

Khomeini's death cult has turned Iran into a concentration camp

by Judith Wyer

"In the event that Iranians were to obtain their goals, they would not stop fighting for the victory of Islam over the world. We must give a beautiful meaning to death and martyrdom. If during the adventure, Iran were to disappear, it would not matter. We must drown the world in crisis because it is during crisis that those who are called to export the revolution can dull their senses and their desire for comfort."

This is only one of many recent calls from Iran's theocratic dictator Ayatollah Khomeini, glorifying martyrdom as Iran's primary weapon in its war with Iraq. The Khomeini regime draws on the same Dark Ages tradition of pagan cult practices which flourished in the Mideast and destroyed the Renaissance culture of early Islamic civilization. Khomeini himself is a stated enemy of humanism, the tradition from which both the Mideast and later European Renaissance emerged.

In an interview shortly after he took power, Khomeini stated his objective of establishing a regime "to the left of Mao." Today the devastation his regime has subjected Iran to rivals that of Mao's cultural revolution, or the evil Pol Pot's destruction of Cambodia.

Death worship is the foundation of Khomeini's ideological control over the nearly 40 million Iranians. Death is the theme which permeates Iranian society today, glorified in Iran's press, and the primary subject of Islamic education which dominates Iran's schools. Little wonder that for those Iranians who do not espouse Khomeinism and who do not have the means to leave Iran, the rate of suicide is reported to have increased nine-fold. For others addiction to heroin and opium has skyrocketed as a means of escaping the terror which has consumed Iran. In the last three months of 1983 the price of heroin produced in Pakistan climbed by 400 percent largely due to the rapid increase in demand for the drug in Iran.

Khomeini is waging his Islamic revolution by brutally purging those who are viewed as "corrupted" by the influence of the Shah's regime. War is the means by which Iranian society will be cleansed of the corruption of the Shah's regime, asserts Khomeini.

Over the past five years Iran's population has dropped by well over two million. This includes an estimated one and a half million that have fled Iran, victims of political executions, and the hundreds of thousands of martyrs from Khomeini's bloody "human wave" attacks on Iraq.

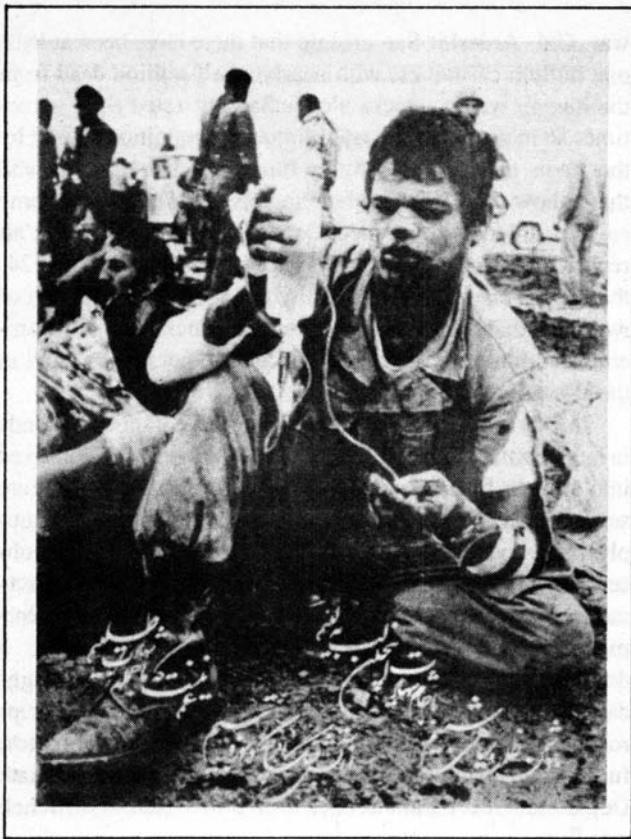
Compared to the international human rights campaign which was waged against the Shah, barely a voice has been raised against the Khomeini dictatorship. The Western media has chosen to ignore the atrocities of the Khomeini regime, despite efforts of Iranian exiles and other Middle Easterners to bring the truth to light.

As many as 50,000 Iranians have perished through systematic political persecution, aimed primarily at Iran's educated middle class, which has been the heart of opposition to the Islamic dictatorship. By conservative estimates, well over half a million Iranians, many under the age of 18, have died in the Iran-Iraq war as a result of the barbaric Iranian human wave offensives repeatedly thrown against the militarily superior Iraq. In one failed human wave assault in 1982 Iran lost 20,000, according to a recent report.

From Khomeini down through the ranks of the estimated 200,000 mullahs (Shi'ite Muslim priests) which rule Iran, genocide is a witting policy, and the three-and-a-half year old Gulf war is perpetuated as the most efficient means of "cleansing" Iran of "corrupt" elements—no matter how young. Khomeini himself professed this policy late last year in his 30-page Will which was submitted to the Council of Experts, a group charged with choosing the octogenarian dictator's successor.

Khomeini wrote: "There are three generations in Iran; the first is the generation of men and women who are more than 30 years of age. This is mostly a corrupt generation; the country should be cleaned of such a generation. They should be sent to the front; if they die at the front they will be pardoned by God, and if they come back safe, their lives will be changed.

"The second generation, which is in between and includes the youth who are between 19-30 years of age, whom the Shah had provided with a Western style of living and the



This advertisement in an Iranian government newspaper shows a soldier giving himself a blood transfusion, with the inscribed poem: "We are the enemy of darkness and night. The martyr drinks to his death. We burn from flames of war. We are not sad; we all want to be martyred."

corruption of the West. Most of this generation was taught in non-Islamic schools or universities; such a generation should be purified by sending them to the fronts and putting them under surveillance in all fields. . . . We need the war because it purifies our society. Even when our war with Iraq is over, we will launch another war somewhere else."

Selling the children to Allah

The system which has emerged under Khomeini offers the means of effectively buying children to go to the front from poor peasant families. It is from this strata that not only most of the gestapo of mullahs has risen, but also that most of the young *shahids* (martyrs) are recruited. Recruitment of Iranian boys, some as young as ten years of age, into unarmed brigades, is organized through Iran's secondary and primary school system. Immediately after the Khomeini takeover Iran's school system was shut down and transformed into a brainwashing apparatus to produce young zealots to die for Khomeini.

Iran's tightly controlled media daily solicit martyrs, printing letters from Khomeini's young recruits praising martyrdom and photographs of young fighters portrayed with red

bandanas on their heads stenciled with Islamic slogans revering death.

Khomeini himself praises Iran's Islamic school system for having kidnapped a generation of young Iranians to fight for his revolution. "They run away from their parents," he boasted last year. "They become martyrs. And parents take pride in having their children martyred. Even parents with five martyred children regret that they don't have any more to send to the front." The regime offers what poor Iranian families would consider high compensation for losing a child at the front. Up to \$10,000 is reported in some instances to be offered for more young martyrs, plus increased government food subsidies and home appliances. Certain mullahs have even reportedly offered civil service jobs, an enticing offer given high unemployment, to Iranians whose children who have been sacrificed in the war.

The 'business' of death

Many of the top leaders in Khomeini's mullaharchy are said to have become multi-millionaires as they have pocketed fortunes through corrupt business practices far exceeding the corruption of the previous regime. Khomeini's gestapo is said to be organized into four basic mafias, each of which runs its own independent prison and police system.

Khomeini's oft-repeated characterization of the United States as "blood-sucking" applies even more to his own Islamic cohorts. Even the bodies of Iraqi war prisoners provide "business" for these mullahs. The recent hearings of the U.N. human rights commission in Geneva included dozens of testimonies on the new blood traffic taking place within Iran's jails. All prisoners condemned to death are entirely bled before they are taken to be shot; their vital organs are removed and often the entire skin as well. Some of the blood is reportedly sold in Europe. Blood plasma and others organs are selectively used for the wounded.

So many political prisoners have been taken that makeshift prisons have been created, including one at a silk factory near Teheran. Iranian sources report that the Khomeini regime often deploys prisoners and "unwanted" Iranians, like orphans and old people, to the front. The same treatment is said to be given to Iran's growing number of political refugees. Afghan refugees, now numbering well over a million in Iran, are also now sent to the front. These refugees and the estimated one million Iranian refugees who have fled from the villages along the 750 mile Iran-Iraq border have added a drain on Iran's already overcrowded cities. The solution? Send the excess population to war.

With unemployment high, many of Iran's youth see no other opportunity than to join Khomeini's shock troops, the Pasdaran (Revolutionary Guards). The Pasdaran have been systematically built up as the military arm of the Islamic Republic, not only for use in waging war against Iran's neighbors, but to police Iran internally. Officers of the Pasdaran deploy the human wave brigades and are rapidly replacing the Iranian army as the principal fighting force. Khomeini is

said to view the Pasdaran as the basis for a massive Chinese-style People's Army in the future. Young Iranians who survive will simply have nowhere else to go. They are receiving the ideological indoctrination in Khomeini's Islamic schools necessary to prepare them for joining this fundamentalist brigade.

One means of inducing school boys to go to the front is to exempt them from year-end examinations. Before they enter the combat zone they are brainwashed about the "beauty of martyrdom," and are told that an Islamic saint will carry their souls to paradise. They are given either a "key to heaven" or a Khomeini-signed passport to paradise. For up to four days there are fed a diet containing no protein, only sugar. This is an old wartime technique used by North Korea, which starves the brain, producing an irrational and hyperactive state. Once they are sent to the front, often to walk through minefields and absorb Iraq fire, they dutifully chant Allah-u-al Akhbar (Allah is great).

Bodies instead of tanks

When recently asked about the practice of sending unarmed youths to defuse Iraqi minefields, an official of Khomeini's regime explained that martyrs were needed because Iran "has too few tanks."

As of early 1983, Iraq claimed to be holding well over 5,000 prisoners of war with an average age of 14. *Newsweek* reported March 21, 1983 that an Iranian who visited an Iraqi prisoner camp outside Baghdad found that some of the boys there had been abducted by Khomeini's "recruiters" and sent directly, without explanation, to the front, where they miraculously escaped almost certain death. According to this report, many of the Iranian youths held in Iraq resist being returned to their homeland, because Khomeini considers the fact that they are still alive to be proof of their treason. "I don't consider them to be true Muslims. . . . They escaped. They didn't go to martyrdom," states Khomeini.

An Arab diplomat reports that the carnage Iraqi forces have witnessed after confronting a human wave of Iranian youths and children has caused some Iraqis acute psychological distress. They say that this is precisely the "wearing down" effect Khomeini hopes to subject Iraq to.

In an interview with the *Turkish Daily News* Jan. 31, the Iraqi commander of the Third Army at the fortified southern town of Basra, General Maheer Abdul Rasheed, described firsthand experience of combatting a human wave attack. Rasheed said that the front guard of any attack "is usually wiped out in the minefields. The human waves that follow face death by our concentrated air raids, shelling, and rocketing and those Iranians who manage to reach our positions are killed by machine gun fire and during face-to-face confrontation."

According to a former medical officer in the Iranian army who defected from Iran last month, Iran has systematically lied about the number of casualties it has suffered during the

war. Col. Ardeshir San'ati said that there have been at least one million casualties, with nearly a half million dead from the human waves attacks alone. San'ati stated that "sometimes so many are killed and so much ammunition is used by the Iraqis that they eventually run out of ammunition, and that is how the Khomeini human-wave tactics have in some cases resulted in some pieces of land being taken." San'ati reported, during a press conference in Washington Feb. 24, that Iran is unequipped medically to deal with the number of wounded that return from the front. He declared that Khomeini is committing "enormous atrocities" not known at all in the West.

In a series of battles north of Basra in the Iraqi marshlands in late February, several thousands of Iranians were deployed into Iraq in boats. Iraqi forces allowed them to penetrate several miles inside Iraqi territory, then sealed off their supply lines and opened fire. But as one Mideast analyst observed, this has not stopped Iran from sending in thousands more to "be chewed up at the front." In February Iraq commenced its long-threatened bombardment of Iranian cities, a desperate move to attempt to force Iran to accede to Baghdad's three year old bid to end the war. This has been reciprocated with Iranian bombardments of Iraqi civilian sites, further increasing the casualties in the war which the State Department last month dubbed a "World War II-style trench war."

Iranian sources say that as a result of the Iraqi attacks on border towns, Iranians who would otherwise not fight for Khomeini are enlisting to go to the front purely as a matter of self-defense. Iraq, which has only one third of the population of Iran, cannot continue to fight a ground war of attrition. In February, Iraq announced that it is prepared to use its heavy fire power, including Soviet-supplied SS-12 missiles, to hit deep into Iran, if Khomeini does not agree to end this senseless war. Khomeini maintains he will continue to fight until Iraqi President Saddam Hussein falls—a remote short term prospect.

Khomeini's intransigence is therefore inviting even further slaughter against the Iranian people. Baghdad is known to be reluctant to hit Iran as hard as it has threatened, but if its own survival is at stake it will be forced to do so.

Over the past five years Khomeini has consistently relied upon war as a means of insuring the survival of his Islamic Republican Party. Iranian sources say that Khomeini is committed to killing as many of his own countrymen as necessary to keep the Gulf war going. Even if Khomeini were to succeed in overthrowing the government of Iraq and establishing an Islamic regime there, he is intent on spreading his genocidal revolution beyond Iraq.

Khomeini calculates that a victory over Iraq will feed the fanaticism now growing in numerous countries of the Middle East and North Africa. Iran is already deploying thousands of Revolutionary Guards to Lebanon to support the radicalization of Lebanon's large Shi'ite Muslim minority.