

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE BAHÁ'ÍS OF THE UNITED STATES

April 27, 2017

To the American Bahá'í community

Dearest Bahá'í Friends,

On May 14, the seven members of the Yaran, unofficial leaders of the beleaguered but unbowed Bahá'í community of Iran, will enter the tenth year of their incarceration. These five men and two women have now served nine long and difficult years behind bars for no other crime than their peaceful practice of the teachings of our Faith. Their imprisonment—and the imprisonment of 90 other believers—is but one more facet of a relentless campaign of harassment that has been waged against Iran's Bahá'ís and is another in a shameful assortment of indignities and injustices that have been visited on them.

This year, to mark what we hope will be the last anniversary of their imprisonment, we are once again asking Bahá'ís across the country to join in a congressional “call-in day” centering on resolutions currently pending in both houses of Congress condemning this persecution. The resolutions are identified as:

- House Resolution 274 (or H.Res.274) in the House of Representatives
- Senate Resolution 139 (or S.Res.139) in the Senate

In the past, there has been strong bipartisan support in both houses of Congress for such resolutions and we believe these will similarly garner broad-based support. We encourage you to telephone your congressional representative and both senators, asking them to support Iran's Bahá'ís by cosponsoring House Resolution 274 or Senate Resolution 139 if they have not already done so. Individual Bahá'ís can enlist the support of family, friends, and neighbors in making these calls; Local Spiritual Assemblies can call on their contacts in the larger community, including interfaith groups and other like-minded organizations.

Please make every effort to place a call to your representative's and senators' Washington offices on Friday, May 12, as a large volume of calls received on one day will increase their impact. As this is a telephone campaign, do not send requests in writing, whether by email or otherwise. Further, do not attempt to engage your representative's or senators' office staffs in conversation beyond a simple request for cosponsoring the resolutions. Each call should take only a few minutes.

For further information, we suggest you visit our [Office of Public Affairs' website](#). Please also review the [detailed instructions for the May 12 call-in campaign](#) available there. Note that this is a public page that can be freely shared with others. Questions should be directed to the Office of Public Affairs either by telephone (at 202.833.8990) or email (at BahaisUS@usbnc.org).

Your willingness, time and again, to arise in defense of Iran's Bahá'ís is a source of great strength and hopefulness to our beloved co-religionists. We feel certain this effort to reach out to members of Congress on behalf of the Yaran will send the Iranian regime a powerful message that the international community will neither be silent nor stand idly by in the face of its disgraceful treatment of its law-abiding Bahá'í citizens.

With loving Bahá'í greetings,



Kenneth E. Bowers
Secretary