

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

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31.1.2007

0008/2007

## WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

by Jo Leinen, Frédérique Ries, Erik Meijer and Bernat Joan i Marí

on the persecution of Baha'is in Iran

Lapse date: 30.4.2007

**0008/2007**

**Written declaration on the persecution of Baha'is in Iran**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas Baha'is in Iran are denied access to higher education institutions, students and teachers are being dismissed, public service employees are thrown out without any social security or pensions, and salaries and education fees must be repaid under threat of imprisonment,
- B. whereas Baha'i property has been confiscated, business transactions with members of the Baha'i community have been banned, shops and businesses have been closed, and business and private accounts have been blocked, thereby destroying the basis for their livelihood,
- C. whereas the Baha'is in Iran are being systematically deprived of their civil rights by the Iranian Government and hundreds of them have been executed solely because of their religious beliefs,
- D. whereas since Mahmoud Ahmadinejad took office there has again been a marked increase in the number of Baha'is in Iran who have been imprisoned without any reason being given,
  1. Calls on the Iranian authorities to halt the persecution, torture and exclusion of Baha'is in Iran;
  2. Calls on the Commission and Council to support and promote respect for basic human rights in Iran, including religious freedom;
  3. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Council, the Commission and the Member States.