

Khomeini's 'final solution' proceeds throughout Iran

by Robert Dreyfuss, Middle East Editor

Reports beginning to filter out through the totalitarian censorship of Ayatollah Khomeini's Iran indicate that horrors far worse than previously suspected are under way inside the Islamic Republic. Khomeini and his regime of deranged mullahs have reportedly begun to implement their own version of Hitler's "final solution."

According to published reports, accounts from eyewitnesses recently inside Iran, and telephone contacts with the Iranian capital of Teheran, the secret services and Revolutionary Guard of Iran have begun a policy of systematic genocide. Behind a screen of silence, Khomeini's men have executed thousands upon thousands of Iranian men, women, and children, hurling their bodies into mass rivers.

Although it is impossible to determine the full scope with precision, it can now be said with certainty that a crime of staggering proportions is already proceeding. Based on fragmentary evidence, it is certain that at least 1,000 and perhaps as many as 2,000 Iranians daily are being put to death by the mullahs' regime—as many as 30,000 to 60,000 per month! Added to the deaths of Iranians due to war, economic breakdown, and general civil strife, which has exploded into street warfare in many of Iran's cities, *the very existence of the Iranian population is now at stake.*

In the mid-1970s, the Pol Pot regime ruthlessly put to death three million Kampuchean. In Iran, the Khomeini regime is pursuing the identical policy in its early stages.

The responsibility for the slaughter inside Iran rests with those forces that helped Khomeini come to power in 1979. The British Secret Intelligence Service (SIS) and the Trilateral Commission, together with Jimmy Carter's U.S. administration, which viewed "Islamic fundamentalism" as a "bulwark against communism," are chiefly to blame for the horrors unfolding in Iran. Behind them, the intellectual authors of the Khomeini movement, such as the zero-growth Club of Rome and the designers of the State Department's "Global 2000" scheme to eliminate 1 to 2 billion of the Third World's population, forged the ideological weapons for Khomeini's Muslim Brotherhood shock troops. Truly, as these gentlemen intended, the New Dark Ages have descended on Iran.

'Butcher of Teheran'

The official figures released by the authorities in Teheran concerning executions by Khomeini's gang do not even begin to tell the story. By their own count, Khomeini's courts have sentenced to death—without trial—about 1,500 people in the last four weeks. Each day, there are new announcements that 50 "hypocrites" and anti-"Islamic" activists have been shot in Teheran's Evin Prison. Now, however, it is gradually becoming clear that carnage of an equal or more extensive nature is occurring throughout the main cities in Iran. From Tabriz, in the north, come reports of 35 killed; in Isfahan, 55 executed; and so on throughout the 20 or so cities and towns that are spread throughout the country.

By conservative estimate, a figure of 1,000 *official executions* daily is considered certain.

There is more. Ayatollah Moussavi Tabrizi, one of Iran's chief revolutionary prosecutors, called "the butcher of Teheran" by the Agence France Presse, has "unleashed a veritable bloodbath" in recent weeks. From his headquarters in Evin Prison, Tabrizi sends hundreds of elderly people and children, even pregnant women, to the firing squads. One evening alone, on the night of Sept. 26-27, Tabrizi shot 218 Iranians.

Twenty-five miles south of Teheran, in a remote desert area, Tabrizi has established the "Cemetery of the Atheists," AFP reports. There, without juridical procedures, thousands of Iranians have been thrown into mass, unmarked graves. At Teheran's airport, a squad from Tabrizi's office, armed with lists of many thousands of "political undesirables," searches all arriving passengers and from each plane-load escorts an unfortunate handful to Evin Prison and the death squads.

Questioned about his methods, Tabrizi grunted to AFP, "It's legal according to Muslim law."

In mid-September, Tabrizi and other officials of the Khomeini regime took emergency steps to shore up their position by inaugurating the current reign of terror. Teheran Radio, quoting Khomeini himself, announced that henceforth criminals and opponents of the regime would not be arrested and brought to trial, nor even to prison, but were to be "shot in the streets." A special security and intelligence service is being assembled to blanket the country.

Qom's lake of death

The situation in Teheran is repeated throughout the country. According to Iranian sources, there is a lake outside of Qom, Iran's holy city and center of Khomeini's theocracy, which has served as burial ground for untold thousands of anti-Khomeini activists and apolitical middle-class Iranians as well. "Hundreds of bodies have been thrown into the lake at Qom, and none of this is officially stated. One former member of the *pasadaran* or Revolutionary Guard, quit in disgust recently after having been assigned the task of dumping at least 300 bodies in that lake in a few weeks," said the source.

To get an idea of the magnitude of the killing in Iran, he said, it is only necessary to look at Iran's daily newspapers. Each day, each newspaper carries between 50 and 100 classified ads for missing persons, usually people who have disappeared to the Islamic gestapo.

"Now, the murder machine is being expanded. The regime has announced that it intends to hire more judges for the Revolutionary Courts," said the Iranian source. "This has already started. The so-called judges are being sent everywhere throughout the whole coun-

try. Each judge brings with him somewhere between 10 and 20 executioners. Wherever they go, deaths follow." Gradually, these judges and executioners are becoming unified into a nationwide extermination system.

Last week, the minister of education announced that 40 percent of Iran's young schoolchildren would be expelled from school due to alleged opposition activities, and a special school intelligence service was established to supervise children as young as seven years old. Now, Iranian parents must sign a document that their child will not engage in any political activity while in the school; should that rule be violated, the children themselves are whisked away without notification to the parents, and executed. One nine-year-old girl was sent to the firing squad for scrawling "Death to Khomeini" on the wall. The official prosecutor has announced that no lower age limit would be placed on those eligible for execution.

It is also the case that political chaos, utter economic breakdown, and war have been taking a heavy toll on Iran's population. On this level, as well, it is evident that a qualitative shift is occurring.

This week Teheran Radio announced that the government militias loyal to Khomeini were preparing a military offensive against the village of Bukan in West Azerbaijan, a stronghold of the Kurdish opposition to Khomeini. The radio warned the entire population of 20,000 in Bukan to flee the city before the Khomeini Guard arrived—indicating the potential for mass slaughter and disruption of the most basic aspects of life.

Already the population is reduced to subsistence levels. Since coming to power in 1979, Khomeini's regime has utterly destroyed the Iranian economy. Iran's oil production, which once fueled the country's economic growth while pumping 6 million barrels of oil per day, has been reduced to barely 10 percent of its former strength. Industry has been leveled, and factories are either closed or operating at a fraction of their old output.

Since Khomeini arrived in Iran, well over \$100 billion in development projects in industry and vital infrastructure has been canceled outright. The result has been mass unemployment and hardship. The string of 32 planned nuclear power plants contracted by the Shah's regime is nonexistent, and a severe power crisis persists in every city. The steel and copper industries, once the pride of Iran, have almost disintegrated. The regime has adopted a policy—first advocated by President Bani-Sadr, who now claims to oppose the former regime after the mullahs turned against him—of deliberate deurbanization. With varying success, Khomeini has sought to compel millions of Iranians to leave the cities and return to the countryside, where it is almost impossible to find work.