

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 71

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

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 9, 2009

Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. BROWNBACK, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. REID, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. BURRIS, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. HATCH, Mr. ISAKSON, and Mr. LEVIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

DECEMBER 1, 2009

Committee discharged; considered, amended, and agreed to and with an amended preamble

RESOLUTION

Condemning the Government of Iran for its state-sponsored persecution of the Baha'i minority in Iran 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, age 33, Mr. Sasan Taqva, age 32, and Ms. Haleh Roohi, age 29, for ostensibly "indirectly teaching the Baha'i Faith" and "engaging in anti-government propaganda" while educating underprivileged children and gave them 4-year prison terms, which they are serving;

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

Whereas on January 23, 2008, the Department of State released a statement urging the Government of Iran 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 these seven leaders have been imprisoned for well over a year and are yet to stand trial, the trial having been delayed multiple times;

Whereas official Iranian media has announced that they will face charges of "espionage for Israel, insulting religious sanctities and propaganda against the Islamic Republic";

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 Senate—

2 (1) condemns the Government of Iran for its
3 state-sponsored persecution of the Baha'i minority
4 in Iran and its continued violation of the Inter-
5 national Covenants on Human Rights;

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

14 (3) calls on the President and Secretary of
15 State, in cooperation with responsible nations, to im-
16 mediately condemn the Government of Iran's contin-
17 ued violation of human rights and demand the im-
18 mediate release of prisoners held solely on account
19 of their religion, including Mrs. Fariba Kamalabadi,
20 Mr. Jamaloddin Khanjani, Mr. Afif Naeimi, Mr.
21 Saeid Rezaie, Mr. Behrouz Tavakkoli, Mrs. Mahvash
22 Sabet, Mr. Vahid Tizfahm, Ms. Raha Sabet, Mr.
23 Sasan Taqva, and Ms. Haleh Roohi.

○