

# Tension in Kurdish area rising

## Key leader resigns, joins group opposed to security forces

Tehran (AP)—Tension mounted in the Kurdish powderkeg of Sanandaj yesterday as the governor general of Kurdistan province resigned to join protesters who demand the withdrawal of non-Kurdish government security forces.

Tens of thousands of demonstrators filled the streets of Tabriz, setting fire to a revolutionary committee building as violence flared across Iran. In the holy city of Qom, authorities accused "leftovers of the American agents" of planning clashes there later this week.

Western reporters were expelled from Tabriz as violence entered its fourth day in the northwestern Azerbaijani provincial capital, major city of the Turkish-speaking Azari minority.

The Persian Gulf coast near the Strait of Hormuz was closed down in mourning for the dozens killed in clashes between Sunni and Shiite Muslims in Bandar Lengeh. Another slaying was reported in the town as fighting continued for the fourth straight day. Between 41 and 56 persons were reported killed in weekend clashes.

Eight persons were reported killed in the southeast province of Baluchistan-Sistan, where a number of people were killed last month as some residents demanded the withdrawal of the revolutionary guard.

The office of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini announced the revolutionary leader canceled all appointments for 15 days starting January 12, Tehran radio said. Citing Ayatollah Khomeini's "extreme fatigue," the statement said he would not receive anyone.

In Sanandaj, where fighting between Kurds and the Khomeini forces flared again as recently as last week, a sit-in continued at the governor general's office.

Hossein Shahvessi, who resigned as governor general when the revolutionary guards failed to leave Sanandaj by the deadline he had set, joined the protesters in the sit-in. The central government refused to accept his resignation, but Mr. Shahvessi remained in the protest.

The guards, a paramilitary group organized by Ayatollah Khomeini after the revolution, have encountered criticism around the country, especially in areas where minorities are concentrated.

Sanandaj was one of the centers of fighting in last summer's clashes between

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Supporters of Ayatollah Mohammad Kazem Shariat-Madari ransack the headquarters of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's

committee in Tabriz during demonstrations. The building was later burned as tension between backers of the two men rises.

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the guards and the Kurds, who seek a degree of autonomy from the central government.

The Islamic revolutionary prosecutor's office in Qom warned troublemakers to stay away from the city tomorrow, when thousands of Muslim pilgrims are expected to observe the Shiite holy day of Arbain, the 40th day of the martyrdom of Hossein, grandson of Mohammad and founder of the Shiite sect of Islam.

"According to reports reaching this office, a group of counterrevolutionary elements and the leftovers of the American agents are planning to repeat Friday's violence," the office said.

Street clashes broke out last Friday between persons identifying themselves as supporters of Ayatollah Mohammad Kazem Shariat-Madari, the nation's second ranking ayatollah, and unarmed worshipers approaching Qom's main mosque. Both Ayatollah Khomeini and Ayatollah Shariat-Madari live in Qom.

State-run radio said that "revolutionary guards and police have been ordered to stop any suspicious movement at the city's entrance."

State-run radio also reported that 700 people had left the West Azerbaijan provincial capital of Urumieh on a pilgrimage to Qom, where they wanted to meet with Ayatollah Khomeini to discuss provincial difficulties.

Angry followers of Ayatollah Shariat-Madari reportedly were patrolling the streets. The reports said demonstrators set fire to the headquarters of a revolutionary committee that is loyal to Ayatollah Khomeini and has been arresting demonstrators in recent days. Reporters said four Shariat-Madari supporters were slain there recently.

The new violence in Tabriz began Friday when Shariat-Madari supporters briefly took over the state-run television-radio station.

Ayatollah Shariat-Madari, who maintains he is loyal to the Khomeini-led government, said the country's new constitution concentrates too much power in the revolutionary leader's hands.

Former foreign minister Ebrahim Yazdi, dispatched by Ayatollah Khomeini to Bandar Lengeh as his personal representative, held his first meeting with Shiite Muslims who clashed with Sunnis over the weekend. "No meeting was scheduled with the Sunni leaders . . . mainly because they were holding a separate meeting between themselves the whole afternoon," state radio quoted Mr. Yazdi as saying.

Insurgents ambushed a guard unit on a highway about 150 miles south of the provincial capital of Zahedan, and two guardsmen and four insurgents were killed, the official Pars news agency said. Two army men were killed and one was wounded when insurgents attacked an army truck, Pars said.