

109TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 415

Condemning the repression of the Iranian Baha'i community and calling
for the emancipation of Iranian Baha'is.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 24, 2006

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

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Condemning the repression of the Iranian Baha'i community
and calling for the emancipation of Iranian Baha'is.

Whereas in 1982, 1984, 1988, 1990, 1992, 1994, 1996, and
2000, Congress, by concurrent resolution, declared that it
deplores the religious persecution by the Government of
Iran of the Baha'i community and holds the Government
of Iran responsible for upholding the rights of all Iranian
nationals, including members of the Baha'i Faith;

Whereas on March 20, 2006, the United Nations Special
Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief, Ms. Asma
Jahangir, revealed the existence of a confidential letter
dated October 29, 2005, from the Chairman of the Com-
mand Headquarters of Iran's Armed Forces to the Min-
istry of Information, the Revolutionary Guard, and the
Police Force, stating that the Supreme Leader, Ayatollah

Khamenei, had instructed the Command Headquarters to identify members of the Baha'i Faith in Iran and monitor their activities;

Whereas the United Nations Special Rapporteur expressed “grave concern and apprehension” about the implications of this letter for the safety of the Baha'i community;

Whereas in 2005 the Iranian Government initiated a new wave of assaults, homes raids, harassment, and detentions against Baha'is, and in December 2005, Mr. Zabihullah Mahrami died after 10 years of imprisonment on charges of apostasy due to his membership in the Baha'i Faith; and

Whereas beginning in October 2005, an anti-Baha'i campaign has been conducted in the state-sponsored Kayhan newspaper and in broadcast media: Now, therefore, be it

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

3 (1) condemns the Government of Iran for the
 4 October 29, 2005 letter, calls on the Government of
 5 Iran to immediately cease such activities and all ac-
 6 tivities aimed at the repression of the Iranian Baha'i
 7 community, and continues to hold the Government
 8 of Iran responsible for upholding all the rights of its
 9 nationals, including members of the Baha'i commu-
 10 nity; and

11 (2) requests the President to—

12 (A) call for the Government of Iran to
 13 emancipate the Baha'i community by granting

1 those rights guaranteed by the Universal Dec-
2 laration of Human Rights and other inter-
3 national covenants on human rights;

4 (B) emphasize that the United States re-
5 gards the human rights practices of the Govern-
6 ment of Iran, including its treatment of the
7 Baha'i community and other religious minori-
8 ties, as a significant factor in the foreign policy
9 of the United States Government regarding
10 Iran; and

11 (C) initiate an active and consistent dia-
12 logue with other governments and the European
13 Union in order to persuade the Government of
14 Iran to rectify its human rights practices.

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