

URL: <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?r104:S26JN6-B1396>:

Saved: August 9, 2005

<i>THIS SEARCH</i>	<i>THIS DOCUMENT</i>	<i>THIS CR ISSUE</i>	<i>GO TO</i>
Next Hit	Forward	Next Document	New CR Search
Prev Hit	Back	Prev Document	HomePage
Hit List	Best Sections	Daily Digest	Help
	Contents Display		

IRANIAN BAHAI COMMUNITY EMANCIPATION (Senate - June 26, 1996)

[Page: S7065] [GPO's PDF](#)

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of House Concurrent Resolution 102.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H.Con.Res. 102) concerning the emancipation of the Iranian Baha'i community.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the concurrent resolution?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mrs. KASSEBAUM. Mr. President, the Senate today will adopt legislation condemning Iran's persecution of the Baha'i community. We have taken similar action in the past, and I regret that our continued vigilance on this matter is required.

We choose today to adopt this legislation in remembrance of a great tragedy for the Baha'i community and for all who value human rights and religious freedom. Thirteen years ago this month, Iranian religious officials executed, by hanging, 10 Baha'i women--including 3 teenage girls--in the city of Shiraz.

This killing of innocent women and children came amid a series of Baha'i executions during the first half of 1983. At the time, President Reagan had expressed America's alarm at the religious persecution of the Baha'is in Iran and had called upon the Iranian leadership to spare the lives of those Baha'is condemned to death in Shiraz. The Iranian response to this plea was to carry out without hesitation the schedule of June executions.

We know that those men, women, and children were executed not for any crimes but for their religious beliefs. We also know the persecution continues to this day in many forms, both great and small.

BP000279

Thirty-nine other Senators have joined with me in sponsoring this legislation, and the Senate today will unanimously adopt an identical resolution already passed by the House of Representatives. By today's action, the U.S. Senate once again will make clear to all who will listen: 'We have not forgotten.'

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, at many times during the past 14 years the Congress has condemned the Government of Iran for its repressive policies and actions toward its Baha'i community. Today, I am honored to be celebrating the passage of a resolution which calls on Iran to change its repressive anti-Baha'i policies and to protect the rights of all its people including religious minority groups such as the Baha'is. The concurrent resolution we are adopting today is similar to the one which Senator Kassebaum, Senator McCain, Senator Dodd, and I submitted in this body in February.

Congress has adopted six previous resolutions on this important issue. The record of their success is certainly a mixed one, at best. Since their enactment, many Baha'is have been penalized by the government, and some even sentenced to death, just because of their religious beliefs. On the contrary, previous resolutions have shown some success as well, particularly in the case of one man who had been sentenced to death for his religious convictions. This man's life was saved as the apostasy case was later overturned by the courts in Iran. Although the relationship between the Baha'is and the Iranian Government has improved since the first resolution was passed, not enough action has been taken. This open policy of repression is in clear violation of the obligation of sovereign states to uphold the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

In the past, President Clinton and former Presidents Reagan and Bush have all shown support of the Baha'is. The United Nations and many of its member states have also adopted numerous resolutions supporting religious freedom in Iran. Today, in adopting this concurrent resolution, we have succeeded in maintaining vigilance on the actions of Iranian Government. Only through continued support for change in the Iranian regime can over 300,000 Baha'is experience true religious freedom.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be considered and agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the resolution appeared in the appropriate place in the **Record**.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 102) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.