

Assembly Joint Resolution

No. 22

Introduced by Assembly Member Miller

July 15, 2009

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 22—Relative to Iranian persecution:
Baha’i.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

AJR 22, as introduced, Miller. Iranian persecution of religious minorities.

This measure would condemn the Government of Iran for its sponsored persecution of members of the Baha’i faith and would request the Government of Iran to immediately release Baha’i leaders, and all other prisoners in Iran who are held solely on account of their religion.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, In November 2007, the Iranian Ministry of
2 Information in Shiraz jailed Ms. Raha Sabet, 33 years of age, Mr.
3 Sasan Taqva, 32 years of age, and Ms. Haleh Roohi, 29 years of
4 age, of the Baha’i faith for educating underprivileged children and
5 condemned them all to four-year prison terms, which they are
6 currently serving; and
7 WHEREAS, Ms. Sabet, Mr. Taqva, and Ms. Roohi were targeted
8 solely because of their religion; and
9 WHEREAS, On January 23, 2008, the United States Department
10 of State released a statement urging the Government of Iran to
11 release all individuals held without due process and a fair trial,
12 including three young Baha’i teachers held in an Iranian Ministry
13 of Intelligence detention center in Shiraz; and

1 WHEREAS, In March and May of 2008, Iranian intelligence
2 officials in Mashhad and Tehran arrested and imprisoned Mrs.
3 Fariba Kamalabadi, Mr. Jamaloddin Khanjani, Mr. Afif Naeimi,
4 Mr. Saeid Rezaie, Mr. Behrouz Tavakkoli, Mrs. Mahvash Sabet,
5 and Mr. Vahid Tizfahm, members of the national coordinating
6 group for the Baha'i community in Iran; and

7 WHEREAS, On February 11, 2009, the deputy prosecutor in
8 Tehran, Mr. Hassan Haddad, announced that the seven Baha'i
9 leaders, will go on trial at a Revolutionary Court on charges of
10 "espionage for Israel, insulting religious sanctities and propaganda
11 against the Islamic Republic"; and

12 WHEREAS, The lawyer for these seven leaders, Mrs. Shirin
13 Ebadi, the Nobel Laureate, has been denied all access to the
14 prisoners and their files; and

15 WHEREAS, The Government of Iran is party to the International
16 Covenants on Human Rights; now, therefore, be it

17 *Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of*
18 *California, jointly,* That the Legislature condemns the Government
19 of Iran and its continued violation of the International Covenants
20 on Human Rights; and be it further

21 *Resolved,* That the Legislature requests on the Government of
22 Iran to immediately release the seven Baha'i leaders and all other
23 prisoners who are held solely on account of their religion, including
24 Mrs. Fariba Kamalabadi, Mr. Jamaloddin Khanjani, Mr. Afif
25 Naeimi, Mr. Saeid Rezaie, Mr. Behrouz Tavakkoli, Mrs. Mahvash
26 Sabet, Mr. Vahid Tizfahm, Ms. Raha Sabet, Mr. Sasan Taqva, and
27 Mrs. Haleh Roohi; and be it further

28 *Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
29 of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United
30 States, and to the author for appropriate distribution.