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Khomeini makes no concessions in rejecting Kurdish peace bid

Tehran, Iran (Reuter)—Iran's unofficial head of state, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, has turned down a Kurdish peace bid and refused to endorse a negotiated cease-fire, a senior Revolutionary Council member said yesterday.

"The Imam [Ayatollah Khomeini] has made no concessions," Abolhassan Bani-Sadr told Reuter.

In an interview that he said reflected the views of the Iranian leader, he said: "There is no justification whatsoever for the systematic subversion of minorities which want to impose violence on our people. As soon as they stop acting in this manner, brotherly Islamic co-operation can begin.

"It is not up to us to declare a cease-fire."

An unofficial cease-fire is in force on all fronts in the Kurdish region as both sides await the outcome of peace moves in Tehran.

The spokesman for a five-man Kurdish delegation told Reuters Monday night that a Tehran religious leader, Ayatollah Mahmoud Taleghani, had given assurances a formal cease-fire would be announced yesterday.

But the move has apparently been scuppered by Ayatollah Khomeini's hard

line.

Mr. Bani-Sadr accused the Kurdish rebels of trying to take the Kurdish region by armed force and said the Army intended to take the rebel capital of Mahabad.

"We accept autonomy. But what you want is separatism, otherwise you would not be fighting."

He added: "Kurdistan was already in the hands of the Kurds, but they [the insurgents] wanted to be the only power in Kurdistan."

In Mahabad, a spokesman for the Kurdish Democratic party said all moves toward peace were being threatened by the continued execution of Kurds alleged to have taken part in the fighting against government forces.

The official Pars news agency reported that 20 people were executed in the Kurdish town of Saqqez yesterday on the orders of an Islamic revolutionary judge, Ayatollah Sadeq Khalkhali.

Nine of the 20 were serving soldiers, the first to be executed for offenses committed since the February revolution. They were said to have aided and abetted the rebels in fighting at Saqqez last week.

The KDP spokesman said thousands of people yesterday besieged the Kurdish-held Mahabad garrison demanding that Islamic revolutionary guard prisoners being held there should be killed in retaliation for the Saqqez executions.

The spokesman said KDP officials persuaded the crowd to disperse. But he added: "This definitely presents a danger to peace. How can people remain indifferent to this fascist crime? We will react in the event of continuing executions."

Ayatollah Khalkhali has ordered the executions of at least 77 people, nearly all of them alleged Kurdish rebels, since he was dispatched to Kurdistan two weeks ago by Ayatollah Khomeini.

His removal from the Kurdish region was one of the central demands the peace delegation brought to Tehran.