

Iran Expels 5 More Foreign Journalists and Executes 18 Kurdish Revolutionaries

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Iran Expels 5 More Foreign Journalists and Executes 18 Kurdish Revolutionaries

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—The Islamic regime of the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini widened its crackdown on international coverage of Iranian politics Tuesday by ordering five more foreign correspondents to leave, bringing to 11 the number expelled this month.

The expulsions followed the closing of 22 newspapers and magazines, using a new censorship law to restrict domestic reporting.

Islamic revolutionary tribunals executed 18 Kurdish rebels in Kurdistan earlier in the day. Eleven others were executed Saturday as a result of the latest uprising by Kurds seeking political autonomy in western Iran.

Ali Behzadnia, head of the foreign press section in the Ministry of National Guidance, gave no reason why correspondents of the *Financial Times* of London, the *British Broadcasting Corp.*, *L'Express* of Paris and two unidentified West German publications had been ordered out of the country.

The correspondents were ordered

to leave after Khomeini directed government officials to act with renewed revolutionary spirit. Previously, the regime expelled reporters for the *New York Times* and the *Los Angeles Times* and a four-member NBC-TV crew, for using material it said was unfavorable to the revolution.

Those expelled Tuesday included Towyn Mason of the BBC, Andrew Whitley of the *Financial Times* and Jerome Doumlin of *L'Express*.

Tehran's Islamic prosecutor ordered the newspaper *Mardum*, organ of the Communist Tudeh Party, other leftist periodicals and several satirical newspapers to stop printing, bringing to 44 the number of publications closed under a press law that took effect Aug. 11, said Mehdi Momken, deputy minister of national guidance.

The stringent code bans papers that do not follow an Islamic line and are critical of the nation's religious leaders.

Meanwhile the official Pars news agency reported that firing squads executed 18 Kurds convicted by revolutionary tribunals of "corruption on earth and fighting against God and his prophet."

Thirteen of the Kurds were shot in Paveh on the spot where government troops died last week fighting the rebellion, the agency reported, and five were taken to the city of Kermanshah for trial and execution.

The Ayatollah Sadegh Khalkhali, head of the nation's Islamic courts, conducted the tribunals after being sent to Paveh by Khomeini. He has boasted publicly of sending hundreds of "counterrevolutionaries" to their deaths since the Islamic authorities replaced the regime of Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi in February.

Iran's 4 million Kurds are members of the Sunni Islamic sect, while most Iranians are Shia Moslems, who consider Khomeini their spiritual leader. Kurds in neighboring Iraq are also rebelling, seeking autonomy from the Arab majority there.