

The Baha'is of the United States have worked with members of Congress for more than 30 years to pass resolutions that condemn the state-sponsored persecution of Iran's 300,000-member Baha'i minority, which has been marked by the execution of hundreds of Baha'is, the imprisonment of thousands more, and systematic and severe economic and social pressure on the Baha'i community. These resolutions shine a light on the actions of the Iranian authorities, and they contribute to an international outcry that has helped to mitigate the severity of the persecution.

### **May 13, 2016 Congressional Call-In Day**

May 14 will mark the seventh anniversary of the imprisonments of the seven members of the former ad hoc leadership group of the Baha'i community of Iran, known as the Yaran-i-Iran, or the "Friends of Iran." In honor of this anniversary, people around the country will be calling the Washington D.C. offices of their representatives on Friday, May 13 to ask them to cosponsor a resolution now pending in the House of Representatives that condemns the state-sponsored persecution of the Baha'i community in Iran.

The resolution is [House Resolution 220 \(H.Res.220\)](#).

(Please do not refer to the resolution as H.R.220, as this designation refers to other legislation.)

House Resolution 220 details the systematic and brutal persecution of the Baha'i community in Iran, and condemns the actions of the Iranian government toward its Baha'i citizens. It calls for the release of all Baha'i prisoners – including the Baha'i leaders – and all other religious prisoners in Iran. It also expresses the desire of the Congress that the President and Secretary of State demand the release of these individuals. Finally, it calls on the President and Secretary of State to impose sanctions on individual officials within the Iranian government who are responsible for serious human rights abuses.

(Note that House Resolution 220 was introduced in April 2015 along with an identical resolution in the Senate, Senate Resolution 148. This companion resolution passed the Senate in December 2015 with strong bipartisan support. It is hoped that the House resolution will also be passed soon with strong bipartisan support.)

As in prior years, please take action on behalf of the Baha'is of Iran:

1. Determine who your representative is and obtain contact information for his or her office by visiting the U.S. House of Representative's [Find Your Representative](#) page and entering your zip code.
2. Check the [list of cosponsors of House Resolution 220](#) to see if your Representative has cosponsored it.
3. If your Representative has not yet signed on as a cosponsor of the new resolutions, call his or her Washington, D.C. office and express your hope that he or she will cosponsor it. If your Representative has already cosponsored, call his or her Washington, D.C. office and thank the Representative for his or her support as a cosponsor.
4. Ask sympathetic neighbors, family members, and friends to join this effort and call their legislators.

These are the points you should make when speaking with staff members in your representative's office:

- Explain that May 14 is the eighth anniversary of the incarceration of seven Baha'i leaders in Iran, who have been jailed for no reason other than their membership in the Baha'i Faith and their service to the Baha'i community.
- Note that House Resolution 220 details the systematic and brutal persecution of the Baha'i community in Iran, and condemns the actions of the Iranian government toward its Baha'i citizens.
- Note that House Resolution 220's companion resolution in the Senate, Senate Resolution 148, was passed in December 2015 with strong bipartisan support and you hope the House resolution will also be passed soon with strong bipartisan support.
- If the representative is not yet a cosponsor, express your hope that he or she will cosponsor the pending resolution, H.Res.220, in defense of Baha'is – including the so-called "Baha'i Seven" – and other prisoners of conscience in Iran, as soon as possible. If your representative is a cosponsor, express your thanks for his or her support.