

103^D CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. CON. RES. 31

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Concerning the emancipation of the Iranian Baha'i
community.

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Whereas in 1982, 1984, 1988, 1990, and 1992, the Congress, by concurrent resolution, declared that it holds the Government of Iran responsible for upholding the rights of all its nationals, including members of the Baha'i Faith, Iran's largest religious minority;

Whereas in such resolutions and in numerous other appeals, the Congress condemned the Government of Iran's religious persecution of the Baha'i community, including the execution of more than 200 Baha'is, the imprisonment of additional thousands, and other repressive and discriminatory actions against Baha'is based solely upon their religious beliefs;

Whereas in 1992, the Government of Iran summarily executed a leading member of the Baha'i community, arrested and imprisoned several other Baha'is, condemned two Baha'i prisoners to death on account of their religion, and confiscated individual Baha'is' homes and personal properties in several cities;

Whereas the Government of Iran continues to deny the Baha'i community the right to organize, to elect its leaders, to hold community property for worship or assembly, to operate religious schools and to conduct other normal religious community activities; and

Whereas on February 22, 1993, the United Nations Commission on Human Rights published a formerly confidential Iranian government document constituting a blueprint for the destruction of the Baha'i community, which document reveals that these repressive actions are the result of a deliberate policy designed and approved by the highest officials of the Government of Iran: Now, therefore, be it

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

3 (1) continues to hold the Government of Iran
4 responsible for upholding the rights of all its nation-
5 als, including members of the Baha'i community, in
6 a manner consistent with Iran's obligations under
7 the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and
8 other international agreements guaranteeing the civil
9 and political rights of its citizens;

10 (2) condemns the repressive anti-Baha'i policy
11 adopted by the Government of Iran, as set forth in
12 a confidential official document which explicitly
13 states that Baha'is shall be denied access to edu-
14 cation and employment, and that the government's
15 policy is to deal with Baha'is "in such a way that
16 their progress and development are blocked";

17 (3) expresses concern that individual Baha'is
18 continue to suffer from severely repressive and dis-
19 criminatory government actions, solely on account of

1 their religion; and that the Baha'i community con-
2 tinues to be denied legal recognition and the basic
3 rights to organize, elect its leaders, educate its
4 youth, and conduct the normal activities of a law-
5 abiding religious community;

6 (4) urges the Government of Iran to extend to
7 the Baha'i community the rights guaranteed by the
8 Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the
9 international covenants on human rights, including
10 the freedom of thought, conscience, and religion, and
11 equal protection of the law; and

12 (5) calls upon the President to continue—

13 (A) to emphasize that the United States
14 regards the human rights practices of the Gov-
15 ernment of Iran, particularly its treatment of
16 the Baha'i community and other religious mi-
17 norities, as a significant factor in the develop-
18 ment of the United States Government's rela-
19 tions with the Government of Iran;

20 (B) to urge the Government of Iran to
21 emancipate the Baha'i community by granting
22 those rights guaranteed by the Universal Dec-
23 laration of Human Rights and the international
24 covenants on human rights; and

1 (C) to encourage other governments to
2 continue to appeal to the Government of Iran,
3 and to cooperate with other governments and
4 international organizations, including the
5 United Nations and its agencies, in efforts to
6 protect the religious rights of the Baha'is and
7 other minorities through joint appeals to the
8 Government of Iran and through other appro-
9 priate actions.

10 SEC. 2. The Secretary of the Senate shall transmit
11 a copy of this concurrent resolution to the President.

 Passed the Senate November 17 (legislative day, No-
vember 2), 1993.

Attest:

Secretary.