior arrest. “If you follow the news on the Majzooban-e-Noor website, which is the news website for the Gonabadi Dervishes, you will note that not a week goes by without some type of pressure put on Gonabadi Dervishes by security forces through arrests, summonses, etc. We can point out at least 300 cases of this since 2005, for example the pressure following the demolition of the Qom mosque, the Boroujerd mosque, preventing burials at the Bidokht Soltani cemetery, arrests and trials and revocation of licenses of lawyers who represent the Gonabadi Dervishes, group trials of Dervishes, telephone summonses by security forces, etc., during each episode of which several Gonabadi Dervishes have been thrown in jail,” he told the Campaign. “I am really concerned now about her health conditions, the pressure on her, and

her being tortured by security forces. This is not only my concern. Families of all Dervishes whose innocent loved ones were arrested are concerned. I was in touch with the families of Amir Eslami, Farshid Yadollahi, Saleh Moradi, and Hamid Moradi and their families were really concerned about their physical conditions,” said Farhad Nouri. Farhad Nouri is one of the managers of Majzooban-e-Noor website. “The main reason for the arrest of these eleven individuals (Hamid Moradi Sarvestani, Alireza Roshan, Ali Karami, Mehdi Asnaloo, Ali Astaraki, Mostafa Abdi, Mehran Rahbari, Nosrat Tabarsi, and Ali Moazzami) is mostly for preventing reliable dissemination of news about the Gonabadi Dervishes and things that happened last week in Kavar town, including the arrests of Gonabadi Dervishes and the murder of one of them.” “Farshid Yadollahi was arrested as a continuation of efforts to detain lawyers representing Gonabadi Dervishes. Since last week, three lawyers have been arrested. Regarding my mother, Farzaneh Nouri’s arrest, I should say that the main reason for the arrests was to shut down the Majzooban-e-Noor, the Gonabadi Dervishes official website. I am one of the managers of this website. When the gentlemen were unable to contact me, they arrested my mother to put pressure on the family and on me, hoping to be able to arrest me, too. I really don’t know what to say in response to such actions. Just like many other Iranian mothers and wives, my mother is a Gonabadi Dervish and is not involved in any particular partisan or political activities. She is not even a manager or an employee of the website,” Farhad Nouri added. “According to the latest news I received about the Dervishes arrested in Kavar, several of them were released to court-approved custodians, and several of them have received bail orders. Some of the Dervishes were not willing to post bail. One of the three injured Dervishes, Ebrahim Fazli, who was shot and was hospitalized for treatment was transferred to an unknown location by security forces on Saturday, and Mohammad Ali Sa’adi and Asghar Karimi remain in hospital in Shiraz under security watch. According to the latest news about the 11 managers and employees of the Majzooban-e-Noor website, their cases are under review at Branch 5 of Evin Prison Courts, but we still have no information about how they are detained and their physical conditions. Unfortunately, authorities have not yet allowed the detainees to visit with their lawyers and families have been unable to find answers from judicial authorities about these 11 individuals’ charges,” said Farhad Nouri.

“We hope to be able to find out about the conditions and health of all Dervishes who were arrested, because we really don’t know what conditions they have and what kinds of pressure they are experiencing, and we are worried about their health, especially Amir Eslami and Mr. Moradi who suffer from severe heart conditions,” Nouri concluded.

Source: [International Campaign for Human Rights in Iran](#), published 22.09.2011 by Payvand news

Earlier attacks against Dervishes in Iran:

The attack against Sufis in the city of Qom and the complaints that followed

22.02.2006

Monday afternoon, the thirteenth of February, Iranian government officials created trouble in the city of Qom and destroyed the gathering place of Sufis in this city. The attack came during the night when the Hosseinieh was burned and all traces of this large building evened to the ground by bulldozers, it is said that hundreds of Sufi Dervishes were arrested. Amnesty International, Ayatollah Montazeri and Mehdi Karroubi, former head of the parliament protested and condemned these actions as non human and anti Islamic.

The destruction of the gathering place of Sufis in the city of Boroujerd

10. November 2007

Finally after two days of assault against the Sufis in the city of Boroujerd, the Pasdaran along with plain-clothes agents and anti-riot forces adding up to 700 persons attacked the Hosseinieh early in the morning. The attack was well planned and thoroughly executed. The gathering place was emptied from its belongings and the building was set on fire. The building was evened to the ground by the use of bulldozers belonging to the city hall of Boroujerd. During the raid, over 50 Sufis were injured, 250 arrested by the anti riot forces and over 350 arrested by the Pasdaran.

The reply of the government to the destruction of Hosseinieh in Boroujerd

23. November 2007

One week later Mehdi Karroubi openly condemned the attack toward Sufis in Boroujerd. The interior minister of Iran Mostafa Pour-Mohammadi said in respond:

“The door of the gathering place of the Sufis was broken due to an accident which in turn lead to several people being assaulted and taken as hostages by the Sufis. The people of this town who heard this news gathered in a mosque nearby. The police tried to talk to both sides of the conflict and were successful to some degree but unfortunately the Sufis provoked the people who had gathered outside of the mosque and agitated their anger.”

Threats to terminate the gathering place of Sufis in the town of Dorod

29. November 2007

After threats of closing down the small gathering place of Sufis in the town of Dorod, Mr Jamshid Lak, one of the Sufis of this town was visited in his home by the Police and secret intelligence service of the government and assaulted both physically and mentally in front of his family and taken into custody. He was released after 10 hours of interrogation, and intimidation.

The intelligence service of the government threatens to close down Mazare Soltani

3. December 2007

Agents of the Intelligence service visited the center of Gonabadi sufi order in the city of Gonabad. Upon this visit the agents threatened to shut down the center if any gatherings were to take place. During previous years the name of the city of Gonabad, a city with the population of approximately 35 000, known for its Sufi center “Mazare Soltani” also considered as a holy place for pilgrimage belonging to the Gonabadi Sufi order, was erased from the national geographical map of Iran and was no longer acknowledged as a “place”.

Town hall of the city of Karaj votes for the destruction of Sufi gathering center in this city

13. March 2008

Due to pressure from the intelligence service of the government, the town hall of Karaj decided to destroy and remove the gathering place of Sufis in this town. A two-month deadline was set for putting the vote into action. No reason for this decision was given by the government.

The intelligence service of the current government of Iran prevent the Dervishes to enclose the gathering place

2. April 2008

After having their gathering place destroyed in the city of Boroujerd, the Sufi Dervishes of this town tried to draw a fence around the ruins of their gathering center. But these attempts were prevented by the oppression of the intelligence service.

The revolutionary guard attack Sufis in the town of Omidieh with Molotov cocktail

8. Mai 2008

The home of a Sufi dervish by the name Majid Neemati was attacked by a group of the revolutionary guards called Mansouron 2. The house of Mr. Neemati was used as a gathering place in the town of Omidieh. Two Molotov cocktails were thrown at the house while gasoline was poured on a car parked outside belonging to one of the Sufis in an attempt to set it on fire.

The sealing of the Sufi gathering place in the city of Hamedan is destroyed

1. June 2008

Employees of city hall along with the police force of Hamedan visited the gathering place of Sufis in this city and destroyed parts of the ceiling by using force.

Plain-clothes agents attack Sufi center in the city of Ahvaz

24. June 2008

Plain-clothes agents attacked a Sufi gathering place by the use of Molotov cocktails. One of the Sufis was injured with a knife and taken to the hospital.

Intelligence agency and police units of the city of Gonabad threaten to close down the Sufi head center located in this town

30. June 2008

The government agents visited Mazare Soltani, a Sufi center located in Gonabad, where several Sufi masters are buried again. The agents threatened to close down the gathering place and to prosecute the Sufis attending this center which has a special cultural and spiritual place not only for Sufis but also for the history of Iran. Many items of cultural value were then collected from Mazare Soltani and confiscated.

A 24 hour deadline is declared for the destruction of gathering place of Sufis in the town of Charmahin

30. June 2008

Mr. Rahmatollah Javadi received the decision of the city hall of Charmahin that his house will be destroyed. The house of Mr. Javadi was the gathering place for the Sufi Dervishes of this town. Previously receiving threats he finally got a letter from the city hall where it was explained that his house will be destroyed within 24 hours.

The house of a Sufi in the town of Charmahin is evened with the ground

1. July 2008

Bulldozers of the city hall along with police units arrived at the house of Mr. Javadi, which also was the gathering place of Gonabadi Sufis in Charmahin. The police forced out Mr. Javadi along with his family from the house. The house and their equipments was ruined and evened with the ground.

An exhibition is organized against Sufis, a cleric of Friday prayers in the city of Sarvestan threatens the Sufi Dervishes

28. November 2008

In recent weeks an exhibition was organized against Sufis, seeking to provoke a confrontation with the Dervishes in the city of Sarvestan. The tents of this exhibition were set on fire for creating chaos and furthermore seeking physical confrontation. While Sufis peacefully took legal actions, the cleric of the Friday prayer in the city of Sarvestan appealed to the Police to confront the Sufis in this town, and if they would not take action, he would do so himself.

The gathering place of Sufis on the island of Kish is closed down

29. November 2008

The intelligence service arrested one of the Gonabadi Sufis on the island of Kish by the name Mrs. Rooya Asadpoor. This is the starting point of a chain of arrests of Sufi Dervishes on this island. The gathering place of Sufis on Kish was closed down preventing the Dervishes to enter the gathering place. Books and pictures inside the gathering place were collected for confiscation which raises the objection of the servant of the gathering place and he was also arrested.

The gathering place of Sufis and the tomb of a sufi master by the name Mr. Naser Ali Izad Goshasp located in the city of Esfahan is destroyed

18. February 2009

Agents of the intelligent service along with the security forces attacked the gathering place during midnight. Sufis who tried to protect the gathering place and the tomb in Takhte Foolad located in the city of Esfahan were arrested and the tomb along with the gathering place was looted and evened with the ground by the use of bulldozers. The tomb of Takhte Foolad and the surrounding building was among UNESCO protected cultural sites in Iran.

Sufi Dervishes are prevented from gathering at the ruins of Takhte Foolad in Esfahan

19. February 2009

Sufis gathered the next day at the ruins of their previous gathering place for prayer, but were prevented by the force of Anti riot units who used Batons, tear gas and rocks to scatter the peaceful gathering of dervishes.

Sufis not allowed to be buried in the grave yard of the town of Beidokht, Gonabad

6. September 2009

A family was prevented to bury a deceased family member because they were Sufis. This action resulted in a small gathering of family members in front of the city hall in Beidokht, Gonabad. Their protest was answered by the arrestation of the wife and children of the deceased among others.

A free school for girls in poverty is closed down by the government

16. January 2010

The charitable work of Gonabadi Sufis in the city of Karaj, in the form of a free school for girls in poverty was closed and the private building of the school suspended.

The tomb of a great Sufi master in the city of Kerman is looted and transformed

31. August 2009

The tomb of one of the great Sufi masters by the name Moshtaq Ali Shah which is a place of pilgrimage for many Sufis in the city of Kerman was looted by plain-clothes agents. Pictures, poems and the interior design was removed and replaced. Within a few days, this place became a meeting place for the clerics and the tomb and the surrounding building was totally transformed and was no longer recognizable as the tomb of Moshtaq Ali Shah.

It is worth mentioning that this report only reflects a small part of the persecutions of Sufi Dervishes in Iran. Many illegal arrests and sentences are carried out, any lawyers who represent Sufis in the court have lost their license to practice law. In this report we only focused on the destruction and persecution of gathering places and sites of pilgrimage for the Sufi Dervishes, which in reality is only a small part of pressure forced upon Sufis in Iran. For keeping the report as short as possible, many details and names are left out, but these are of course available upon request.

Recent open letters by IOPHRI

Mesbah Yazdi: "No place for Human Rights, democracy or citizenship in Islam"

Press release: Mesbah Yazdi, the theoretician of violence, gave a new speech in the end of Ramadan (end of August) where he criticized the opinion of those people who claim Islam is based on generosity and respect for Human Rights.

In this speech he said: "Democracy, Human Rights and the rights of citizenship have no place in Islam." He continued that there is no room for freedom of speech and thought in Islam and that Islam is based on strictness and violence. Muslims and those who convert to the religion of Islam must only adhere to the opinions of the leader of the Islamic Republic, according to Mesbah. He continued: "Until a person has not converted to Islam, he is free - but democracy and Human Rights have no meaning within Islam. Everything must be under the surveillance of the government, even the way people dress. And if some people say otherwise, they don't know

Islam." □ <http://www.roozonline.com/persian/news/newsitem/archive/2011/august/29/article/-e99d2a0dee.html> □ Mesbah Yazdi has founded the

official ideological school for the politics of the regime with the unlimited budget approved by of the government that is supported by oil money,. This ideology is, as mentioned by him, oppression and violence while paying no attention to the basic citizen and human rights. According to the expertise of knowledgeable scholars Mesbah's claims stand in opposite direction of the teachings of Quran that are based on the high value of each human being (KARAMAT). □ The International Organization to preserve Human Rights in Iran strongly rejects such anti-religious and anti-human ideologies. It would be appropriate if the United Nations demand that the government of Iran accepts and provides a visa for Dr. Ahmad Shaheed, special rapporteur on international human rights, so that the minds of the people all around the world can comprehend the catastrophes taking place in the dark dungeons of the judiciary departments of Iran. □

The International Organization to preserve Human Rights in Iran □ 1. September 2011

Letter to Ayatollah Noori Hamedani by a group of clergy from Qom seminary and his severe Fatwa against the Sufi

In the name of God

Hello,

With all our respect to your success, we wish you a long lasting life with good health.

As you know these sect of Sufis, in different cities, are establishing Khaneghas', (Sufis Worship Place) and promoting, publishing their beliefs and penetrating to our young Islamic generation.

Therefore we ask you opinion regarding their beliefs system, their establishment of worship places called 'Khanegha', and also any relationship or connection with them.

Thank you

Group of Clergy from Qom Seminary

Reply To the letter above

In the name of God, the Gracious and the merciful

This issue for all Muslims is certain and clear that Prophet Mohammad, introduced the Holy Quran and Ah al-Bayt (Twelve Imams includes Prophet Mohammad and his daughter) for the guidance of the people.

Since the time Sufism sect appeared in the Islamic society, Ah al-Bayt were disgusted by them. They announced Sufism is, 'invalid and deviated from the truth'. Imam Sadegh stated: Sufis are our enemies and even if someone likes them they would also be our enemy.

We have to be aware that the enemies of Islam always want to weaken the Muslims and Islam. One of their methods is to create sects. We can see this in history, such as the created sects of 'Shakhie', 'Akhbarie', 'Sufie', 'Babie' and 'Bahaie'.

In Sufism there is seventy sects. Their method is to deviate people from Ah al-Bayt and the last Imam, by creating spiritual leader and master, even appointing their spiritual position and capability higher than Ah al-Bayt.

For example you can refer to Shakh Attar book called, "Tazhkarat-ul-Auliya".

In the book it has made-up spiritual characters for. Hassan Bassri, Safiyan Touri, Bayazeed Bastami, Junayd Baghdadi, Fozail Iyaz, Ibrahim Adham, Mansour Halaj and Zon-noon Mesri. By the reading this book you will be much clear of what I mean about them.

Islam is the religion of Jihad, movement and war against ruthless and arrogant countries, Unfortunately Sufis explanation from Islam is hidden and out spoken Mantras', 40 days of pray and fasting, wearing khergheh (a long outfit), men having moustaches and calling the name of God ect^ all these acts are not related to Islam.

Sufis with their cunning methods want to paralyze the very active Islam, which is about fighting with the despots and colonial invaders.

Also in certain areas of Sufis have destroyed the line between Islamic Mysticism and Sufism and call themselves a Mystics'. There are many scars in Islam structure by Sufis. One of the scars are; for example some of the despots in history such as, Haroon Al Rashid, Soultan Mahmoud Gaznavi and some of the Safavied Dynasty Kings, were building Khanegha for Sufis, so the Sufis would help them to create fame and publicity and the rulers would humbly visit them in their Khanegha, pretending to cry. This was due to the fact that Sufi leaders' believed in separation of religion from politics, therefore Sufis accepted the despots as being the ruler of the country.

And when the tyrant rulers which, Islam and Ah al-Bayt culture counts them as a despots and saw Jihad and war against them as necessary duty of a Muslims.

So with these cunning methods of befriending Sufis, they portrayed themselves as a responsible and a good ruler and the tyrant leaders would lean onto the Sufi Leaders, because the Sufis would give their Government legitimacy and acceptability.

In conclusion, one of the main problems of Islamic society in history and now is these Sufis. The Great Islamic scholars, such as Alameh Hel-li, Moghaddas Ardebeeli, Shaikh Bahai, Majlesi, Sadr al- Motahelin Shirazi, Vahid Behbahani, Seyed Bahre Al-Uloum, Mirza Ghomi and Agha Mohammad Ali Kermanshahi, have fought against the Sufis and took great steps in the path of destroying them and awakening of the Muslims.

We believe in today 's society the pure Islam is rooted into each Muslim's lives as a result of Ayatollah Khomeini Revolution and therefore there is no space left for these sects.

*You the fly, there is no space for you in the phoenix territory
You embarrass yourself and make more work for us to destroy you.
Hafez.*

Hussain Noori Hamedani

10.11.2011

Some background informations about the group of attackers

Ammariyon - the lords of hate and the upcoming elections in Iran

By: Dr. Mostafa Azmayesh

Soon the time for elections to the Majles (Iranian Parliament) will be at hand (march 2012). The faction that will win the most seats might have the power to elect the next president in a short while. Ali Khamenei signalled that it might be wise to refrain from letting the people elect the president.

Mainly two factions face each other in the upcoming race for seats in the Majles. One of the regimes fiercest ideologues who is known as 'the crocodile' and heads one of the seminaries in Qom, stands behind the Front of Resistance (Jepeh Paidary), a party backed by students of Mesbah Yazdi, the ideologue of a violent Islam. These students are members of ideological departments inside the Pasdaran. They have shown their will for discrimination and destruction for the last years when they went to Boroujerd, Kavar and other cities in Iran to destroy the Khanegahs (places of worship) of the Nematollah Dervishes and attack these people who regard themselves as seekers of God's light. Regularly they deliver speeches in front of Bassidschi groups and stir hate among them claiming that dervishes are practicing an 'American Islam' what is considered as an activity against national security.

Many of them belong to a group named Ammariyon like Said Ghasemi or Hassan Abassi. Lets mention some more names, finally it is persons who abuse religions and who penetrate people's minds with poison - we should know their intentions. Hossein Allahkaram, chief of the Iranian Hesbollah, Mojtaba Zolnour, Qassem Ravanbakhsh and notorious Mehdi Taeb for example are ardently following Ali Khamenei, can be considered as Armageddonists and supporters of Nazism. By the way, Ammar was a martyr, the name Ammariyon is not without a message.

In fact these people always stood behind Ahmadinedjad but could not follow him when Mashaie gained influence over him with his idea of an Iranian school instead of an Islamic school. Thus they pushed for the elimination of Mashaie to win back an Ahmadinedjad who backs in front of Khamenei and has no other pretensions than to constantly attack the West and especially Israel. More detailed information give the books and articles of Ahmad Reza Gholpour against Ramin Mashaie.

The second faction is leaded by the very old aged head of the Majles-e-Khobregan, Mahdavi Kani, who gives a non-violent and kind picture of Islam. Kani gave birth to the Jehpei Mohtahed-e-Usulgerayan, a party which seems to be in favour of Rafsandjani coming back to political importance inside the country.

The latest news reported by Ammariyon is an accusation of the so called deviational group, which is attributed to Mashaie, to instigate the US government to kill Mehdi Taeb and the leader of Qods forces Ghassem

Suleymani.

It is a time of fighting against each other in the middle of the circle of power in Iran. Who will avail himself of this fight?