

16 Baha'i Men & Women Executed; American Officials Ask Reagan's Help

WILMETTE -- In the wake of the hangings last week of 16 more Baha'i men and women by Iranian authorities, American Baha'i officials appealed to President Reagan to do what he can to prevent further murders. The appeal was part of a Sunday telegram to the President from Dr. Firuz Kazemzadeh, secretary of the National Assembly of the Baha'is of the United States.

Iran executed the 16 men and women in spite of an appeal for clemency by President Reagan one month ago. Hanged on June 16 in Shiraz were six men, ranging in age from 23 to 60.

All ten Baha'is hanged on Saturday, June 18, were women, including three teenage girls. According to Baha'i reports, the ten were subjected to a long interrogation after which they were further pressured to recant their religion and accept Islam.

American Baha'is vehemently protest the new acts of inhumanity inflicted upon innocent men,

women and adolescents whose only crime was their refusal to recant their faith and convert to Islam," said Dr. Kazemzadeh in the telegram to the President.

The telegram continues: "Some sixty Baha'is still in jail in Shiraz are also threatened with death. The world must not permit the murders to continue. We hope that the United States will be in the forefront of enlightened nations in preventing further such barbarities."

During October and November 1982 over 80 Baha'is were arrested in Shiraz. Authorities later announced that 22 of them were condemned to death and would be executed if they would not convert to Islam. Three were executed March 12.

The six Baha'i men hanged June 16 were:

- * Dr. Bahram Afnan, 48, a physician;
- * Mr. Bahram Yaldai, a 23-year old student;
- * Mr. Jamshid Siyavushli, 39, a businessman;
- * Mr. Inayatullah Ishraqi, 60, a retired oil

company officer;

- * Mr. Kurosh Haqbin, 27, an electrical technician
- * Mr. Abdul-Husayn Azadi, 60, an employee of the health ministry.

The ten women hanged Saturday, June 18 were:

- * Mrs. Nosrat Yaldai, 54, mother of Bahram, hanged June 16;
- * Mrs. Izzat Janami Ishraqi, 50, wife of Inayatullah, hanged June 16;
- * Miss Ruya Ishraqi, early 20's daughter of the above;
- * Mrs. Tahirih Siyavushi, 32, wife of Jamshid, hanged June 16;
- * Miss Muna Mahmud-nizhad, 18, whose father was executed March 12;
- * Miss Zarrin Muqimi, early 20's;
- * Miss Akhtar Sabet, 19;
- * Miss Simin Sabiri, early 20's;
- * Miss Mahshid Nirumand, 18.

Since the Islamic regime came to power in Iran four years ago, the 300,000-member Baha'i community there has been subjected to an official campaign of religious persecution. More than 150 Baha'is have been executed; hundreds have been imprisoned; Baha'i holy places and cemeteries have been destroyed; thousands of Baha'is are homeless; and thousands are unemployed, dismissed from their jobs because of their membership in the Baha'i Faith.

Iran's treatment of the Baha'is has drawn the protests of the United Nations Human Rights Commission, the European Parliament, the parliament of Canada, Great Britain, Australia and West Germany, and the United States Congress. Amnesty International, the non-political human rights organization, has protested Iran's treatment of the Baha'is, saying that "they are being persecuted solely for their religious beliefs."



FT. PIERCE, FL.
THE CHRONICLE
W. 9,900

AUG 10 1983

BP000253