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Iran closes 22 papers, calls in guns

From Wire Services

Tehran, Iran—Iran's ruling clergy shut down 22 opposition newspapers yesterday and ordered political organizations opposing the rule of Islam to hand over their guns.

Spurred by official reports of a Kurdish rebellion in the west, crowds of demonstrators attended the Tehran funeral of revolutionary guards killed in weekend fighting in the region and called for the execution of Kurdish leaders.

The Army said new units were moving into Kurdistan, where Army posts and the city of Paveh have been hit by rebel attacks. Reports from Zanjan, 180 miles northwest of Tehran, said about 70 revolutionary guardsmen heading for Kurdistan

were harassed by armed rebels.

"The Kurdish Democratic party is the party of the devil, and it is in collusion with the United States and international Zionism," Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini said in a message broadcast on state radio.

"It is your religious duty to abstain from joining or assisting the Kurdish Democratic party and it is also your religious duty to support the armed forces of the country," he added.

"It is your divine duty to show the hiding places of the KDP to the authorities."

In Kermanshah, the nearest major town to Paveh, the commander of the state police said that at least 500 of the 2,000 rebels who attacked Paveh were killed or wounded. "The mountains near the town of Paveh are littered with the bodies of Kurdish rebels who have been shot down by government forces," Col. Hassan Akhyani said.

He said Sunday night that a group of Kurds attacked a state police post about 37 miles south of Paveh, but eight were killed and the rest were beaten back, according to the Tehran newspaper *Kayhan*.

Among the newspapers silenced on the orders of the Tehran revolutionary prosecutor, Ayatollah Ahmad Azari Qomi, were the official outlets of the Tudeh (Communist) party, the Marxist People's Fedayeen guerrilla group and the centrist National Democratic front.

A Turkish-language paper, alleged to have insulted the Ayatollah Khomeini, the unofficial head of state, in a cartoon, was also shut down.

In a separate order, Ayatollah Qomi ordered all political parties and groups, "especially those whose policies go against the wishes of the Iranian nation," to surrender arms taken from military arsenals during the February revolution.

The reference to the Iranian nation was a familiar phrase to describe the overwhelming majority of the electorate who voted for an Islamic republic in March's referendum. The order was apparently aimed mainly at opposition party militias.

The order did not affect the revolutionary guards and local armed Islamic committees who control law and order in the name of Ayatollah Khomeini.

For the third day in a row, the radio reported that civilians had volunteered to go and fight in the Kurdish region. Ayatollah Khomeini yesterday ordered a general military mobilization to crush an alleged Kurdish rebellion, which he said was centered in the city of Sanandaj.

Independent witnesses, who telephoned reporters from Sanandaj yesterday, said the city was peaceful. They said 6 tanks and 100 revolutionary guards were at the airport and that troops held hilltop positions, but there was no indication that fighting had taken place.