

OFFICIAL STATEMENT • 14

جمهوری اسلامی

Subject: Whoever disobeys the government is disobeying the command of God and His messenger
The official: Speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly and Temporary Friday Prayer Leader, Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani
The occasion: Tehran Friday Prayer ceremony at the University of Tehran
Date: 7 January 1983
Source: *Jomhuri Eslami*, 8 January 1983

Hashemi Rafsanjani, the Temporary Friday Prayer Leader: "One Who Disobeys the Government Is Disobeying the Command of God and His Messenger. This means that whoever disobeys an Islamic government order has committed the most serious deviation. . . . The laws of the Islamic Republic create duties for the people, and they are necessary. If you want to disobey, you are infringing on both the people's right and God's right. You will owe both the people and God. . . . The government of the Islamic Republic issues certain orders. Whoever does not obey is unjust and a traitor. Those obeying, however, are performing an act of worship and will be rewarded by God. The Islamic Republic will, also, provide benefits to you. When you act in this way, your children will be good Muslim kids. They will be accepted at schools and universities and they will get good jobs. They will be respected, and they will be elevated in society. Those who pay neither Khums [one fifth of their income] nor taxes will have children like themselves who will be despised by society. An immoral person cannot enter a university, as you can see.

He will not be able to take part in important projects, and he will be rejected by society. Now we are in the fourth year of our Revolution. After 10 or 15 years, the lines will be drawn and [disobedient] individuals will be known. Today, a person who disobeys the government is the same as a person who disobeys God and his Messenger. . . .

"Naturally and of necessity, selective hiring was introduced for this purpose [of ridding the system of liberals and anti-revolutionaries]. As on many other occasions, the Imam continued to provide us with his [invaluable] advice on this matter. We told the selective hiring committees and other institutions that they should avoid excesses. However, the strong resentment against liberalism that had developed within revolutionary forces, in addition to the fear of infiltration of leftist and anti-Islamic forces, led the revolutionary forces to commit some excesses. The Imam, as a perceptive leader, saw what was going on in the country. However, an appropriate time was needed for a swift corrective action. You have seen the Imam



say on numerous occasions that we should not be strict. There are persons who were corrupt in the past but now they are fine. Let them stay. We said the same thing and gave advice from this stage. Unfortunately our fine forces, who are occasionally

infiltrated by malevolent persons and occasionally make mistakes themselves, led these institutions to extreme actions. This was done by either our ignorant friends or our smart enemies who had infiltrated our institutions.”



A newspaper photograph of a demonstration at the entrance to Tehran University, 6 December 1978—*Pars News Agency*

