

February 11, 1979

## Martial Law Is Contrary to the Shari'a

*This declaration was issued in Tehran shortly after the decisive confrontation had begun between the Islamic Revolution and recalcitrant elements in the armed forces. Source: Majmu'a-yi Kamil, p. 40.*

COURAGEOUS PEOPLE OF IRAN, respected inhabitants of Tehran! As you know, it is my intention that the problems of Iran be solved peacefully, but since the regime of tyranny and oppression sees itself condemned by law, it has again resorted to crime and assaulted and slaughtered the courageous Muslims in Gorgan and in Gunbad-i Qabus.<sup>86</sup> In Tehran, the Imperial Guard has suddenly attacked elements in the air force that have joined the people, but with the aid of the courageous people, they have repulsed the attackers. I denounce this inhuman act of aggression by the Imperial Guard. It wishes to maintain the foreign domination of our country and to enable the plunderers to return by slaughtering their own brothers.

Although I have not given the order for sacred *jihad*, and I still wish matters to be settled peacefully, in accordance with the will of the people and legal criteria,<sup>87</sup> I cannot tolerate these barbarous actions, and I issue a solemn warning that if the Imperial Guard does not desist from this fratricidal slaughter and return to its barracks, and if the military authorities fail to prevent these attacks, I will take my final decision, placing my trust in God. The responsibility for whatever ensues will then belong to those shameless aggressors.

If the aggressors retreat, I request the courageous people of Tehran to retain their state of readiness and to be alert for the stratagems of the enemy and to preserve order and tranquillity. They should be fully equipped and prepared to defend Islam and the orders issued by the Muslim authorities.

As for the declaration of martial law, that is a mere trick. It is contrary to the *shari'a* and people should not pay it the slightest attention.

My dear brothers and sisters! Do not be anxious, for right will triumph, with the aid of God Almighty.

ISLAM AND REVOLUTION

I ask God Almighty that He grant victory to the Muslim nation.

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