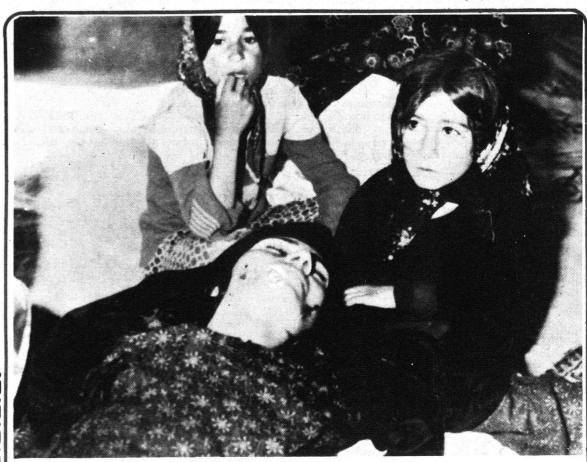
# Iran has "enemies" both

The release of the American hostages has not got Iran off the hook. Iran has yet to give any country, including Canada, any reason to believe diplomatic immunity and other conventions of inter-national relations will be respected. Worse still, in many peoples eyes, is the continued disregard for even the most basic human rightsin Iran. The most obvious and predictable of these rights to be ignored is religious minority rights, especially as witnessed by the persecution of the Baha'is, the largest religious minority in Iran with some 400,000 adherents.

victims of a mounting campaign and, as such, an "enemy of Islam." of harassment since the Ayatollah The Baha'is are considered desecrated and the members of

The Baha'is have become the under the charge of being a Baha'i

Khomeini took power in January heretics and "renegades" from 1979. Individual Baha'is have been Islam by the Islamic clergy because summarily arrested and executed, the founders of their religion, in Baha'i homes and businesses have the late century, were Persian been confiscated and large Muslims (Shi'ite Muslim) and numbers of Baha'is have been because their prophet, Baha'u'llah. sacked from government jobs. (1817 - 1892) was born after Baha'i holy places and cemeteries. Muhammed who is considered by have been destroyed and Muslims to be the last and the "Seal of the Prophets." However, the elected national ad- Baha'is are today scattered around ministrative body of the Baha'is the world in some 88,000 localities have been arrested and not heard and are, for the most part, neither from since. All this is perpetrated of Persian origin nor converts



In the town of Kata, two young children sit with their murdered mother,

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from Islam. The Baha'is teach of tracted and helped many of the quently operate and exist on an international scale.

The Baha'is vex the Islamic regime in Iran be teaching such They are accused regime of encouraging prostitu- of Israel"... tion because the Baha'is favor female emancipation and also the

the oneness of religion and the better off; but in fact the majority oneness of mankind and conse- of the Iranian Baha'is are villagers, attracted for the same

# religions and the equality of the sexes. They are accused by the of being "Agents

But far more effective has They are accused of being agents been the politicization of the of imperialism because of the accusations against the Baha'is. number of wealthy Baha'is in Iran. They are accused of being "agents The religion's liberalism and its of Israel" because their World emphasis on education has at- Center is in Haifa, even though it

was established there in 1868, almost a century before the establishment of Israel. Baha'is are further accused of being supporters of the Shah's regime and of SAVAK. The accusation is questionable when one considers that the Baha'is are not allowed to become involved in politics and are obliged to support whatever regime is in power. This accusation becomes ludicrous when one considers that the Shah and SAVAK organized programs against the Baha'is, most notably in 1955 and 1963.

The Baha'i International Community has attempted to secure legal sanctions to protect the Baha'is in Iran. Their case was presented to the United Nations Sub-Commission on the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, sitting in Geneva. As a result the Sub-Commission passed a resolution on September 15 stating the Sub-Commission's "profound concern for the safety of the Baha'is in Iran" and requesting the United Nations Secretary General to convey this concern to the authorities in Iran and call on the Iranian government to recognize the fundamental rights of the

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#### . Have no recourse in international law...

The Iranians answered this by stating that the Baha'i faith is not a religion under the constitution of Iran (Christians, Jews and Zoroastrians are ) and it is therefore not protected under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights which Iran has signed and ratified. And while further legal action has been suggested by the "experts" at the U.N. this would seem futile considering the American government's attempt to obtain legal sanctions against Iran for holding the hostages and the attempt's dismal failure.

The Baha'is have also obtained a resolution by the European Parliament (September 10) which denounces the "systematic persecution of Iranian Baha'is" and calls on member countries to impose an embargo on all sales of