

From U.K.

UNANIMOUS RESOLUTION PASSED BY THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
IN STRASBOURG, ON FRIDAY, 19 SEPTEMBER 1980, CONCERNING
THE RIGHTS OF THE BAHÁ'Í COMMUNITY IN ÍRÁN.

The European Parliament



- recalling its unfailing attachment to international protection of human rights,
- recognising in particular the need to protect the rights of religious minorities in all countries,
- concerned at the systematic campaign of persecution directed in Iran against the 300,000 members of the Bahá'í community (the biggest religious minority in Írán) and the accompanying violations of elementary human rights, in particular:
 - (a) the refusal of any legal protection to the Bahá'í minority,
 - (b) the summary arrest, detention and execution of leaders of the Bahá'í community,
 - (c) the confiscation or destruction of the resources and means of subsistence of the Bahá'í and the arbitrary dismissals or refusals to employ Bahá'ís,
 - (d) the threats and acts of violence against the Bahá'ís in an attempt to force them to repudiate their Faith,
 - i) condemns the violation of the human rights of all religious minorities in Írán, more particularly the members of the Bahá'í Faith, whose rights as a religious minority are not recognised by the Íránian Constitution;
 - ii) calls upon the Government of Írán to grant the Bahá'í community the legal recognition and protection to which all minorities are entitled under the provisions of the various UN Acts and Conventions on human rights;
 - iii) also condemns the illegal measures taken against Catholic and Anglican leaders, and the execution of leading members of the Jewish community;
 - iv) calls upon the Foreign Ministers of the European Communities meeting in political cooperation to make urgent representations to the Iranian authorities to put an end to the persecution of the members of the Bahá'í community, and to allow them to practise their religion freely and enjoy all civil, political, social, economic and cultural rights, requests the Commission and Council of the European Communities to impose an embargo on all sales of surplus agricultural products to Írán where subsidies by European taxpayers are involved until full human rights are restored to Íránian citizens;
 - v) instructs its President to forward this Resolution to the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation, to the Government of Írán, to the Governments and Parliaments of the Member States and to the Secretary General of the United Nations.

JUSTIFICATION

All the evidence suggests that the arrests and executions of the Bahá'ís are continuing to increase and are being carried out according to a pre-arranged plan. Only a speedy response by the European Parliament can stop these developments."

BP000421

