



Legislation Text

File #: Res 1463-2000, **Version:** *

Res. No. 1463

Resolution calling upon President Clinton and the United States Congress to sever all diplomatic and economic ties with Iran until the ten Jewish prisoners are released unharmed.

By Council Members Dear, Berman, Carrion, Eisland, Henry, Koslowitz, Linares, Nelson and Golden; also Council Members McCaffrey, Michels, O'Donovan, Quinn and Rivera

Whereas, Thirteen members of the Jewish community of Iran were arrested by Iranian authorities in March 1999; and

Whereas, The thirteen prisoners were tried on charges of spying for Israel and the United States; and

Whereas, It is widely believed that the only significant evidence supporting the charges were torture-induced confessions made without the presence of legal counsel; and

Whereas, Ten of the prisoners, including Hamid "Daniel" Tefileen, Asher Zadmehr, Ramin Nematizadeh, Mechanech Nasser Levihaïm, Ramin Farzam, Javid Ben-Yacoub, Farhad Seleh, Shahrokh Paknahad, Farzad Kashi, and Farmaraz Kashi were convicted and sentenced to varying lengths of time in Iranian prisons; and

Whereas, The trial and conviction of these ten men have been criticized worldwide as a blatant violation of human rights by the tyrannical hardliners of the Iranian government; and

Whereas, New York City is home to a large Jewish community of Iranian origin and to a diverse population that opposes all violations of human rights; and

Whereas, The New York City Council will not accept this ongoing violation of the rights of the ten remaining prisoners in Iran; and

Whereas, There have been numerous recent initiatives intended to expand the economic relationship between the U.S. and Iran; and

Whereas, The United States should end all initiatives to expand its economic relationship with Iran; and

Whereas, The U.S. should completely sever all existing economic and diplomatic ties with Iran in order to compel the authoritarian republic to release the ten men; now, therefore, be it,

Resolved, That the Council of the City of New York calls upon President Clinton and the United States Congress to sever all diplomatic and economic ties with Iran until the ten Jewish prisoners are released unharmed.

MW:bg
LS#3275
7/17/00

[1013]

- 2 -