

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1980 - 1981

16 SEPTEMBER 1980

DOCUMENT 1-397/80/rev.

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr LALOR and Mr ISRAEL on behalf of
the Group of European Progressive Democrats,

Mr GLINNE and Mrs van den HEUVEL on behalf
of the Socialist Group,

Mr KLEPSCH, Mrs CASSANMAGNAGO CERRETTI,
Mr VERGEER and others on behalf of the
European People's Party,

Mr SCOTT-HOPKINS, Mr PURVIS, Mr PRAG and others^{*}
on behalf of the European Democratic Group,

Mr BANGEMANN and Mr BERKHOUWER on behalf of the
Liberal and Democratic Group

with request for urgent debate

pursuant to Rule 14 of the Rules of Procedure

on the persecution of the members of the
Bahai community in Iran

^{*} The request for urgent debate was also signed by Mr BATTERSBY, Mr BEAZLEY, Lord BETHELL, Miss BROOKES, Mr CURRY, Mr de FERRANTI, Mr FERGUSON, Mr HARRIS, Miss HOOPER, Mr HUTTON, Mr KELLETT-BOWMAN, Mrs KELLETT-BOWMAN, Mr KIRK, Mr de COURCY LING, Mr MØLLER, Mr MORELAND, Sir David NICOLSON, Mr PATTERSON, Mr PRAG, Mr PRICE, Mr PROVAN, Mr PURVIS, Miss ROBERTS, Mr SELIGMAN, Mr SHERLOCK, Mr SIMMONDS, Mr SPENCER, Mr SPICER, Sir John STEWART-CLARK, Mr TURNER, Mr TYRRELL, Sir Frederick WARNER and Mr WELSH

The European Parliament,

- recalling its unfailing attachment to international protection of human rights,
 - recognizing in particular the need to protect the rights of religious minorities in all countries,
 - concerned at the systematic campaign of persecution directed in Iran against the 300,000 members of the Bahai community (the biggest religious minority in Iran) and the accompanying violations of elementary human rights, in particular:
 - (a) the refusal of any legal protection to the Bahai minority,
 - (b) the summary arrest, detention and execution of leaders of the Bahai community,
 - (c) the confiscation or destruction of the resources and means of subsistence of the Bahai and the arbitrary dismissals or refusals to employ Bahais,
 - (d) the threats and acts of violence against the Bahais in an attempt to force them to repudiate their faith,
1. Condemns the violation of the human rights of all religious minorities in Iran, more particularly the members of the Bahai faith whose rights as a religious minority are not recognized by the Iranian constitution;
 2. Calls upon the Government of Iran to grant the Bahai community the legal recognition and protection to which all minorities are entitled under the provisions of the various UN pacts and conventions on human rights;
 3. Also condemns the illegal measures taken against Catholic and Anglican leaders and the execution of leading members of the Jewish community;
 4. Calls upon the Foreign Ministers of the European Communities meeting in political cooperation to make urgent representations to the Iranian authorities to put an end to the persecution of the members of the Bahai community and to allow them to practise their religion freely and enjoy all civil, political, social, economic and cultural rights;
 5. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation, to the Government of Iran, to the governments and parliaments of the Member States and to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Justification

All the evidence suggests that the arrests and executions of the Bahais are continuing to increase and are being carried out according to a pre-arranged plan. Only a speedy response by the European Parliament can stop these developments.