

T6/797

OPS

Original in Iran, May 79

Protection of Jewish Community

SECRET

PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. T6/79(T)

May 15, 1979

Dear Prime Minister:

I am writing to urge that you join me in making urgent private representations to the authorities in Iran to help assure the safety of Iranian Jews. We have received numerous reports since the execution of Mr. Elghanian that many prominent Jews are being arrested and that trials are planned. Because of the unsettled conditions in Iran, we believe it will require strong and courageous action by Iranian civil and religious leaders to protect the lives of members of the Jewish community. Since the revolution in February, Ayatollah Khomeini, Prime Minister Bazargan and other leaders have given assurances that the rights and freedoms of the Jewish community would be protected.

I believe it is now vital that we immediately urge Iranian authorities to confirm in practice their assurances of safety and protection for the Jewish community.

I am also writing to President Giscard D'Estaing and the Pope asking that they make similar approaches.

Sincerely,

Jimmy Carter

SECRET