

Saeid Rezaie (m) – The Baha’i Seven

Adoption Status: Adopted by Representative Lynn Jenkins (R-KS)

Country: Iran

Occupation: Agricultural engineer and Baha’i member.

Detained Since: 2008

Charges: Espionage, propaganda against the Islamic Republic, and establishment of an illegal administration

Sentence: 20 years imprisonment



Additional: During the early 1980’s, when persecution of Baha’is was intense, Rezaie moved first to northern Iran and worked as a farming manager and then to Kerman to work as a carpenter, in part because of the difficulties Baha’is faced in finding formal employment or operating businesses. His two daughters, both in their twenties, were among a group of fifty-four young Baha’is arrested in Shiraz in 2006 while working on a project aimed at helping underprivileged young people. In 2006, before his latest incarceration in 2008, Mr. Rezaie was arrested and detained for a period that included forty days in solitary confinement.

The Baha’i Seven

The Baha’i Seven are former Baha’i leaders in Iran who have been deprived of the rights accorded to prisoners under Iran’s own laws and regulations. Prior to their arrests in 2008, the seven were members of an ad hoc national-level group that attended to the spiritual and social needs of Iran’s Baha’i community. In September 2010 they were told that their sentences had been reduced to 10 years after an appeal court acquitted them of some of the charges, including espionage, but they have never been given a written copy of either of the court verdicts. It was first reported on 18 March, 2011 that the 20-year sentence had been reinstated.

Adopted