

*I MINA'TRENTA NA LIHESLATURAN GUÁHAN*  
**2009 (FIRST) Regular Session**

**Resolution No. 148-30 (LS)**

Introduced by:

Judith T. Won Pat, Ed.D.

T. R. Muña Barnes

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Adolpho B. Palacios, Sr.

v. c. pangelinan

M. J. Rector

R. J. Respicio

Ray Tenorio

Telo Taitague

**RELATIVE TO URGING THE UNITED STATES  
CONGRESS AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED  
STATES TO CONTINUE THEIR EFFORTS IN CALLING  
UPON THE IRANIAN GOVERNMENT FOR THE  
IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF THE MEMBERS OF FRIENDS  
OF IRAN AND THE CESSATION OF THE PERSECUTION  
OF THE BAHÁ'Í COMMUNITY IN IRAN.**

1           **BE IT RESOLVED BY I MINA'TRENTA NA LIHESLATURAN**  
2 **GUÅHAN:**

3           **WHEREAS**, founded more than a century and a half ago, members of  
4 the Bahá'í faith live in more than one hundred thousand (100,000) localities  
5 and come from nearly every nation, ethnic group, culture, profession, and  
6 social or economic background.

7           **WHEREAS**, religious tolerance, the unity of mankind, the elimination of  
8 prejudice, equality of the sexes, and universal peace are principles embodied  
9 in the Bahá'í faith; and

10          **WHEREAS**, throughout the past century, the Bahá'ís of Iran have been  
11 persecuted solely on the basis of religious intolerance by Islamic leaders;

12          **WHEREAS**, since coming to power in 1979, Iran's cleric-led Islamic  
13 government has systematically persecuted Bahá'ís in Iran, using execution,  
14 imprisonment, torture, and a wide range of measures designed to impoverish  
15 and drive out the country's largest religious minority; and

16          **WHEREAS**, the government of Iran has outlawed the administrative  
17 institutions of the Bahá'í faith in Iran and has permitted the confiscation,  
18 vandalism or destruction of the holy places, shrines and cemeteries of the  
19 Bahá'ís; and

20          **WHEREAS**, on May 14, 2008, six (6) members of an informal group  
21 known as the Friends of Iran, who coordinates the activities of the Bahá'í  
22 community in the absence of a National Spiritual Assembly in the Cradle of  
23 the Faith, were arrested and taken to the political prisoners section of Evin  
24 prison in Tehran, where the seventh (7<sup>th</sup>) member was already being held,  
25 following her arrest in Mashhad in March 2008; and

1           **WHEREAS**, the Iranian government has announced that these prisoners  
2 will be tried by the Revolutionary Court on charges of “espionage on behalf of  
3 Israel”, “insult to the sacredness (of Islam)”, and “propaganda against the  
4 regime” – all of which are capital offenses; and

5           **WHEREAS**, while such charges might be used by Iranian authorities to  
6 target human rights defenders and religious minorities, there is nothing in the  
7 history or teachings of the Bahá’í community to lend any credence to such  
8 charges; and

9           **WHEREAS**, both the United States government and the United Nations  
10 Human Rights Commission have protested the persistent violations of human  
11 rights and cultural cleansing directed against the Bahá’í community by the  
12 Iranian government; now, therefore, be it

13           **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina’Trenta Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on  
14 behalf of the people of Guam, urge the Congress and the President of the  
15 United States to continue their efforts in calling upon the Iranian government  
16 for the immediate release of the members of Friends of Iran, and all others  
17 held because of their religious belief, and the cessation of the persecution of  
18 the Bahá’í community in Iran and afford them the opportunity to practice  
19 their religion, as guaranteed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;  
20 and be it further

21           **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker certify, and the Legislative Secretary  
22 attest to, the adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter

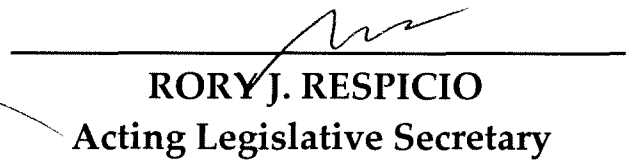
1 transmitted to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United States of  
2 America; to the Honorable Hillary R. Clinton, Secretary of State; to the  
3 Honorable Howard L. Berman, Chairman, U.S. House Committee on Foreign  
4 Affairs; to the Honorable John F. Kerry, Chairman, U.S. Senate Committee on  
5 Foreign Relations; and to the Honorable Felix P. Camacho, *I Maga'lahen*  
6 *Guåhan*.

**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY *I MINA'TRENTA NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN* ON THIS 10<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2009.**



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**BENJAMIN J. F. CRUZ**  
Acting Speaker



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**RORY J. RESPICIO**  
Acting Legislative Secretary