

1 [Urging the United States Department of State to investigate the revocation of valid visas for
2 members of the Sharif University Technology Association]

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4 **Resolution urging the United States Department of State to investigate the**
5 **revocation of valid visas for members of the Sharif University Technology**
6 **Association and to apologize to and reimburse any members whose visas were**
7 **improperly revoked.**

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9 WHEREAS, The Sharif University of Technology is one of the most prominent
10 technical, engineering and scientific universities in Iran; and

11 WHEREAS, On Friday, August 2, 2006 the Sharif University of Technology
12 Association, known as SUTA, held its fourth annual reunion in Santa Clara; and

13 WHEREAS, SUTA is a non-profit, non-religious, non-political organization of
14 academics, scientists and engineers; and

15 WHEREAS, At least a dozen members of SUTA were detained at San Francisco
16 International Airport and denied entry to the United States, and as many as one hundred
17 members of SUTA were detained across the country; and

18 WHEREAS, All of the SUTA members were carrying valid visas that had been
19 approved months ago and were traveling to the reunion at great personal expense; and

20 WHEREAS, These SUTA members were reportedly told that they could either go
21 home or face a ban on applying for future U.S. visas if they contested the revocation; and

22 WHEREAS, Most members decided to return home after spending the night in jail-like
23 conditions with their spouses and children; and

24 WHEREAS, The revocation of these visas is widely viewed as an misguided
25 expression of the Bush Administration displeasure with the Iranian government; and

1 WHEREAS, In the current global climate of war in Iraq, Israel, Lebanon and Palestine,
2 and with heightened tensions across the Middle East and around the world, the United States
3 should make every effort to welcome and encourage cultural exchange between the U.S. and
4 reasonable, educated Iranians; and

5 WHEREAS, Such harassment of visitors to the United States further damages our
6 reputation around the world and exasperates relations between the U.S. and Iran, as well as
7 the rest of the Muslim world; now, therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
9 demands that the United States Department of State investigate and report on why so many
10 valid visas were revoked without explanation or prior warning; and, be it

11 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors calls for the U.S. State
12 Department to formally apologize to any members of SUTA whose visas were improperly
13 revoked and reimburse them for their travel expenses and inconvenience.

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