

Editorial

Iran: Keep up the pressure

It is a good thing that the demented mullahs in Teheran are hysterical about the U.S. and allied military presence in the Gulf. It is a good thing, too, that the "Islamic revolutionaries" appear to be splintering into warring factions and that their rule begins to be shaky.

The only way the world can be free of the nightmare which the Khomeini regime has represented since 1979, is precisely to keep up the pressure of the Gulf deployment, until the "magic" of that regime evaporates, and it can be overthrown by an exasperated Iranian people.

Even if the Khomeini regime (and its eventual successor, should Khomeini die and the "Islamic Republic" continue) were not the author of countless atrocities against other nations, it would be an obligation of the world's nation-states to isolate this outlaw regime, for what it has done to its own people.

In Teheran, the Fountain of Blood, colored red to simulate an endless flow of blood, at the Behesht Zahra Martyrs Cemetery, has become the meeting point and pulse of the so-called Iranian Revolution.

We are not forgetting the year-long ordeal of the American hostages in 1980-81 in Teheran; nor the spree of assassinations of anti-Khomeini Iranians abroad; nor the string of terrorist massacres that can be traced directly back to Iran's international "Islamic" network.

We are reiterating the Schiller Institute's call of November 1985, which described the "bloody and unbending tyranny imposed upon the people of Iran," as "crimes against humanity," which should be brought to trial before a new Nuremberg Tribunal.

Within Iran, the Schiller Institute reported at that time, "tens of thousands of Iranian children and adolescents have been ritually sacrificed on the military front in the name of an insane interpretation of Islam, used as minesweepers to clear the way for adult soldiers."

These child-murders occurred from the spring of 1982 on. There have been few eyewitness accounts of such atrocities. In January 1986, *EIR* printed quotations from a book published in France a few months earlier,

which recounted the story of the systematic massacre of tens of thousands of Iranian children. The story was being covered up in the West, despite the publication of the book.

The children were sent to their death through Iraqi minefields, or directly against the Iraqi army, unarmed, or armed only with dud grenades. None of the children knew of their fate, but the officers of the Iranian Army and the Pasdarans (Revolutionary Guards) were walking safely far behind the lines of children as the mines exploded.

In the spring and summer offensives of 1982, more than 7,000 children are reported to have been killed. The few survivors on the Iranian side were never allowed to speak. Although some 2,000 were taken prisoner by Iraq, since the Khomeini regime denied ever using children in the war, the existence of these POWs was not acknowledged, and they could not be allowed to return to Iran. For the regime, they were conveniently dead. For the many families who accepted the social and financial advantages of being a family of "martyrs," in a society where martyrdom is the ultimate blessing, they are also dead.

One child, who survived to tell his story, recounts that when, at the battlefield, the lines of the children faltered as the mines began to explode, the "12th Imam" appeared on a nearby mountain on a white horse. It was a brief apparition followed by a longer appearance.

It was, of course, an actor who called on the children to go on walking, and to meet him soon in Paradise. For Iranian Shi'ites, who have been expecting the reappearance of the Imam for centuries, the effect was electrifying; children did not walk, but ran for joy, into the minefields. Fifteen hundred children died.

This account highlights the obscenity of those "ayatollahs" in the U.S. Senate who wish to hamper or halt the U.S. Gulf deployment—the only possible way the Khomeini regime can be curbed, and eventually destroyed.