

Manouher Ghaem-Maghami

Born: 1919, Tehran

Abducted and disappeared in Tehran on 21 August 1980

Manouher Ghaem-Maghami was born into a Baha'i family. After completing his primary and high school education he obtained a law degree from Tehran University. He then established a private law practice. He was a successful lawyer. He attended to the legal matters of the Baha'i community and defended the National Spiritual Assembly¹ in many cases where the properties of the Baha'is were attacked and confiscated. He was appointed a member of the Board of Directors of the Umana and Nawnahalan Companies, and acted as their legal advisor and attorney.

He was elected to the National Spiritual Assembly of Iran in 1959 and continued his work as its Secretary for many years. On 21 August 1980, the National Spiritual Assembly had a joint meeting with two Auxiliary Board members², Yousef Abbasian Milani and Heshmatollah Rowhani, to discuss the situation of the Baha'is imprisoned in Yazd and Hamadan. At approximately 4 pm, the meeting was raided by a number of Pasdars. The members of the National Spiritual Assembly, including himself and Houshang Mahmoudi, Abdol-Hosein Taslimi, Ebrahim Rahmani, Hosein Naji, Ataollah Mogharrabi, Yousef Ghadimi, Bahiyyeh Naderi and Kambiz Sadeghzadeh, as well as the two Auxiliary Board members, were abducted. They were never seen or heard from again.

(This brief biographical note is based on the best available information. If you find any inaccuracies, or any important facts omitted, please email us through the Contact page.)

¹ **National Spiritual Assembly:** a nine-member administrative body elected annually by the Baha'is of each country, tasked with overseeing the affairs of the Bahá'í community of that particular country.

² **Auxiliary Board Members:** group of individuals appointed by the Continental Board of Counselors for a five year term. Their responsibility is to encourage individuals and strengthen Baha'i communities in their area of service - usually smaller regions within a country. Auxiliary Board Members have a consultative role in relation to the Local Spiritual Assemblies.