

## Iranian government tries to force Baha'is to sign their own death warrants

This move follows a statement made at the UN General Assembly that Iran will not observe provision of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

United Nations, 3 January 1985

In a move against the beleaguered Baha'i religious minority, the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran is insisting that, as a condition of their release, Baha'i detainees must sign a statement admitting that they are members of an espionage organization and agreeing that they will be guilty of a capital offence if any article relating to the Baha'i Faith is found on their person or in their home.

The text of the statement is as follows:

"I, the undersigned, (details of personal status, including religion) undertake not have in my possession any book pamphlet, document, symbol or picture of the misguided, Zionist, espionage group of Baha'is. If any of the above-mentioned articles belonging to this hated underground movement is found on my person or in my home, this will be tantamount to my being of

### Downey named Chairman

UNB President Dr. James Downey, has agreed to be Honorary Chairman of the Kidney Foundation March Drive in the Fredericton and Oromocto area.

This year's door to door campaign by hundreds of volunteers aims to meet a goal of \$50,000 which will exceed last year's target by \$10,000. Of the amount collected, about 85 percent goes to the National Kidney Foundation, the only non-profit health organization seeking the total answer to diseases of the kidneys. The balance is retained by the local chapter to help kidney patients requiring kidney dialysis and related care.

those 'who war against God' and the Attorney-General would be free to decide against me in the manner he deems fit."

Baha'i prisoners are refusing to sign this undertaking, which not only misrepresents the Baha'i Faith but which would also leave them open to having Baha'i materials (copious quantities of which have been confiscated by the authorities) planted on their persons or in their homes as evidence that they are persons who "war against God."

The significance of this terminology resides in the fact that it is used by the present regime in Iran to signify a crime deserving a death. Indeed, a number of Baha'is have already been executed in Iran on the charge of warring against God simply because of their membership in the Baha'i community.

Iran's Ambassador to UN asserts Iran will not observe provisions of Universal Declaration of Human Rights

To sentence a person to death on a charge such as this is to ignore all the norms of international human rights law. This fact, however, does not deter the Government of Iran from pursuing its policies of religious oppression.

As recorded in the official Summary of Records of the 65th meeting of the Third Committee of the 39th General Assembly on 7 December 1984, Said Rajaie-Khorassani, Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations, stated that "The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which represented secular understanding of the Judaeo-Christian tradition, could not be implemented by Muslims and did not accord with the system of values recognized by the Islamic Republic or Iran; his country would therefore not hesitate to violate its provisions, since it had to choose between violating the divine law of the country and violating secular conventions."

In pursuing its campaign of religious persecution against the 300,000 strong Baha'i minority, the Iranian Government is flagrantly violating all the "secular conventions" accepted by the international community in the field of human rights.

Background to the situation of the Baha'i minority in Iran

The persecution of Iran's 300,000-strong Baha'i minority is motivated by fanatical religious prejudice. Although the Baha'i Faith, which was founded in Iran in 1844, is often mistakenly described as a sect of Islam, it is in fact an independent world religion with its own Prophet-Founder, Scriptures and Teachings. Iran's fundamentalist religious leaders are unwilling to tolerate the existence of any religion that appeared after Islam and are conducting a ruthless campaign to eradicate the Baha'i community and destroy all traces of the Baha'i Faith in the land of its birth.

Since the start of the Islamic Revolution, 138 Baha'is have been summarily executed, 12 have died in prison, 5 have been assassinated, 22 have been beaten, stoned or burned to death by fanatical mobs and 14 have disappeared without trace and are presumed dead - a total of 191 Baha'is who have died solely because of their religious beliefs. Thousands of Baha'is have been deprived of their jobs, homes and possessions, and Baha'i children are denied education unless they are willing to recant their faith. All Baha'is holy places and community properties in Iran have been confiscated and, in many cases, destroyed and the financial assets of the community have been appropriated by the authorities.

Over 750 Baha'is, including women and children, are currently being held without charges in Iranian prisons. Many are being barbarically tortured to try to force them to confess to false charges of espionage—the very charges

which Baha'i prisoners would be tacitly admitting if they agreed to sign the government's new prison-release document.

UN Special Representative to investigate human rights violations in Iran.

The treatment of Iran's Baha'i minority is one of the matters that will come under the scrutiny of Mr. Andres Aguilar of Venezuela, whose appointment as Special Representative on Iran was announced on 19 October 1984 by Peter H. Kooijmans, Chairman of the UN Commission on

Human Rights. Mr. Aguilar, a former Minister of Justice of Venezuela, is currently a member of the Human Rights Committee (an organ established under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights) and also a member of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

The mandate of the Special Representative is "to establish contacts with the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and to make a thorough study of the human rights situation in that country..."

## Career Line

By NATALIE BULL

Last week, this column examined the first step in the career counselling process: taking inventory of one's "skills repertoire" to recognize and prioritize the numerous abilities and competencies that can be parlayed into a potential career. The next step involves combining these transferable skills with individual interests, enthusiasms and values in order to generate a list of job options that take into consideration personal needs and preferences, not just aptitudes or technical knowledge. After all, there is no law requiring one's job to be completely separate from enjoyable activities; as Richard Bolles, author of *What Color is Your Parachute?* and a central figure in career counselling points out, there are already enough people in the work force who simply wait for five o'clock so they can begin to do what they like. For example, an individual whose priority skills are researching and organizing data and then putting it on paper effectively can be bored stiff writing reports or articles in a field that does not interest him, simply to earn money for his real passion, travelling. Or, he could combine his skills and interests to launch a more satisfying career in researching and writing travelogues or tourism literature.

However simplistic this example may be, it roughly outlines the approach to career decisions employed at counselling services in the Alumni Memorial Building on campus. My counsellor guided me in recognizing my interests and enthusiasms by assigning several written exercises. One had me list all the people I like talking to - friends, class-mates, family members, co-workers - and then decide exactly what topics I enjoyed discussing with them. A similar exercise required writing out a catalogue of "Subjects I know about," or simply like to talk, read, learn about. Although the resulting list may include anything from classical music to stock car racing, several topics should recur noticeable; in my case, for example, antiques, travelling, languages, and interior design come up again and again. Brainstorming, or multiplying these areas of interest by the skill families that I had discovered earlier in counselling sessions (organizational abilities, artistic and communication skills) generates a wide range of potential career directions: writing for magazines, or books on antiques or interior design; doing research for historical societies or public relations in the design field; free lance design; or organizing museum or antique exhibitions are just a few of them.

Of course, the next step is narrowing down this list to a few options that seem worth considering more closely, and one way is to become more aware of your goals and values. These can be clarified with experimental exercises like the guided fantasy: after a systematic relaxation procedure to relax both mind and body, you are asked to envision with as much detail as possible a working day in your life five years in the future. What your fantasy includes - country or city living, working hours and conditions, level of responsibility, team work versus individual work - are all considerations pertinent to your career choice and will help eliminate types of work that will not conform to these needs and preferences.

NEXT TIME: Researching the field or fields you are interested in with information interviews and the Career Information Library.

Counselling Services  
Rm 19, Alumni Memorial Building  
453-4820

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Application forms are now available.

Applicants for positions in Women's Houses should apply to Mrs. J.P. Kidd, Dean of Women, Tibbits Hall 154.

Applicants for positions in Men's Houses should apply to Dr. W. Reavley Gair, Dean of Men's Residences, Men's Residence Office.

Applicants for Coed Houses may apply either to Mrs. Kidd or Dr. Gair.

DEADLINE: 15 MARCH 1985