



H.Res. 1008 – Condemning the persecution of Baha'is in Iran

FLOOR SITUATION

H.Res. 1008 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Mark Kirk (R-IL) on February 28, 2008. The resolution was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, but was never considered.

H.Res. 1008 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on July 30, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.Res. 1008 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- Condemns the Government of Iran for its state-sponsored persecution of Baha'is, calls on the Government of Iran to immediately cease activities aimed at the repression of the Iranian Baha'i community, and continues to hold the Government of Iran responsible for upholding all the rights of its nationals, including members of the Baha'i community;
- Condemns the Government of Iran's continued imprisonment of individuals without due process and a fair trial;
- Calls on the Government of Iran to immediately release 3 Baha'is: Ms. Raha Sabet, Mr. Sasan Taqva, and Ms. Haleh Roohi; and
- Calls on the Government of Iran and the Iranian Parliament to reject a draft Islamic penal code, which violates Iran's commitments under the International Covenants on Human Rights.

BACKGROUND

Although Iran is a signatory of the International Covenant on Human Rights, the Iranian government has a well-established history of persecuting the Baha'i community in the country. Recent examples of such persecution include the July 2007 destruction of a Baha'i cemetery, the 2007 expulsion of two-thirds of the Baha'i students in Iranian universities, and the arrest and detainment of 54 Baha'is in Shiraz in May 2006.

Baha'is are followers of the Baha'i faith, a religion founded in nineteenth-century Persia. The religion emphasizes the spiritual oneness of humanity and the underlying unity of the major world religions. There are approximately 5 to 6 million Baha'is worldwide. Baha'is are persecuted in many Islamic countries, especially Iran, where over 200 believers have been executed between 1978 and 1998.

STAFF CONTACT

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