

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

Resolution No. 148-30(LS)

Introduced by:

Judith T. Won Pat, Ed.D.
Tina Rose Muña-Barnes

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 **GUÁHAN:**

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

1 imprisonment, torture, and a wide range of measures designed to impoverish
2 and drive out the country's largest religious minority; and

3 **WHEREAS**, the government of Iran has outlawed the administrative
4 institutions of the Bahá'í faith in Iran and has permitted the confiscation,
5 vandalism or destruction of the holy places, shrines and cemeteries of the
6 Bahá'ís; and

7 **WHEREAS**, on May 14, 2008, six (6) members of an informal group
8 known as the Friends in Iran, who coordinates the activities of the Bahá'í
9 community in the absence of a National Spiritual Assembly in the Cradle of
10 the Faith, were arrested and taken to the political prisoners section of Evin
11 prison in Tehran, where the seventh member was already being held,
12 following her arrest in Mashhad in March 2008; and

13 **WHEREAS**, the Iranian government has announced that these prisoners
14 will be tried by the Revolutionary court on charges of "espionage on behalf of
15 Israel", insult to the sacredness (of Islam)" and "propaganda against the
16 regime" - all of which are capital offenses; and

17 **WHEREAS**, such charges are frequently used by Iranian authorities to
18 target human rights defenders and religious minorities and there is nothing in
19 the history or teachings of the Bahá'í community to lend any credence to such
20 charges; and

21 **WHEREAS**, both the United States government and the United Nations
22 Human Rights Commission have protested the persistent violations of human
23 rights and cultural cleansing directed against the Bahá'í community by the
24 Iranian government; now therefore, be it

1 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina'Trenta Na Liheslaturan Guahan* does hereby, on
2 behalf of the people of Guam urge the Congress and the President of the
3 United States to continue their efforts calling upon the Iranian Government
4 for the immediate release of the members of Friends of Iran and all others held
5 because of their religious belief and cessation of the persecution of the Bahá'í
6 community in Iran and afford them the opportunity to practice their religion,
7 as guaranteed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; and be it
8 further,

9 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker certify, and the Secretary of the
10 Legislature attests to, the adoption hereof and that copies of the same be
11 thereafter transmitted to the Honorable Barrack Obama, President of the
12 United States of America; the Honorable Hillary R. Clinton, Secretary of State;
13 the Honorable Howard L. Berman, Chairman U.S. House Committee on
14 Foreign Affairs; the Honorable John F. Kerry, Chairman U.S. Senate
15 Committee on Foreign Relations; and to the Honorable Felix P. Camacho, *I*
16 *Maga'lahaen Guahan*

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY I MINA'TRENTA NA LIHESLATURAN GUÁHAN ON THE _____ DAY OF _____ 2009.

Judith T. Won Pat, Ed.D.
Speaker

Tina Rose Muña-Barnes
Senator and
Secretary of the Legislature