

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, and Mr. BROWNBACK) 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 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 educating underprivileged children and gave them 4-year prison terms, which they are serving;

Whereas Ms. Sabet, Mr. Taqva, and Ms. Rooshi 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, on February 11, 2009, the deputy prosecutor in Tehran, Mr. Hassan Haddad, announced that those seven leaders will go on trial at a Revolutionary Court on charges of “espionage for Israel, insulting religious sanctities and propaganda against the Islamic Republic”;

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

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—

1 (1) condemns the Government of Iran for its
 2 state-sponsored persecution of the Baha'i minority
 3 in Iran and its continued violation of the Inter-
 4 national Covenants 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, Mr. Sasan Taqva, and
 12 Ms. Haleh Roohi; and

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

○