



ŠAFAQ

ŠAFAQ, a newspaper published in Tabriz from 28 Ramažān 1328 until 26 Du'l-ḥejja 1329/3 October 1910-18 December 1911. It began as a weekly paper until issue no. 35, and thereafter it was published on a bi-weekly basis.

The license-holder, director and editor in chief of *Šafaq* was Ḥāji Āqā Reżāzāda, who later changed his name to Şādeq Reżāzāda Šafaq (b. Tabriz 1890; d. Tehran, 7 Sept, 1971), the name by which he is now more commonly known. Reżāzāda Šafaq received his formal education in his hometown, graduating from the American school in Tabriz. He became actively involved in the [Constitutional Movement](#) and published harsh critical articles against the imperialistic Russian policy in Persia, which caused him to close his newspaper and go into hiding when Russian forces occupied Tabriz in 1911 and hanged Mirzā Aḥmad Sohayli, one of its contributors. Reżāzāda, however, managed to flee the country, eventually ending up in Berlin, where he continued his education and received his doctorate degree in philosophy.

From the 16th issue onwards, Maḥmud Ġanizāda, a well-known journalist, poet and political activist, was introduced as the director-in-charge. Ġanizāda remained in this position until issue 45, when he left for his birthplace, Salmās, to serve as the head of the Justice Department there. His name, however, remained on the newspaper emblem for a while, which prompted the newspaper *Majles*, politically an opponent of *Šafaq*, to point out the fact that it was illegal for a state officer to publish a newspaper (“Riāsāt-e ‘adliya-ye Salmās, yak kelāf-e qānun,” *Majles* 4/117, Rajab 1329/9 July 1911).



Şafaq was an organ of the Democrat Party (Hezb-e demokrāt), with a strong nationalist orientation (*Irān-e now* 3, no. 15, 13 Rabi‘ II 1329/13 April 1911). Each issue contained a number of articles, including an editorial, and items of domestic and foreign news that had been mostly translated from Caucasian newspapers. A Persian translation of Jerji Zaydān’s *Fatāt Ġassān* was serialized in *Şafaq*. It also carried poems, some of which were composed in forms deviating from traditional norms.

Şafaq was printed at the Omid printing house in four three-column pages of 28 x 45 cm, and carried no illustrations. The annual subscription rate in Tabriz was set as 7 krans. Scattered issues are held at the Central Library (Ketāb-kāna-ye markazi) of Tehran University, the Central Library of Fārs, and the libraries of Mo’assasa-ye moṭāla’āt-e tāriḳ-e mo’āşer-e Irān, Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales in Paris, and Cambridge University.

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