

## INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE DEFENSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN IRAN

61 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10006

FOR RELEASE: MONDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1981

10:00 A.M.

(New York, N.Y. ...) A group of Americans who have worked extensively for the cause of human rights during their public careers announced today (Monday, December 14, 1981) at a New York press conference the formation of the International Committee for the Defense of Human Rights in Iran. The Committee is being organized to bring to the attention of appropriate international organizations and Member States of the United Nations continuing reports of alleged human rights violations in Iran.

The spokesman for the group, former Ambassador William J. vanden Heuvel, said, "None of us can be silent in the face of the continuing reports of arbitrary executions, torture and destruction of individual rights as reported from Iran. More than 3,350 Iranians have been executed since the 1979 Revolution. The reports indicate that not even women and children are spared the brutal repression of the Khomeini regime. We believe there are international standards clearly set forth in the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights which compel us to do everything possible to cause the United Nations and its Member States to assume responsibility, hopefully to bring an end to the terror and bloodshed which are now part of Iran's daily existence."

At its first public meeting, members of the International Committee spoke about reported human rights violations in Iran and the steps the Committee intends to undertake.

Apart from Ambassador vanden Heuvel, who is the former Deputy Permanent Representative of the United States to the United Nations, Committee members include: Hon. Morris B. Abram, former U.S. Representative of the United Nations Human Rights Commission;

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Hon. Rita Hauser, former U.S. Representative of the United Nations Human Rights Commission; Hon. Philip Hoffman, Former U.S. Representative of the United Nations Human Rights Commission; Professor Richard B. Lillich, Chairman of the Human Rights Committee of the International Law Association; Professor Leland Miles, President of the International Association of University Presidents; Hon. David A. Morse, Director-General of the International Labor Organization (1948-1970); Professor Oscar Schachter, Professor of International Law at Columbia University; Hon. Jerome J. Shestack, former U.S. Representative of the United Nations Human Rights Commission; Hon. Marietta Tree, former U.S. Representative of the United Nations Human Rights Commission; Professor Tom J. Farer, Distinguished Professor of Law, Rutgers University; and Professor Amry Vandenbosch, Professor Emeritus, Patterson School of Diplomacy, University of Kentucky.

Also, on Monday, December 14, 1981, an announcement was made in Geneva Switzerland, by Professor Jacques Freymond, Director Centre d'Etudes Pratiques de la Negotiation Internationale, of the formation of the International Committee for the Defense of Human Rights in Iran. Among the organizers of the efforts are Professor Georges Fischer, Director of Research of the National Center for Scientific Research, Paris, France; Professor Johan Galtung, Distinguished International Law Professor, Norway; John Humphrey, Faculty of Law, University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario and former Staff Director of the United Nations Human Rights Commission; and Professor Salvator P. Lopez, former Member of the United Nations Human Rights Commission and former President of the University of the Philippines.

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For Further Information call William J. vanden Heuvel, 425-5200  
or Maureen Berman, 972-9554

PRESS CONFERENCE NOTICE

Date: Monday, December 14, 1981  
Time: 10:30 A.M.  
Place: Church Center for the United Nations, 2nd Floor  
777 U.N. Plaza (44th St. and First Avenue)  
Subject: Announcement of the formation of the International  
Committee for the Defense of Human Rights in Iran

A group of Americans who have worked extensively for the defense of human rights during their public careers will announce their participation in organizing the International Committee for the Defense of Human Rights in Iran.

Among those expected to participate in the press conference are:

Hon. William J. vanden Heuvel, Former Deputy Permanent Representative of the United States to the United Nations;

Hon. Morris Abram, Former U.S. Representative of the United Nations Human Rights Commission;

Hon. Rita Hauser, Former U.S. Representative of the United Nations Human Rights Commission;

Hon. Philip Hoffman, Former U.S. Representative of the United Nations Human Rights Commission

Members of the Committee will supply information regarding reported human rights violations in Iran and outline the actions the Committee intends to undertake to bring to the attention of appropriate international organizations and Members States of the United Nations alleged human rights violations in Iran.

For further information contact Maureen Berman, 972-9554 or William vanden Heuvel, 425-5200.

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- The intellectual and literary community of Iran is being threatened, as indicated by the execution on June 22nd of Saeed Sullanpour, one of Iran's leading poets and playwrights.
  
- Khilil Razai, one of the founders of the Iranian Human Rights Committee and an early supporter of the Iranian Revolution, has fled to Paris and is quoted in France Soire as stating: "throughout his long rule, the Shah's regime executed several hundred people. But under Khomeini they have killed several thousands in a matter of months. The Shah's regime never executed persons under 18 years old, but under Khomeini they are executing even 9 year old girls." Razai told newspaper reporters: "with my own eyes I have seen Revolutionary Guards imprint the words 'long live Khomeini' on the chest of a prisoner with a lighted cigarette. I saw with my own eyes how they forced twelve year old children in prison to be present during the execution of other children. I personally took three pregnant women who had miscarriages as a result of being tortured in prison to hospitals."

From every part of Iran, pleas and cries for assistance are being made which Humanity cannot ignore. The great Iranian poet, Saadi, said: "Two mistakes are irrevocable -- speaking when the times require silence and silence when it is time to speak." The International Committee for the Defense of Human Rights in Iran is being organized because each of us, as individuals who have been involved in the struggle for human rights throughout our lifetimes, know that we cannot be silent in the face of these terrible reports. We intend to seek a meeting with the Secretary General of the United Nations to present this cause. We will ask the United Nations Commission for Human Rights to place the Iranian crisis on its Agenda. We will ask the governments of as many Member States as possible to instruct their representatives in every UN agency, including the Commission for Human Rights, to demand an investigation into these allegations of brutality in Iran. We hope to hold public hearings where testimony regarding conditions in Iran can be presented -- so that such testimony can then be relayed to appropriate international organizations.

We speak to the conscience of the world, asking that the United Nations, its Member States and each of us as individuals in the Family of Man be prepared to accept and act upon our responsibility to hear and respond to those voices crying in terror in the darkness of Iran's night.