

S. 1375

At the request of Mr. BURNS, the name of the Senator from North Dakota [Mr. CONRAD] was added as a co-sponsor of S. 1375, a bill to preserve and strengthen the foreign market development cooperater program of the Department of Agriculture, and for other purposes.

NOTICE OF HEARING

SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT OF GOVERNMENT MANAGEMENT AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Mr. COHEN. Mr. President, I wish to announce that the Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management and the District of Columbia, Committee on Governmental Affairs, will hold a hearing on Wednesday, November 29, 1995, at 9:30 a.m., in room 342 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, on S. 1224, the Administrative Dispute Resolution Act of 1995.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

IRANIAN HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES

• Mr. D'AMATO. Mr. President, I rise today to deplore Iran's abominable human rights practices, and to remind my colleagues that Iran's continued abuse of the fundamental rights of its own citizens is one of the reasons why I have offered legislation intended to increase economic pressure on this outlaw regime in Tehran.

Human rights organizations all over the world have been deploring the Islamic Republic of Iran's human rights abuses against women, religious and ethnic minorities for years.

This is a country that sentences women to death for adultery, and then carries out the death penalty by bundling them into a postal sac and throwing them from the roof of a 10-story building.

This is a country that still carries out public stonings, and even has a strict legal code to govern the size stones citizens are to use to stone their fellow citizens. Stones too large are not to be used, because death will be inflicted too quickly. Stones too small are to be avoided, because death doesn't come at all. The stones have to be just the right size to allow the victim to suffer for a very long time, and to ensure that they will die of their wounds.

This is a country that continues to use paramilitary security forces to harass and intimidate people in the street, and that closes newspapers because of a political cartoon comparing the Supreme Leader to a comic strip figure.

This is a country where to be a candidate in an election you must first be deemed to be a supporter of the sitting Government. And this is a country, Mr. President, that continues to be cited, year after year, by the Special Representative of the U.N. Subcommission on Human Rights for its systematic use of torture, arbitrary arrests, and summary executions.

These practices were described in an article appearing in a Paris-based newsletter nearly 5 years ago, which I ask to have printed in the RECORD at the conclusion of my remarks, along with more recent material supplied to my office by the Foundation for Democracy in Iran, a human rights advocacy group.

Mr. President, I would like to call your attention to a few of the lesser known human rights abuses of the clerical regime in Tehran: its repression of religious and ethnic minorities.

As cited by the 1995 report of Middle East Watch, and the February 1994 report of U.N. Special Representative on Human Rights for Iran, the Iranian security forces conduct arbitrary arrests of Kurdish, Balouch, Turkomen, and other ethnic minorities, and to subject these minorities to cruel and degrading punishments in Iranian jails, including torture and summary execution.

Similarly, as the State Department's February 1995 Report on Human Rights points out, the clerical regime discriminates against citizens of other religious persuasions than the dominant Shiite Moslem faith. Baha'is, Jews, and Sunni Muslims have been arrested over the past year for no other reason than their faith, and some of these individuals have been executed.

In fact, the Islamic Republic has engaged in a deliberate policy to suppress the rights of its Sunni minority, and in particular members of the Balouchi tribes in eastern Iran. On February 1, 1994, riots broke out in Zahedan, Mashed, and Khaf after 500 municipal workers demolished a Sunni mosque in the Zahedan district. On January 10, 1993, Iranian Revolutionary Guards troops attacked Balouchi residents in the village of Robat, when the homes of an estimated 50 families were set on fire in an attempt to secure a single individual, Haji Pirdad. The U.N. Special Representative for Human Rights reported on February 2, 1994 that 20 Balouchis were executed in December 1992 and February 1993 in Zahedan prison, while Amnesty International reported that 42 Balouchis including minors were executed between November 1991 and March 1992.

I believe, Mr. President, that this behavior by the Islamic Republic just goes to show that we are dealing with an outlaw regime that cares little about its own people. If it cares so little about its own people, how will it act toward others?

Iran is isolated and universally viewed as a pariah state. Its actions are abhorrent to the civilized world. As long as this warped, terroristic regime continues to punish the Iranian people with its misrule, this condition will continue. The tyrants in Tehran must understand their aggression and abuse of the good people of Iran will not last, and one day they will be brought to task for their actions.

While the tyrants continue to rule in Tehran, sanctions are a clear way to keep up the pressure on Iran and to

deny them the ability to carry out their aggression on the outside world as well as against their own people. We do not take these issues lightly. It is a pity that the regime cannot act like a civilized country and not be so abusive. If only Iran would not conduct these brutal actions, we would not have to place sanctions on it.

The article follows:

[From Mednews, No. 4.4, Dec. 3, 1990]

HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN IRAN

The "moderate" regime in Tehran so dear to Washington policymakers has failed the test again—the test of human rights. Three recent reports on human rights abuses in Iran show beyond a doubt that extreme caution is still needed in dealings with the current regime in Iran.

The reports were prepared independently by Amnesty International, the United Nations, a Paris-based Iranian exile group, the Foundation for the Independence of Iran. All three conclude unequivocally that human rights abuses have increased markedly since the end of the Gulf war, despite Iranian government claims to the contrary.

In his second report in thirteen months, which was released in late November, the UN's Reynaldo Galindo Pohl confirms that at least 113 Iranians have been executed since March 21, the start of the Iranian New Year.

In fact, Pohl's figures fall far short of the mark—once again. Accounts published in the official Iranian media alone show more than 600 deaths by execution since March 21. Last year, that figure reached 2,500. When he questioned the Iranian authorities about the executions during his first visit to Tehran during the fall of 1989, Mr. Pohl was told that the victims were "ordinary criminals," not political prisoners, and that all had been "treated in conformity with the Ta'zirat and the standards of Islamic law." Allegations of torture and summary execution were groundless, Pohl explained, since Iran did not maintain that its laws adhered to the universal declaration of human rights.

Amnesty International recently quoted Iran's "Islamic" law on lapidation and concluded: "In Iran, stoning someone to death isn't against the law. Using the wrong stone is." [See illustration.] Yet another Amnesty report on Human Rights abuses in Iran is scheduled for release on December 5.

The Foundation for the Independence of Iran has chosen to stick to accounts published in the Iranian press, and recently presented a detailed report to the French government on human rights abuses in Iran.

Here are just a few of the more startling examples the Foundation discovered:

July 26: Keyhan announces that forty women have recently been stoned to death. "Whippings, sectioning of fingers and hands are common punishments" in Iranian prisons.

August 17: The Iranian Press Agency (Irna), quoted by Nimrooz, acknowledges that 14,000 persons have been arrested during the past two months, mostly for drug trafficking. On the personal orders of President Rafsanjani and Intelligence Minister Fallayian, they were deported to work camps on the Island of Endourabi.

August 24: Nimrooz reported that a woman accused by her husband of infidelity was sentenced to an unusual death in Tehran. She was sewn into a burlap bag and thrown off the roof of the Ministry of Justice.

August 30: Keyhan reports that 45-year old Ebaolollah Kiani was condemned to death by stoning in the central square of the town of Nahavandi, for having had intercourse with a woman.