

109TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. RES. 794

Recognizing the 17th anniversary of the massacre in Tiananmen Square, Beijing, in the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 3, 2006

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. WOLF, Mr. ROHR-ABACHER, and Mr. PITTS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

RESOLUTION

Recognizing the 17th anniversary of the massacre in Tiananmen Square, Beijing, in the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes.

Whereas the United States was founded on the principle that all men and women are created equal and entitled to the exercise of their basic human rights;

Whereas governments are instituted, not to grant, but rather to secure, protect, and safeguard those rights;

Whereas freedom of expression, assembly, association, and religion are fundamental human rights that belong to all people and are recognized as such under the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

Whereas the horrific events of June 3–4, 1989, in Tiananmen Square, Beijing, in the People’s Republic of China, reminded the world that these universal human rights are denied to the citizens of the most populous nation on earth by the Communist Party that rules in China;

Whereas the Communist Government of China declared martial law the next day and troops backed by tanks crushed the student movement on June 3–4, 1989;

Whereas the demonstrations in Tiananmen Square were the manifestation of a democratic movement that had begun to spread across China following the death of the former General Secretary of the Communist Party of China on April 15, 1989, and that had given rise to peaceful protests throughout China calling for the establishment of a dialogue with government and party leaders on democratic reforms, including freedom of expression, freedom of assembly, and the elimination of corruption by government officials;

Whereas after that date thousands of pro-democracy demonstrators continued to protest peacefully in and around Tiananmen Square in Beijing until June 3–4, 1989, when Chinese authorities ordered the People’s Liberation Army and other security forces to use lethal force to disperse demonstrators in Beijing, especially around Tiananmen Square;

Whereas the report of the Chinese Red Cross on June 7, 1989, and the United States Department of State’s Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 1989, gave various estimates of the number of people killed and wounded in 1989 by the People’s Liberation Army soldiers and other security forces, and it is now believed by many that thousands were killed;

Whereas 20,000 people throughout China suspected of taking part in the democracy movement were arrested and sentenced without trial to prison or reeducation through labor, and many were reportedly tortured;

Whereas credible sources estimate that the Communist Government of China continues to imprison hundreds, and perhaps thousands, of Tiananmen Square activists, such as Yang Jianli, and denies such activists their basic human rights, such as access to legal counsel, contact with their families, and trials within reasonable times;

Whereas the Communist Government of China undertakes active measures to deny its citizens the truth about the Tiananmen Square massacre, including the blocking of uncensored Internet sites and weblogs, and the placement of misleading information on the events of June 3–4, 1989 on Internet sites available in China, often with the collusion and cooperation of United States Internet companies such as Yahoo, Google, Microsoft, and Cisco;

Whereas China, as part of the Tiananmen Square coverup, sentenced journalist Shi Tao to 10 years in prison, using information provided by Yahoo, for using his Yahoo email account to send foreigners a copy of a Chinese Government memo warning of possible trouble during the 15th anniversary of the Tiananmen Square massacre;

Whereas coincident with the 15th anniversary of the Tiananmen Square massacre, the Communist Government of China frustrated the efforts of Chinese citizens in Hong Kong to establish a gradual and orderly process toward universal suffrage and the democratic election of the legislature and chief executive in Hong Kong as promised at the time of the reversion of Hong Kong to

China in 1997 and as envisioned by the Basic Law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region;

Whereas despite an unprecedented public protest in Hong Kong on July 1, 2003, reminiscent of protests in Beijing shortly before June 4, 1989, the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of China declared on April 26, 2004, that universal suffrage would not apply to the selection of the Chief Executive in Hong Kong in 2007 or to the selection of members of the Legislative Council in Hong Kong in 2008;

Whereas the Communist Government of China continues to suppress dissent by imprisoning pro-democracy activists, journalists, labor union leaders, religious believers, members of ethnic minority rights organizations, and other individuals in China and Tibet who seek to express their political or religious views in a peaceful manner;

Whereas China has transformed the Internet from an engine of freedom and knowledge into an instrument of repression and of propaganda against the United States and its own people;

Whereas the Communist Government of China continues its extraordinarily brutal persecution of the peaceful spiritual movement of Falun Gong;

Whereas the Communist Government of China harasses, persecutes, disbars, and imprisons lawyers who seek to help Chinese citizens vindicate their rights as guaranteed by China's constitution and laws;

Whereas the Communist Government of China continues its barbaric policy of organ harvesting of executed prisoners;

Whereas the Communist Government of China continues its policies of coercive sterilization and forced abortions to

enforce its one child policy, which promotes sex selective abortions and female infanticide on a massive scale, a genocide which has led to millions of “missing girls,” and an increase in China’s already severe problem of female trafficking;

Whereas the Communist Government of China fails to fulfill its international commitments by denying the United Nations High Commission on Refugees access to North Korean refugees, and by forcibly repatriating thousands of such refugees to North Korea, where they suffer persecution, imprisonment, and death;

Whereas the Communist Government of China maintains hundreds, perhaps thousands of slave labor camps, violates the most basic workers’ rights, and fails to enforce its child labor laws; and

Whereas June 4, 2006, is the 17th anniversary of the date of the Tiananmen Square massacre: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) expresses sympathy to the families of those
3 killed, tortured, and imprisoned as a result of their
4 participation in the democracy protests of June 3–
5 4, 1989, in Tiananmen Square, Beijing, in the Peo-
6 ple’s Republic of China, and to all those persons who
7 have suffered for their efforts to keep that struggle
8 alive during the past 17 years, and to all the people
9 of China who lack fundamental human rights;

1 (2) commends all persons who are peacefully
2 advocating for democracy and human rights in
3 China;

4 (3) calls upon those nations planning to partici-
5 pate in the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing to insist
6 that China comply with the United Nations Declara-
7 tion on Human Rights;

8 (4) calls upon the Communist Government of
9 China, its National People’s Congress, and any other
10 groups appointed by the Communist Government of
11 China to honor its pledge of a “high degree of au-
12 tonomy” made at the time of the Hong Kong rever-
13 sion in 1997, by permitting immediate elections for
14 the Legislative Council of Hong Kong according to
15 rules approved by the Hong Kong people through an
16 election-law convention, referendum, or both, and by
17 leaving all revisions of Hong Kong law to a legisla-
18 ture elected by universal suffrage; and

19 (5) condemns the ongoing and egregious human
20 rights abuses by the Communist Government of
21 China and calls on that Government to—

22 (A) reevaluate the official verdict on the
23 June 4, 1989, Tiananmen pro-democracy activi-
24 ties and order formal investigations into the re-
25 ported killing, torture, and imprisonment of de-

1 mocracy activists with the goal of bringing
2 those responsible to justice;

3 (B) establish a June Fourth Investigation
4 Committee, the proceedings and findings of
5 which should be accessible to the public, to
6 make a just and independent inquiry into all
7 matters related to June 4, 1989;

8 (C) release all prisoners of conscience, in-
9 cluding those persons still in prison as a result
10 of their participation in the peaceful pro-democ-
11 racy protests of 1989, provide just compensa-
12 tion to the families of those killed in those pro-
13 tests, and allow those exiled on account of their
14 activities in 1989 to return and live in freedom
15 in China;

16 (D) end its censorship of legitimate free
17 speech on the Internet, and its persecution of
18 Internet dissidents;

19 (E) end its persecution of Falun Gong;

20 (F) end the harassment, persecution, dis-
21 barment, and imprisonment of lawyers who seek
22 to help Chinese citizens vindicate their rights as
23 guaranteed by China's constitution and laws;

24 (G) end organ harvesting and ensure that
25 its organ donor programs proceed only on a

1 purely transparent, voluntary, and non-commer-
2 cial basis;

3 (H) end its coercive one-child policy;

4 (I) grant the United Nations High Com-
5 mission on Refugees access to all refugees, and
6 end forcible repatriations of refugees, particu-
7 larly to North Korea;

8 (J) close its “re-education through labor”
9 camps, respect the rights of workers, and end
10 police detention without trial; and

11 (K) release Dr. Yang Jianli, an organizer
12 of the Tiananmen Square protests of 1989, who
13 has been illegally detained by the Communist
14 Government of China since April 26, 2002, and
15 whose wife and two children are United States
16 citizens, and put an immediate end to the har-
17 assment, detention, and imprisonment of all
18 Chinese citizens exercising their legitimate free-
19 doms of expression, association, and religion.

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