

IN THE SENATE

SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 106

BY STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL

1
2 TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, THE SECRETARY OF THE UNITED STATES DE-
3 PARTMENT OF STATE, THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED
4 STATES IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, AND TO THE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION REP-
5 REPRESENTING THE STATE OF IDAHO IN THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES.

6 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and the House of Representatives of
7 the State of Idaho assembled in the Second Regular Session of the Sixty-sec-
8 ond Idaho Legislature, do hereby respectfully represent that:

9 WHEREAS, Saeed Abedini, is a resident of the State of Idaho and a Chris-
10 tian with dual Iranian-United States citizenship; and

11 WHEREAS, Saeed Abedini is a husband and father of two young children;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, in September 2012, Saeed Abedini was arbitrarily detained
14 in the Islamic Republic of Iran, held in solitary confinement, physically
15 beaten, denied access to necessary medical treatment as a result of that
16 abuse and denied access to his lawyer until just before his trial; and

17 WHEREAS, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights guar-
18 antees that every individual shall be free from arbitrary arrest and deten-
19 tion and further guarantees every individual the right to a fair and public
20 hearing by a competent, independent and impartial tribunal; and

21 WHEREAS, in recent years, there has been an increase in the number of in-
22 cidents of Iranian authorities raiding religious services, detaining wor-
23 shipers and religious leaders and harassing and threatening minority reli-
24 gious members; and

25 WHEREAS, in January 2013, an Iranian court accused Saeed Abedini of at-
26 tempting to undermine the national security of Iran by gathering with fellow
27 Christians in private homes; and

28 WHEREAS, Saeed Abedini was tried in a nonpublic trial before a judge who
29 had been sanctioned by the European Union for repeated violations of human
30 rights; and

31 WHEREAS, during the trial, Saeed Abedini and his Iranian attorney were
32 barred from attending portions of the trial in which the prosecution pro-
33 vided and the judge received evidence through witness testimony; and

34 WHEREAS, the Iranian court sentenced Saeed Abedini to eight years in
35 prison, and this sentence was later upheld on appeal; and

36 WHEREAS, the government of Iran continues to indefinitely imprison
37 Saeed Abedini for peacefully exercising his Christian faith; and

38 WHEREAS, President Barack Obama recently called for the release of
39 Saeed Abedini at the National Prayer Breakfast in Washington.

40 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Second Regular Ses-
41 sion of the Sixty-second Idaho Legislature, the Senate and the House of Rep-
42 resentatives concurring therein, that we urge President Obama and Secretary
43 of State John Kerry to use every opportunity and resource at their disposal

1 to end the unjust imprisonment of Saeed Abedini and secure his immediate re-
2 lease.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate be, and she is
4 hereby authorized and directed to forward a copy of this Memorial to the
5 President of the United States, the Secretary of the United States Depart-
6 ment of State, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of
7 Representatives of Congress, and the congressional delegation representing
8 the State of Idaho in the Congress of the United States.