



## ĀHI, MAJID

**ĀHI, MAJID** (b. Tehran, 1265 Š./1886; d. 22 Šahrivar 1325 Š./12 September 1946), judge, governor of Fārs, minister of justice, and ambassador to the Soviet Union ([FIGURE 1](#)). He was the son of Mirzā Abu'l-Qāsem Āhi, a translator at the Russian embassy in Tehran. In 1286 he left for Russia, where he studied economics and law (Qazvini, p. 28) and took a Russian wife. Upon his return to Persia, he was employed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (*Wezārat-e omur-e kāreja; Sāl-nāma-ye donyā*, p. 117). Then he served for two years as the Persian director (*komisar-e 'āli*) of the Perso-Soviet fisheries (*Šerkat-e māhi-e Irān*) in Gilān before joining the [Faculty of Law and Political Science](#) at the University of Tehran, while holding the position of the deputy minister of education (Falsafi, p. 97).

Āhi was a close associate of his former classmate 'Ali-Akbar Dāvar and cooperated with him to found the Radical party (*Hezb-e rādikāl*), which supported the then minister of war Rezā Khan Sardār-e Sepah, the future Rezā Shah ('Aqeli, 1990, pp. 33-34; idem, 2001, p. 38; Šadiq, I, pp. 268, 277-78). In 1927 Dāvar appointed him to the post of the advisor (*mostašār*) to the Supreme Court (*Divān-e 'āli-etamiz*) in the new Ministry of Justice (*Wezārat-e 'adliya*) that Dāvar had envisaged and just established. Āhi maintained that position for six years until he was sent as governor to Fārs (*Sāl-nāma-ye Pārs*, p. 195) in 1933. In 1935 he replaced 'Ali Maṣūm (Maṣūm-al-Salṭana), as the minister of transportation (Mas'udi, p. 148; Golšā'iān, 1998, pp. 309-10); it was during his tenure as at this ministry (*Wezārat-e ṭoroq wa šawāre'*) that the construction of the cross-country railway was finished. In 1938 he was removed from his



ministerial post and spent some time in jail on the suspicion of being a Russophile (‘Āqeli, 2001, I, p. 39), because he used to socialize with the members of the Soviet embassy. The charges were eventually dropped and in 1940 he was appointed to the post of the minister of justice (*wazir-e dād-gostari*) in the new cabinet of ‘Ali Maṣṣūr. The cabinet resigned a year later a few days after the country was invaded by the Allied forces on 3 Šahrivar 1320 Š./24 August 1941. Reżā Shah offered the post of the prime minister to Āhi who was the most senior member of the cabinet, but Āhi and the minister of interior (*wazir-e kešvar*) ‘Ali Sohayli convinced the shah that **Moḥammad-‘Ali Foruḡi Ḍokā’-al-Molk** was the most likely person capable of running the government despite the political tension and economic difficulties of wartime situation and the military presence of the Allied powers (K̄vāja-nuri, p. 402; Golšā’iān, XI, pp. 539, 547-48; idem, 1998, pp. 527-28; ‘Āqeli, 1990, pp. 483, 486-87).

Foruḡi replaced Maṣṣūr as the prime minister, but Āhi remained the minister of justice, while assisting Foruḡi in carrying out the duties of the prime minister. Āhi held to his office when Foruḡi reshuffled the cabinet to seek the vote of confidence from the Majles after the resignation of Reżā Shah and the ascension of Moḥammad-Reżā Shah, and again when Foruḡi was asked to form a new government after he had resigned as the prime minister (Golšā’iān, 1998, p. 696, 698-99). Āhi was often shouldering the heavier part of the burden of prime minister’s duties, as Foruḡi, already in advanced age, was often ill and bed-ridden. Āhi was particularly instrumental in having the Tripartite Treaty of Alliance passed by the Majles. Later in the same year, Foruḡi reshuffled the cabinet once more, this time making Āhi the minister of agriculture, economy, and foodstuff (*wazir-e kešāvarzi o eqtešād o k̄vārbār; Eṭṭelā’āt*, no. 4812). However, since the Majles barely approved the new cabinet, Foruḡi resigned (K̄vāja-nuri, p. 467) and declined the offer to form a new government, thereby creating a great deal of political uncertainty. Eventually the Majles voted for the prime ministry of ‘Ali Sohayli, in whose cabinet Āhi again became the minister of justice (*Eṭṭelā’āt*, no. 4819). It was during the tenure of the same cabinet that he was sent in 1942 as ambassador to the Soviet Union to replace Moḥammad Sā’ed, who had been recalled to become the minister of foreign affairs. He stayed in Moscow for four years until serious health problem forced him to return to Tehran on 4 September 1946, where he died a week later (Qazvini, p. 28).



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