

BAHÁ'Í

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PRESS RELEASE

Baha'i International Community

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Forced closure of shops in Iran on an unprecedented scale

Over one hundred Baha'i-owned businesses in cities across Iran, including Sari, Ghaemshahr, and Bandar Abbas, were sealed by Iranian authorities after they were temporarily closed to observe Baha'i holy days on 1 and 2 November.

This deplorable action took place despite recent statements made by the [UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion and Belief](#), the [UN Special Rapporteur on Iran](#), prominent Iranian lawyers (e.g. [Dr. Abdol-Karim Lahidji](#) and [Shirin Ebadi](#)), and an appeal from the Baha'i International Community to the President of Iran for such economic suppression to cease.

A recent [letter from the Baha'i International Community to the President of Iran](#) explains how sealing Baha'i businesses is one of the many tactics employed by the authorities in their economic apartheid against the Baha'is in Iran. Other means include categorically denying at least three generations of Baha'is access to governmental jobs, excluding them from working in businesses partly or wholly under the direction of the government, delaying or preventing them from acquiring private job licenses, and depriving them from access to formal university education.

“The sealing of so many businesses demonstrates the emptiness of assurances by the Iranian government that the Baha'i community is not discriminated against,” said Bani Dugal, Principal Representative of the Baha'i International Community to the United Nations. “We call upon the international community to denounce these unjust actions and exhort the Iranian government to take immediate, visible, and substantive measures to reverse the situation.”

For more information, go to <https://www.bic.org>