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News:

Reform Bahai Faith Forum created for Bahais of all persuasions on August 21, 2011.

"The shining spark of truth cometh forth only after the clash of differing opinions."
—Abdul-Baha

"The conscience of man is sacred and to be respected."
—Abdul-Baha

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Topic: Professor Juan Cole on Iranian Shiite Baha'i Takfir (Read 3523)

Jenabe Fazel

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Posts: 76



Professor Juan Cole on Iranian Shiite Baha'i Takfir

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« on: October 01, 2012, 07:17:33 AM »

"Refuse to set up once again a sect similar to that of the Shi'ihis." --Baha'u'llah

Friends,

A new page has been added to the Baha'i Censorship site of quotations from Professor Juan Cole, of the University of Michigan, regarding the Baha'i Haifan use of Shiite Takfir, denouncing and declaring people as infidels, apostates, and non-believers, hiding behind the more innocuous Western term of "shunning." Always good to recall why Baha'u'llah and Abdul-Baha rejected the fanaticism of Shia Islam and set a path toward universality. Pity that some fellow Baha'is have ignored his teaching. Here are a few excerpts:

"The present so-called Universal House of Justice, in contrast, declared our Alison "not a Baha'i." They issued a fatwa of takfir against her, declaring her an infidel, i.e., a non-believer. They broke Baha'i law in so doing."

"Hushmand Fatheazam, a UHJ member, told me that in future when Baha'is control the government, they would just jail dissidents."

"Although `Abdul-Baha forbade the practice of takfir or declaring a Baha'i to be not a Baha'i, the UHJ did this to Michael McKenny. They just summarily removed him from the Canadian rolls. Apparently they did not like the things he was saying on email, in particular his argument that women should be able to serve on the House of Justice. They did the same thing, even more arbitrarily, to Alison Marshall in 2000."

"In `Abdul-Baha's Tablet of a Thousand Verses* He explicitly abrogates the custom of takfir. He says it does not exist in the Baha'i faith. Baha'is are not to declare other persons, who claim to be Baha'is, "not Baha'is."

"Here's something I've written on the Tablet, with a provisional translation of the key sentence and the citation to the original text. There is no official translation.


"In the religion of God," `Abdul-Baha asserted, "there is no practice of declaring believers to be morally corrupt (tasfiq) or of declaring them not believers (takfir), nor is debasing or showing contempt for others permitted."* In Islam, the ulama declared suspect Muslims to have departed from the faith for reasons of moral lapses or incorrect doctrine. In medieval legal theory, Muslims found to be actually infidels were open to having their lives and property taken by others without fear of legal reprisal. This practice was distasteful to Baha'is for many reasons. For one, they were often victims of it at the hands of the Muslim clergy. For another, it offended against the ideals of unity, tolerance and freedom of conscience for which many Baha'is felt their religion stood."

*Abdul-Baha, Majmu`ih-i Makatib, INBA Private Printing Volume 59 (Tehran: National Baha'i Archives, 1978; digitally reprinted, East Lansing, Mi.: H-Bahai, 2000), pp. 340."

Juan Cole on Baha'i Takfir

http://www.fglaysheer.com/bahaicensorship/Juan_Cole_On_Bahai_Takfir.html



Report to moderator  76.112.30.51 (?)

"To be a Bahai simply means to love all the world; to love humanity and try to serve it; to work for universal peace and universal brotherhood." —Abdul-Baha

The Reform Bahai Faith, <http://reformbahai.org/>

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