

Ahwazi-Arabs for Freedom and Democracy-USA

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Appeal

To: Amnesty International; UNHCR; Human Rights Watch; All organizations concerned with human rights.

Once more the Iranian regime has launched a campaign of arrests and executions against our Ahwazi Arab people in southwestern Iran (Khuzistan). This is yet another disgraceful event in the history of the Iranian regime against decent human conduct. The regime executed four Ahwazi Arabs on January 28, 2002. Their identities are as follows:

- 1. Abbas Al-Tawini, 37, married with six children, worker in the Sugar Cane Factory - arrested and imprisoned since July 2000.**
- 2. Hani Abadi, 32, married with two children, security guard worker in the Sugar Cane Factory - arrested and imprisoned since April 2000.**
- 3. Hassan (Maki) Al-Zorghani, 34, married with four children, worker in Ramin Power Plant in Wais - arrested and imprisoned since February 2001.**
- 4. Bernas Sajirat, 34, married with two children, worker in Ramin Power Plant in Wais - arrested and imprisoned since February 2001.**

The regime's pretext for this crime is the usual "rebellion" against the State. These are bogus charges used to execute political prisoners and freedom fighters in Iran. Contrary to the regime's claim, these people have been struggling to get their agricultural land back, which was forcefully expropriated by the regime for the expansion of the Sugar Cane Project. The expropriated land plays a very significant role in their subsistence and covers 200,000 hectares of arable lands in the areas of Shushtar, Ahwaz, Mohammarah (Khuramshahr) and Abadan. The Arab native inhabitants of Al-Ahwaz own all of this land.

The underlying purpose of Arab land expropriation in the Al-Ahwaz (Khuzistan) province is to forcefully dispossess the original Arab owners of their farmland and to expel them from the area. At the same time, the regime is trying to change the demographics of the Al-Ahwaz province by resettling Persians inside the Arab territories with the aim of Persianization in the area. The regime is also hoping to do away with the Arab culture within its borders and deny the people of their Arab identity. In recent years, the Iranian authorities have increased the resettlement of large number of Persians from cities as far way as Shiraz, Isfahan, Mashhad and Yazd in the Arab territories of Al-Ahwaz.

In order to address these injustices, we respectfully request that all human rights organizations exert due pressure on the Iranian authorities to halt these inhumane, supremacist, repressive and chauvinistic policies toward the Ahwazi Arab population, aimed at the annihilation of the Arab ethnic minority in Iran. We also request that Iran be expected to adhere to human rights principles in general, particularly the right of Ahwazi Arabs to live freely on their own land and to maintain the integrity of their own culture.

We in the Ahwazi-Arabs for Freedom and Democracy-USA organization raise our voices and appeal to all freedom loving people of the world, including human rights organizations, to help us bring attention to our just cause – the discontinuation of the practices of the Persian-dominated Iranian regime in pursuing and implementing chauvinistic policies against our Arab Ahwazi people.

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