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POST REPLY

**Baha'is In My Backyard - Full Interview. 2.4 Hours.**

17 hours ago :: Mar 31, 2011 - 3:56PM

#1



Reformbahai  
Posts: 14

Baha'is in My Backyard - Full Interview. 2.4 hours.  
[www.fglaysher.com/bahaicensorship/Bahais...](http://www.fglaysher.com/bahaicensorship/Bahais...)

Given the US Federal Court decisions ruling three times against the Haifan Baha'i denomination in 2008 to 2010, I believe it is the right moment to make available this full interview for people researching the Bahai Faith.

I was interviewed for the movie Baha'is in My Backyard on October 18, 2004. The movie was produced by the Israeli company Belfilms. At the time I had not yet realized that the 1912 Covenant of Abdul-Baha existed, as documented in the early Bahai magazine the Star of the West and by Ruth White, as well as other sources, and was the formative document for the Bahai Movement in the West, during Abdul-Baha's lifetime, both in the United States and Europe. Consequently, the 1912 Authentic Covenant of Abdul-Baha is the central document for the renewed and revived Reform Bahai Faith. Accordingly, some of my remarks in this interview on Shoghi Effendi would be revised today, as would my acceptance of approximately a million Baha'is in India, which now appears actually to be closer to merely 11,000 people, mostly Iranian immigrants, according to the testimony of an Indian who was a former NSA member. Otherwise, my opinions and concerns would remain the same today, though perhaps my comments on the manipulation of Google search results for Baha'i were more applicable in 2004. Google has increasingly become aware of and responsive to how people and organizations attempt to manipulate its results.

Please note that I was interviewed by Belfilms for two and a half hours but they chose a highly selective two minutes to use, carefully arranged and presented, which distort the full context of my comments and portray me in an unfavorable light, at best, and in a way that is reminiscent of the tactics of the Haifan Baha'is themselves. They also violated client confidentiality by making our contract public, including my personal signature, without my permission, and in a way that casts suspicion upon me. Although required by our mutually agreed upon contract, Belfilms both failed to notify me before the first public broadcast of the film and to provide me with a requisite DVD copy until I had heard of the airing several months after the event and reminded them of their obligations. The short clip of my interview is further framed with a lead-in and closing that is meant to present me in a ridiculous and paranoid fashion. I maintain the fullness of the interview allows the viewer a more comprehensive perspective on both myself and the manner in which the movie was created, as well as the issues involved.

While people elsewhere on the Internet have speculated that the Unitarian Baha'is and Baha'u'llah's great-grand-daughter Nigar Bahai Amsalem may have funded, or been behind the movie, or the Haifan Baha'is in what would be a highly characteristic counter-disinformation effort, since much of the movie simultaneously attempts to diffuse suspicions raised in the film, presenting Haifans as innocuous, the fact remains that in 2011 it is still unresolved from whom or where Belfilms received funding for the movie and what was the true motivation for its production. Others have speculated that the Israeli government was behind the movie in some way. To a perceptive viewer aware of the actual historical record of Haifan Baha'is when it comes to religious freedom and speech, the movie clearly constitutes more than a "mockumentary."

Baha'is in My Backyard - Segment 1 - Full Interview - Streaming wmv. Naama Pritz from Belfilms was the interviewer.

Baha'is in My Backyard - Segment 2 - Full Interview - Two Israeli cameramen



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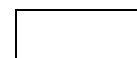
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present throughout the full interview.

Baha'is in My Backyard - Segment 3 - Full Interview

On Youtube - Excerpts of Full Interview of FG by Belfilms  
[www.youtube.com/view\\_play\\_list?p=27E91AB...](http://www.youtube.com/view_play_list?p=27E91AB...)

Bahais in My Backyard - trailer Youtube - Sets up FG and Juan Cole as the demons in the paranoid fantasies of the uhj.  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=oPSjw1OdRvs](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oPSjw1OdRvs)

"Documentary, 54 min. A Belfilms Production Directed by Naama Pyritz & Asaf Shafir. Belfilms is one of the leading production houses in Israel, producing drama, documentaries, feature films and commercials, for Israeli and foreign broadcasters, advertising agencies, and international co-productions. Belfilms features and documentaries have been screened in the cinema and television throughout the world and at film and television leading festivals."

Much of the finished movie Bahais in My Backyard is available on Youtube Playlist - though edited.  
[www.youtube.com/results?search\\_query=bah...](http://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=bah...)

Reform Bahai Faith  
[www.ReformBahai.org](http://www.ReformBahai.org)

Hindus will soon celebrate the New Year!  
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10 hours ago :: Mar 31, 2011 - 11:09PM

#2



Kalzera

Posts: 178

People see what they want to see. There's enough out there on the internet to explain the Baha'i position on Abdu'l-Baha and Shoghi Effendi that I don't think I even have to bother elaborating that.

Moreover, most of the earliest dissenters - relatives of Baha'u'llah and Abdu'l-Baha as well as their descendants, many among the early American community (Ruth White), etc. - fundamentally misunderstood the Baha'i Faith. They either mistook it for a radical political movement, for an occultish, new age faith that would grant "mystic powers," or for some liberal, loosely organized Islamic version of UU. Regardless, a legitimate case can't be made against the authority of Shoghi Effendi unless you were to erase the entire ministry of Abdu'l-Baha.

Anyone curious about the "Orthodox Baha'i," "BUPC," or "Reform Bahai" arguments can easily refer back to Abdu'l-Baha's writings and most of the historical works relating to this formative period in the Baha'i Faith. We do believe in "Independent Investigation of the Truth," after all.

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How ever men try to reach me, I return their love with my love; w whatever path they may travel, it leads to me in the end - Bhagavad Gita 4:11

"Know ledge is a light w hich God casteth into the heart of w homsoever He w illeth" - The Four Valleys; Hadith

18 minutes ago :: Apr 01, 2011 - 8:48AM

#3



Reformbahai

Posts: 14

"People see what they want to see. There's enough out there on the internet to explain the Baha'i position on Abdu'l-Baha and Shoghi Effendi that I don't think I even have to bother elaborating that."

The fact is that much of the Haifan "Baha'i position," interpretation, really, is based on falsehoods and historical distortions. Most average Baha'is have never made the effort or spent the time to actually read and study the early history of the Bahai Movement as taught by Abdul-Baha in the West. Rather, they have accepted, without independent investigation, the "positions" of the fraudulent will and testament of Shoghi Effendi's family in 1921.

Abdu'l-Baha's 1912 Authentic Covenant  
[www.reformbahai.org/Covenant.html](http://www.reformbahai.org/Covenant.html)

An Analysis of Abdu'l-Baha's 1912 Authentic  
[www.reformbahai.org/Covenant\\_comments.ht...](http://www.reformbahai.org/Covenant_comments.ht...)

"Moreover, most of the earliest dissenters - relatives of Baha'u'llah and Abdu'l-Baha as well as their descendants, many among the early American community (Ruth White), etc. - fundamentally misunderstood the Baha'i Faith. They either mistook it for a radical political movement, for an occultish, new age faith that would grant "mystic powers," or for some liberal, loosely organized Islamic version of UU. Regardless, a legitimate case can't be made against the authority of Shoghi Effendi unless you were to erase the entire ministry of Abdu'l-

Baha."

Not true. One to three thousand early Bahais left the Bahai Movement in the early 1920s and 1930s because many of them \*knew\* Abdul-Baha and had heard him speak in public. They had read in the Star of the West his 1912 Authentic Covenant, which was repeatedly printed

in that magazine, and understood his Interpretation of Baha'u'llah's Teachings were of a \*universal\* religion, open, broad, and accepting of various shades of conscience. Shoghi Effendi dragged the Bahai Movement back to the fanatical imamate of Shiite Islam, where it has only continued to sour and fester through the decades.

Your characterizing Ruth White and other early Bahais as "new age," given to "mystic powers," etc., demonstrates the distorting lense of Shoghi Effendi's corrupt interpretation, not Abdul-Baha's.

Ruth White [www.reformbahai.org/Ruth\\_White.html](http://www.reformbahai.org/Ruth_White.html)

Jenabe Fazel Mazandarani [www.reformbahai.org/Jenabe\\_Fazel.html](http://www.reformbahai.org/Jenabe_Fazel.html)

"Anyone curious about the "Orthodox Baha'i," "BUPC," or "Reform Baha'i" arguments can easily refer back to Abdu'l-Baha's writings and most of the historical works relating to this formative period in the Baha'i Faith. We do believe in "Independent Investigation of the Truth," after all. ""

Abdul-Baha believed in and taught that the individual believer's "conscience is to be respected," unlike Shoghi Effendi, who actually taught, as does the Haifan Baha'i "administration" today, that one must put aside independent investigation once one becomes a member of its organization. Only a cult brainwashes its members to reject the God-given, rational intellect that distinguishes the human being.

About the Reform Bahai Faith  
[www.reformbahai.org/about.html](http://www.reformbahai.org/about.html)

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