

I also want to recognize the efforts of Commissioner Guadalupe Morfin Otero, who has done some good work in investigating the issues surrounding these deaths. The Mexican Federal Government has also established a DNA database to help better identify the victims. While obtaining independent verification of victims' remains an outstanding issue, the creation of this database is a positive step in the right direction.

Although I am pleased that President Fox has taken the initiative on these fronts, I continue to believe that there needs to be a more coordinated effort on the part of the Mexican and U.S. Governments. That is why I have submitted this vitally important resolution. I stand ready to assist in any way I can, and I believe that the U.S. Government should be prepared to do so as well. The U.S. Agency for International Development has begun providing assistance to the state of Chihuahua for judicial reform, and I hope that the Mexican and U.S. Governments can work together on other initiatives as well. This resolution isn't meant to be a condemnation of Mexico. It is meant to express that the U.S. Congress stands with the victims of this violence and is willing to take constructive steps to assist in preventing these murders in the future.

Speciically, this resolution would condemn the abductions and murders of young women in the state of Chihuahua, Mexico, express the sincerest condolences and deepest sympathy of the Senate to the families of the young women, and urge a continued multilateral effort on the part of the Governments of Mexico and the United States to address this issue.

To this end, it would urge the Governments of Mexico and the United States to support steps that would allow families to positively identify the remains of the victims, and encourage the Secretary of States to continue to facilitate U.S. participation in such efforts.

It would also encourage the Secretary of State to urge the Mexican Government to ensure fair and proper judicial proceedings for the individuals accused of these abductions and murders, and to impose appropriate punishment for those individuals found guilty of such crimes. Additionally, it would condemn threats against human rights activists and the use of torture as a means of investigation.

Lastly, this resolution would condemn all senseless acts of violence against women across the world and express the solidarity of the people of the United States with the people of Mexico in the face of these tragic and senseless acts.

This problem can't be ignored. We have the chance to help end the suffering of these innocent families, and I hope the Senate will join me in supporting this resolution.

#### THE TIBETAN DAY OF COMMEMORATION

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, Today I rise to commemorate the 46th Anniversary of the Tibetan Uprising of 1959.

It is my sincere hope that both the Chinese government and the Tibetan leaders might use this opportunity to reflect on the importance of pursuing a viable, long-term solution that provides the Tibetan people the right to enjoy religious, cultural, and social autonomy as part of the People's Republic of China.

This anniversary marks a sad, but important day in the history of the Tibetan people.

In 1951, two years after the People's Liberation Army first entered Tibet, Chinese government representatives and Tibetan leaders signed what has been called the 17 Point Agreement.

This agreement, among other things, included the promise of Tibetan religious, cultural, and social autonomy, and preserved the institution of the Dalai Lama.

Sadly, the Chinese government failed to uphold these promises and attempted to force "revolutionary socialist reforms" upon the Tibet people and leadership. This ultimately culminated in the 1959 Lhasa Uprising which saw tens of thousands of Tibetans killed and forced the Dalai Lama and many others to flee to India.

Today human rights abuses continue against Tibetans wishing to practice their religion or promote their unique cultural and historical identity. Hundreds have been imprisoned in Tibet, and tens of thousands more have had to flee their homeland.

Nevertheless, the Dalai Lama remains steadfast in his desire to find a long-lasting and viable solution that will provide freedom and autonomy for the Tibetan people without pursuing independence.

In a speech today to mark this 46th anniversary, he stated:

We remain fully committed to the Middle Way Approach of not seeking independence for Tibet and are willing to remain within the People's Republic of China.

He also praised the economic progress and development that has taken place in Tibet over the past 40 years, including the new railroad link that will begin operation this year.

I have personally worked for well over two decades to try and bring both the Chinese government and Tibetan leadership together in a spirit of cooperation and dialogue to overcome the differences that have impeded progress on a solution for Tibet. And after many conversations with the Dalai Lama, I am fully convinced that he is sincere in his promise not to pursue a separate path for Tibet.

To that end, several times over the years I have carried messages from the Dalai Lama to Beijing and communicated regularly with Jiang Zemin and other Chinese officials on the importance of establishing dialogue on the Tibet issue.

I have also been pleased to see that discussions between the Dalai Lama's envoys and Chinese officials have resumed and that a third round of meetings took place last September in Beijing.

It is my hope that both sides will build upon these meetings and that President Hu, with his knowledge and understanding of the Tibetan people, will come to appreciate the international goodwill that would be fostered by his willingness to meet with the Dalai Lama and pursue a reasonable solution to the Tibet issue.

Despite the slow pace of progress over the years, I remain confident that if the Chinese leadership will only sit down with the Dalai Lama and listen openly to his views, that a sustainable solution providing for the preservation of the distinctive identity, religious and cultural heritage for the Tibetan people can be found.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### AMERICAN CULINARY FEDERATION'S SOUTHEASTERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE

● Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I am pleased today to recognize a group of Americans who are constantly seeking to improve upon their skills and pursue excellence in their passion and vocation.

Beginning today, chefs, cooks, students and foodservice professionals from Southeastern America will gather in Roanoke, VA for a 4-day conference hosted by the American Culinary Federation's Southwestern Virginia Chapter. The event serves as an invaluable opportunity for these culinarians to share their immense skill and knowledge with others in their profession. It provides a chance for these culinary artists to create new relationships and foster old ones, and for senior and master chefs to inspire the aspiring junior chefs.

The conference will honor a number of individuals for excellence in their trade, with the following distinctions being awarded: chef of the year award, pastry chef of the year award, and student member of the year award. These individuals will then compete at the national conference of the American Culinary Federation to receive the national award in each division.

In addition to the work the American Culinary Federation does to promote the art of cooking and to enhance the dining experience for those who indulge in a meal prepared by these talented individuals, the ACF also works hard to fight childhood hunger across the nation by providing nutrition-based education programs to children in preschool through grade five. Chefs work to increase the awareness of childhood hunger and poverty, and help to train food-relief agencies.