



Legislation Text

File #: Res 1981-2001, **Version:** *

Res. No. 1981

Resolution condemning the Taliban government of Afghanistan for its continuing repressive practices toward women and religious minorities.

By Council Members Freed, Malave-Dilan, Michels, Nelson, Abel and Oddo; also Council Members Eisland, Fisher, Foster, Harrison, Koslowitz and Povman

Whereas, The Taliban government of Afghanistan, since its inception, has imposed the severest repression upon women, as well as ethnic and religious minorities; and

Whereas, Recently, it has been reported that the Taliban has ordered non-Muslim residents to wear a identifying badge or mark on their clothing, distinguishing them from the nation's Muslim majority; and

Whereas, This measure, the setting aside and cataloging of an entire group, based on their religion, is a frightening portent, as it opens the floodgates for a whole series of repressive measures that could follow; and

Whereas, An ominous glimpse of a possible future, the measure is also a disturbing echo of a terrible past, one of history's darkest chapters, when Jews in Nazi Germany were forced to wear identifying marks on their clothing, a preliminary measure that presaged one of the worst atrocities ever committed; and

Whereas, The Taliban regime also employs repressive measures against women, severely restricting their civil rights, and treating them as chattel, possessions of their fathers or their husbands; and

Whereas, The regime also requires women to wear burquas whenever in public, heavy full-body coverings which constrain movement tremendously; and

Whereas, The Taliban regime continues to harbor Osama Bin Laden, who has claimed credit for a number of terrorist actions against Americans, including the bombings of the American embassies in Kenya and Tanzania and the bombing of the USS Cole in Aden Harbor, and who has promised further aggressions against Americans; and

Whereas, Acts of persecution, whether against women or against religious minorities, should not be countenanced; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Council of the City of New York condemns the Taliban government of Afghanistan for its continuing repressive practices toward women and religious minorities.