

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY  
OF THE BAHÁ'ÍS OF THE UNITED STATES

December 13, 2017

To the American Bahá'í community

Dearly loved Friends,

Earlier this year, Iranian-Canadian filmmaker Maziar Bahari and his company, Off-Centre Productions, completed a new film, *Changing the World, One Wall at a Time*. The film documents Education Is Not A Crime's remarkable worldwide mural campaign focusing attention on the Iranian regime's denial of higher education to Bahá'ís.

In our letter to you on August 16, we called for a campaign of screenings during the weekend of September 8–10, when Off-Centre Productions would briefly make the film available in advance of its formal release. Bahá'í communities across America responded with a goodly number of small, intimate screenings. But the potential of the film to make the indignities continually faced by Iran's Bahá'ís better known to the public prompts us to call for a campaign of longer duration.

In December 2014, we launched a campaign centering on Mr. Bahari's prior film, *To Light a Candle*, which garnered considerable response from newspapers and on social media. Now we are requesting Bahá'í communities to lend their support to a nationwide effort to ensure widespread viewing of the new film. In the coming year, beginning on January 15 and continuing through September 15, we ask you to arrange as many screenings of *Changing the World, One Wall at a Time* as practicable and appropriate.

Natural opportunities for screenings obviously exist at colleges and universities and in high school classrooms. In addition to students, therefore, we request those friends who are professors, teachers, and lecturers to help organize these screenings. Visit [the film's website](#), where you can download the film and find helpful information on arranging screenings, attracting the media's attention, and devising complementary artistic activities—which can bolster the film's effect on public awareness.

The relentless persecution of Iran's Bahá'ís—presented with great effect in *Changing the World, One Wall at a Time*—is increasingly being recognized by respected organizations concerned with human rights abuses. Publicity generated through your tireless efforts on their behalf over the years has, without a doubt, contributed to this recognition.

Yet—notwithstanding the recent release from unjustified captivity of three members of the former Yárán—the persecution shows no signs of abating. Numerous arrests took place during the Bicentenary period. The total number currently behind bars is about 90. We are confident widespread viewing of *Changing the World, One Wall at a Time* will not only focus renewed attention on the plight of our long-suffering Iranian sisters and brothers but will awaken an outcry from the fair-minded to grave injustices that have for far too long persisted.

With loving Bahá'í greetings,



Kenneth E. Bowers  
Secretary