

URGING THE GOVERNMENT OF BURMA TO END THE PERSECUTION OF THE ROHINGYA PEOPLE AND RESPECT HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL ETHNIC AND RELIGIOUS MINORITY GROUPS WITHIN BURMA; AND EXPRESSING CONCERN OVER REPORTS OF SYSTEMATIC, STATE-SANCTIONED ORGAN HARVESTING FROM NON-CONSENTING PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE IN THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

MARKUP

BEFORE THE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

ON

H. Res. 418 and H. Res. 281

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2013

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ASIA AND THE PACIFIC,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC.

The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 3 o'clock p.m., in room 2172 Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Steve Chabot (chairman of the subcommittee) presiding.

Mr. CHABOT. The meeting will come to order. Pursuant to notice we have for markup two bipartisan resolutions. As your offices were notified on Monday, we intend to consider both of those measures, as well as one agreed amendment, en bloc. And so, without objection, the following measures are considered read and will be considered en bloc: H. Res. 418, Urging the Government of Burma to end the persecution of the Rohingya people; and H. Res. 281, Expressing concern over reports of organ harvesting from nonconsenting prisoners of conscience in the People's Republic of China, and Chabot No. 34, an amendment in the nature of a substitute to H. Res. 281, which was provided to all members and posted online on Monday.

[The information referred to follows:]

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 418

Urging the Government of Burma to end the persecution of the Rohingya people and respect internationally recognized human rights for all ethnic and religious minority groups within Burma.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 18, 2013

Mr. MCGOVERN (for himself, Mr. PITTS, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Urging the Government of Burma to end the persecution of the Rohingya people and respect internationally recognized human rights for all ethnic and religious minority groups within Burma.

Whereas over 800,000 Rohingya ethnic minority live in Burma, mostly in the western Rakhine state;

Whereas currently, approximately 140,000 Rohingya are internally displaced in central Rakhine state and hundreds of thousands have fled to neighboring countries, including at least 231,000 in Bangladesh, at least 15,000 in Malaysia, and many more in Thailand and Indonesia;

Whereas the Burma Citizenship Law of 1982 has long excluded from approved ethnic groups the Rohingya people,

despite many having lived in northern Rakhine state for generations, and has thereby rendered Rohingyas stateless and vulnerable to exploitation and abuse;

Whereas the Rohingya have historically experienced other particularized and severe legal, economic, and social discrimination, including restrictions on travel outside their village of residence, limitations on their access to higher education, and a prohibition from working as civil servants, including as doctors, nurses, or teachers;

Whereas authorities have also required Rohingya to obtain official permission for marriages and have singled out Rohingya in northern Rakhine state for forced labor and arbitrary arrests;

Whereas the Government of Burma has forcefully relocated Rohingya into relief camps, where they lack decent shelter, access to clean water, food, sanitation, health care, the ability to support themselves, or basic education for their children;

Whereas a two-child policy sanctioned solely upon the Rohingya population in the districts of Maungdaw and Buthidaung in northern Rakhine state restricts the rights of women and children, prevents children from obtaining Burmese citizenship, denies Rohingyas access to basic government services, and fosters discrimination against Muslim women by Buddhist nurses and midwives;

Whereas the United States Department of State has regularly expressed since 1999 its particular concern for severe legal, economic, and social discrimination against Burma's Rohingya population in its Country Report for Human Rights Practices;

Whereas the level of persecution, including widespread arbitrary arrest, detention, and extortion of Rohingya and other Muslim communities, has dramatically increased over the past year and a half;

Whereas communal violence has affected both Muslims and Burma's majority Buddhist population, but has overwhelmingly targeted Burma's ethnic Muslim minorities, which altogether comprise less than 5 percent of Burma's population;

Whereas violence targeting Rohingyas in Maungdaw and Sittwe in June and July of 2012 resulted in the deaths of at least 57 Muslims and the destruction of 1,336 Rohingyas homes;

Whereas on October 23, 2012, at least 70 Rohingyas were killed, and the Yan Thei village of the Mrauk-U Township was destroyed;

Whereas violence has also targeted Muslims not of Rohingya ethnicity, including riots in March 2013 in the town of Meiktila that resulted in the death of at least 43 Burmese Muslims, including 20 students and several teachers massacred at an Islamic school, the burning of at least 800 homes and 5 mosques, and the displacement of 12,000 people;

Whereas on October 1, 2013, riots involving more than 700 Buddhists in Thandwe township resulted in the death of 4 Kaman Muslim men and the stabbing death of a 94-year-old Muslim woman;

Whereas over 4,000 religious, public, and private Rohingya structures have been destroyed;

Whereas Rohingyas have experienced and continue to experience further restrictions on their practice of Islam, culture, and language; and

Whereas the violence against ethnic Muslim populations, including the Rohingya and other Muslim groups, is part of a larger troubling pattern of violence against other ethnic and religious minorities in Burma: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) calls on the Government of Burma to end
3 all forms of persecution and discrimination of the
4 Rohingya people and ensure respect for internation-
5 ally recognized human rights for all ethnic and reli-
6 gious minority groups within Burma; and

7 (2) calls on the United States Government and
8 the international community to put consistent pres-
9 sure on the Government of Burma to take all nec-
10 essary measures to end the persecution and discrimi-
11 nation of the Rohingya population and to protect the
12 fundamental rights of all ethnic and religious minor-
13 ity groups in Burma.

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 281

Expressing concern over persistent and credible reports of systematic, state-sanctioned organ harvesting from non-consenting prisoners of conscience, in the People's Republic of China, including from large numbers of Falun Gong practitioners imprisoned for their religious beliefs, and members of other religious and ethnic minority groups.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 27, 2013

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN (for herself and Mr. ANDREWS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Expressing concern over persistent and credible reports of systematic, state-sanctioned organ harvesting from non-consenting prisoners of conscience, in the People's Republic of China, including from large numbers of Falun Gong practitioners imprisoned for their religious beliefs, and members of other religious and ethnic minority groups.

Whereas when performed in accordance with ethical standards, the medical discipline of organ transplantation is one of the great achievements of modern medicine;

Whereas the People's Republic of China performs more than 10,000 organ transplantations per year, yet as of May

2013 it did not have an organized or effective public system of organ donation or distribution;

Whereas the organ transplantation system in China does not comply with the World Health Organization's requirement of transparency and traceability in organ procurement pathways, and the Government of the People's Republic of China has resisted independent scrutiny of the system;

Whereas the Department of State Country Report on Human Rights for China for 2011 stated, "Overseas and domestic media and advocacy groups continued to report instances of organ harvesting, particularly from Falun Gong practitioners and Uighurs";

Whereas due in part to traditional views on the importance of preserving the body intact after death, China has very low rates of voluntary organ donations;

Whereas the People's Republic of China implemented regulations in 1984 that permitted the harvesting of organs from executed prisoners;

Whereas in June 2001, Chinese doctor Wang Guoqi testified before the House of Representatives International Relations Subcommittee on International Organizations and Human Rights that hospitals worked in collusion with state security agencies to extract organs from executed prisoners without written consent of the organ donors, and that these transplants were a lucrative source of income;

Whereas former Vice-Minister of Health Huang Jiefu admitted publicly that more than 90 percent of transplant organs extracted from deceased donors stemmed from executed prisoners in China;

Whereas voluntary and informed consent is the precondition for ethical organ donation and international medical organizations state that prisoners, deprived of their freedom, are not in the position to give free consent and that the practice of sourcing organs from prisoners is a violation of ethical guidelines in medicine;

Whereas Falun Gong, a spiritual practice involving meditative “qigong” exercises and centered on the values of truthfulness, compassion, and tolerance, became immensely popular in the 1990s, with multiple estimates placing the number of practitioners upwards of 70,000,000;

Whereas in July 1999, the Chinese Communist Party launched an intensive, nationwide persecution designed to eradicate the spiritual practice of Falun Gong, reflecting the party’s long-standing intolerance of large independent civil society groups;

Whereas since 1999, hundreds of thousands of Falun Gong practitioners have been detained extra-legally in reeducation-through-labor camps, detention centers, and prisons, where torture and abuse are routine;

Whereas in many detention facilities and labor camps, Falun Gong prisoners of conscience comprise the majority of the population, and have been said to receive the longest sentences and the worst treatment;

Whereas in order to protect their families and associates, many Falun Gong prisoners of conscience refuse to provide real names or other personally identifying information to security agencies, thus making them more vulnerable to abuses;

Whereas the number of organ transplant operations in China increased significantly after 1999, corresponding with the onset of the persecution of Falun Gong;

Whereas this increase does not appear to be attributable either to an overall increase in the number of death row inmates or to an increase in voluntary donations, and in fact, human rights groups and legal experts believe there has been a decrease in the number of executions in China in recent years;

Whereas the Government of the People's Republic of China has failed to adequately account for the sources of the excess organs;

Whereas Chinese hospitals have advertised wait times of 2 to 4 weeks for kidney and liver transplants, and documented cases of scheduled heart transplantations with 3 weeks advanced notice;

Whereas because organs have a very limited survival period outside the body, such short wait times are best explained by the existence of a large pool of living donors whose organs can be harvested on demand;

Whereas interviews conducted with previously imprisoned Falun Gong practitioners suggest that, while in custody, they were targeted for medical exams, including blood and urine tests, x-rays, ultra-sounds, and selective physical exams;

Whereas the targeted nature of these exams suggests they are intended to assess the health of the practitioners' vital organs and their potential candidacy for organ harvesting;

Whereas other prisoner groups are generally not subjected to such medical tests;

Whereas Canadian researchers David Matas, human rights attorney, and David Kilgour, former Canadian Secretary of State for Asia-Pacific, conducted an investigation into allegations of organ harvesting from Falun Gong prisoners of conscience in 2006, based on extensive circumstantial evidence, their report concluded that the allegations were true and that tens of thousands of Falun Gong practitioners may have been killed for their organs;

Whereas in 2006, doctors from 17 Chinese hospitals admitted in phone calls with undercover investigators that they used or could obtain vital organs of Falun Gong prisoners of conscience for transplant, with some of the doctors implicating local courts and security agencies in the organ procurement process;

Whereas researcher and journalist Ethan Gutmann estimates that approximately 65,000 Falun Gong adherents may have been killed for their organs from 2000 to 2008, and that a smaller number of other religious and ethnic minorities may also have been targeted;

Whereas Gutmann published findings that Chinese security agencies began harvesting organs from members of the predominantly Muslim Uyghur ethnic minority group in the 1990s, including from Uyghur political prisoners;

Whereas in May 2012, the World Organization to Investigate the Persecution of Falun Gong (WOIPFG) released telephone transcripts and audio recordings of conversations between undercover investigators and senior Chinese Communist Party officials, in which several officials indicated that central authorities were aware of or involved in organ harvesting from Falun Gong prisoners;

Whereas among those implicated were former Politburo member Bo Xilai and his deputy, Wang Lijun;

Whereas the United Nations Committee Against Torture and the Special Rapporteur on Torture have expressed concern over the allegations of organ harvesting from Falun Gong prisoners, and have called on the Government of the People's Republic of China to increase accountability and transparency in the organ transplant system and punish those responsible for abuses;

Whereas the killing of religious or political prisoners for the purpose of selling their organs for transplant is an egregious and intolerable violation of the fundamental right to life;

Whereas the Department of Health in Taiwan urged doctors in Taiwan to discourage patients from undergoing commercial organ transplants in China; and

Whereas in September 2012, experts testified before the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee that United States patients continue to travel to China for organ transplants and that the medical community continues cooperation and training with Chinese colleagues, creating the risk that they may be indirectly aiding abusive practices: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—
 2 (1) calls on the Government of the People's Re-
 3 public of China to immediately end the practice of
 4 organ harvesting from all prisoners, and particularly
 5 from Falun Gong prisoners of conscience and mem-
 6 bers of other religious and ethnic minority groups;

1 (2) calls for a full and transparent investigation
2 by the United States Department of State into
3 organ transplant practices in the People's Republic
4 of China, and for the prosecution of those found to
5 have engaged in such unethical practices;

6 (3) demands an immediate end to the 14-year
7 persecution of the Falun Gong spiritual practice by
8 the Communist Party of China, and the immediate
9 release of all Falun Gong practitioners and other
10 prisoners of conscience;

11 (4) recommends that the United States State
12 Department issue a travel warning for United States
13 citizens traveling to China for organ transplants in-
14 forming them that the organ source for their oper-
15 ation may be a prisoner of conscience; and

16 (5) recommends that the United States Govern-
17 ment publicly condemn organ transplantation abuses
18 in China and ban the entry of those who have par-
19 ticipated in illegal removal of human tissues and or-
20 gans, prosecuting such individuals should they be
21 found on United States soil.

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H. RES. 281
OFFERED BY MR. CHABOT OF OHIO**

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas when performed in accordance with ethical standards, the medical discipline of organ transplantation is one of the great achievements of modern medicine;

Whereas despite an announcement by the Government of the People's Republic of China in August, 2013, to create a nationwide voluntary organ transplant system, the country continues to systematically rely on organs of executed prisoners;

Whereas in 2012, official government statistics show that 64 percent of organ transplants in China came from executed prisoners;

Whereas the Government of the People's Republic of China continues to deny reports that many organs are taken without the consent of prisoners yet at the same time prevents independent verification of its transplant system;

Whereas the China Organ Transplant Committee, the official organization overseeing transplants, has yet to implement a timeline on ending the practice of performing transplants with organs harvested from executed prisoners;

Whereas the organ transplantation system in China does not comply with the World Health Organization's require-

ment of transparency and traceability in organ procurement pathways;

Whereas voluntary and informed consent is the precondition for ethical organ donation and international medical organizations state that prisoners, deprived of their freedom, are not in the position to give free consent and that the practice of sourcing organs from prisoners is a violation of ethical guidelines in medicine;

Whereas the Department of State Country Report on Human Rights for China for 2012 stated, “Advocacy groups continued to report instances of organ harvesting from prisoners”;

Whereas the People’s Republic of China implemented regulations in 1984 that permitted the harvesting of organs from executed prisoners;

Whereas in June 2001, Chinese doctor Wang Guoqi testified before the House of Representatives International Relations Subcommittee on International Organizations and Human Rights that hospitals worked in collusion with state security agencies to extract organs from executed prisoners without written consent of the organ donors, and that these transplants were a lucrative source of income;

Whereas Falun Gong, a spiritual practice involving meditative “qigong” exercises and centered on the values of truthfulness, compassion, and tolerance, became immensely popular in the 1990s;

Whereas in July 1999, the Chinese Communist Party launched an intensive, nationwide persecution designed to eradicate the spiritual practice of Falun Gong, reflecting

the party's long-standing intolerance of large independent civil society groups;

Whereas since 1999, hundreds of thousands of Falun Gong practitioners have been detained extra-legally in reeducation-through-labor camps, detention centers, and prisons, where torture and abuse are routine;

Whereas in many detention facilities and labor camps, Falun Gong prisoners of conscience comprise the majority of the population, and have been said to receive the longest sentences and the worst treatment;

Whereas in 2006, Canadian researchers David Matas, human rights attorney, and David Kilgour, former Canadian Secretary of State for Asia-Pacific, conducted an independent investigation into allegations of organ harvesting from Falun Gong prisoners, concluded that reports of Falun Gong practitioners being killed for their organs was highly probable;

Whereas researcher and journalist Ethan Gutmann estimates that approximately 65,000 Falun Gong adherents may have been killed for their organs from 2000 to 2008, and that a number of other religious and ethnic minorities may also have been targeted;

Whereas Gutmann published findings that Chinese security agencies began harvesting organs from members of the predominantly Muslim Uyghur ethnic minority group in the 1990s, including from Uyghur political prisoners;

Whereas the United Nations Committee Against Torture and the Special Rapporteur on Torture have expressed concern over the allegations of organ harvesting from Falun Gong prisoners, and have called on the Government of the People's Republic of China to increase accountability

and transparency in the organ transplant system and punish those responsible for abuses; and

Whereas the killing of religious or political prisoners for the purpose of selling their organs for transplant is an egregious and intolerable violation of the fundamental right to life: Now, therefore, be it

Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following:

That the House of Representatives—

1 (1) calls on the Government of the People’s Re-
2 public of China to immediately end the practice of
3 organ harvesting from all prisoners;

4 (2) demands an immediate end to the 14-year
5 persecution of the Falun Gong spiritual practice by
6 the Communist Party of China, and the immediate
7 release of all Falun Gong practitioners and other
8 prisoners of conscience; and

9 (3) encourages the United States medical com-
10 munity to help raise awareness of unethical organ
11 transplant practices in China.

Amend the title so as to read: “A resolution expressing concern regarding persistent and credible reports of systematic organ harvesting from non-consenting prisoners of conscience, in the People’s Republic of China, including from large numbers of Falun Gong practitioners,

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and members of other religious and ethnic minority groups.”.

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Mr. CHABOT. I recognize myself to speak on the items being considered en bloc. We will try to get this in before votes which are to come up shortly. If votes happen, I will cut my statement off a little bit quicker and we can continue to move forward. I want to thank all members for being here.

Over the past few months, this subcommittee has held two hearings to examine the ethnic unrest in Burma and the Obama administration's policy toward that country. As we have learned, the political and social situation in Burma is extremely fragile and the civil unrest between Burma's Buddhist majority and Muslim minority is threatening the progression of Burma's future and political reforms. Of particular concern is the Government of Burma's decades long persecution of the Rohingya Muslims in the Rakhine state.

The Burmese Government labels the violence against the Rohingya Muslim minority as intercommunal, but it is in actuality much more than that. The United Nations' special rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Burma describes the situation as a profound crisis and believes the Burmese Government has taken few, if any, steps to forge a peaceful, harmonious, and prosperous future for the Rakhine state. Since violence erupted in June 2012, 882 Rohingya have been forcibly detained, but no state officials have been arrested in connection with the widespread violence and systematic human rights violations carried out by security forces. The government is complicit in extrajudicial killings, rape, arbitrary detention, torture, deaths in detention, and denial of due process and fair trial rights for the Rohingya.

According to law, the Rohingya are rendered stateless because the Burmese Government considers them illegal immigrants, consequently denying them citizenship despite the fact they have been living in the Rakhine state for generations. As a result of this status, the Rohingya face legal, economic, and social restrictions. This includes restrictions on travel outside of their village of residence, limitations on their access to education, the ability to marry, the ability to have children, and access to livelihood, food, water, and sanitation, and healthcare. And their situation is only getting worse.

Since the outbreak of violence against the Rohingya last year, the Burmese Government has forced people into relief camps so that it could confiscate their land, homes, and property for redistribution to the Buddhist Rakhine. The investigative commission convened by President Thein Sein to look into the causes of the June 12th violence did little more than recommend further segregation of the Rohingya, deploying more security personnel into the Rakhine state, and instituting a family planning program to reduce the growth rate of the Muslim population. Further exacerbating the situation, most Burmans classify the Rohingya as "Bengali Muslims" and would prefer they return to Bangladesh. However, Bangladesh does not accept the Rohingya population as Bengali and refuses them citizenship rights as well.

While this violence has increased, so has pressure from the U.S. and the international community for the Burmese Government to address this serious problem, which some organizations have claimed is at an extremely high risk of genocide. Most recently, the

U.N. and U.S. have called for an investigation of the Rohingya Muslims that are being trafficked by Thai officials into human trafficking rings and held hostage in camps near the Malaysian border until relatives pay ransoms to release them. Some have been beaten, while others have been killed. Nonetheless, the Burmese Government is purportedly doing little, but rather supporting Burma's anti-Islam movement.

H. Res 418 raises awareness of this on-going crisis in Burma and the need for its government to respect the human rights of all its ethnic and religious minority groups. It also highlights the need for the U.S. and international community to continue pressuring Burma to end its blatant persecution and discrimination of the Rohingya population. I believe this is an important resolution and I urge the subcommittee's support in our consideration of this measure this afternoon.

Next, I would like to express my support for H. Res. 281, which I have co-sponsored along with 160 other Members of Congress.

The Government of the People's Republic of China maintains one of the worst human rights records of any government in the entire world. Every year, thousands, if not tens of thousands of innocent Chinese people, are subject to arbitrary detention, torture, and persecution by security services. The Communist Party of China strictly controls every facet of political thought, public life, and personal expression. The Internet is monitored, mainstream media is co-opted and only state-sanctioned religion can be practiced openly.

Human rights abuses in China extend to every corner of the nation and every facet of society. In Tibet, the central government is in the midst of a wide-ranging crackdown aimed at breaking the will of the Tibetan people by depriving them of religion and important cultural traditions. The Uighur population in China faces constant pressure from the state and is no stranger to the types of persecution that is routinely employed by security services. Anyone who dares to speak out is immediately targeted and punished.

The ill treatment of Falun Gong practitioners by the Government of China is well known and well documented. The Communist Party of China sees Falun Gong practitioners as an ideological threat to the Party's existence. As a result, persecution of the Falun Gong is officially sanctioned. Practitioners have been arrested in large numbers, detained without trial until they renounce Falun Gong beliefs, and are victims of systematic torture. I could go on. However, despite the international attention given to this abuse, there appears to be no reduction in the severity or frequency of the abuse.

H. Res. 281 focuses on the egregious treatment and human rights violations of Falun Gong practitioners by the Government of China. The resolution highlights the many credible reports of forced organ harvesting by state security services against prisoners of the state, including Falun Gong practitioners. I urge the subcommittee's support of this important resolution. I now recognize the ranking member for his comment on today's measures.

Mr. BERA. Thank you, Chairman Chabot. I want to begin by first thanking you and Congressman Faleomavaega for your leadership and moving to markup on H. Res. 418 and H. Res. 281. The U.S. has a solemn duty both to lead by example and to work closely

with the international community to protect and promote human rights worldwide. Therefore, I support both H. Res. 418 and H. Res. 281.

In the case of H. Res. 418, the Falun Gong community has been outlawed by the Chinese Government since 1999. Despite this action, practitioners continue to gather in secret. However, in 2010, the Chinese Government launched a 3-year campaign to transform Falun Gong adherence. As a result, Falun Gong followers constitute an estimated two thirds of all prisoners and detainees of conscience in China. We send a strong message that any deprivation of human rights is clearly unacceptable.

In the case of H. Res. 281, as Burma transitions from autocratic rule to a country of democratic rule, we must continue to encourage democratic reforms to produce sustained human rights' norms. Unfortunately, tension and conflict between the Buddhist majority and the minority Rohingya people and other ethnic and religious minority groups continues to increase in Burma. Targeted attacks at the hand of Burma's Buddhist majority, along with increased instances of arbitrary arrests, detention, and extortion of Rohingya and other Muslim communities across the country is deplorable. We must stand for freedom of underprivileged communities around the world. That is what defines us as the world's greatest democracy.

Thank you again, Chairman Chabot for your leadership and support and I yield back.

Mr. CHABOT. The gentleman's time has expired. Thank you very much. The gentlelady from Florida, Ms. Ros-Lehtinen, the author of H. Res. 281, is recognized.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Thank you so much, Mr. Chairman. Thank you so much, Dr. Bera, for leading this markup and allowing me to speak briefly on this important bipartisan resolution aimed at ending organ harvesting and religious persecution in China. Falun Gong, as you know, is a spiritual discipline that was first introduced in the early 1990s which combines exercise and meditation with philosophy. Its practitioners are peaceful, tolerant, and compassionate individuals who should be respected for their beliefs, not persecuted. And I have a longer opening statement, Mr. Chairman, that I would love to include in the record.

Thank you so very much.

Mr. CHABOT. Without objection, the gentlelady's statement will be included as part of the record. I want to thank her for her leadership.

The gentleman from California, the ranking member of the TNT Subcommittee, Mr. Sherman, is recognized for 5 minutes or whatever time he would like.

Mr. SHERMAN. I commend the chairman and ranking member for bringing up these resolutions. I commend the gentlelady from Florida for introducing her resolution. Her opening statement was commendable and I agree with every word of it and I agree with almost all of the words of the resolution that has been submitted by the gentleman from Ohio as a substitute for the equally generally wonderful original resolution from the gentlelady from Florida.

That being said, there is one provision here that will be a focus of attention should we adopt the resolution. It says that researcher

and journalist Ethan Gutmann has estimated that some 65,000 Falun Gong adherents “may have been killed for their organs from 2000 through 2008.” I look forward to working with the gentlelady from Florida. I will not offer any amendment to the resolution here in the subcommittee. I think that we need to reach out to Amnesty International and other mainline, respected human rights groups to see if we can really support this rather specific. It is true that this one researcher has put it forward and that we are merely quoting his work, not stating that that is a number that we as a committee or as a Congress fully endorse. Still, a vision of 65,000 people being executed solely for their organs is a rather vivid image and we may want to be less specific, less numerical, or more certain that the number is defensible by consulting with other experts in the field. And I look forward to working on this with the gentlelady and others as we move forward to the full committee. I yield back. Thank you.

Mr. CHABOT. I thank the gentleman for his comments. The gentleman’s time has expired.

Do any other members seek recognition? The gentleman from California, Mr. Rohrabacher is recognized.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. I rise in support of the resolution. I would hope that my name could be added to the list of endorsers of the resolution. I, however, respectfully would disagree with my colleague who I almost always agree with, that in fact I think the bill should have been a little bit more specific. There are specific areas that were taken out of the bill and specific charges against the Chinese Government that we could have highlighted. But I think our job is not necessarily to highlight details in legislation, but instead to express our principle and our philosophy behind what we are doing.

I think this legislation reflects the outrage in values of the American people and basically are the value that we place on human life and the outrage that we have that in China if not 65,000 specific people have been murdered for their organs, that there are large numbers of people, a lot of them, most of them, if not a lot of them, are associated with a religious group that does nothing more than encourages meditation and yoga and inner spirituality and these people have been brutalized and murdered and in many cases for the sake of making a profit off taking the organs from the dead body that the jailers have just executed. It doesn’t get more ghoul-ish than this. And we should not be hesitant about letting the world know about this monstrous crime, whether it was just 65,000 people or whether it was 35,000 people.

The fact that we do know that it is in the thousands of people who are being massacred in this way in order to sell organs to whom, to the American people and to others. We need to alert our fellow citizens that religious people are being murdered for their organs and Americans are dutily, is that the word I am looking for, dutifully are participating in economic exchanges buying organs for their families or for themselves, not realizing that those organs represent a crime against another human being. And this resolution is designed, as I say, I would have liked more specifics, but at least it alerts the American people that there is the Falun Gong and other religious believers are being murdered for their organs

and we should not only condemn it, but should go out of our way to make sure that the United States is not in some way and American citizens are not some way encouraging this behavior by participating in the sale or purchase of organs from China for that reason. So I support the resolution and would have preferred a little bit more specifics. I will compromise with Brad and say I will support, we will both support the legislation. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. CHABOT. Thank you very much. The gentleman's time has expired. Do any other members seek recognition? Hearing no further requests for recognition, the Chair moves that the subcommittee adopt the measures being considered en bloc. All those in favor, say aye.

Those opposed, say no.

In the opinion of the Chair, the ayes have it. The motion is approved and the en bloc measures are adopted. And so without objection, the following items are reported favorably to the full committee: H. Res. 418 and H. Res. 281, as amended by Chabot 34.

I want to thank our members and staff for all their assistance and cooperation on today's markup. If there is no further business to come before the subcommittee, we are adjourned. Thank you very much.

[Whereupon, at 3:16 p.m., the subcommittee was adjourned.]

A P P E N D I X



MATERIAL SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD

SUBCOMMITTEE MARKUP NOTICE
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6128

Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific
Steve Chabot (R-OH), Chairman

December 4, 2013

TO: MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

You are respectfully requested to attend an OPEN meeting of the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, to be held in Room 2172 of the Rayburn House Office Building (and available live on the Committee website at <http://www.ForeignAffairs.house.gov>):

DATE: Wednesday, December 11, 2013

TIME: 3:00 p.m.

MARKUP OF: H. Res. 418, Urging the Government of Burma to end the persecution of the Rohingya people and respect internationally recognized human rights for all ethnic and religious minority groups within Burma.

H. Res. 281, Expressing concern over persistent and credible reports of systematic, state-sanctioned organ harvesting from non-consenting prisoners of conscience, in the People's Republic of China, including from large numbers of Falun Gong practitioners imprisoned for their religious beliefs, and members of other religious and ethnic minority groups.

By Direction of the Chairman

The Committee on Foreign Affairs seeks to make its facilities accessible to persons with disabilities. If you are in need of special accommodations, please call 202/225-5021 at least four business days in advance of the event, whenever practicable. Questions with regard to special accommodations in general (including availability of Committee materials in alternative formats and assistive listening devices) may be directed to the Committee.



COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS
MINUTES OF SUBCOMMITTEE MARKUP

MINUTES OF SUBCOMMITTEE ON Asia & the Pacific MARKUP

Day Wednesday Date 12/11/13 Room 2172

Starting Time 3:00 pm Ending Time 3:35 pm

Recesses (to) (to)

Presiding Member(s)

Chairman Steve Chabot (R-OH)

Check all of the following that apply:

Open Session

Executive (closed) Session

Televised

Electronically Recorded (taped)

Stenographic Record

BILLS FOR MARKUP: (Include bill number(s) and title(s) of legislation.)

H. Res. 418

H. Res. 281

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Rep. Ami Bera (D-CA), Rep. Dana Rohrabacher (R-CA), Rep. Mo Brooks (R-AL), Rep. George Holding (R-NC), Rep. Brad Sherman (D-CA), Rep. Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL)

NON-COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

STATEMENTS FOR THE RECORD: (List any statements submitted for the record.)

Opening Statement of Rep. Ros-Lehtinen

ACTIONS TAKEN DURING THE MARKUP: (Attach copies of legislation and amendments.)

RECORDED VOTES TAKEN (FOR MARKUP): (Attach final vote tally sheet listing each member.)

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Yeas</u>	<u>Nays</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Not Voting</u>
(Voice Vote)				

TIME SCHEDULED TO RECONVENE _____

or

TIME ADJOURNED 3:35 pm


Subcommittee Staff Director

12/11/13 Subcommittee on Asia & the Pacific Markup Summary

The Chair called up the following measures for consideration by the Subcommittee. By unanimous consent, the two measures and amendment (previously provided to Members of the Committee) were considered *en bloc*:

1. H.Res. 281 (Ros-Lehtinen). “Expressing concern over persistent and credible reports of systematic, state-sanctioned organ harvesting from non-consenting prisoners of conscience, in the People’s Republic of China, including from large numbers of Falun Gong practitioners imprisoned for their religious beliefs, and members of other religious and ethnic minority groups.”

a. An Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (Chabot 34) was offered to H. Res 281 by Mr. Chabot.

2. H.Res. 418 (McGovern). “H. Res. 418, Urging the Government of Burma to end persecution of the Rohingya people and respect internationally recognized human rights for all ethnic and religious minority groups with Burma.”

H. Res. 281 (as amended), and H. Res. 418 were agreed to by voice vote and were ordered favorably reported to the Full Committee by unanimous consent.

The Subcommittee adjourned.



Chairman Ros-Lehtinen Remarks
Asia Subcommittee Markup of H. Res. 281
Wednesday, December 11, 2013; 3 p.m. 2172 Rayburn

I thank Chairman Chabot and Dr. Bera for leading this mark up and allowing me to speak on this important bipartisan resolution, aimed to end organ harvesting and religious persecution in China.

Falun Gong is a spiritual discipline that was first introduced in the early 1990s, which combines exercise and meditation with philosophy.

Its practitioners are peaceful, tolerant and compassionate individuals who should be respected for their beliefs, not persecuted.

Yet in 1999, the Chinese Communist Party launched an intensive, nationwide persecution campaign against the Falun Gong.

Since then, hundreds of thousands of Falun Gong practitioners have been illegally detained and placed into prisons and labor camps, where many have been tortured and targeted for organ harvesting.

These horrible crimes against humanity must end, and they must end now.

This is why I am proud to have introduced H. Res. 281, along with my colleague Congressman Andrews.

This resolution calls for:

- The immediate end to this horrid practice of organ harvesting from all prisoners of conscience, for a full and transparent investigation by the State Department, and for the persecution of those found to have engaged in such despicable practices; and
- An immediate end to Beijing's 14-year persecution of the Falun Gong, with a recommendation that the Administration publicly condemn organ transplantation abuses in China and ban the entry of any individual who was involved in such practices.

With 165 cosponsors, this legislation has received wide bipartisan support.

This resolution lends a voice to the millions of Falun Gong followers in China who have no voice of their own; and speaks for the thousands who have died needlessly in the forced-labor camps for "re-education" and brainwashing.

We know what goes on in those forced-labor camps and institutions;

And we know about the perverse and immoral practice of harvesting organs from prisoners of conscience and any other non-acquiescing individual to the regime – predominantly Falun Gong followers.

This gruesome practice is an appalling violation to fundamental principles of life, and is not only in wanton disregard of any moral or ethical standard of human decency, but goes against the very rules of nature.

It should be the position of the United States, and every other responsible nation, to condemn this practice and Beijing's oppression of the Falun Gong.

Being a Cuban refugee myself who fled the cold, iron fist of communism, I believe the United States has a moral responsibility to be a voice for those that are oppressed and to push for the freedom to practice one's religion;

It's quite fitting that yesterday was International Human Rights Day and we take a positive step forward today to stand up for human rights and equality for all across the globe, and we must call attention to the plight of those suffering under oppressive regimes.

I therefore urge my friends and colleagues on this subcommittee to support this important resolution so that it we may one day see an end to this cruel and inhumane practice.

Thank you.

