

109TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 415

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 20, 2006

Received and referred to the Committee on Foreign 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. Asthma Jahangir, revealed the existence of a confidential letter dated October 29, 2005, from the Chairman of the Command Headquarters of Iran’s Armed Forces to the Ministry 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

1 nationals, including members of the Baha'i commu-
2 nity; and

3 (2) requests the President to—

4 (A) call for the Government of Iran to
5 emancipate the Baha'i community by granting
6 those rights guaranteed by the Universal Dec-
7 laration of Human Rights and other inter-
8 national covenants on human rights;

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

16 (C) initiate an active and consistent dia-
17 logue with other governments and the European
18 Union in order to persuade the Government of
19 Iran to rectify its human rights practices.

Passed the House of Representatives September 19,
2006.

Attest:

KAREN L. HAAS,

Clerk.