

TX BIC- P.I.

unic: P.I. - Document

VIA WUI  
1612 01/06#  
46626 BAYT IL

82/306  
BICNY666363UW  
6 JANUARY 1982

2736

JAN 07 1982

A/C - HF  
x AN  
x ITC  
x STATS  
x EM

UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE

FOLLOWING WIRE STORY WAS PROVIDED BY TONY GOODMAN, REUTERS UN, WHO INFORMS US THAT AUTHOR IS IRANIAN MEMBER OF REUTERS LONDON STAFF PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED TO YOU:

QUOTE

LONDON, JAN 6, REUTER -- IRAN'S ISLAMIC REGIME HAS ASKED GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES TO STATE THEIR RELIGION, A MOVE IRANIANS SAY IS AIMED AT SACKING MEMBERS OF THE BAHAI FROM THEIR JOBS. IRANIAN SOURCES, CONTACTED BY REUTERS FROM LONDON, SAID CIVIL SERVANTS AND MILITARY PERSONNEL ARE REQUIRED TO FILL IN A FORM GIVING THEIR RELIGIOUS BELIEFS.

THOSE WHO REFUSE TO COMPLY WITH A GOVERNMENT DECREE ISSUED TO THOUSANDS OF INSTITUTIONS AND FACTORIES THROUGHOUT IRAN WILL BE EXPELLED FROM THEIR JOBS AND PERHAPS JAILED, THE SOURCES SAID.

"IF SOMEBODY GAVE FALSE INFORMATION CONCERNING HIS RELIGIOUS BACKGROUND, HE WOULD RISK THE DANGER OF BEING IDENTIFIED AND EXECUTED," A CIVIL SERVANT SAID.

HE SAID THE ACTION WAS CLEARLY AGAINST MEMBERS OF THE BAHAI FAITH, THE LARGEST RELIGIOUS MINORITY IN THE COUNTRY. THE RULING MOSLEM CLERGYMEN CONSIDER THE FAITH HERETIC AND SOME MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT ARE ENCOURAGING AN OFFICIAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST BAHAI'ISM.

THE BAHAI RELIGION, WITH SOME 400,000 MEMBERS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, WAS FOUNDED BY SHI'ITE CLERGYMEN IN IRAN IN THE 19TH CENTURY.  
ENDQUOTE

WILL CALL BACK WITH CONTINUATION OF ARTICLE IN A FEW MINUTES.

WARMEST LOVE  
BAHAINTCOM

#  
46626 BAYT IL.....  
VIA WUI  
1653 01/06#  
46626 BAYT IL

BICNY666363UW  
6 JANUARY 1982

UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE

BP000695

CONTINUATION OF TLX 82/306, REUTERS ARTICLE:

QUOTE

BAHA'IS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO ENTER EMPLOYMENT AND APPLICANTS FOR JOBS MAY ONLY BE MOSLEMS, CHRISTIANS, JEWS OR ZOROASTRIANS. EXILED BAHAI LEADERS HAVE ALLEGED THAT THOUSANDS OF BAHAI CHILDREN WERE DEPRIVED OF EDUCATION LAST SEPTEMBER WHEN SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES STARTED THEIR ACADEMIC YEAR.

THE AUTHORITIES HAD INSTRUCTED SCHOOL OFFICIALS NOT TO REGISTER BAHAI'S, THEY SAID. THERE HAS BEEN NO WORD FROM THE GOVERNMENT, BUT PRO-CLERGY NEWSPAPERS HAVE REPEATEDLY PUBLISHED ARTICLES BY CHURCHMEN WHO HAVE CALLED FOR REPRESSION OF MEMBERS OF THE FAITH.

IRANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ALI AKBAR VELLAYATI IS A LEADER OF AN ANTI-BAHAI GROUP CALLED HOJATIYEH WHICH HAS OFFICIALLY DECLARED A WAR ON BAHAI'S AS A RELIGIOUS DUTY.

LAST MONTH THE CLERGY-LED GOVERNMENT ORDERED THE EXECUTION OF EIGHT BAHAI LEADERS AFTER A SECRET TRIAL.

THE EIGHT, MEMBERS OF THE BAHAI NATIONAL ASSEMBLY IN IRAN, HAD BEEN ABDUCTED TWO WEEKS BEFORE THEY WERE SHOT, ACCORDING TO EXILED LEADERS.

IT WAS THE SECOND TIME MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY OF BAHAI'S IN IRAN HAD BEEN SEIZED IN THE PAST TWO YEARS. THE FIRST GROUP OF NINE DISAPPEARED ON AUGUST 20, 1980.

MOSLEMS ARE PARTICULARLY INTOLERANT OF THE BAHAI RELIGION BECAUSE IT POSTDATES THE MISSION OF THE PROPHET MOHAMMED. THEY BELIEVE THERE SHOULD BE NO RELIGION AFTER ISLAM.

OTHER FACTS HELD AGAINST BAHAI'S ARE THAT SOME PROMINENT LEADERS OF THE SHAH'S REGIME, INCLUDING EXECUTED PRIME MINISTER AMIR ABASS HOVEYDA, WERE BAHAI'S AND THAT THEIR HEADQUARTERS ARE IN HAIFA, ISRAEL, A COUNTRY CONSIDERED THE NUMBER ONE ENEMY OF ISLAM AND IRAN.

SOME OF THE DOZENS OF BAHAI'S EXECUTED IN IRAN WERE CONVICTED OF SPYING FOR ISRAEL.

ENDQUOTE

WARMEST LOVE  
BAHAINTCOM

#  
46626 BAYT IL.....