

I voted on H.Res. 556, condemning the government of Iran for its continued persecution, imprisonment, and sentencing of Youcef Nadarkhani on the charge of apostasy.

This resolution condemns the government of Iran for its violations of human rights people, including persecution of religious minorities in Iran. The legislation also calls for Iran to exonerate and release Youcef Nadarkhani and other individuals held or charged on account of their religion or politics. In 2009, Youcef Nadarkhani, an Iranian Christian, protested a law that would impose Islam on his children. In 2010, an Iranian court accused him of abandoning Islam and condemned him to death.

In 2007, Iran published a draft penal code which requires the death penalty for apostates (converts from Islam). In recent years there has been a significant increase in Iranian authorities raiding religious services, detaining worshippers and clergy, and members of religious minorities.

The resolution was approved by a vote of 417 - 1.