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Kurdish guards take a break during less-secure phase of the Sanandaj cease-fire.

## Kurdish-Iranian truce brings peace to western city

Sanandaj, Iran (AP)—A cease-fire between Kurdish tribesmen and government troops restored peace to this strife-torn western city yesterday after the Kurds gained promises of at least limited autonomy from the Tehran administration.

In central Sanandaj, several hundred men loaded their bags and weapons aboard buses, trucks and cars for the journey back to their villages. Loudspeakers blared messages of appreciation from the people of Sanandaj for their help.

The cease-fire went into effect Wednesday night after almost 4 days of fighting claimed some 200 lives and wounded hundreds. Many victims were women and children wounded by Iranian Army mortar barrages and by machine-gun strafing by military helicopter gunships.

Religious and government officials from Tehran reportedly had worked out an agreement with local Kurdish tribesmen granting the Kurds a "semi-autonomous" status. But Kurdish officials said it had been "simply proposed" by the interior minister, Seyyed Javadi, and was not yet agreed to.

Mr. Javadi and Ayatollah Mahmoud Taleghani, Tehran's Shiite Muslim leader, met with Kurdish officials but it was not disclosed whether Sheik Ezzedin Hosseini—the acknowledged political and religious leader of the Kurds, who are Sunni Muslims—was at the meetings. Sheik Hosseini was in Sanandaj Thursday and was hailed by thousands of Kurds at an open-air rally.

The 4 million Kurds of Kurdistan province, which borders Iraq and Turkey in western and northwestern Iran, have been pressing for a separate state for centuries.

They altered their demands to autonomy within a greater Iran after Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi's monarchy was toppled February 12 by an Islamic revolution. The revolution was inspired by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, leader of Iran's dominant Shiite Muslims.

The Kurds belong to the rival Sunni Muslim sect, which dominates most other Muslim nations.

At a mosque packed with thousands of Sanandaj residents yesterday, Ayatollah Mehdi Beheshti, an aide to Ayatollah Taleghani, spoke in favor of Kurdish demands for autonomy.

"The Islamic republic will give you the rights of nationality because you took part in the revolution," he said. "You don't need another revolution, and those telling you that are anti-Islamic people."

But he made it clear that some hostages held by the Army would be freed only when the Kurds gave up the radio station and airport they captured earlier. Release of the hostages reportedly had been a part of the cease-fire agreement.

The Kurdish rebels took control of this city of 115,000 and stormed the Army garrison Sunday night after the Army distributed arms to Shiite civilians but refused to give them to Kurds because they were Sunnis.