



H.Con.Res. 203 - Condemning the persecution of labor rights advocates in Iran

FLOOR SITUATION

H.Con.Res. 203 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 September 5, 2007. The Committee on Foreign Affairs approved the bill, as amended.

H.Con.Res. 203 is expected to be considered on the floor on October 2, 2007.

SUMMARY

H.Con.Res. 203 resolves, with the House of Representatives and Senate concurring, that Congress:

- Condemns the Iranian regime for the arrest and imprisonment of Iranian union leaders Mahmoud Salehi and Mansour Osanloo and demands their immediate release;
- Expresses solidarity with the workers of Iran and stands with them, and with all Iranians, in their efforts to bring political freedom and individual liberty to Iran; and
- Calls on the Iranian regime to respect the right of Iranian workers to form independent associations and unions, as required by its membership in the ILO.

BACKGROUND

Although Iran is a member of the International Labor Organization (ILO) and is legally required to respect ILO core principles, Iran refuses to recognize independent labor unions. In April 2007, Iranian agents imprisoned Mahmoud Salehi, founder of the Saghez Baker Workers Association. This incident was followed by the beating and imprisonment of Mansour Osanloo, president of the Syndicate of Bus Drivers of the Tehran and Suburbs Bus Company, in July 2007. Both men remain in prison today.

COST

CBO has not scored this legislation.

STAFF CONTACT

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