

 **Join  
IABA**

IABA is one of the largest minority bar associations in the country. Help us by joining or renewing your membership.

 **Upcoming  
Chapter Events**

1. February 23, 2010  
(Northern California)  
Rudi Bakhtiar: Human Rights in Iran

2. February 25, 2010  
(Washington, D.C.)  
Anatomy of a U.S. Sanctions Program: An Introduction to the Iranian Transactions Regulations

3. March 10, 2010 (Northern California)  
Meet Iranian-American Community Leaders

4. March 11, 2010 (Northern California)  
LGBTQ Middle East, North Africa Asylum & Immigration Panel

5. March 13, 2010  
(Washington, D.C.)  
D.C. Chapter Norouz Event

6. March 22, 2010 (Los Angeles)  
Los Angeles Norouz Event Featuring Councilwoman Jan Perry

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Salman Elmi

## U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES PASSES RESOLUTION CELEBRATING NOWRUZ

On Monday, March 15, 2010, the U.S. House of Representatives passed House Resolution 267 which recognizes the cultural and historical significance of Nowruz, expresses appreciation to Iranian-Americans for their contributions to society, and wishes Iranian-Americans and the people of Iran a prosperous new year. Sponsored by Representative Mike Honda (D-CA) and 57 other House members, the bill celebrates Nowruz as the "mark [of] the traditional Iranian New Year, which originated in ancient Persia, and dates back more than 3,000 years.

The bill is a result of the combined efforts of the Iranian-American community, including the National Iranian American Council and the Public Affairs Alliance of Iranian Americans. To assist the passage of the bill, IABA also issued letters of support to over 30 Congressmen and women located throughout its various national chapters.

The bill marks the first time any body of the United States Congress has officially recognized Nowruz. The bill also comes on the heels of United Nations General Assembly Resolution 10916 which recognized March 21, 2010 as the international day of Nowruz.

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## OFAC PASSES GENERAL LICENSE ON EXPORT OF PERSONAL COMMUNICATIONS SOFTWARE

On Monday, March 8, 2010, the Department of Treasury, Office of Foreign Assets Control ("OFAC"), issued a General License allowing the export of "... services and software incident to the exchange of personal communications over the Internet, such as instant messaging, chat and email, social networking, sharing of photos and movies, web browsing, and blogging."

According to OFAC, the changes are a result of "events in Iran since last June's Presidential election [that] have shown, personal Internet-based communications are a vital tool for change."

On December 10, 2009, the U.S. Department of State issued a letter stating that it is in the national interest of the United States to allow for the exportation to Iran of dual-use software classified as mass market software. On December 15, 2009, the State Department explained that the software "is necessary to foster and support the free flow of information to individual Iranian citizens and, therefore, is essential to the national interests of the United States."

To be eligible under the new general license, the services must be offered for free. The software must also be classified by the U.S. Department of Commerce as "EAR99", a classification for low-technology consumer goods that are not listed in the Commerce Control List. In addition, the exporter must have no basis for believing that the services or software will be used by the government of Iran.

The General License comes in light of a recent report by the Government Accountability Office which calls for increased scrutiny of exports to third countries, particularly the UAE, Malaysia, and Singapore, which may be destined for Iran.

For more information about the General License, please visit the National Iranian American Council at <http://www.niacouncil.org>.

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## WASHINGTON D.C. AND LOS ANGELES CHAPTERS HOST NOWRUZ EVENTS

On March 13, 2010, the Washington, D.C. chapter of the IABA hosted its Inaugural Nowruz Ball. The event featured live music, cultural dance, and a performance by comedian Max Amini. Over 400 people attended the DC Chapter event. On March 22, 2010, the Los Angeles Chapter of the IABA will also be hosting a Nowruz event. The gala will be hosted at Los Angeles City Hall's Bradley Tower and will feature Councilwoman Jan Perry and another surprise guest of honor. Tickets for the Los Angeles event can be [purchased at IABA's website.](#)

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## IRANIANS COUNT 2010 CENSUS COALITION LAUNCHES IRANIANSCOUNT.ORG

The Iranians Count 2010 Census Coalition ("ICCC") is continuing its proactive role to ensure that statistics for the Iranian-American community are accurately reflected in the upcoming 2010 United States Census ("Census"). Currently comprised of 30 organizations spread throughout the United States, ICCC today launched its official website, [Iranianscount.org](http://Iranianscount.org), as an informational resource for the community. ICCC has also produced two Public Service Announcements ("PSA") to help raise awareness about the importance of participating in the Census and how to accurately fill out Census forms to assure that Iranians/Iranian-Americans can be counted for.

Furthermore, through the utilization of viral networking and micro-blogging websites, such as Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube, ICCC is expanding the reach of its message nationally.

These efforts are extremely important since the Census provides the Iranian community in the United States the opportunity to stand up and be counted.

Census results are used as a benchmark for businesses, professional organizations, and government officials in determining how social services are allocated, the influence of a minority community, and funding for critical community programs. Yet, the number of Iranians residing in the United States has been historically significantly undercounted by at least two or three times the actual figure.

By uniting and mobilizing for the 2010 Census, the Iranian-American community will achieve greater prominence while also gaining a better understanding of its unique needs.

The Iranians Count 2010 Census Coalition includes national and regional Iranian American organizations. Please visit [www.IraniansCount.org/Partners.html](http://www.IraniansCount.org/Partners.html) for an up-to-date listing of the participating organizations and for information about joining.