

non-Muslim religious minority in Iran, long has been subject to particularly severe religious freedom violations. The government views Baha'is, who number at least 300,000, as 'heretics' and consequently they face repression on the grounds of apostasy.'";

Whereas the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom 2014 Report stated that "[s]ince 1979, authorities have killed or executed more than 200 Baha'i leaders, and more than 10,000 have been dismissed from government and university jobs" and "[m]ore than 700 Baha'is have been arbitrarily arrested since 2005";

Whereas the Department of State 2013 International Religious Freedom Report stated that the Government of Iran "prohibits Baha'is from teaching and practicing their faith and subjects them to many forms of discrimination not faced by members of other religious groups" and "since the 1979 Islamic Revolution, formally denies Baha'i students access to higher education";

Whereas the Department of State 2013 International Religious Freedom Report stated, "The government requires Baha'is to register with the police," and "The government raided Baha'i homes and businesses and confiscated large amounts of private and commercial property, as well as religious materials.";

Whereas the Department of State 2013 International Religious Freedom Report stated, "Baha'is are regularly denied compensation for injury or criminal victimization and the right to inherit property.";

Whereas, on August 27, 2014, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran issued a report (A/69/356), which stated, "The human rights situation in the Islamic Republic of Iran remains of concern. Numerous issues flagged by the General Assembly, the United Nations human rights mechanisms and the Secretary-General persist, and in some cases appear to have worsened, some recent overtures made by the Administration and the parliament notwithstanding.";

Whereas, on December 18, 2014, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution (A/RES/69/190), which "[e]xpress[ed] deep concern" over "[c]ontinued discrimination, persecution and human rights violations against persons belonging to unrecognized religious minorities, particularly members of the Baha'i [F]aith. . . and the effective criminalization of membership in the Baha'i [F]aith," and called upon the Government of Iran to "emancipate the Baha'i community. . . and to accord all Baha'is, including those imprisoned because of their beliefs, the due process of law and the rights that they are constitutionally guaranteed";

Whereas, since May of 2008, the Government of Iran has imprisoned the seven members of the former ad hoc leadership group of the Baha'i community in Iran, known as the Yaran-i-Iran, or "friends of Iran"—Mrs. Fariba Kamalabadi, Mr. Jamaloddin Khanjani, Mr. Afif Naeimi, Mr. Saeid Rezaie, Mr. Behrouz Tavakkoli, Mrs. Mahvash Sabet, and Mr. Vahid Tizfahm—and these individuals are serving 20-year prison terms, the longest sentences given to any current prisoner of conscience in Iran, on charges including "spying for Israel, insulting religious sanctities, propaganda against the regime and spreading corruption on earth";

Whereas, beginning in May 2011, officials of the Government of Iran in 4 cities conducted sweeping raids on the homes of dozens of individuals associated with the Baha'i Institute for Higher Education (BIHE) and arrested and detained several educators associated with BIHE, and 12 BIHE educators are now serving 4- or 5-year prison terms;

Whereas scores of Baha'i cemeteries have been attacked, and, in April 2014, Revolu-

tionary Guards began excavating a Baha'i cemetery in Shiraz, which is the site of 950 graves;

Whereas the Baha'i International Community reported that there has been a recent surge in anti-Baha'i hate propaganda in Iranian state-sponsored media outlets, noting that, in 2010 and 2011, approximately 22 anti-Baha'i articles were appearing every month, and, in 2014, the number of anti-Baha'i articles rose to approximately 401 per month—18 times the previous level;

Whereas there are currently 100 Baha'is in prison in Iran;

Whereas the Government of Iran is party to the International Covenants on Human Rights and is in violation of its obligations under the Covenants; and

Whereas the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-195) authorizes the President and the Secretary of State to impose sanctions on individuals "responsible for or complicit in, or responsible for ordering, controlling, or otherwise directing, the commission of serious human rights abuses against citizens of Iran or their family members on or after June 12, 2009": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the Government of Iran's state-sponsored persecution of its Baha'i minority and its continued violation of the International Covenants on Human Rights;

(2) calls on the Government of Iran to immediately release the 7 imprisoned Baha'i leaders, the 12 imprisoned Baha'i educators, and all other prisoners held solely on account of their religion;

(3) calls on the President and Secretary of State, in cooperation with responsible nations, to immediately condemn the Government of Iran's continued violation of human rights and demand the immediate release of prisoners held solely on account of their religion; and

(4) urges the President and Secretary of State to utilize available authorities, including the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010, to impose sanctions on officials of the Government of Iran and other individuals directly responsible for serious human rights abuses, including abuses against the Baha'i community of Iran.

SENATE RESOLUTION 149—RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE AND INSPIRATION OF THE HUBBLE SPACE TELESCOPE

Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. DURBIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 149

Whereas the launch of the Hubble Space Telescope on April 24, 1990, from the Kennedy Space Center marked a historic moment in space discovery and observation;

Whereas the National Aeronautics and Space Administration designed, built, and placed the Hubble Space Telescope into orbit;

Whereas the Space Shuttle Discovery transported the Hubble Space Telescope on the STS-31 mission and placed the Telescope into orbit at 380 statute miles;

Whereas the crew on the Space Shuttle Discovery consisted of Commander Loren J. Shriver, Pilot Charles F. Bolden, Jr., Mission Specialist Bruce McCandless II, Mission Specialist Kathryn D. Sullivan, and Mission Specialist Steven A. Hawley;

Whereas the Hubble Space Telescope weighed more than 24,000 pounds at launch,

currently weighs 27,000 pounds following the final servicing mission in 2009, and measures more than 43 feet in length;

Whereas the Hubble Space Telescope orbits the Earth at 17,000 miles per hour and has completed more than 3,000,000,000 miles of orbit around the Earth;

Whereas the Hubble Space Telescope continues to provide more than 10 Terabytes of data annually and has been heralded as one of the most productive scientific instruments known to man;

Whereas the spirit of discovery, innovation, and exploration is enshrined in the productivity of the Hubble Space Telescope; and

Whereas the Hubble Space Telescope has made significant advancements and discoveries in planetary sciences, cosmology, and galactic sciences: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the National Aeronautics and Space Administration on the 25th anniversary of the Hubble Space Telescope launch;

(2) recognizes the scientists, crew, engineers, and staff who contributed to the success of the Hubble Space Telescope;

(3) notes the significance of the discoveries and contributions to science of the Hubble Space Telescope as well as the subsequent innovations that were derived from the data collected from the Hubble Space Telescope; and

(4) acknowledges that the Hubble Space Telescope has captured images from and answered questions about space and has inspired generations of young people to go into the fields of science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and research.

SENATE RESOLUTION 150—EX- PRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE ABOUT THE IMPOR- TANCE OF EFFECTIVE CIVIC AND GOVERNMENT EDUCATION PRO- GRAMS IN SCHOOLS IN THE UNITED STATES

Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. CARDIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 150

Whereas civic and government education is essential to the preservation and improvement of the constitutional government of the United States;

Whereas civic and government education programs foster understanding of the history and principles of the constitutional government of the United States, including principles that are embodied in certain fundamental documents and speeches, such as the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the United States, the Bill of Rights, the Federalist Papers, the Gettysburg Address, and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech;

Whereas research shows that too few people in the United States understand basic principles of the constitutional government of the United States, such as the natural rights set forth in the Declaration of Independence, the existence and functions of the 3 branches of the Federal Government, checks and balances, and other concepts fundamental to informed citizenship;

Whereas, since the founding of the United States, schools in the United States have had a strong civic mission to prepare students to be informed, rational, humane, and involved citizens who are committed to the values and principles of the constitutional government of the United States;

Whereas a free society relies on the knowledge, skills, and virtue of the citizens of the