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UNITED NATIONS, SEPT 8, REUTER - SEVEN PEOPLE EXECUTED TODAY FOR SPYING IN THE CENTRAL IRANIAN CITY OF YAZD WERE ALL MEMBERS OF THE BAHAI RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY, A BAHAI OFFICIAL SAID HERE.

DR VICTOR DE ARRADO, REPRESENTATIVE AT THE U.N. OF THE BAHAI INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, WHICH HAS CONSULTATIVE STATUS WITH THE U.N. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL, SAID HE HAD LEARNED OF THIS THROUGH RELATIVES AND FRIENDS OF THE EXECUTED MEN LIVING OUTSIDE IRAN.

IF CONFIRMED, THIS WOULD BE THE LARGEST NUMBER OF BAHAI'S EXECUTED AT ONE TIME SINCE THE REVOLUTION IN IRAN IN FEBRUARY LAST YEAR.

DR DE ARRADO TOLD REUTERS THE EXECUTIONS GAVE RISE TO HEIGHTENED CONCERN OVER THE FATE OF THE NINE MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL OF THE BAHAI'S OF IRAN AND OF TWO OTHER PROMINENT MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY, ARRESTED ON AUGUST 21 AND REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN CHARGED WITH INVOLVEMENT IN SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES.

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