

Doc Number: K P 000 108

Iranian executions draw criticism, U.N. body plea

From Wire Services

Geneva—A United Nations human rights panel yesterday described reported summary executions of Kurds in Iran as inhuman and decided to send a telegram calling on the Iranian government to stop such executions immediately.

The U.N. expert subcommission on prevention of discrimination and protection of minorities adopted a text proposed by a Greek member, Erica-Irene Daes, with objections only from Dumitru Ceausu, of Romania.

Mr. Ceausu said the subcommission lacked official information on summary executions and he therefore could not associate himself with the telegram.

The protest message, adopted by the other experts in the 26-member subcommission on the final day of its three-week annual meeting, expressed a "deep sense of shock at reported summary executions of numerous Kurds in Iran and requests the immediate cessation of these inhuman practices."

In Paris, a lawyer representing an international human rights organization said yesterday that political prisoners in Iran were being held in appalling conditions and have told him they were ill-treated by Islamic guards.

The French lawyer, Michel Zavrian, of the Paris-based International Federation of Human Rights, spoke at a news conference following a visit to Iran last month to

where there were some 240 political prisoners, including 14 left-wing militants sentenced to death or life imprisonment.

Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, spiritual leader of Iran's Islamic republic, pledged yesterday that Kurdish rebels who hand in their weapons "will be treated in a brotherly manner and will enjoy the general amnesty," Tehran radio reported.

The recorded message, monitored in London, left no doubt that severe punishment awaits rebel leaders.

Earlier, Tehran radio broadcast a message from Islamic Judge Sadeq Khalkali, who is in the captured Kurdish capital of Mahabad, in which he said leaders of the Kurdish Democratic party would be tried and punished severely.

The broadcasts gave no details of the continued bloody fighting, in which Iranian armored forces and helicopter gunships and fighter-bombers have launched an apparently successful major offensive against some 20,000 Kurdish guerrillas seeking independence for their mountainous Iranian-ruled homeland.