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Iran Reportedly Executes 16 Bahais in Secret

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BODY:

Sixteen members of the Bahai faith condemned to death in Iran on espionage charges have been executed in secret, a Bahai official said here today.

They included **10 women** who were hanged Saturday night in prison at Shiraz, the Bahai official, Mary Hardy, said. She added that six men were executed the previous night.

The 16 belonged to a group of 22 prominent Bahais for whom President Reagan last month made a plea for clemency after learning they had been sentenced to death.

Mr. Reagan said more than 130 Bahais, members of a sect formed in the 19th century and regarded by many Iranians as heretical, had been killed since the Iranian revolution began.

"Our information has come from inside Iran," said Miss Hardy, who is national secretary of the British Bahais. "It is the largest number of Bahais killed at one time and we are horrified, especially at the idea of **10 women** hanged for their faith."

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