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1545; IRAN - BAHAI'S (ATT EDITOR):

UNITED NATIONS, JUNE 16, REUTER - SIX OF SEVEN MEMBERS OF IRAN'S BAHAI RELIGIOUS MINORITY WHO WERE EXECUTED IN HAMADAN LAST SUNDAY WERE EXTENSIVELY TORTURED BEFORE THEY WERE SHOT, A BAHAI SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY.

THE BODY OF THE SEVENTH SHOWED NO SIGNS OF TORTURE BUT HE HAD BEEN SHOT NINE TIMES, ACCORDING TO GERALD KNIGHT, SPOKESMAN FOR THE BAHAI INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY WHICH IS ACCREDITED TO THE U.N. AS A NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATION.

THE SEVEN INCLUDED SIX MEMBERS OF THE BAHAI ADMINISTRATIVE BODY IN HAMADAN WHO HAD BEEN HELD IN JAIL SINCE LAST AUGUST.

MR KNIGHT SAID THAT, ACCORDING TO INFORMATION FROM SOURCES INSIDE IRAN, THE TORTURE WAS APPARENTLY INFLICTED RECENTLY.

CONTRARY TO USUAL PRACTICE, THE CONDEMNED MEN WERE NOT ALLOWED VISITS FROM RELATIVES SHORTLY BEFORE EXECUTION AND HAD BORNE NO SIGNS OF TORTURE WHEN VISITED EARLIER.

UNLIKE OTHER MINORITY RELIGIONS, THE BAHAI FAITH IS NOT RECOGNISED UNDER THE NEW IRANIAN CONSTITUTION AND ITS FOLLOWERS ARE REGARDED AS HERETICS BY ISLAMIC FUNDAMENTALISTS.

ACCORDING TO MR KNIGHT, AT LEAST 42 BAHAI'S HAVE BEEN EXECUTED IN IRAN SINCE OCTOBER 1979. ANOTHER 12 WERE ASSASSINATED AND 14 OTHERS HAD DISAPPEARED, HE SAID.

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1554:IRAN - BAHAMI'S 2 UNITED NATIONS (ATT EDITOR):
GIVING DETAILS OF THE ALLEGED MALTREATMENT, HE SAID THE
BODY OF HUSAYN MUTLAD ARANI SHOWED NO SIGNS OF TORTURE BUT HE
HAD BEEN SHOT NINE TIMES.

MUHAMMAD BAQIR HABIBI HAD A BROKEN SHOULDER; DR NASIR
VAFARI HAD HAD HIS THIGHS CUT OPEN AS FAR AS THE WAIST AND HAD
BEEN SHOT TWICE; DR FIRUZ NA'IMI HAD A BROKEN BACK AND HAD BEEN
SHOT SEVEN TIMES; HUSAYN KHANDIL HAD HAD THE FINGERS OF ONE
HAND PRESSED AND HIS BACK HAD BEEN BURNED; SUHRAB HABIBI HAD
HAD HIS BACK BURNED AND HAD BEEN SHOT FIVE TIMES; AND
TARAZULLAH KHUZAYN SUFFERED A SMASHED CHEST AND LEFT HAND AND
HAD BEEN SHOT SEVEN TIMES.

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