

House Resolution 1066

By: Representatives Momtahan of the 17th, Sainz of the 180th, Hilton of the 48th, Gullett of the 19th, Thomas of the 21st, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Expressing support for the Iranian people's desire for a democratic, secular, and non-nuclear
2 Republic of Iran and condemning violations of human rights and state sponsored terrorism
3 by the Iranian government; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, beginning in 2017 and continuing for several months after protests erupted in
5 more than 100 cities, the Iranian regime suppressed such protests with repressive forces that
6 resulted in at least 25 deaths and 4,000 arrests, including decorated wrestling champion
7 Navid Afkari, who was later executed in September 2020 amidst international outrage; and

8 WHEREAS, on November 15, 2019, popular protests against the Iranian regime began and
9 spread rapidly to at least 100 cities throughout the country, and reports indicate that Iranian
10 security forces used lethal force, about 1,500 people were killed during less than 2 weeks of
11 unrest, and thousands more were detained during these protests; and

12 WHEREAS, beginning in September 2022, anti-government protests ignited in response to
13 the death of Mahsa Amini, a 22 year-old Kurdish Iranian woman who was arrested by the
14 morality police that enforce Iran's mandatory dress code laws; and

15 WHEREAS, women and youth have led the 2022 protests in Iran, demanding social freedom
16 and political change; and

17 WHEREAS, these protests are rooted in the more than four decades of organized resistance
18 against the Iranian dictatorship, which most recently have been led by women who have
19 endured torture, sexual and gender based violence, and death; and

20 WHEREAS, in several months of continuing protests in hundreds of cities throughout Iran,
21 the regime's security forces have killed hundreds and arrested tens of thousands of protesters,
22 two of whom, Mohsen Shekari and Majidreza Rahnavard (both 23 years old), were hung on
23 December 8 and 12, 2022, in Tehran and Mashhad, while dozens more have been convicted
24 of "Moharebeh" (waging war on God) and are at risk of execution; and

25 WHEREAS, according to a December 9, 2022, Amnesty International report, "Iran's security
26 forces have killed with absolute impunity more than 40 children and injured many more in
27 a bid to crush the spirit of resistance among the country's youth and retain their iron grip on
28 power at any cost"; and

29 WHEREAS, the similarity in slogans and tactics used by protests nationwide reflect the
30 overarching demands of the Iranian people and point to the organized nature of the protests;
31 and

32 WHEREAS, in the 116th Congress, the House of Representatives passed House Resolution
33 752, "Supporting the rights of the people of Iran to free expression, condemning the Iranian
34 regime for its crackdown on legitimate protests, and for other purposes"; and

35 WHEREAS, House Resolution 752 urges the administration to work to convene emergency
36 sessions of the United Nations Security Council and to work with United States partners and
37 allies to condemn the ongoing human rights violations perpetrated by the Iranian regime and
38 establish a mechanism by which the United Nations Security Council can monitor such
39 violations; and

40 WHEREAS, on November 24, 2022, the United Nations Human Rights Council established
41 a fact-finding mission to conduct an independent investigation into the ongoing deadly
42 violence related to the protests in Iran that began on September 16, 2022; and

43 WHEREAS, on December 14, 2022, the United Nations Economic and Social Council
44 (ECOSOC) adopted a resolution to expel Iran from the Commission on the Status of Women
45 (CSW) for the remainder of its four-year term ending in 2026; and

46 WHEREAS, the Department of State's 2021 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices,
47 released on April 13, 2022, cites that Iran's "government and its agents reportedly committed
48 arbitrary or unlawful killings, most commonly executions for crimes not meeting the
49 international legal standard of 'most serious crimes' or for crimes committed by juvenile
50 offenders, as well as executions after trials without due process"; and

51 WHEREAS, on October 25, 2021, the United Nations Special Rapporteur (UNSR) on the
52 situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran Javid Rehman told the United
53 Nations General Assembly that almost all executions in the country constituted an arbitrary
54 deprivation of life, noting the "extensive, vague, and arbitrary grounds in Iran for imposing
55 the death sentence, which quickly can turn this punishment into a political tool"; and

56 WHEREAS, the Iranian regime has arbitrarily and brutally suppressed ethnic and religious
57 minorities, including Iranian Kurds, Baluchis, Arabs, Christians, Jews, Baha'is, Zoroastrians,
58 and even Sunni Muslims; deprived them of their basic human rights; and has in many cases
59 executed them; and

60 WHEREAS, the Iranian people have been deprived of their fundamental freedoms, for which
61 reason they are rejecting monarchic dictatorship and religious tyranny, as evident in their
62 protest slogans; and

63 WHEREAS, in the 115th Congress, the House of Representatives passed House Resolution
64 4744 which called on the United States to "condemn Iranian human rights abuses against
65 dissidents, including the massacre in 1988 and the suppression of political demonstrations
66 in 1999, 2009, and 2017, and pressure the Government of Iran to provide family members
67 detailed information that they were denied about the final resting places of any missing
68 victims of such abuses"; and

69 WHEREAS, on January 13, 2022, a United Nations report urged "the international
70 community to call for accountability with respect to long-standing emblematic events that
71 have been met with persistent impunity, including the enforced disappearances and summary
72 and arbitrary executions of 1988 and the November 2019 protests"; and

73 WHEREAS, the killings of thousands of political prisoners in 1988 were carried out based
74 on a fatwa to execute all political prisoners who remained loyal to the Iranian Resistance, and
75 subsequent death commissions were formed on July 19, 1988, whose members included the
76 current Iranian regime's President, Ebrahim Raisi; an official from the Ministry of
77 Intelligence; and a state prosecutor, to implement the fatwa; and

78 WHEREAS, the United States should be involved in any establishment of an international
79 investigation into the 1988 extrajudicial killings of Iranian dissidents; and

80 WHEREAS, senior Iranian government, military, judicial, and security officials have for
81 decades ordered or committed egregious human rights violations and acts of terror; and

82 WHEREAS, on June 30, 2018, tens of thousands of people gathered in Paris at the Free Iran
83 gathering where they supported advocates for a democratic, secular, and non-nuclear
84 Republic of Iran as well as showed support for the opposition leader Mrs. Maryam Rajavi's
85 10-point plan for the future of Iran, which calls for the universal right to vote, free elections,
86 and a market economy and advocates for gender, religious, and ethnic equality, as well as a
87 foreign policy based on peaceful coexistence and a non-nuclear Iran; and

88 WHEREAS, on July 2, 2018, the Belgian Federal Prosecutor's Office announced it had foiled
89 a terrorist plot against the "Free Iran 2018—the Alternative" gathering held on June 30, 2018,
90 in support of the Iranian people's struggle for freedom; and

91 WHEREAS, Assadollah Assadi, a senior Iranian diplomat based in the Iranian embassy in
92 Vienna, Austria, was arrested in Germany and in February 2021 was convicted in Belgium
93 and sentenced to 20 years of imprisonment in connection with the planned terror plot in Paris
94 at the Free Iran gathering; and

95 WHEREAS, Assadollah Assadi served as the third secretary of the Iranian embassy in
96 Austria; and

97 WHEREAS, instead of representing the interests of the Iranian people, the Iranian regime
98 has long used its Foreign Ministry and diplomatic representations abroad to orchestrate terror
99 plots and whitewash gross human rights violations in Iran; and

100 WHEREAS, on December 15, 2022, the Special Court for Combatting Corruption and
101 Organized Crime (SPAK) in Albania sentenced an Iranian national to ten years in prison on
102 terrorism-related charges, including attempts to engage in espionage and the assassination
103 of Iranian dissidents in Albania; and

104 WHEREAS, Iran's malign activities in the Balkans pose a serious threat to United States'
105 national security interests; and

106 WHEREAS, on November 23, 2022, the Department of the Treasury announced additional
107 action on Iranian security forces, including Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)
108 forces, for their violent crackdown on antigovernment protests in Iran's Kurdistan Province
109 and surrounding areas; and

110 WHEREAS, according to the statement issued by the Department of State on November 23,
111 2022, "The United States continues to support the Iranian people as they protest nationwide."

112 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
113 GEORGIA that the members of this body condemn past and present Iranian state sponsored
114 terrorist attacks against United States citizens and officials as well as Iranian dissidents,
115 including the Iranian regime's terror plot against the "Free Iran 2018—the Alternative"
116 gathering in Paris.

117 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of this body call on relevant United States
118 government agencies to work with European allies, including those in the Balkans where Iran
119 has expanded its presence, to hold Iran accountable for breaching diplomatic privileges as
120 well as on nations to prevent the malign activities of the Iranian regime's diplomatic missions
121 with the goal of closing them down and expelling its agents.

122 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of this body stand with the people of Iran
123 who are legitimately defending their rights for freedom against repression as well as
124 condemn the brutal killing of Iranian protestors by the regime.

125 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of this body recognize the rights of the
126 Iranian people and their struggle to establish a democratic, secular, and non-nuclear Republic
127 of Iran.

128 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
129 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
130 public and the press.