

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 99

Calling on the Government of Iran to follow through on repeated promises of assistance in the case of Robert Levinson, the longest held United States civilian in our Nation's history.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 10, 2015

Mr. NELSON (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. COONS, and Mr. CARPER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

FEBRUARY 10, 2016

Reported by Mr. CORKER, with an amendment and an amendment to the preamble and an amendment to the title

FEBRUARY 11, 2016

Considered, amended, and agreed to with an amended preamble and an amendment to the title

RESOLUTION

Calling on the Government of Iran to follow through on repeated promises of assistance in the case of Robert Levinson, the longest held United States civilian in our Nation's history.

Whereas United States citizen Robert Levinson is a retired agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), a resident of Coral Springs, Florida, the husband of Christine Levinson, and father of their seven children;

Whereas Robert Levinson traveled from Dubai, United Arab Emirates, to Kish Island, Iran, on March 8, 2007;

Whereas after traveling to Kish Island and checking into the Hotel Maryam, Robert Levinson disappeared on March 9, 2007;

Whereas, in December 2007, Robert Levinson's wife, Christine, traveled to Kish Island to retrace Mr. Levinson's steps and met with officials of the Government of Iran who pledged to help in the investigation;

Whereas for more than eight years, the United States Government has continually pressed the Government of Iran to provide any information on the whereabouts of Robert Levinson and to help ensure his prompt and safe return to his family;

Whereas officials of the Government of Iran promised their continued assistance to the relatives of Robert Levinson during the visit of the family to the Islamic Republic of Iran in December 2007;

Whereas, in November 2010, the Levinson family received a video of Mr. Levinson in captivity, representing the first proof of life since his disappearance and providing some initial indications that he was being held somewhere in southwest Asia;

Whereas, in April 2011, the Levinson family received a series of pictures of Mr. Levinson, which provided further indications that he was being held somewhere in southwest Asia;

Whereas Secretary of State John Kerry stated on August 28, 2013, "The United States respectfully asks the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to work coopera-

tively with us in our efforts to help U.S. citizen Robert Levinson.”;

Whereas, on September 28, 2013, during the first direct phone conversation between the heads of governments of the United States and Iran since 1979, President Barack Obama raised the case of Robert Levinson to President of Iran Hassan Rouhani and urged the President of Iran to help locate Mr. Levinson and reunite him with his family;

Whereas, on August 29, 2014, Secretary of State Kerry again stated that the United States “respectfully request[s] the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran work cooperatively with us to find Mr. Levinson and bring him home”;

Whereas, on July 14, 2015, the Governments of the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Russia, China, Germany, and Iran agreed to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action;

Whereas, on January 16, 2016, the Government of Iran released five United States citizens detained in Iran, Jason Rezaian of California, Saeed Abedini of Idaho, Amir Mirzaei Hekmati of Michigan, Matthew Trevithick of Massachusetts, and Nosratollah Khosravi-Roodsari;

Whereas, on January 17, 2016, President Obama stated that “even as we rejoice in the safe return of others, we will never forget about Bob,” referring to Robert Levinson, and that “each and every day but especially today our hearts are with the Levinson family and we will never rest until their family is whole again”;

Whereas, on January 19, 2016, White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest stated that the United States Government

had “secured a commitment from the Iranians to use the channel that has now been opened to secure the release of those individuals that we know were being held by Iran. . .to try and gather information about Mr. Levinson’s possible whereabouts”;

Whereas, on November 26, 2013, Mr. Levinson became the longest held United States civilian in our Nation’s history; and

Whereas the Federal Bureau of Investigation has announced a \$5,000,000 reward for information leading to Mr. Levinson’s safe return: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) recognizes that Robert Levinson is the long-
3 est held United States civilian in our Nation’s his-
4 tory;

5 (2) notes the repeated pledges by and renewed
6 commitment of officials of the Government of Iran
7 to provide their Government’s assistance in the case
8 of Robert Levinson;

9 (3) urges the Government of Iran, as a humani-
10 tarian gesture, to act on its promises to assist in the
11 case of Robert Levinson and to immediately provide
12 all available information from all entities of the Gov-
13 ernment of Iran regarding the disappearance of
14 Robert Levinson to the United States Government;

15 (4) urges the President and the allies of the
16 United States to continue to raise with officials of

1 the Government of Iran the case of Robert Levinson
2 at every opportunity, notwithstanding ongoing and
3 serious disagreements the United States Government
4 has with the Government of Iran on a broad array
5 of issues, including Iran's ballistic missile program,
6 sponsorship of international terrorism, and human
7 rights abuses; and

8 (5) expresses sympathy to the family of Robert
9 Levinson for their anguish and expresses hope that
10 their ordeal can be brought to an end in the near
11 future.

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