

Behrouz Tavakkoli (m) – The Baha’i Seven

Adoption Status: Not Adopted

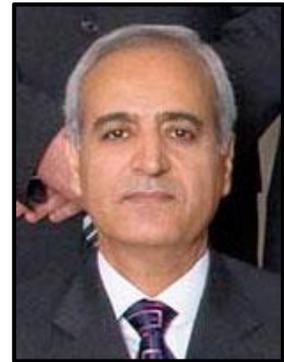
Country: Iran

Occupation: Social worker and Baha’i member.

Detained Since: 2008

Charges: Espionage, propaganda against the Islamic Republic, and establishment of an illegal administration

Sentence: 20 years imprisonment



Additional: Tavakkoli was a social worker who lost his government job in the early 1980’s because of his Baha’i belief. Prior to his most recent imprisonment, he experienced intermittent detainment and harassment and three years ago, was jailed for four months without charge, spending most of that time in solitary confinement and developing serious kidney and orthotic problems. Mr. Tavakkoli was elected to the local Baha’i governing council in Mashhad while a student at the university there and later served on a similar council in Sari before such institutions were banned in the early 1980’s.

The Baha’i Seven

The Baha’i Seven are former Baha’i leaders in Iran who have been deprived of the rights accorded to prisoners under Iran’s own laws and regulations. Prior to their arrests in 2008, the seven were members of an ad hoc national-level group that attended to the spiritual and social needs of Iran’s Baha’i community. In September 2010 they were told that their sentences had been reduced to 10 years after an appeal court acquitted them of some of the charges, including espionage, but they have never been given a written copy of either of the court verdicts. It was first reported on 18 March, 2011 that the 20-year sentence had been reinstated.

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