

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 80

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 SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 1, 2011

Mr. KIRK (for himself and Mr. DURBIN) submitted the following resolution;
which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

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, 2008, and 2009, 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 the 2010 Department of State International Religious Freedom Report stated, "Since the 1979 Islamic Revolution, more than 200 Baha'is have been killed, and

many have faced regular raids and confiscation of property.”;

Whereas the 2009 Department of State Human Rights Report stated, “The government [of Iran] continued to repress Baha’is and prevent them from meeting in homes to worship. It banned them from government and military leadership posts, the social pension system, and public schools and universities unless they concealed their faith.”;

Whereas, on October 15, 2010, the United Nations Secretary-General issued a special report on human rights in Iran, stating that “the Baha’i, who comprise the country’s largest non-Muslim religious minority, face multiple forms of discrimination and harassment, including denial of employment, Government benefits and access to higher education”;

Whereas, on December 21, 2010, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution (A/RES/65/226) noting “serious ongoing and recurring human rights violations” in Iran, including against the Baha’i community;

Whereas, in November 2007, the Ministry of Information of Iran in Shiraz jailed Baha’is Ms. Raha Sabet, 33, Mr. Sasan Taqva, 32, and Ms. Haleh Roohi, 29, for educating underprivileged children, and gave them 4-year prison terms;

Whereas Ms. Sabet remains imprisoned in Iran;

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

Whereas, in March and May of 2008, intelligence officials of the Government of Iran 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, in August 2010, the Revolutionary Court in Tehran sentenced the 7 Baha'i leaders to 20-year prison terms on charges of “spying for Israel, insulting religious sanctities, propaganda against the regime and spreading corruption on earth”;

Whereas the lawyer for these 7 leaders, Mrs. Shirin Ebadi, the Nobel Laureate, has been denied all access to the prisoners and their files;

Whereas these 7 Baha'i leaders were targeted solely on the basis of their religion;

Whereas, in February 2011, the Revolutionary Court in Tehran sentenced human rights activist and follower of the Baha'i faith, Navid Khanjani, to a 12-year prison term on charges of “propaganda against the regime by publishing news, reports, and interviews with foreign TV and radio,” among others;

Whereas the Government of Iran is party to the International Covenants on Human Rights; and

Whereas the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010 (Public Law 111–195) authorizes the President and the Secretary of State to impose sanctions on “the officials of the Government of Iran and other individuals who are responsible for continuing and severe violations of human rights and religious freedom in Iran”: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

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, and Mr. Navid Khanjani;

12 (3) calls on the President and Secretary of
13 State, in cooperation with the international commu-
14 nity, to immediately condemn the Government of
15 Iran's continued violation of human rights and de-
16 mand the immediate release of prisoners held solely
17 on account of their religion, including Mrs. Fariba
18 Kamalabadi, Mr. Jamaloddin Khanjani, Mr. Afif
19 Naeimi, Mr. Saeid Rezaie, Mr. Behrouz Tavakkoli,
20 Mrs. Mahvash Sabet, Mr. Vahid Tizfahm, Ms. Raha
21 Sabet, and Mr. Navid Khanjani; and

22 (4) urges the President and Secretary of State
23 to utilize all available measures, such as those avail-
24 able under the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Ac-
25 countability, and Divestment Act of 2010 and Exec-

1 utive Order 13553, to sanction officials of the Gov-
2 ernment of Iran and other individuals directly re-
3 sponsible for egregious human rights violations in
4 Iran, including against the Baha'i community.

