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1945 : IRAN-BAHA'IS:

BY ANTHONY GOODMAN

UNITED NATIONS, JUNE 14, REUTER -- SEVEN MEMBERS OF IRAN'S BAHAI RELIGIOUS MINORITY WERE EXECUTED AT DAWN TODAY IN HAMADAN, SOUTHWEST OF TEHRAN, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE BAHAI INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY SAID TODAY.

THEY WERE BURIED LATER IN THE DAY AT A FUNERAL ATTENDED BY SOME 2,000 MOURNERS, ACCORDING TO THE SPOKESMAN, GERALD KNIGHT, WHOSE GROUP HAS U.N. ACCREDITATION AS A NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION.

MR. KNIGHT SAID HIS INFORMATION CAME FROM ITS SOURCES INSIDE IRAN, ALTHOUGH THE EXECUTIONS WERE BELIEVED NOT TO HAVE YET BEEN MADE PUBLIC.

HE SAID THEY BROUGHT TO 42 THE NUMBER OF BAHAI'S KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN EXECUTED IN IRAN SINCE OCTOBER 1979. ANOTHER 12 HAD BEEN ASSASSINATED AND 14 OTHERS HAD DISAPPEARED, HE ADDED.

THE CHARGES AGAINST THE SEVEN WERE NOT IMMEDIATELY KNOWN. IN PREVIOUS CASES THEY HAD INCLUDED ESPIONAGE, ZIONISM, AND ACTIVITY ON BEHALF OF THE BAHAI FAITH WHICH, UNLIKE OTHER MINORITY RELIGIONS, IS NOT PROTECTED UNDER THE IRANIAN CONSTITUTION AND IS REGARDED AS HERETICAL BY ISLAMIC FUNDAMENTALISTS.

MR. KNIGHT SAID SIX OF THE SEVEN MEN REPORTED EXECUTED TODAY WERE KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN HELD IN JAIL IN HAMADAN SINCE AUGUST 11.

HE IDENTIFIED THEM AS HUSAYN MUTLAQ ARANI, SUHRAB HAJ-MUHAMMAD HABIBI, DR. NASIR VAFA'I, DR. FIRUZ NAIMI, HUSAYN KHANDIK, TARAZULKAH KHUZAYN.

ALTHOUGH MEMBERS OF THE LOCAL BAHAI ADMINISTRATIVE BODY, THE SEVENTH MAN WAS NAMED SUHAYL MUHAMMAD BAQIR HABIBI, BUT

NOTHING WAS PREVIOUSLY KNOWN ABOUT HIM. THE SPOKESMAN HERE SAID HE MIGHT HAVE BEEN A BROTHER OF THE OTHER MAN NAMED HABIBI.

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