



SPECIAL REPORT

**Resolved, That the House of Representatives:**

(1) condemns past and present Iranian state-sponsored terrorist attacks against United States citizens and officials, as well as Iranian dissidents, including the Iranian regime's terror plot against the "Free Iran 2018-the Alternative" gathering in Paris;

(2) calls on relevant United States Government agencies to work with European allies, including those in the Balkans where Iran has expanded its presence, to hold Iran accountable for breach-

ing diplomatic privileges, and to call on nations to prevent the malign activities of the Iranian regime's diplomatic missions, with the goal of closing them down, including the Iranian Embassy in Albania;

(3) stands with the people of Iran who are continuing to hold legitimate and peaceful protests against an oppressive and corrupt regime; and

(4) recognizes the rights of the Iranian people and their struggle to establish a democratic, secular, and nonnuclear Republic of Iran.



File photo, the chamber of the House of Representatives is seen at the Capitol (inset) in Washington. (AP)

House reps join in condemning Tehran terror, rights abuse

Resolution backs free, secular, non-nuclear Iran

EXPRESSING support for the Iranian people's desire for a democratic, secular, and nonnuclear Republic of Iran and condemning violations of human rights and state-sponsored terrorism by the Iranian Government.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES February 11, 2021

Mr. McClintock (for himself, Mr. Sherman, Mr. Webster of Florida, Mr. Fitzpatrick, Mr. Loudermilk, Mr. Babin, Mr. Crenshaw, Mr. Bilirakis, Mr. Norman, Mr. Fleischmann, Mr. Hice of Georgia, Mr. Gaetz, Mr. Grothman, Mr. Mast, Mr. Meuser, Mr. Griffith, Mr. Cohen, Mr. Bacon, Mr. Ruiz, Ms. Craig, Mr. Peters, Mr. LaMalfa, Ms. Chu, Mr. Perry, Mr. Luetkemeyer, Mrs. Wagner, Mr. Calvert, Mr. Green of Tennessee, Ms. Brownley, Ms. Stefanik, Mr. Aguilar, Mr. Biggs, Mr. Cartwright, Miss Rice of New York, Mrs. Walorski, Mrs. Lesko, Mr. Budd, Mr. Waltz, Mr. Burchett, Mr. Courtney, Mr. Womack, Mr. Stanton, Ms. Granger, Mr. Lamborn, Mr. Stauber, Mr. Zeldin, Mr. Harder of California, Mr. Allen, Mr. Bera, Mr. Payne, Mr. Cloud, Mr. Wenstrup, Mr. Johnson of Louisiana, Mrs. Napolitano, Ms. Jackson Lee, Mr. Bucshon, Mr. Rouzer, Mr. Timmons, Mr. Steube, Mr. Rutherford, Mr. Burgess, Mr. Weber of Texas, Mr. Brady, Mr. Hudson, Mr. Latta, Mr. Rogers of Kentucky, Mrs. McBath, Miss González-Colón, Mr. Vicente Gonzalez of Texas, Mr. LaHood, Mr. Ferguson, Mr. Estes, Mrs. Rodgers of Washington, Mr. Katko, Mr. Cline, Mr. Keller, Mr. Diaz-Balart, Mr. Guthrie, Mrs. Fletcher, Mrs. Miller of West Virginia, Mr. Aderholt, Mr. Crawford, Mr. Wilson of South Carolina, Mr. Smith of Missouri, Ms. Malliotakis, Mr. Gonzalez of Ohio, Mr. Young, Mr. Guest, Mr. Barr, Mr. Gooden of Texas, Mr. Taylor, Mr. Larson of Connecticut, Mr. Costa, Mr. DesJarlais, Mr. Austin Scott of Georgia, Mr. Schweikert, Mr. Moore of Alabama, Ms. Wilson of Florida, Mrs. Hartzler, Mr. Emmer, Mr. Fulcher, Mr. Moolenaar, Mr. Nehls, Mr. Johnson of Ohio, Mr. Westerman, Mr. Hagedorn, Mr. Allred, Mr. Hill, Mr. Huizenga, Mr. Phillips, Mr. Newhouse, Mr. Brooks, and Mr. Amodei) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

RESOLUTION

Expressing support for the Iranian people's desire for a democratic, secular, and nonnuclear Republic of Iran and condemning violations of human rights and state-sponsored terrorism by the Iranian Government.

Whereas beginning in 2017, and continuing for several months after protests erupted in more than 100 cities, the Iranian regime suppressed such protests with repressive forces that resulted in at least 25 deaths and 4,000 arrests, including decorated wrestling champion Navid Afkari, who was later executed in September 2020 amidst international outrage;

Significance of H.Res. 118 with Bi-partisan House Majority Support

1. The initiative is bipartisan and with more than 220 House members, welcoming the Administration's offer to consult with U.S. Congress when determining its Iran policy.
2. This resolution is timely because it offers the sense of congress in the first 100 days of the Biden Administration.
3. It is brought to the administration's attention, before President speaks before the joint session of Congress on April 28th.
4. This resolution serves as a strong bipartisan sense of congress as the Biden Administration is engaged in the talks in Vienna, to ensure that the talks are not limited to the nuclear issue.
5. The administration has said that democracy and human rights is at the core of American foreign policy. Thus, the initiative reflects the sense of congress that ending the Iranian

regime's terrorism, its egregious human rights violations and expressing support for the Iranian people's struggle for a free democratic non-nuclear republic Iran should be at the core of U.S. policy on Iran.

6. This resolution emphasizes on the solution that is based on recognizing the rights of the Iranian people and their struggle to establish a democratic, secular, and nonnuclear Republic of Iran.

7. This resolution is very timely because it addresses Iran's state-sponsored terrorism, particularly the February 4th Belgian court verdict on Assadollah Assadi, Iran's top diplomat in Europe, who was found guilty and sentenced to 20 years for being the operational commander of a terror plot against the 2018 Free Iran Gathering in Paris.

8. The resolution notes the "support for the op-

position leader Mrs. Maryam Rajavi's 10-point plan for the future of Iran, which calls for the universal right to vote, free elections, and a market economy, and advocates gender, religious, and ethnic equality, a foreign policy based on peaceful coexistence, and a nonnuclear Iran." Mrs. Rajavi was also the main target of the 2018 Paris terror plot for which an Iranian diplomat was convicted by a Belgian court.

9. The resolution also highlights the Iranian regime's threats against the opposition, MEK in Albania, for which four Iranian diplomats were expelled and the need to close the Iranian embassies in Europe especially in Albania.

10. It refers to the 2018 terror plot against NCFI officials in the U.S., and the need to hold the regime accountable for its crimes against humanity especially the massacre of 30,000 political prisoners in 1988.

Whereas, on November 15, 2019, popular protests against the Iranian regime began and rapidly spread to at least 100 cities throughout the country, and reports indicate that Iranian security forces used lethal force and about 1,500 people were killed during less than two weeks of unrest, and thousands more were detained during these protests;

Whereas, in the 116th Congress, the House of Representatives passed House Resolution 752, "Supporting the rights of the people of Iran to free expression, condemning the Iranian regime for its crackdown on legitimate protests, and for other purposes.";

Whereas House Resolution 752 urges the Administration to work to convene emergency sessions of the United Nations Security Council and to work with United States partners and allies to condemn the ongoing human rights violations perpetrated by the Iranian regime and establish a mechanism by which the United Nations Security Council can monitor such violations;

Whereas according to a September 2, 2020, Amnesty International report, detained protesters were subjected to "widespread torture including beatings, floggings, electric shocks, stress positions, mock executions, waterboarding, sexual violence, forced administration of chemical substances, and depriva-

tion of medical care";

Whereas, from January 11 to 13, 2020, protesters gathered across Iran chanting against Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei and the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps after it shot down a Ukrainian passenger plane killing 176 civilians, and Iranian authorities deployed tear gas and live ammunition against the protesters;

Whereas the Iranian regime has routinely violated the human rights of Iranian citizens, including by implementing ongoing, systematic, and serious restrictions of freedom of peaceful assembly and association and freedom of opinion and expression, including the continuing closures of media outlets, arrests of journalists, and the censorship of expression in online forums such as blogs and websites;

Whereas the Iranian regime has killed or arrested more than 860 journalists since 1979;

Whereas the Iranian regime has lured three political activists to Iran's neighboring countries, where they were abducted and transferred to Iran, of which one, Ruhollah Zam, was executed on December 12, 2020;

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editor's choice

