

NEWS ON IRAN

No. 55 National Council of Resistance of Iran - Foreign Affairs Committee October 23, 1995

Public Hangings

Tehran, Agence France Presse, Oct. 16 - Tehran's press reported Tuesday that three Iranians ... were publicly hanged in the city of Shiraz. Hamzeh Azizi, Hamid Reza and Abdol Reza Massrouf were hanged in three different points in Shiraz.

Young Woman Blinded

Isfahan, *Kayhan*, Oct. 16 - For murdering all members of the family of a girl in Najafabad, a boy was condemned to four death sentences... After several sessions, the court of Najafabad condemned Sadeq Sohrabi to four executions, 100 lashes of the whip, a fine of 100,000 rials for driving without a driver's license, and six months of imprisonment for forging government documents. For complicity in the murder, Leila Zanjirioun was condemned to two terms of life imprisonment and the blinding of both eyes.

Penalty for Colorful Dresses

Israeli radio, Oct. 18 - In a new *fatwa*, Khamenei declared men's use of gold jewelry and eyeglasses "forbidden". Same is true for women's use of wrist bands, glasses and watches, including the diver's type, which he described as publicity for the enemy's cultural onslaught. He called on vice patrols to counter these men and women. Khamenei said women's wearing of flashy smocks is also forbidden and must be reported to security and judiciary officials.

Laws of Punishment

Tehran, Reuters, Oct. 17 - The Iranian parliament on Tuesday approved the first part of a security law setting tough penalties for offences ranging from belonging to subversive groups to spying, state-run Tehran radio reported.

The new law sets a penalty of two to 10 years in prison for anyone, regardless of ideology, who forms or leads a group of more than two members in Iran or abroad with the aim of threatening the country's security, the radio said...

According to one of the articles, attempts to demoralise the armed forces and the police or cause sedition or desertion could carry a sentence of up to 10 years in prison, in cases where the courts do not convict the defendant as "mohareb," the radio said.

Tehran radio, Oct. 18 - Majlis deputies ratified in their open session today another 11 articles of the law of Islamic punishment, the section on *Ta'zirat* (punishments). According to the articles ratified, anyone insulting Islamic sanctities, or any of the grand prophets, will be punished with sentences of two months to two years of imprisonment or with 74 lashes of the whip depending on the offense. For those who in any form insult Khomeini and/or Khamenei, the sentence will range from six months to two years. Anyone attempting on the life of the leader, or any of the chiefs of the three branches

or any other grand authority will be condemned from three to 10 years imprisonment.

NCR Secretariat, Paris, Oct. 18 - Simultaneous with the spread of social unrest, popular demonstrations and labor strikes in the cities across Iran, the mullahs' Majlis ratifies new suppressive laws.

Mr. Massoud Rajavi, President of the National Council of Resistance of Iran, described the adoption of this suppressive law-- unprecedented in the world -- as a clear manifestation of the expansion of discontent and acts of protest to all members of the Iranian society and indicates the regime's inability in countering the increasing support for the Iranian people's just Resistance.

Mr. Rajavi added: The regime's repressive attempts, including the measure yesterday by the mullahs' Majlis, only strengthen the Iranian people and Resistance in their resolve to establish democracy in Iran.

Internal Conflicts

Tehran, Agence France Presse, Oct. 22 - Some 7,000 students, men and women, condemned the *hezbollah* (fundamentalist activists) for preventing delivery of a speech by Abdol Karim Soroosh [a liberal Islamist professor who advocates separation of religion and government]. The demonstrators who had gathered at the Industrial college, exposed the government and the Ministry of Education for maintaining "silence" regarding this matter, and demanded "more respect for the general freedoms included in the Constitution"...

Following this event, one of the officials of the Islamic fundamentalist faction, Mohammad Javad Larijani, a Majlis deputy regarded as one of the regime's theoreticians, proposed to have a debate with Soroosh on the television.

Economic Status-quo

Israeli radio, Oct. 15 - Upon his return from the annual session of the International Monetary Fund in Washington, D.C., general director of the Central Bank, Mohsen Nourbakhsh, described the economic situation of the Islamic state as stable and promising, saying a number of foreign banks are competing to grant loans to Iran...

IMF concern on Iran economic stability--World Bank

Paris, Oct. 18 (Reuter) - The International Monetary Fund expressed concern about macroeconomic stability in Iran when it conducted its last review of the country about a month ago, a senior World Bank official said on Wednesday.

"Iran is economically in a very difficult situation. The reforms of the early 1990s have been taken away," Caio Koch-Weser, World Bank vice-president for the Middle East and North Africa told a news conference.

Social Disorder

Tehran, Agence France Presse, Oct. 18 - Six hospital patients, including a 13-year-old boy are in a state of coma for mistaken inhale of carbon dioxide instead of oxygen. They had been taken to the Khomeini hospital for surgery, where they were mistakenly anesthetized with carbon dioxide...

Tehran, *Salam*, Oct. 10 - Seventy percent of the graduates of human sciences are unemployed. Hashemi Golpaygani, Minister of Higher Education, said: Many human science graduates are employed in jobs which are not related to their fields of studies.

Arms Build-up

Tehran, Reuter, Oct. 16 - Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said on Monday Tehran was secretly mass producing an unspecified advanced equipment used in electronic warfare, state-run Tehran radio reported.

"Today, one of the most advanced military equipment...is produced in a massive way in factories belonging to the (Revolutionary) Guards," Khamenei was quoted by the radio as saying.

"Without a doubt, the Americans did not even consider it probable that Iran would obtain (this equipment)," he added without elaborating.

The radio said Khamenei was referring to achievements in electronic warfare by the Revolutionary Guards during a speech to Guards commanders in the Caspian coast city of Sari.

Urban Maneuvers

Abrar, Oct. 14 - Commander of the Guards Corps in Isfahan announced that 58 anti-riot *Ashura* battalions from the special forces of the *Bassij* will soon hold a two-staged maneuver for four days in various cities of Isfahan. Safar-Ali Barati said the maneuvers in Isfahan had been ordered by the Supreme National Security Council. The first stage will last two days in Isfahan, Kashan and Najafabad.

War games in Gulf

Nicosia, Reuter, Oct. 17 - The Iranian navy will hold 38 military exercises in the Gulf during the next five months, the Iranian news agency IRNA said on Tuesday.

Critical Dialogue with a terrorist regime

Oct. 15 - The BBC World Service broadcast a talk show hosting the Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind. Asked about the outcome of the policy of "critical dialogue" with the mullahs ruling Tehran, Mr. Rifkind said the policy was that of the European Community as a whole and not of the U.K., alone. Mr. Rifkind asserted that "critical dialogue" had not proven effective and as long as Iran continues to threaten the life of a British citizen, there cannot be any normal relations between the two countries. Britain understands the United States' policy of economic embargo, Mr. Rifkind said, adding that this is

probably an alternative approach which can prove effective if there is a general consensus.

Black march shows Islamic revolution in U.S.-Iran

Tehran, Oct. 18 (Reuter) - Iran's parliament speaker said on Wednesday a black rally in Washington showed the Islamic revolution of the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini was spreading to the United States.

"(Islamic) chants of Allahu Akbar (God is Greatest)...by more than a million people exposed the United States," Nateq-Nouri, a Shi'ite Moslem clergyman, said at the start of Wednesday's session which was broadcast live by the radio.

Deputies responded with the traditional "Death to America" chant -- the trademark of late Khomeini's revolution.

Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said on Tuesday Washington's rally was "a slap in the face of America's government by Islam," Tehran radio reported.

Mullahs' Interference in Afghanistan

BBC radio, Farsi service, Oct. 18 - Interview with Abdolmannan Niazi, spokesman for the Afghan Taliban movement, on the intervention of the mullahs' forces in Afghanistan: "We showed everything, including the Iranian military ammunition and the RPG7s we had captured, to the Iranian Consul and told him that his government had undertaken an operation, commanded members of the Guards Corps. Our prisoners confessed before the Iranian Consul that they had been forcibly rounded up from various Iranian cities, adding that more than 13,000 people are living under pressure and very precarious conditions in the Iranian camps. Five to six people die everyday from dysentery. They were forced by the Guards Corps to come to Afghanistan and take up arms. The regime gave them lots of money to fill their stomachs. Showing these, we told the Consul that this is clear interference on the part of Iran in Afghan problems.

Assassination Attempt

Tehran radio, Oct. 22 - Iran's Charge d'affaires in Buenos Aires, was shot and wounded last night by unknown gunmen. The Foreign Ministry spokesman said: He was shot in the chest and thigh in this terrorist attack.

Islam Is Not Fundamentalism

Il Messagero, Italy, Oct. 15 - Letter to the editor: "For the Islamic fundamentalist fanatics, nothing is more subtle and more important than the problem of women. Their school of thought is based on patriarchy where women are considered lower than subhumans... The fundamentalists want to pretend as if this mindset is beyond a religious war. But this is only a deception. The reality is that what they say is not in any way related to Islam nor to any religion. At issue is fundamentalism.

It is worth saying that the leader of the Iranian opposition is a woman: Mary am Rajavi.