

[PROVISIONAL SUMMARY TRANSLATION FROM PERSIAN]

[Translator's notes appear in square brackets [].]

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I Have Been Deprived of Education Because I am a Bahá'í

Hulákú Raḥmáníyán [Holakou Rahmanian], a nineteen-year-old Bahá'í youth, who had ranked 76th nationwide in the National University Entrance Examination in 85/86 [2006/2007], was not granted entrance to university because of his religious beliefs....

[Mr. Hulákú Raḥmáníyán writes an account of his ordeal of being prevented from entering university. He writes that he studied mathematical physics in a pre-university program during the final year of high school and, through hard work and perseverance, prepared for the National Entrance Examination. He ranked 76th nationwide and was certain that with that level of achievement he would be able to enter any university and study the subject of his choice. He writes that, to his disbelief, he found the word "Failed" in front of his name on the Internet site of the Educational Measurement and Evaluation Organization (EMEO). He immediately went to this organization in Ṭīhrán (Tehran) and then to their office in Karaj, where he was told that he had failed because he was a Bahá'í. He then requested to receive his grades, made several visits to the related authorities and filled out various forms, but, after he confirmed that he was a Bahá'í, his entrance examinations grades were also annulled. He writes that not only was he not allowed to enter university, he was also deprived of receiving his grades, which he had worked hard to earn. Mr. Raḥmáníyán writes that he participated in the same examination for the 2008/2009 school year, but when he searched for his grades, the phrase "Incomplete File" was written in front of his name. Again he visited the office of the EMEO and, similar to the previous year, he was told that his problem was his belief. He writes that all his efforts and visits to various organizations have been useless so far, in spite of various articles and paragraphs written in the constitution of Iran concerning issues such as the abolition of all forms of discrimination, treating non-Muslims with Islamic justice, free education for all the citizens of Iran, equal rights for all citizens, etc.]

Source: Human Rights Activists in Iran