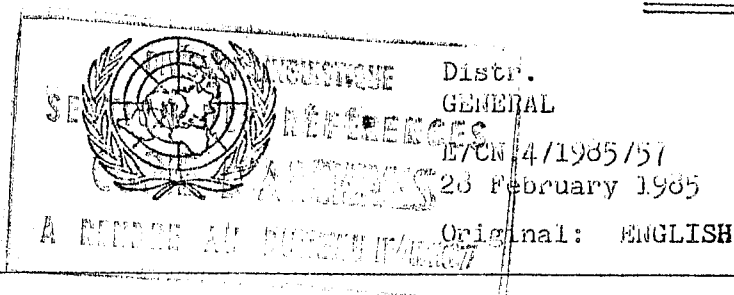


UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC
AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL



COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Forty-first session
Agenda item 12

QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS
IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO COLONIAL
AND OTHER DEPENDENT COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES

Letter dated 28 February 1985 from the Permanent Representative of
United States of America to the United Nations Office at Geneva
addressed to the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights

My delegation has been asked to transmit to you the enclosed letter,
signed by over 150 members of the United States Senate and the United States
House of Representatives, on the subject of the persecution of the Baha'is
in Iran.

I request that this letter be issued by the Commission Secretariat as
an official document of the Commission and circulated to all of its members.

(Signed) Richard Schifter
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

To the Members of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights:

We are writing to express our deep concern for the systematic repression of the Baha'i community by the Government of Iran.

Guided by the principles embodied in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, your organization over the last three years has adopted a series of resolutions condemning the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for its numerous violations of human rights, and particularly for its brutal persecution of the Baha'is, Iran's largest religious minority.

The shock and dismay of the civilized world has been expressed repeatedly, through statements by prominent individuals and Government leaders (including the President of the United States), and in the formal protests of legislative bodies such as the Parliaments of Canada, Australia, Switzerland and the legislatures of many of the States of the United States of America. In September 1982 and again in June 1984 the United States Congress unanimously adopted concurrent resolutions protesting the repression of the Iranian Baha'is and calling upon the international community to raise its voice in defence of this peaceful and law-abiding community.

Current reports from Iran show that the pressure against the Baha'is has not ceased. Since last September, 16 more Baha'is have been executed or have died in gaols, many of them as a result of severe torture. More than 700 Baha'is are currently held in various prisons. Recently, they have been offered their freedom if they will sign a pledge stating that they do not possess, either on their person or in their homes, any book, picture or symbol of the Baha'i faith; moreover, they are forced to state that such a possession would be tantamount to "being of those 'who war against God'" - a crime which is generally considered to be a capital offence.

While all Baha'is have been discharged from Government service, many are now being compelled to repay all the salaries which they had legally earned during their years of service; retirees are required to return their pensions or face imprisonment.

Finally, and most significantly, last December Iran's Ambassador to the United Nations declared that his country would not hesitate to violate provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

We are committed to the axiom that it is unconscionable to stand silent in the face of such injustice.

Considering these relentless acts of savagery against the innocent, we appeal to you, as the world's foremost guardian of human rights, to adopt yet another resolution reaffirming your commitment to human rights for the people of Iran and calling for the Government to cease its persecution of the Baha'i religious minority. You can send a clear signal to the Iranian regime that the world notices and condemns this serious violation of internationally-accepted standards of fundamental human rights.

Signed,

Members of the United States Senate:

Christopher Dodd
George Mitchell
John Heinz
Alan Simpson
Daniel Patrick Moynihan
David F. Durenberger
James A. McClure
Dan Quayle
Lawton Chiles
Larry Pressler
J. James Exon
Alan Cranston
Pete Wilson
Alan J. Dixon
John F. Kerry
John P. East
Robert T. Stafford
Dennis Deconcini
Sam Nunn
Strom Thurmond
Gordon Humphrey
John Glenn
Jeff Bingaman
Jeremiah Denton

Richard Lugar
Rudy Boschwitz
Claiborne Pell
Paul Sarbanes
Carl Levin
Paul Laxalt
Quentin N. Burdick
Ernest F. Hollings
Nancy L. Kassebaum
Jesse Helms
Mack Mattingly
John Melcher
David Pryor
Paul S. Tribble, Jr.
Alfonse M. D'Amato
Steven Symms
Paul Simon
William S. Cohen
John C. Danforth
Edward Zorinsky
Frank H. Murkowski
Jim Sasser
Bill Bradley

Members of the United States House of Representatives

Tom Lantos
John E. Porter
Bob Edgar
Claude Pepper
Henry Hyde
Ben Gilman
Louis Stokes
Timothy E. Wirth
Ed Markey
Walter Fauntroy
Norman Lent
Tony Hill
Stephen Neal
Don Edwards
Jim Jeffords

Jim Leach
Gus Yatron
Chalmers Wylie
Sidney Yates
Les Aucoin
Tony Beilenson
George Brown
James Howard
Ronald Dellums
Cecil Heftel
Peter Rodino
Dale Kildee
Robert Lagomarsino
Joe Addabbo
Dan Glickman

Ted Weiss
Mary Rose Oakar
Sil Conte
Barney Frank
Howard Berman
Chester Atkins
Claudine Schneider
John Kasich
John Seiberling
Sala Burton
Gerry Studds
Wayne Fowler
Larry Smith
J.J. Pickle
Richard Durbin
Mel Levine
Doug Bereuter
Barbara Boxer
Vic Fazio
Major Owens
Bill Hughes
Bernard Dwyer
Buddy MacKay
Jim Cooper
Thomas Manton
Julian Dixon
Tony Coelho
Harry Reid
Bruce Benito
George Miller
Henry Nowak
Mike Lowry
Howard Wolpe
Hamilton Fish, Jr.
Matthew Martinez
Jim Oberstar
Albert Bustamante

Jim Scheuer
Matt McHugh
~~Parran~~ Mitchell
John McCain
Charles Stenholm
Steve Solarz
Tommy Robinson
Pete Stark
Jaime Fuster
Steny Hoyer
Mervyn Dymally
Marcy Kaptur
Ben Erdreich
Mike Andrews
Martin Frost
Mike Barnes
Norman Mineta
Bryon Dorgan
Judd Gregg
Robert Garcia
Robert Torricelli
Martin Sabo
Ray McGrath
Bob Mrazek
John Bryant
Chris Smith
Bill Green
Matt Benaldo
Ed Madigan
Rich Boucher
Jim Weaver
Charles Wilson
Bill Lehman
Jim Kolbe
Pat Williams
Barbara Kennelly
Dante Fascell