



BOSTON, MASS.
GLOBE

D. 504,492—S. 740,717
BOSTON-LOWELL METROPOLITAN AREA

SEP 10 1983

Iran's persecution of Baha'is continues

Greater Boston Baha'is have received word that 24 more Baha'is, including 10 women, were imprisoned in Iran between August 3 and August 5. More than 250 Baha'is are in jails in Iran and none of them have been charged with any crimes. Since mid-July, 63 Baha'is have been imprisoned.

The recent arrests follow closely the late June abduction and disappearance of two prominent Baha'is in Tehran and mob attacks on July 1 which forced 130 Baha'i men, women and children to flee their village near Sari. Moreover, 17 Baha'is, including seven women and three teenage girls, were hanged in June in Shiraz.

Iran's persecution of its 300,000-member Baha'i community has drawn the protests of President Reagan, the United States Congress, several nations' parliaments, the European Parliament, the United Nations Human Rights Commission and Amnesty International.

The arrests of early August took

place in various parts of Iran: 13 were arrested in Urumiyeh, nine in Sari, one in Tehran, and one in Ramliyyan.

Since 1979, 142 Baha'is have been killed and 16 have disappeared. The Baha'i Faith is regarded as heresy by Iran's ruling clerics, who have launched an all-out campaign of persecution.

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