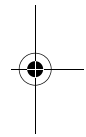
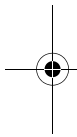


Update: The Situation of
THE BAHÁ'ÍS
IN IRAN



On 17 January 1998, an open letter from the Bahá'í community of the United States to the President of Iran appeared in *The New York Times* and a week later, in *The Los Angeles Times*. The letter was a response to statements made by President Mohammad Khatami during a televised interview the previous week on CNN, in which he asserted that “religion and liberty are consistent and compatible,” that “prosperous life should hinge on three pillars: religiosity, liberty and justice,” and that these “are the assets and aspirations of the Islamic Revolution as it enters the twenty-first century.” In their letter, the Bahá'ís of the United States asked if Iran's Bahá'ís, who constitute the country's largest religious minority, are to be included in these aspirations. The letter continued, “Your explicitly stated determination to fulfill the provisions of the Iranian Constitution and to establish the rule of law gives us hope that the freedom of the Bahá'í community in Iran openly to practice its religion will be guaranteed.” Finally, the Bahá'í community of the United States expressed its hope that the United Nations General Assembly Resolution calling for the “emancipation” of the Iranian Bahá'í community will be implemented.

