

## **New wave of persecution against Baha'is**

HRWF (06.12.2016) - Repression against Baha'is in Iran has against accelerated in the past few months.

### ***Widespread closures of Baha'i-owned businesses in Rasht***

In November, the Office of Public Places in Rasht sealed the business premises of eleven Baha'i citizens in Rasht over the last few days: Faraj Farhangi, Touraj Farhangi, Mohammad Asadpour, Foad Yazdani, Massoud Razavian, Siamak Abdulhamidi, Seed Abdulhamidi, Shahb Taeed, Homayoun Khanlari, Bashir Heravi, and Saadat Yegan. Moreover, the Office of Public Places in Lahijan has sealed the business of Navid Rouhipour in that city.

Observing Baha'i holidays was the sole reason behind the government's closures.

Within the past weeks, more than 120 Baha'i-owned businesses have been sealed across Iran.

### ***Yashar Rezvani's trial scheduled for January***

Yashar Rezvani, a Baha'i resident of Ariyashar, was arrested at home by the intelligence service forces on 3<sup>rd</sup> August. They took his personal accessories including 2 cellphones, a laptop and 1 memory stick. He first spent 33 days in solitary confinement in Evin prison ward and then transferred to ward number 4. He was released temporarily on the bail of 2 billion IRR.

He should show up at Branch 28 of Tehran's Revolutionary Court headed by judge Moghiseh on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2017.

The primary allegation against him is membership in a Baha'i organization which Mr. Razvani has rejected.

### ***Baha'i murdered in Iran—victim of religious hatred***

In an appalling act of violence, a Baha'i has been stabbed to death by two men who admitted they attacked him because of his religious beliefs.

Farhang Amiri, 63, was murdered outside his home on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2016 in the city of Yazd, Iran, where he and his family have long resided.

On the previous night, two young men visited the residence of Mr. Amiri under the pretense of wanting to purchase his van. Mr. Amiri was not home. His son, who answered the door, was surprised and indicated that he was not aware of any plans by his father to sell the vehicle. The two men, however, insisted. When he asked for their contact information, they made excuses and left. (Source: Baha'is World News Service <http://news.bahai.org/story/1133>)