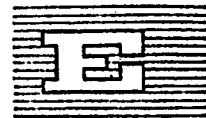


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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Thirty-seventh session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 1633rd MEETING

held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Monday, 9 March 1981, at 8 p.m.

Chairman:

Mr. CALERO RODRIGUEZ

(Brazil)

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Question of the violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms in any part of the world, with particular reference to colonial and other dependent countries and territories (continued)

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15. Mr. AFSAR (Observer for Iran), replying to references made earlier in the discussion to the situation of the Baha'is in Iran, said he wished to correct the statement that there were more than 300,000 Baha'is in Iran: in fact, their number was much less. As he had previously stated, the rights of religious minorities in Iran were enshrined in the Constitution, which not only recognized their freedom to practice and teach their religion as they pleased but also imposed on Iranian Muslims the duty of tolerance towards non-Muslims and respect for their human rights.
16. Minorities in Iran possessed the same rights as the majority, provided that they respected the interests of the country. At the 1631st meeting, the Observer for the Baha'i International Community had alleged that Baha'is were subject to arbitrary arrest, summary executions and abductions. The Iranian delegation categorically denied those allegations.
17. As his delegation had already stated, no one in Iran was subjected to discrimination on account of his opinions or social origin. Detentions could only take place by order of the legally constituted courts, which were based on Islamic principles of mercy.