

104TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. CON. RES. 42

Concerning the emancipation of the Iranian Baha'i community.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 9 (legislative day, FEBRUARY 7), 1996

Mrs. KASSEBAUM (for herself, Mr. DODD, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. MACK, Mr. D'AMATO, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. SIMON, Mr. GLENN, Mr. COHEN, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. PELL, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. KOHL, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. HELMS, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. INOUE, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. CHAFEE, and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Concerning the emancipation of the Iranian Baha'i community.

Whereas in 1982, 1984, 1988, 1990, 1992, and 1994 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 the Congress has deplored the Government of Iran's religious persecution of the Baha'i community in such resolutions and in numerous other appeals, and has condemned Iran's execution of more than 200 Baha'is and

the imprisonment of thousands of others solely on account of their religious beliefs;

Whereas the Government of Iran continues to deny individual Baha'is access to higher education and government employment and denies recognition and religious rights to the Baha'i community, according to the policy set forth in a confidential Iranian Government document which was revealed by the United Nations Commission on Human Rights in 1993;

Whereas all Baha'i community properties in Iran have been confiscated by the government and Iranian Baha'is are not permitted to elect their leaders, organize as a community, operate religious schools or conduct other religious community activities guaranteed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; and

Whereas on February 22, 1993, the United Nations Commission on Human Rights published a formerly confidential Iranian Government document that constitutes a blueprint for the destruction of the Baha'i community and 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

1 other international agreements guaranteeing the civil
 2 and political rights of its citizens;

3 (2) condemns the repressive anti-Baha'i policies
 4 and actions of the Government of Iran, including the
 5 denial of legal recognition to the Baha'i community
 6 and the basic rights to organize, elect its leaders,
 7 educate its youth, and conduct the normal activities
 8 of a law-abiding religious community;

9 (3) expresses concern that individual Baha'is
 10 continue to suffer from severely repressive and dis-
 11 criminatory government actions, solely on account of
 12 their religion;

13 (4) urges the Government of Iran to extend to
 14 the Baha'i community the rights guaranteed by the
 15 Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the
 16 international covenants of human rights, including
 17 the freedom of thought, conscience, and religion, and
 18 equal protection of the law; and

19 (5) calls upon the President to continue—

20 (A) to assert the United States Govern-
 21 ment's concern regarding Iran's violations of
 22 the rights of its citizens, including members of
 23 the Baha'i community, along with expressions
 24 of its concern regarding the Iranian Govern-
 25 ment's support for international terrorism and

1 its efforts to acquire weapons of mass destruc-
2 tion;

3 (B) to emphasize that the United States
4 regards the human rights practices of the Gov-
5 ernment of Iran, particularly its treatment of
6 the Baha'i community and other religious mi-
7 norities, as a significant factor in the develop-
8 ment of the United States Government's rela-
9 tions with the Government of Iran;

10 (C) to urge the Government of Iran to
11 emancipate the Baha'i community by granting
12 those rights guaranteed by the Universal Dec-
13 laration of Human Rights and the international
14 covenants on human rights; and

15 (D) to encourage other governments to
16 continue to appeal to the Government of Iran,
17 and to cooperate with other governments and
18 international organizations, including the Unit-
19 ed Nations and its agencies, in efforts to pro-
20 tect the religious rights of the Baha'is and
21 other minorities through joint appeals to the
22 Government of Iran and through other appro-
23 priate actions.

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