

109TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. CON. RES. 101

Condemning the repression of the Iranian Baha'i community and calling
for the emancipation of Iranian Baha'is.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 14, 2006

Mr. REID (for himself, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. LIEBERMAN, and Mr. SARBANES) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Condemning the repression of the Iranian Baha'i community
and calling for the emancipation of Iranian Baha'is.

Whereas in 1982, 1984, 1988, 1990, 1992, 1994, 1996, and 2000, Congress, by concurrent resolution, declared that it deplores the religious persecution by the Government of Iran of the Baha'i community and holds the Government of Iran responsible for upholding the rights of all Iranian nationals, including members of the Baha'i Faith;

Whereas on March 20, 2006, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief, Ms. Asma Jahangir, revealed the existence of a confidential letter dated October 29, 2005, from the Chairman of the Command Headquarters of Iran's Armed Forces to the Ministry of Information, the Revolutionary Guard, and the

Police Force, stating that the Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Khamenei, had instructed the Command Headquarters to identify members of the Baha'i Faith in Iran and monitor their activities;

Whereas the United Nations Special Rapporteur expressed “grave concern and apprehension” about the implications of this letter for the safety of the Baha'i community;

Whereas in 2005 the Iranian Government initiated a new wave of assaults, homes raids, harassment, and detentions against Baha'is, and in December 2005, Mr. Zabihullah Mahrami died after 10 years of imprisonment on charges of apostasy due to his membership in the Baha'i Faith; and

Whereas beginning in October 2005, an anti-Baha'i campaign has been conducted in the state-sponsored Kayhan newspaper and in broadcast media: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives*
2 *concurring), That Congress—*

3 (1) condemns the Government of Iran for the
4 October 29, 2005 letter, calls on the Government of
5 Iran to immediately cease such activities and all ac-
6 tivities aimed at the repression of the Iranian Baha'i
7 community, and continues to hold the Government
8 of Iran responsible for upholding all the rights of its
9 nationals, including members of the Baha'i commu-
10 nity; and

11 (2) requests the President to—

1 (A) call for the Government of Iran to
2 emancipate the Baha'i community by granting
3 those rights guaranteed by the Universal Dec-
4 laration of Human Rights and other inter-
5 national covenants on human rights;

6 (B) emphasize that the United States re-
7 gards the human rights practices of the Govern-
8 ment of Iran, including its treatment of the
9 Baha'i community and other religious minori-
10 ties, as a significant factor in the foreign policy
11 of the United States Government regarding
12 Iran; and

13 (C) initiate an active and consistent dia-
14 logue with other governments and the European
15 Union in order to persuade the Government of
16 Iran to rectify its human rights practices.

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