CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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

Whereas on March 20, 2006, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief, Ms. Asthma 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

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

(1) condemns the Government of Iran for the October 29, 2005 letter, calls on the Government of Iran to immediately cease such activities and all activities aimed at the repression of the Iranian Baha’i community, and continues to hold the Government of Iran responsible for upholding all the rights of its
nationals, including members of the Baha’i community; and

(2) requests the President to—

(A) call for the Government of Iran to emancipate the Baha’i community by granting those rights guaranteed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international covenants on human rights;

(B) emphasize that the United States regards the human rights practices of the Government of Iran, including its treatment of the Baha’i community and other religious minorities, as a significant factor in the foreign policy of the United States Government regarding Iran; and

(C) initiate an active and consistent dialogue with other governments and the European Union in order to persuade the Government of Iran to rectify its human rights practices.


Attest: KAREN L. HAAS,

*Clerk.*