

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 revocation**
5 **of valid visas for members of the Sharif University Technology Association and to**
6 **apologize to and reimburse any members whose visas were improperly revoked.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

25

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.



City and County of San Francisco

City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

Tails
Resolution

File Number: 061186

Date Passed:

Resolution urging the United States Department of State to investigate the revocation of valid visas for members of the Sharif University Technology Association.

August 15, 2006 Board of Supervisors — ADOPTED

Ayes: 10 - Ammiano, Daly, Dufty, Elsbernd, Ma, Maxwell, McGoldrick,
Mirkarimi, Peskin, Sandoval
Excused: 1 - Alioto-Pier

File No. 061186

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on August 15, 2006 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Gloria L. Young
Clerk of the Board

8/17/2006

Date Approved

Mayor Gavin Newsom