

OFFICIAL STATEMENT • 1

کیهان

Subject : Imam's last warning to the conspirators
The official: Founder and Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini
The occasion: Speech delivered to hundreds of thousands of pilgrims at the holy city of Qom
Date: 17 August 1979
Source: *Kayhan*, 18 August 1979

We Made an Error by Not Acting in a Revolutionary Manner.

If the corrupt don't return to the people's fold, by God we will become more revolutionary.

Qom—*Kayhan's* reporter: Yesterday afternoon, in the presence of hundreds of thousands of Qom residents and pilgrims who had converged on the city from all over Iran, Imam Khomeini, the leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution, delivered an important speech on the country's problems and the role of Islam in the world. The following is the text of the speech:

... If we had acted in a revolutionary fashion since day one when we brought the corrupt regime to its knees and tore down this evil barrier [to our salvation], and had closed down the mercenary and corrupt newspapers and magazines and tried their editors; if we had banned all corrupt parties and punished their leaders; if we had erected gallows on every street and gotten rid of the corrupt and the corruptors, we would not be inconvenienced in this way. I apologize to almighty God and to our dear people for our errors. We were not revolutionary leaders; our government is not a revolutionary government [allusion to Mehdi Bazargan's

government, the liberal Islamist Prime Minister designated by Khomeini to head the post-revolutionary provisional government]. Our armed forces are not revolutionary. Our rural police forces are not revolutionary. Our Revolutionary Guards are not revolutionary either. I, too, am not revolutionary. If we were, we would not have allowed them [our opponents] to even manifest themselves and speak; we would have closed down all political parties, banned all political fronts, and created only one party, the Hezbollah, the party of the downtrodden. I ask forgiveness for the errors that we have made. I warn the corrupt elements still in our midst, wherever they are, that if they don't stop challenging us we shall deal with them in a most revolutionary manner, as God has instructed us. Our master, Ali, the commander of all devout Muslims, the embodiment of knowledge, the epitome of a true human being, the most faithful of God's followers, the most devout among Muslims, treated the downtrodden with mercy and kindness



but faced the exploiters and conspirators with his drawn sword. It is said that he slaughtered 700 Jews of the Bani Qarantiah [tribe], who just might be the kin of present-day Israelis, in one day. God almighty is merciful when mercy is due and vengeful when vengeance is needed. So was the Imam of all Muslims. We are not intimidated by what they write about us in pre-revolutionary newspapers or in the foreign press. We are not seeking popularity in Iran, in the Muslim world, or in foreign countries. We strive to act according to God's instructions, and we shall. Treat the infidel harshly and act mercifully with your brethren. The conspirators are from the ranks of infidels. The plotters in Kurdistan and other provinces are no more than infidels. They should be treated in the

harshest possible fashion. The government should act mercilessly against them. The rural police force must deal with them severely. So should the armed forces. If they do not act as they must, we will deal with them harshly, and without charity. There is a limit to leniency. There is a limit to the desire for public approval. I shall not allow the interests of Muslims to be ignored because of such considerations. The Revolutionary Prosecutor is duty bound to close down all publications that conspire and agitate against the interests of our people and should summon their writers to account for their actions and prosecute them [in the courts]. He must similarly prosecute and try the leaders of those conspiratorial groups that characterize themselves as political parties. . . .



Hojjat ol-islam Sadeq Khalkhali, Chief Justice of the Revolutionary Court, interrogating a defendant in the Kurdish city of Paveh—*Ettela'at*, 19 August 1979

