

A warning call to obey “The Summons of the Lord of Hosts”

by Nosrat’u’llah Bahremand

It was brought to my attention that the illegitimate organization which is headquartered in Haifa and which undeservedly calls itself “*the Universal House of Justice*”, has recently organized a Web-page and claims that it is the “*Official website of the Bahá’í Faith*”! ¹

They should have honestly clarified that they meant a version of the Baha’i Faith modified and manipulated by Ruhiyyih Khanum and those former Hands of the Cause who followed her; a faith which repudiates the “*Center of the Cause*” and does not adhere to the sacred provisions of the Will and Testament of Abdu’l-Baha, a faith that is based on imitation, herd instinct and mind control, and by scare and hate-mongering rhetoric; a version of faith which is compatible with the ill wishes of “*The Center of Sedition, the Prime Mover of mischief, Mirza Muhammad Alí,*” by “*interpolating and falsifying the words and verses of the Sacred Text,*” and consequently they “*inflicted a grievous loss upon the true Faith of God,*” by ignoring writings of the first Guardian of the Cause of God, especially his Proclamation of 9 January 1951 the only Proclamation during his own life; and opposing the descendant Guardians of the Cause of God.

The bogus organization pretends to be real; to be the same Universal House of Justice revealed in the Kitáb-i-Aqdas and the Will and Testament of Abdu’l Baha, and as mentioned throughout the writings of Shoghi Effendi. They are trying to say that their organization has originated from the Most Holy Book, the Kitáb-i-Aqdas, when in reality this organization has been rooted in the violation of the Covenant by Ruhiyyih Khanum and the former Hands of the Cause who followed her.

They have written:

“In 1951, Shoghi Effendi appointed a number of individuals to an International Bahá’í Council, a forerunner to the Universal House of Justice. In 1961, this appointed Council was reformed as a body elected by all the National and Regional Assemblies then established in the world.

After Shoghi Effendi’s sudden passing in 1957, his work was faithfully carried on by the group of distinguished Bahá’ís he had appointed as Hands of the Cause of God. These individuals arranged for the first election of the Universal House of Justice

The International Baha’i Council, so contemptuously mentioned in their writing, was truly an august body, the formation of which was announced by Shoghi Effendi, the first Guardian of the Cause of God, in his proclamation of January 9, 1951, the only proclamation of his lifetime to the Baha’i World. Rebellious Hands of the Cause did not have any authority to “reform” the IBC, which by that term they meant the termination of the Embryo IBC.

The first Guardian explained the IBC’s significance and virtues:

¹ <http://universalhouseofjustice.bahai.org/>

*“... combine to induce me to arrive at **this historic decision marking most significant milestone in evolution of Administrative Order of the Faith of Bahá’u’lláh** in course of last thirty years.”*

*“...in course of evolution of this first embryonic International Institution, marking its development into officially recognized Bahá’í Court, its transformation into duly elected body, its efflorescence into Universal House of Justice, and its final fruition through erection of manifold auxiliary institutions constituting the World Administrative Center destined to arise and function and remain permanently established in close neighbourhood of Twin Holy Shrines. **Hail with thankful, joyous heart at long last the constitution of International Council which history will acclaim as the greatest event shedding luster upon second epoch of Formative Age of Bahá’í Dispensation potentially unsurpassed by any enterprise undertaken since inception of Administrative Order of Faith on morrow of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá’s Ascension, ranking second only to glorious immortal events associated with Ministries of the Three Central Figures of Faith in course of First Age of most glorious Dispensation of the five thousand century Bahá’í Cycle.**”*

(Cablegram, January 9, 1951, Messages to the Baha'i World - 1950-1957, p. 7)

January 9, 1951 was a major turning point and a milestone in the history of the Baha’i Faith.

Earlier local and national Houses of Justice were established in their embryonic forms i.e. the Spiritual Assemblies: *“the local as well as national Assemblies, which in the course of time will evolve, with the Master's power and guidance, into the local and national Houses of Justice.”*

(Shoghi Effendi, The Unfolding Destiny of the British Baha'i Community, p. 5)

*“But now is not the time -- it is utterly impossible to establish the House of Justice which is mentioned in the Book of Aqdas, nay rather it is impracticable and not to be thought of, **that is for the time when the Cause is proclaimed and the Commands have become effective.** Therefore now is not the time for the House of Justice, which must be established by general election. Its mention is not permissible and its realization impossible”.*

(Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 411)

*“The Universal House of Justice is elected by the members of the National Houses of Justice. **At this time when the National Assemblies in the Cause are not yet functioning sufficiently or fully representative of all the various important elements within it, and when some of the Baha’is are not even free to practise their faith, despite their numbers, it is quite impracticable to seek to establish the Universal House of Justice. Whenever conditions permit, it will be established.**”*

(Shoghi Effendi, Dawn of a New Day, p. 95)

On January 9, 1951, the conditions were favorable for the formation of the Universal House of Justice in its **embryonic form (The International Baha’i Council)**. In the course of time and evolution, this embryonic International Institution **inevitably must be developed into an officially recognized Bahá’í Court**. This process was not only explained in the Proclamation of January 9, 1951; but it has been repeatedly emphasized in many messages of Shoghi Effendi; it having been designated by him

as **one of the major goals of the Ten Years Crusade** synchronous with the establishment of six national Bahá'í Courts in the chief cities of the Islamic countries.

At the World Center of the Faith, where, at long last the machinery of its highest institutions has been erected, and around whose most holy shrines the supreme organs of its unfolding Order, are, in their embryonic form, unfolding;

(Shoghi Effendi, Messages to the Baha'i World - 1950-1957, p. 33)

*“-- a process which **the newly formed Council, now established at its very heart, is designed to foster, which will gather momentum, with the emergence in the course of time of a properly recognized and independently functioning Bahá'í court, which will attain its consummation in the institution of the Universal House of Justice** and the emergence of the auxiliary administrative agencies, revolving around this highest legislative body, and which will reveal the plenitude of its potentialities with the sailing of the Divine Ark as promised in the Tablet of Carmel.”*

(Shoghi Effendi, Citadel of Faith, p. 94)

Process of the unfoldment of the ever-advancing Administrative Order accelerated by the formation of the International Bahá'í Council designed to assist in the erection of the superstructure of the Báb's Sepulcher, cement ties uniting the budding World Administrative Center with the recently established state, and pave the way for the formation of the Bahá'í Court, essential prelude to the institution of the Universal House of Justice.

(Shoghi Effendi, Messages to the Baha'i World - 1950-1957, p. 12)

The International Bahá'í Council, comprising eight members, charged with assisting in the manifold activities attendant upon the rise of the World Administrative Center of the Faith, which must pave the way for the formation of a Bahá'í International Court and the eventual emergence of the Universal House of Justice, the supreme legislative body of the future Bahá'í Commonwealth, has been established, enlarged, and the functions of its members defined.

(Shoghi Effendi, Messages to the Baha'i World - 1950-1957, p. 148)

The development of the functions of the institution of the Hands of the Cause. The establishment of a Bahá'í Court in the Holy Land, preliminary to the emergence of the Universal House of Justice.

Codification of the laws and ordinances of the Kitáb-i-Aqdas, Mother Book of the Bahá'í Revelation. Establishment of six national Bahá'í Courts in the chief cities of the Islamic East -- Tihran, Cairo, Baghdad, New Delhi, Karachi, Kabul.

(Shoghi Effendi, Messages to the Baha'i World - 1950-1957, p. 42)

“the transformation of the International Bahá'í Council into an international Bahá'í court; the codification of the laws and ordinances of the Kitáb-i-Aqdas; the establishment of six national Bahá'í Courts in the chief cities of the Islamic East”

(Messages to the Baha'i World: 1950-1957, Page: 152)

Tenth, the establishment of a national Bahá'í Court in the capital cities of Persia, of Iraq, of Pakistan and of Afghanistan -- the leading Muslim centres in the Asiatic continent.

(Shoghi Effendi, Dawn of a New Day, p. 170)

"Sixth, the establishment, circumstances permitting, of a national Bahá'í Court in the capital city of Egypt, the recognized center of both the Islamic and Arab worlds, officially empowered to apply, in matters of personal status, the laws and ordinances revealed in the Kitáb-i-Aqdas, the Mother-Book of the Bahá'í Revelation."

(Messages to the Baha'i World: 1950-1957, Page: 139)

The origin of the bogus UHJ

On November 4, 1959, exactly two years after the passing of the first Guardian Shoghi Effendi, the former Hands of the Cause assembled in a conclave (secret meeting) in Haifa and sent a message to the Baha'is, published on page 165 of a book titled *Ministry of the Custodians* written by Ruhiiyyih Khanum and other violators of the Covenant, they wrote:

"after long and prayerful deliberations, made plans embracing those final steps which they feel must be taken by all the followers of Bahá'u'lláh in East and West in order to bring to a successful conclusion the World Crusade of our beloved Guardian .

Alarming little time is now left to us in which to accomplish his design. Well aware of the fact that this great Faith of Bahá'u'lláh stands in sore need of the erection of that infallible and supreme legislative Body which in the words of the Centre of the Covenant Himself "God hath ordained as the source of all good and freed from all error", and which the Guardian said "posterity will regard as the last refuge of a tottering civilization", we have fixed the date for the election of the Universal House of Justice as Ridvan 1963"

As it is obvious the inception of the bogus UHJ happened on November 4, 1959 by those who were signatory to the above mentioned message, a group of people who did not have any administrative authority in the Baha'i Faith and who violated the Covenant of Abdu'l Baha.

They have quoted out of context from Will and Testament of Abdu'l Baha: *"God hath ordained as the source of all good and freed from all error,"* They disregard the fact that this expression in that sacred document is a reference to the real and true Universal House of Justice having the Guardian of the Cause of God as *"its sacred head and the distinguished member for life of that body"*, not to a fake and dummy body of their own making.

Abdu'l Baha in His Will and Testaments ordains:

"And now, concerning the House of Justice which God hath ordained as the source of all good and freed from all error, it must be elected by universal suffrage, that is, by the believers. Its members must be manifestations of the fear of God and daysprings of knowledge and understanding, must be steadfast in God's faith and the well-wishers of all mankind. By this House is meant the Universal House of Justice, that is, in all countries a secondary House of Justice must be instituted, and these secondary Houses of Justice must elect the members of the Universal one. Unto this body all things

must be referred. It enacteth all ordinances and regulations that are not to be found in the explicit Holy Text. By this body all the difficult problems are to be resolved and the Guardian of the Cause of God is its sacred head and the distinguished member for life of that body. Should he not attend in person its deliberations, he must appoint one to represent him. Should any of the members commit a sin, injurious to the common weal, the Guardian of the Cause of God hath at his own discretion the right to expel him, whereupon the people must elect another one in his stead"

From the above text it is apparent that only an institution can be called *Universal House of Justice* which is elected under the conditions the Master has ordained, having the Guardian of the Cause of God as *"its sacred head and the distinguished member for life of that body"*.

According to the sacred Will and Testament of Abdu'l Baha:

First: *"in all countries a secondary House of Justice must be instituted,"* So in all countries a National Houses of Justice must be established, In 1959 there was not one, and to this day there is not one National House of Justice nor a local House of Justice anywhere around the World.

Then: *"these secondary Houses of Justice must elect the members of the Universal one."* In the absence of National Houses of Justice, this condition could not be realized.

And, : *"Its members must be manifestations of the fear of God and daysprings of knowledge and understanding, must be steadfast in God's faith and the well-wishers of all mankind."* It is obvious that a Universal House of Justice could not be and has not been established.

Nevertheless most important of all: *"the Guardian of the Cause of God is its sacred head and the distinguished member for life of that body. Should he not attend in person its deliberations, he must appoint one to represent him. Should any of the members commit a sin, injurious to the common weal, the Guardian of the Cause of God hath at his own discretion the right to expel him, whereupon the people must elect another one in his stead"*

How do the errant former Hands of the Cause reconcile what they have done in light of the fact that the establishment of an International House of Justice was not part of the goals of the Ten Years Crusade, the establishment of an elected International Baha'i Council was not part of the Crusade either.

The actual objectives of the Crusade were:

"the formation of the Bahá'í Court, essential prelude to the institution of the Universal House of Justice." And *"the establishment of a national Bahá'í Court in the capital cities of Persia, of Iraq, of Pakistan and of Afghanistan -- the leading Muslim centres in the Asiatic continent."*

(Shoghi Effendi, Messages to the Baha'i World - 1950-1957, p. 42)

Furtherance of their message proves that they knowingly violated the Covenant. They wrote:

"We are also happy to announce that another milestone in Bahá'í history will be reached with the election of the International Bahá'í Council during Ridvan 1961. The embryonic institution established and so highly extolled by the beloved Guardian will thus enter its final stage preceding the election of the Universal House of Justice."

Their statement admits how they acted in contradiction to Shoghi Effendi's writings and drastically altered and disrupted what he ordained and planned for the structure and advancement of the Administrative Order, a plan which he had meticulously and painstakingly designed and announced to the Baha'i World and sought them to follow. While putting forth the pretence they wanted to fulfill the goals of the Crusade, the Violator Hands admitted to the importance of the International Baha'i Council as being the embryo of the Universal House of Justice: **"The embryonic institution established and so highly extolled by the beloved Guardian"**, even while they declared their plan to dissolve that same institution which had established by the Proclamation of January 9, 1951 of the first Guardian, and the president of the IBC and all its members were appointed by him. The Hands of the Cause did not have any authority to dissolve or alter the International Baha'i Council or change its members. In doing so, they interfered with the following steps for the evolution of the Embryo to the Universal House of Justice:

"its development into an officially recognized Bahá'í Court."

"its transformation into a duly elected body"

"its efflorescence into the Universal House of Justice."

"its final fruition through the erection of the manifold auxiliary institutions constituting the World Administrative Center."

From these stages, only the first step was called for by Shoghi Effendi as one of the objectives of the Crusade, in many of his messages he emphasized the essentiality and necessity of this development.

The first Guardian in June 30, 1952, in one of his most important Messages titled: **"The Summons of the Lord of Hosts"**, predicted the possibility of **severe tests** and grievous **"ordeal of temporary separation from the heart and nerve-center of their Faith which future unforeseeable disturbances may impose upon them,"** He adjured the Baha'is: **"never to hesitate, never to relax, until each and every objective in the Plans to be proclaimed, at a later date, has been fully consummated."**

He wrote:

"No matter how long the period that separates them from ultimate victory; however arduous the task; however formidable the exertions demanded of them; however dark the days which mankind, perplexed and sorely-tried, must, in its hour of travail, traverse; however severe the tests with which they who are to redeem its fortunes will be confronted; however afflictive the darts which their present enemies, as well as those whom Providence, will, through His mysterious dispensations raise up from within or from without, may rain upon them, however grievous the ordeal of temporary separation from the heart and nerve-center of their Faith which future unforeseeable disturbances may impose upon them, I adjure them, by the precious blood that flowed in such great profusion, by the lives of the unnumbered saints and heroes who were immolated, by the supreme, the glorious sacrifice of the Prophet-Herald of our Faith, by the tribulations which its Founder, Himself, willingly underwent, so that His Cause might live, His Order might redeem a shattered world and its glory might suffuse the entire planet -- I adjure them, as this solemn hour draws nigh, to resolve never to flinch, never to hesitate, never to relax, until each and every objective in the Plans to be proclaimed, at a later date, has been fully consummated."

Your true brother

-- Shoghi

[June 30, 1952]

(Shoghi Effendi, Messages to the Baha'i World - 1950-1957, p. 38)

Developments in the Administrative Order must be made only in obedience to every clause of the Will and Testament of 'Abdu'l-Baha, They must honor the plans and arrangements that the first Guardian of the Faith made. This requires recognition of the succeeding Guardians after Shoghi Effendi of the fact that he faithfully fulfilled his obligation of appointing his successor during his own lifetime since the obligatory provision of the Will and Testament, quoted below, does not leave any other option for the Guardians:

"It is incumbent upon the Guardian of the Cause of God to appoint in his own life-time him that shall become his successor that differences may not arise after his passing."

(The Will and Testament, p. 12)

Unfortunately, Ruhyyih Khanum and those former Hands of the Cause who followed her, sought to extinguish the light of guidance and put an end to the Guardianship of the Cause of God. They committed everything they could do including the dissemination of the following obvious lies:

"We wish to assure the believers that every effort will be made to establish a Bahá'í Court in the Holy Land prior to the date set for this election. We should however bear in mind that the Guardian himself clearly indicated this goal, due to the strong trend towards the secularization of Religious Courts in this part of the world, might not be achieved."

Shoghi Effendi, the first Guardian of the Cause of God, as quoted previously in many of his messages emphasised the necessity and essentiality of the *"the formation of the Bahá'í Court, essential prelude to the institution of the Universal House of Justice."* and he never wrote anything to show any slightest doubts about that.

They wrote: *"due to the strong trend towards the secularization of Religious Courts in this part of the world, might not be achieved."*

To make their lie less obvious they did not mentioned the name of *"this part of the world" Israel*, where *"a Bahá'í Court in the Holy Land, preliminary to the emergence of the Universal House of Justice"* was to be established by the end of the Crusade. Even now, after passage of more than half a century, religious Courts exist in that country.

Courtesy of the Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs, everybody can now know that the Baha'i Faith is mentioned among the religions which according to the law are allowed to have a religious court:

"Religious Courts

While military and Labor courts are not exclusive to the Israeli legal system, the Religious Courts are. The Israeli legal system is unique among modern legal systems in the utilization of various personal status laws in the area of family law, applied by religious courts. This phenomenon has historical and

political roots: it existed under Ottoman rule and was retained by the British after they conquered the country.

The basic source for the application of the personal status law and the jurisdiction of the various religious courts is found in the Palestine Order in Council (1922). This order provides that "jurisdiction in matters of personal status shall be exercised... by the courts of the religious communities".

The order also grants jurisdiction to the District Courts in matters of personal status for foreigners who are non-Muslims, stating that they "shall apply the personal law of the parties concerned". Regarding foreigners, this was defined as "the law of his nationality". Case law determined that regarding non-foreigners, "the court ... have... to apply the religious or communal law of the parties".

The Palestine Order in Council recognized eleven religious communities: Jewish, Muslim, and nine Christian denominations. The Israeli government added the Presbyterian Evangelical Church and the Ba'hai to this list. The Knesset also enacted a law vesting jurisdiction in the Druze religious courts."²

Those who are running the affairs of the bogus UHJ, which has nothing in common, except its name, with the real Universal House of Justice mentioned in the Will and Testament of Abdu'l Baha, must realize that their existence is temporal. They must understand that they are partially responsible for the calamities and adversities which humanity is facing. It is necessary to remind them the sacred Words of Baha'u'llah in The Hidden Words:

O OPPRESSORS ON EARTH!

Withdraw your hands from tyranny, for I have pledged Myself not to forgive any man's injustice. This is My covenant which I have irrevocably decreed in the preserved tablet and sealed with My seal.

"O REBELLIOUS ONES!

My forbearance hath emboldened you and My long-suffering hath made you negligent, in such wise that ye have spurred on the fiery charger of passion into perilous ways that lead unto destruction. Have ye thought Me heedless or that I was unaware?"

"O CHILDREN OF FANCY!

Know, verily, that while the radiant dawn breaketh above the horizon of eternal holiness, the satanic secrets and deeds done in the gloom of night shall be laid bare and manifest before the peoples of the world."

² <http://www.mfa.gov.il/mfa/aboutisrael/state/democracy/pages/the%20judiciary-%20the%20court%20system.aspx>. Also, the information is available in the article written by David Nachmias; "Israel Studies An Anthology: National Government Institutions" <http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/isdf/text/nachmias.html>

O YE PEOPLES OF THE WORLD!

Know, verily, that an unforeseen calamity followeth you, and grievous retribution awaiteth you. Think not that which ye have committed hath been effaced in My sight. By My beauty! All your doings hath My pen graven with open characters upon tablets of chrysolite.

Baha'u'llah

The mighty stronghold shall remain impregnable and safe through obedience to him who is the Guardian of the Cause of God. It is incumbent upon the members of the House of Justice, upon all the Aghsán, the Afnán, the Hands of the Cause of God to show their obedience, submissiveness and subordination unto the Guardian of the Cause of God, to turn unto him and be lowly before him. He that opposeth him hath opposed the True One, will make a breach in the Cause of God, will subvert His Word and will become a manifestation of the Center of Sedition. Beware, beware, lest the days after the ascension (of Bahá'u'lláh) be repeated when the Center of Sedition waxed haughty and rebellious and with Divine Unity for his excuse deprived himself and perturbed and poisoned others.

(The Will and Testament of Abdu'l-Baha)

In conclusion, the bogus UHJ sets itself up as if it were the genuine one, ignoring the fact that it was born of violation, none of the essential conditions for its election have been met, and it operates without the Guardian as its sacred head. Contrary to the call of Shoghi Effendi, in his letter entitled Summons of the Lord of Hosts, dated June 30, 1952, adjuring the Baha'is to remain focused on the goals of the Plans no matter what might happen. The prerequisites established by Shoghi Effendi for the embryonic UHJ to grow through successive stages to a religious court, then to an elected body, and finally to effloresce to the Universal House of Justice, have not been met. In 1957 after passing the first Guardian, the embryonic Universal House of Justice i.e. the International Baha'i Council with the Guardian as its sacred head, existed and should have been activated, and then be recognized as a Baha'i court. However, the errant Hands would not let this be.

At this critical time, I call upon all to turn towards God and join the true Baha'is under the Guardianship and save their souls. Certainly the Covenant of Baha'u'llah and whatever revealed by His pen; is fulfilled and will be fulfilled.

“We have a fixed time for you, O peoples. If ye fail, at the appointed hour, to turn towards God, He, verily, will lay violent hold on you, and will cause grievous afflictions to assail you from every direction. How severe, indeed, is the chastisement with which your Lord will then chastise you!”

(Gleanings from the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh)

“We exhort mankind in these days when the countenance of Justice is soiled with dust, when the flames of unbelief are burning high and the robe of wisdom rent asunder, when tranquillity and faithfulness have ebbed away and trials and tribulations have waxed severe, when covenants are broken and ties are severed, when no man knoweth how to discern light and darkness or to distinguish guidance from error.”

(Tablet of Wisdom)

The warning call set forth by the first Guardian went unheeded. Today, this warning call is renewed!
Obey the Summons of the Lord of Hosts!

Nosrat'u'llah Bahremand

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