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Terror In Iran

Amnesty International, the independent human rights watchdog group, has issued a new report on the rising toll of executions in Iran's Islamic revolution.

Since February 1979, the Iranian regime of the Ayatollah Khomeini has officially executed at least 5,195 men, women and children. According to Amnesty International, "This figure must be regarded as an absolute minimum."

Many executions go unreported in the Iranian press or are carried out in secret, and still many others are reported as deaths occurring in armed clashes with the regime's police and military forces.

Of particular concern have been the growing reports of executions and general persecution of one of Iran's largest religious minorities, the Baha'is. At least 151 Baha'is have been killed by the Khomeini regime, 17 of whom were executed in just the last few

weeks. The government charges that the Baha'is were Israeli spies, but the real reason appears to be that the Shi'ite Islamic regime regards this group to be heretical. There are numerous reports of imprisoned Baha'is being offered the "option" of recanting their faith or facing death.

There are also growing reports from other quarters that the homes and businesses of Iran's 350,000 Baha'is are being looted, burned or seized by officially sanctioned mobs of Shi'ites.

The Baha'i faith, which was founded in Iran in the mid-19th century and teaches that all the world's great religions are divine in their origin, has faced persecution from Iranian officials before, but this current round is far worse and could foreshadow a latter-day Holocaust. The question now is, will the world be content to mutely watch the slaughter?

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