

Group seeks support to free prisoners

By GREG WASSON
Of the Emerald

Ten Iranians are scheduled to die soon in front of firing squads. The 10 are charged with assassinating three American colonels, an Iranian employe of the U.S. Consulate, and four other Iranians. The Iranian Student Organization (ISO) says the charges aren't valid.

"The Shah has used the same charges to murder and imprison a number of innocent Iranians already," claims one member of the ISO. "These are just trumped up charges to get rid of people the Shah doesn't like."

Black and Red not mixing well at Russian U's

(CPS) — Soviet authorities currently are plagued by a new group of dissidents — African exchange students — who say they are victims of Russian racial discrimination.

African students say Russians call them rude and lazy and beat them up if they ask Russian women to dance at cafes. In Lvov, an African embassy released a statement in November which said black students had been attacked in their dorms as well as in the streets by Russian hooligans.

In Kiev, 500 Africans went on strike in November to protest the Soviet government's dismissal of a Czechoslovakian woman who had married an African. The protest helped her win reinstatement.

Although there are 20,000 third world students in the Soviet Union, few incidents have occurred involving Asian or Latin American students. African students go to school at regular Soviet universities as well as the Lumumba Friendship School in Moscow.

The organization also complains that the 10 were tried by military courts and no Iranian citizens or international observers were allowed to attend.

In an effort to secure a new trial for the 10 convicted Iranians, local members of the ISO are asking students to join a hunger strike which began Sunday.

"We were just lucky to hear about these people before they were executed. We, together with people around the world, are trying to put pressure on the Shah to call off the executions. Last spring, world-wide strikes and demonstrations similar to this one saved one citizen sentenced to die," a spokesperson said.

According to the ISO, persons wishing to support new trials for the 10 Iranians should send telegrams to the UN Human Rights Commission, UN Plaza, New York, New York, or to Amirabbas Hoveida, Palace of Ministry, Tehran, Iran.

The local strike headquarters, originally planned to be a tent pitched near the faculty club, is now a truck parked directly across from the EMU on University Street.

Members of the ISO pitched the tent as planned, but according to Gerald Bogen, University

vice-president for student affairs, the tent "was clearly unauthorized use of campus property, and we asked them to remove it."

The organizers of the strike admit they didn't have a permit to set up the tent, but claim they didn't have time to go through the proper channels.

"We had to have quick action," explains one member. "We had to act fast. The prisoners could be shot at any time."

Organizers of the strike say they were surprised by the University's action, calling it "unexpected. We thought that in this case they might have some sympathy, but they just called the police (campus security) and pulled the nails holding up the tent. They are trying their best to keep us in a corner, out of the way."

David Rowe, of the campus planning office, says the ISO needs to file a request with the campus planning office to pitch the tent.

"If there is some matter of urgency, the permit could be available in a matter of days, two to three at the outside."

Rowe says the campus planning office was open during vacation, but acknowledges that probably wouldn't help the ISO.

"A lot of the problem is that it's not very well publicized — it's probably not common knowledge

how you go about doing something like that (getting permission to put up the tent.)"



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