



# JOSIE THE DETECTIVE'S BLOG

HOME

ARCHIVES

**Monday, March 7, 6:30 p.m.**

Just bumped into Mrs. Johnson coming out of her apartment. She was in a hurry, but she gave me a hug and said, "I'm off to give a talk at the college about the Bahá'ís in Iran. The more people know about their problems, the better." What problems? Hmm. I'm going to find out!

6 COMMENTS

**Tuesday, March 8, 7:28 a.m.**

Told Mom I'd be at the library after school, looking into what's happening in Iran with the Bahá'ís. She said, "I've read a little in the paper. Let me know what you find." I love that my parents *really* like to keep up with what I'm interested in. *And* they let me explore in my own way.

4 COMMENTS

**Tuesday, March 8, 9:35 p.m.**

Wow, there are *tons* of stories. Why haven't I heard more about this? Facts:

- Bahá'ís in Iran have been persecuted and even killed since the early days of the Bahá'í Faith in the 1800s.
- Today, many Bahá'ís have lost their jobs, businesses, and money. They can't go to college, and kids even get bullied by teachers at school, just because they're Bahá'ís!
- Lots of Bahá'ís have been put in prison because of their religion. About 60 are in jail right now. Sad. Why do things like this happen? I'll catch up with Mrs. Johnson tomorrow.

9 COMMENTS

**Wednesday, March 9, 4:33 p.m.**

Glad Mrs. Johnson was in. She offered me some yummy-looking cookies. But *she* didn't eat any because of the Bahá'í Fast, so I decided not to, either. Besides, I was hungrier for answers. So I asked, "What's up with the Iranian government? Why do they want to get rid of Bahá'ís? I've been learning about the Bahá'í Faith for a couple of years now, and it seems pretty peaceful."



*Bahá'í leaders now imprisoned in Iran*

Mrs. Johnson's smile disappeared. "It's prejudice and hatred." Whoa. "When the Bahá'í Faith began in the 1840s, the Muslim clergy and government wanted to stop it." She said that even though Bahá'ís believe in peace, they're still persecuted. In 2008, seven Bahá'í leaders—two women and five men—were jailed for almost two years without a trial. Then they were sentenced to 10 years in prison! They're called the "Yaran," which means "Friends." Mrs. Johnson heard that the prison conditions are harsh and dangerous. Scary!

12 COMMENTS

**Thursday, March 10, 6:00 a.m.**

Didn't sleep well. Injustice makes me C-R-A-Z-Y. Sounds like the Johnsons are up, too. During the fast, they eat before the sun comes up and after it goes down. Got up to find clues about the Yaran on the Internet so I can *do* something:

- The prison is filthy, and they're crammed into small cells. They don't get much food. Hmm. Send food and blankets?
- Bahá'ís from all over the U.S. have talked with members of Congress about this. Write to my senators and representative?
- The United Nations and governments around the world have urged Iran to treat the Bahá'ís justly. Write article for school paper?

15 COMMENTS

**Thursday, March 10, 3:54 p.m.**

At lunch, I told Frieda, Eric, and Aziz everything. "The blankets and food won't reach them, if they're being treated so badly in prison," Frieda said. "The Bahá'ís are being bullied *big* time. Bullies stink," Aziz said. Eric added that he could find the e-mail addresses for Congress so we can all write them. My friends rock!



*Lunch with Frieda, Eric, and Aziz*

19 COMMENTS

## > THE CASE OF THE UNJUST IMPRISONMENT

**Thursday, March 10, 9:50 p.m.**

Sent off letters to Congress, but it's just not *enough*. Reread all my notes for clues. Bingo! I found one about lots of prayer meetings that have been held for the Yaran. Will talk to Mom and Dad about having people over to pray. Soon.

🗨️ 10 COMMENTS

**Saturday, March 12, 10:01 p.m.**

Smells of fresh bread and chicken soup filled our apartment. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson brought seven white candles, one for each of the Yaran. They told us more about them. They've hardly *seen* their families—and one man has a son around my age.



*My Bahá'í neighbors, the Johnsons*

After supper, Dad sang “We Shall Overcome.” Aziz chanted a prayer, and Frieda said the Lord’s Prayer. I read from my copy of *The Hidden Words* that Mrs. Johnson gave me when I started investigating the Bahá’í Faith: “O SON OF MAN! For everything there is a sign. The sign of love is fortitude under My decree and patience under My trials.”

As the candles flickered, I prayed that the Yaran can feel the love coming their way.



*Aziz chants a beautiful prayer*

When everyone left, Mom and Dad asked how I was doing. Suddenly, I was crying. Guess I didn’t realize how upset I was about people being punished for their religion. Mom and Dad promised they’d write to Congress, too.

You know what I think? I think anything is possible when you have faith and fantastic family and friends. I’m off to bed, but first I’ll say some more prayers for people who face injustice in Iran—and *everywhere*.

🗨️ 23 COMMENTS

## ABOUT ME



Hi! My name is Josie. I love investigating mysteries. I also really like writing, so my family helped me set up this blog for my case notes and other thoughts. If you have cool ideas about where I can look for clues, please share. Or just say hey and tell me what *you* love to do.

I’m a writer for my school’s newspaper. My dream is to be a lawyer or journalist. For me, tracking down the truth is like a treasure hunt!

### MY FAVORITE THINGS

- > Hanging out with friends
- > Solving mysteries big and small
- > Exploring cultures and religions. Love to travel.
- > Writing, tae kwon do, soccer, baseball, science, reading, and singing
- > Animals, especially birds, dolphins, and gorillas