

International Jurist To Observe Baha'i Trials

WILMETTE, Ill. — The Moroccan Supreme Court trials of three members of the Baha'i faith, sentenced to death by a lower court in Nador, Morocco last December, will be observed by a member from the International Commission of Jurists late this month.

This move is being made because the Baha'i International Community claims that the three men were given death sentences simply for practicing

their religion. The Baha'i sect asked for representation through its "International League for the Rights of Man," body.

The Baha'i International Community claims that the three men, all members of the Baha'i World Faith, not only received an unfair trial in Nador, but that they should never had been tried.

"Six other Baha'is who were tried along with the condemned

men," said Mrs. Mildred Mottahedeh, a Baha'i Community official, "are now locked up in a Moroccan prison, five of them for life," she said.

She added, "All nine members were arrested in April, 1962 and spent eight months in jail before they were tried. One man was tortured, the others were severely treated," Mrs. Mottahedeh declared.

"Many people around the world," she said, "including a great number of Moroccans, were shocked when they heard of the kind of justice that was meted out by the Nador court."

The French newspaper, "Le Monde" called the trial "an inquisition in Morocco" and called the court "the witches of Nador."

Alfred Reed of the Wilmette Baha'i Community, said that persecution is not new to the he said, 20,000 Baha'is were Baha'is.