

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 175

Condemning the Government of Iran for its state-sponsored persecution of its Baha'i minority and its continued violation of the International Covenants on Human Rights.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 13, 2009

Mr. KIRK (for himself, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. WOLF, and Mr. MORAN of Virginia) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Condemning the Government of Iran for its state-sponsored persecution of its Baha'i minority and its continued violation of the International Covenants on Human Rights.

Whereas in 1982, 1984, 1988, 1990, 1992, 1994, 1996, 2000, 2006, and 2008, Congress declared that it deplored the religious persecution by the Government of Iran of the Baha'i community and would hold the Government of Iran responsible for upholding the rights of all Iranian nationals, including members of the Baha'i faith;

Whereas in November 2007, the Iranian Ministry of Information in Shiraz jailed Baha'is Ms. Raha Sabet, 33; Mr. Sasan Taqva, 32; and Ms. Haleh Roohi, 29; for edu-

cating underprivileged children and gave them 4-year prison terms, which they are serving;

Whereas Ms. Sabet, Mr. Taqva, and Ms. Rooshi were targeted solely on the basis of their religion;

Whereas, on January 23, 2008, the United States Department of State released a statement urging the Iranian regime to release all individuals held without due process and a fair trial, including the 3 young Baha'is being held in an Iranian Ministry of Intelligence detention center in Shiraz;

Whereas in March and May of 2008, Iranian intelligence officials in Mashhad and Tehran arrested and imprisoned Mrs. Fariba Kamalabadi, Mr. Jamaloddin Khanjani, Mr. Afif Naeimi, Mr. Saeid Rezaie, Mr. Behrouz Tavakkoli, Mrs. Mahvash Sabet, and Mr. Vahid Tizfahm, the members of the coordinating group for the Baha'i community in Iran;

Whereas, on February 11, 2009, the deputy prosecutor in Tehran, Mr. Hassan Haddad, announced that those seven leaders will go on trial at a Revolutionary Court the week of February 15, 2009, on charges of "espionage for Israel, insulting religious sanctities and propaganda against the Islamic Republic";

Whereas the lawyer for these seven leaders, Mrs. Shirin Ebadi, the Nobel Laureate, has been denied all access to the prisoners and their files;

Whereas these seven Baha'i leaders were targeted solely on the basis of their religion; and

Whereas the Government of Iran is party to the International Covenants on Human Rights: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

1 (1) condemns the Government of Iran for its
2 state-sponsored persecution of its Baha'i minority
3 and its continued violation of the International Cov-
4 enants on Human Rights;

5 (2) calls on the Government of Iran to imme-
6 diately release the seven leaders and all other pris-
7 oners held solely on account of their religion, includ-
8 ing: Mrs. Fariba Kamalabadi, Mr. Jamaloddin
9 Khanjani, Mr. Afif Naeimi, Mr. Saeid Rezaie, Mr.
10 Behrouz Tavakkoli, Mrs. Mahvash Sabet, Mr. Vahid
11 Tizfahm, Ms. Raha Sabet, Mr. Sasan Taqva, and
12 Ms. Haleh Roohi; and

13 (3) calls on the President and Secretary of
14 State, in cooperation with the international commu-
15 nity, to immediately condemn Iran's continued viola-
16 tion of human rights and demand the immediate re-
17 lease of prisoners held solely on account of their reli-
18 gion, including Mrs. Fariba Kamalabadi, Mr.
19 Jamaloddin Khanjani, Mr. Afif Naeimi, Mr. Saeid
20 Rezaie, Mr. Behrouz Tavakkoli, Mrs. Mahvash
21 Sabet, Mr. Vahid Tizfahm, Ms. Raha Sabet, Mr.
22 Sasan Taqva, and Ms. Haleh Roohi.

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