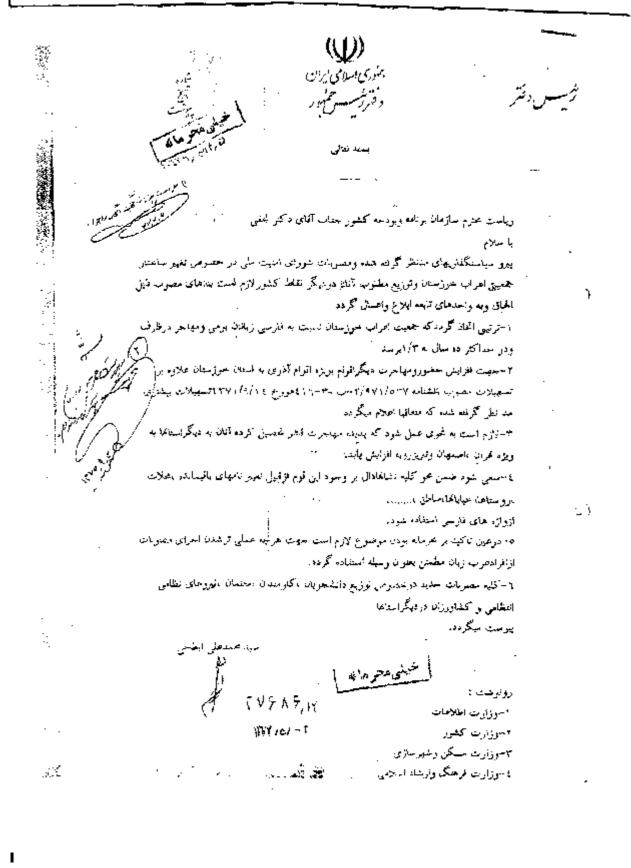


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Letter from Vice-President Sayed Mohammad-Ali Abtahi to government departments on the procedure to change the ethnic composition of Khuzestan (Al-Ahwaz) and eradicate Arab language and culture in the province.

A former member of President Khatami's staff has verified this letter as authentic. The original is reproduced on page two, with an English translation on page three.



Emblem of the Islamic Republic ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN Office of the President Head of the Executive Office

Number Date Attachment 5/316/20675 (hand written)

TOP SECRET

In the Name of Allah

Head of the respectful Department of planning and budget- Mr. Dr. Najafi

With greetings:

Pursuant to the policies set forth, and the legislation approved by the National Security Council, with regards to changing the population demography of Arabs of Khuzestan and their appropriate resettlement to other parts of the country, it is necessary that the attached approved instructions be directed to all relevant subsidiary organizations for execution.

- 1. The Arab population of Khuzestan must be reduced to a third of the total population of Khuzestan within 10 years, with the rest of the population to be composed of Farsi-speaking residents and migrants.
- 2. On the resettlement of other ethnic groups, especially the Azeri (Turks) to Khuzestan province, in addition to the facilities approved under legislations # 16-32/971/5-7, dated 14/4/1376 (1998) other arrangements have been made to facilitate this (forced resettlement) which will be announced in the future.
- 3. It is necessary to increase the resettlement of their (Arab) educated class to other provinces, especially to Isfahan, Tehran and Tabriz.
- 4. Proof of the existence of this ethnic group (Arabs) should be eradicated, including the changing of remaining (Arabic) names of cities, villages, regions and streets to Farsi names.
- 5. Arabic-speaking people should be used for the execution of this legislation, although the secrecy of this programme must be respected.
- 6. Newly approved legislation regarding the (forced) migration of (university) students, civil servants, teachers, military and security forces and farmers to other provinces, are attached.

Signature

Sayed Mohammad-Ali Abtahi

TOP SECRET 27686/62 2/5/1377

Carbon Copy:

- 1. Ministry of Information (Security)
- 2. Ministry of Interior
- 3. Ministry of Housing and Urban Development
- 4. Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance