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The Sun (1837-1985); Sep 10, 1979; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Baltimore Sun, The (1837-1986)

pg. A4

Doc_Number: KP000109

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Tehran, Iran (Reuters)—Unidentified attackers massacred 46 Kurdish villagers at the height of the anti-government rebellion in Kurdistan, the governor general of West Azerbaijan province, Jamshid Haqgu, said yesterday.

Mr. Haqgu said the massacre took place at Gharnah, near the main road to Noghadeh, not far from where 15 Islamic revolutionary guards were killed September 2 in an attack on their bus by Kurdish guerrillas.

He said the villagers were killed after the bus attack and that the two incidents were connected. It was an attempt, he said, to provoke unrest between neighboring Kurdish and Turkish-speaking communities.

"The attackers were not revolutionary guards, neither were they Kurds or Turks. They were just counter-revolutionaries. This was a plot to start a fight between Kurds and Turks," Mr. Haqgu said in the West Azerbaijan capital of Urumieh.

Mr. Haqgu said he had sent investigators to try to identify the attackers.

Sources in the banned Kurdish Democratic party, whose militants have fled to the Kurdistan hills after the defeat of their rebellion in the towns, said four women,

seven children and a number of old men were among those massacred at Gharnah.

They alleged a number of the victims were beheaded, including the local Muslim priest.

Mr. Haqgu said he had not seen the bodies but had been told the victims were brutally killed.

The Kurdish sources said the massacre took place September 3. Mr. Haqgu would only acknowledge it had taken place during the last week.

The official Pars news agency said yesterday that three revolutionary guards were killed in the Kurdish town of Bukan Saturday night in clashes with demonstrators, but gave no details.

A one-night curfew was imposed on Bukan last week after revolutionary guards fired into the air to disperse demonstrators shouting anti-clerical slogans. The incident happened soon after government troops took over the town, which had been held previously by rebel forces.

In the former rebel capital of Mahabad, Ayatollah Sadeq Khalkhali, head of Iran's Islamic revolutionary courts, banned all demonstrations.

Since the town fell to the government last week, local

Kurds have demonstrated at least twice in support of their banned spiritual leader, Sheik Ezzeddin Hosseini.

Tehran's Islamic revolutionary prosecutor, Ayatollah Ahmad Azari Qomi, issued an order yesterday confiscating property of the owners of Tehran's leading evening newspaper, *Etela'at*.

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