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CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE

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

Whereas the former General Secretary of the Communist Party of the People’s Republic of China, Hu Yaobang, on April 15, 1989, gave rise to peaceful protests throughout China calling for the establishment of a dialogue with government and party leaders on democratic reforms, including freedom of assembly, freedom of association, 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 and 4, 1989, until 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 normal official sources, a Chinese Red Cross report from June 7, 1989, and the State Department Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 1989, gave various estimates of the number killed and wounded in 1989 by the People’s Liberation Army soldiers and other security forces, but agreed that hundreds, if not thousands, of people were killed and thousands more were wounded;

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

Whereas human rights groups such as Human Rights Watch, Human Rights in China, and Amnesty International have documented that hundreds of those arrested remain in prison;

Whereas the Government of the People’s Republic of China continues to suppress dissent by imprisoning pro-democracy activists, journalists, labor union leaders, religious believers, and ethnic Uyghurs, Tibetans, and North Koreans who seek to express their political or religious views in a peaceful manner; and


Resolved, That the House of Representatives:

(C) release all prisoners of conscience, including those still in prison as a result of their participation in the peaceful pro-democracy protests of May and June 1989, provide just compensation to the families of those killed in those protests, and allow those exiled on account of their activities in 1989 to return and live in freedom in the People’s Republic of China;

(D) put an immediate end to harassment, detention, and imprisonment of Chinese citizens exercising their legitimate rights to the freedom of expression, freedom of association, and freedom of religion; and

(E) demonstrate its willingness to respect the rights of all Chinese citizens by proceeding quickly to ratify and implement the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights which it signed on October 5, 1998.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. Gilman) and the gentleman from California (Mr. Lantos) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. Gilman).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. Gilman. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this measure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. Gilman. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the gentlewoman from California (Ms. Pelosi) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. Wolf) for drafting this important legislation. I thank the gentlewoman from California (Mr. Lantos) for his support of the legislation.

I strongly support House Resolution 178, a resolution concerning the 10th anniversary of the Tiananmen Massacre of June 4, 1989, in the People’s Republic of China. Our government’s policy concerning the People’s Republic of China has failed to promote human rights in China.

It has failed to promote our national security and failed to ensure a modicum of trade fairness.

The arrest, the executions, the torture and imprisonment of pro-democracy activists in China, occupied Tibet and East Turkestan continue unabated. The government in Beijing is just as determined as ever to distort the truth and prevent that truth from getting out.

Just yesterday the Washington Post reported that, in an effort to ensure that there are no demonstrations regarding the victims of the massacre, they arrested Yang Tao, a student leader of the 1989 demonstrations.

One campaigner who has led the effort to give compensation for and urged a government apology to the families of the victims of the massacre has been under virtual house arrest since May 4.

An AP report mentioned that Beijing is trying to stop internet news in China.

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

Whereas the United States has long been a champion of freedom and human rights.

CONCERNING TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF TIANANMEN SQUARE MASSACRE

Mr. Gilman. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 178) concerning the tenth anniversary of the Tiananmen Square massacre of June 4, 1989, in the People’s Republic of China.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. Res. 178

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. Gilman).

Whereas the United States was founded on the democratic principle that all men and women are created equal and entitled to the exercise of their basic human rights;
The gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SMITH), the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. PORTER), and many others.

Mr. Speaker, it is important to take a moment to remember Tiananmen Square. Ten years ago on the 4th of June, thousands and thousands of democratically inclined students and citizens of China demonstrated peacefully. On that fateful day, the full force of the Chinese military and security apparatus came down on them with brutality and ferocity of incredible proportions.

Thousands were killed. Tens of thousands were injured. Thousands were imprisoned. There came a dark night in China for all who were hoping for some measure of human rights.

When we introduced this legislation to commemorate the 10th anniversary of this outrage against all standards of civilized conduct, we merely wanted to do just that, to call attention to the fact that 10 years ago, this outrage occurred.

But there is an additional outrage that occurred just a few weeks ago which I believe is highly relevant to this resolution. When the United States, by mistake, bombed the Embassy of China in Belgrade, the Chinese Government engaged in a degree of cynical and hypocritical manipulation of both its own public opinion and global public opinion.

They never told the Chinese people that NATO's air strikes were in response to the killing and mass rape and expulsion of over a million and a half ethnic Albanians. When this mistake occurred, for which the United States apologized at the highest levels, they claimed that the hit on the Embassy of China in Belgrade was not a mistake but a deliberate act of atrocity.

This, Mr. Speaker, underscores the obvious fact. This Communist totalitarian dictatorship has not changed since that fateful day on June 4, 1989. It continues to lie, to fabricate to its own people and to the rest of the world.

By this attempt, it tries to equate morally the deliberate killing of thousands of democracy-loving Chinese citizens at Tiananmen Square with the inadvertent killing of three innocent journalists at the embassy in Belgrade. The civilized world will not allow this attempt at moral equivalence to succeed.

The Chinese Communist government stands condemned before the court of global public opinion, both for what it did at Tiananmen Square 10 years ago and what it has been doing the last few weeks, attempting to destroy the functioning Embassy of the United States in Beijing, encouraging mobs of Chinese to attack the embassy, to keep its staff and our ambassador captive, and to engage in the most cynical manipulation of its media and the media of the world.

We are here to commemorate the fallen heroes of Tiananmen Square. When my colleagues come to my office, Mr. Speaker, in the entry hall there is that forever to be remembered poster of a single unarmed Chinese student facing down tanks, the most poignant reminder of human courage and dignity against overwhelming odds.

While that student may have been killed, as were thousands of others, the cause of freedom has not been extinguished in China. The future belongs to the students and citizens of China who, even under these impossible conditions, are insisting on freedom of speech, freedom of press, freedom of religion, the right to make their own decisions about their own future.

I strongly urge my colleagues to vote for this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), and I ask unanimous consent that he be permitted to control that time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SUNUNU). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I am particularly delighted to yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Ms. PELOSI), who has been a leader on this issue for many years in the Congress.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California for yielding me this time and for his very generous comments. They are reciprocated by me in terms of his leadership on this issue for the past 10 years, really for his whole life, as a champion of human rights throughout the world.

I want to also thank the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN), chairman of the Committee on International Relations, for his steadfastness.

Ten years have gone by, and we have been working on this issue a very, very long time. I wish the outcome, this 10 years later, would be a better one to report on human rights in China. But I thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) for his leadership over the years and in the recent days in moving this legislation out of the committee and the Senate and to the House.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. PELOSI. I am pleased to yield to the gentleman from New York.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, we cannot thank the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI) enough for her continued, diligent effort in reminding the entire Congress of the violations of human rights in China, particularly when we discussed most favored nation with China. I hope our colleagues will be reminded of that in our next debate on most favored nation for China.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, one of the most enduring images of the 20th Century is the picture of the lone man before the tank in Tiananmen Square. The distinguished gentleman from San Francisco, California (Mr. LANTOS) mentioned it as an icon that is in the entrance of his office.

It is a constant reminder to all of us of the courage of the young people in Tiananmen Square, and of course of the sadness that the human rights situation has not improved in China these many years.

In fact, the policy of our country which was to provide trickle down liberty. If economics goes well and trade goes well, then the political freedom will follow. That simply has not happened. In fact, for all of our concessions to the Chinese, our trade deficit has gone from $2 million when we started this debate, to this year when it will be over $60 billion with China.

The proliferation of weapons of mass destruction by China still continues, no matter what anyone tells us. Of course we are witnessing the abuse of the good nature of our President with the violations by the Chinese on proliferation, trade, and the continuing violations of the human rights of people there.

As a tribute to the brave dissidents who gave their lives, risked their personal security, and continue to do so in China, and in commemoration of the 10-year anniversary of the Tiananmen Square massacre, I was pleased to join some of my colleagues, some of whom are present here, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF), the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN), the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. PORIER), the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GERRIARDT), the gentleman from California (Mr. COX), the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONDOR), the gentleman from
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The petition calls on the Chinese Government to reverse the verdict of the People’s Daily, the official Chinese newspaper, claimed that overseas dissidents, exiles, and escapes are “crowding” at the “murder” of their compatriots who died in the NATO bombing of the Chinese Embassy in Belgrade.

What a pathetic commentary on the Beijing regime, that it feels threatened by dissidents in China and abroad!

The regime has the power of their military and security forces at home and they have their economic partners abroad and supporters, including the U.S. Government, giving to their every whim, and yet they are still frightened.

And speaking of the U.S. Government, while we have bowed to their every whim, sad to say, the Chinese regime has no remaining friendship to the Clinton administration.

As the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) pointed out, when the stupid mistake of bombing the embassy occurred, the President apologized and apologized and apologized and apologized, but his friends in the regime whom he visited and gave great face to last year, would not even let the Chinese people know that the President had apologized. And they participated in the orchestration of rocks being thrown at our embassy for 3 days, one of our consulates being set on fire, and the ambassador, in his own words, being a hostage in the embassy. This, after we have, as a government, catered to their every whim.

And I might say that the President’s apology was exceptional, because we usually do not apologize when we do not do something intentional. This was a mistake; it was not intentional.

It might be of interest to our colleagues to know that when 20 Europeans were killed in a Belgrade accident, which occurred in Italy, the United States of America expressed regret. And when we had the problem in Iran, when we mistakenly killed Iranian civilians, President Reagan expressed regret. So an apology is an intensified response to this accidental and mistaken bombing. The Chinese Government would not even accept what the President of the United States was stooping to in this case.

I certainly think the Chinese people deserve to be apologized to or have our regrets extended to them. We should make reparations, we should investigate how the bombing took place, but we should not extend any favors to them on the economic front like previous years. We are pleased to do it under commercially viable terms and we should not ignore their continued violations of human rights in China.

Our President went to China last year. He went to the extreme step of leading the People’s Liberation Army to use lethal force on the protesters around Tiananmen Square. Hundreds, if not thousands, we do not know the number because the Chinese Government will not give us access to that, were slain in that night of horror. Thousands more were injured, and over 20,000 prisoners of conscience were arrested and sentenced without trial, to prison, to labor camps, and to years of torture.

Prisoners of conscience tell us that one of the most excruciating painful forms of torture occurs when the perpetrators of their torture tell them that no one even knows about them, cares about them, or cares about the cause for which they are in prison.

The purpose of our legislation, which has strong bipartisan support in the House, I am pleased to co-sponsor the legislation with my colleague whom I respect so much, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF), has strong bipartisan support in the House and in the United States Senate. The purpose of this legislation is to tell the prisoners and their torturers and the Chinese regime and the world that the American people remember.

We remember the brave students who modeled their Goddess of Democracy after our own Statue of Liberty. We remember how the brave students echoed the words of our Founding Fathers in their courageous appeals to the regime. We remember the brave people who went into the streets with guns and tanks to crush the peaceful demonstrations. We remember today the many political prisoners who still languish these 10 years later in Chinese prisons.

Our legislation parallels the petition being circulated by the Tiananmen leader Wang Dan and the global campaign for the anniversary of June 4. The petition calls on the Chinese Government to reverse the verdict of Tiananmen Square, to free the prisoners, to allow them and all Chinese to speak freely, and to allow for the return of the Chinese exiles.

The petition has been endorsed by Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, and International Pen, to name a few organizations.

On the day we introduced our Tiananmen resolution, the Chinese Government arrested dissidents for planning to distribute leaflets seeking redress for the massacre. The location of the pro-democracy editorialist is still unknown. The same day, a member of the banned China Democratic Party was beaten and stripped of his clothes by the police for merely speaking about democracy in a public park.

At the same time, the regime, speaking through a silenced editorialist in the People’s Daily, the official Chinese newspaper, claimed that overseas dissidents, exiles, and escapes are “crowding” at the “murder” of their compatriots who died in the NATO bombing of the Chinese Embassy in Belgrade.

On June 3, the Chinese regime responded to these peaceful demonstrations by ordering the People’s Liberation Army to use lethal force on the protesters around Tiananmen Square. Millions of Chinese students and workers across China demonstrated peacefully for freedom of expression and the elimination of corruption by government officials.

The regime, while we have bowed to their every whim, and yet they are still frightened.

On the heels of the President’s visit, people who supported the China Democratic Party felt emboldened, spoke out, and they are now in prison.

I know I have taken a great deal of time, but with the Chairman’s indulgence, I would like to read some of the names of the people still in prison right now. Xu Wenli, for example, a leader of the China Democratic Party was arrested immediately upon speaking out. In addition we are talking about people who are still in prison 10 years later for their activities at the time of the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre. Cao Yingyuan, Chang Jingqiang, Chang Yongjie, Chen Dongxiang, Chen Qiuqiong, Chen Yanlin. And it is a long, long, long list, Mr. Speaker, and I am going to submit it for the RECORD. It is a list compiled by Human Rights in China, an organization dedicated to freeing the prisoners arrested at that time.

BEIJING CITIZENS STILL IN PRISON IN CONNECTION WITH 1989 JUNE FOURTH CRACKDOWN

Ten years after the Beijing Massacre and subsequent crackdown, hundreds remain in prison for their role in the 1989 protest movement. The list below contains the names of 144 individuals from Beijing alone who are serving lengthy prison sentences for their participation in the 1989 democracy movement.

This information was primarily compiled by Li Hai, a former Beijing student who was arrested in 1990 following the protests. He was subsequently sentenced to a nine-year prison term for “prying into and gathering ‘state secrets’.”

The individuals listed below include a wide variety of Beijing residents—from peasants, security guards and factory workers to engineers and cadres in the State Planning Commission. At the time of their arrest, they ranged in age from 17 to 71. In the official propaganda, these demonstrators were called “rioters,” and were charged with “hooliganism,” “disturbing social order,” and other criminal offenses. For the most part they are people who were seen on television screens around the world in May 1989, marching in the streets, blocking the path of the troops entering the city with improvised barricades, running through the streets on the night of June 3—throwing rocks and paving stones at tanks and armed personnel carriers. Many are thought to have been detained merely because they were out on the streets. In general, the average sentence of those not given life terms is approximately thirteen years.
Li Hai, the persons on this list, and many other "nameless" individuals jailed throughout China in connection with the 1989 crackdown might not be as internationally well-known as some dissidents, but their lives are significantly impaired each day.

Human Rights in China submits the following list to President Clinton for presentation to Prime Minister Zhu Rongji during his visit.

Human Rights in China urges the Chinese government to demonstrate its commitment to making genuine improvements in the human rights situation by releasing all of the prisoners on this list, as well as the thousands of other political and religious detainees throughout China.

LIST OF BEIJING CITIZENS STILL IN PRISON IN CONNECTION WITH THE 1989 TIANNANMEN SQUARE CRACKDOWN

Beijing No. 2 Prison: Name, Age—Sentence—Charge (see key below for charge name).

Cao Yingyan, 40—10 years, #8; Chang Jingjing—25, Life, #5; Chang Yongjie, 31—Susp. death in prison, #7, 8; Chen Dongqian, 31—Hooliganism, #12; Zhang Guodong, 27—Life, #4; Zhang Kun, 29, worker—Life, #4; Zhang Fukun, 39—Life, #7; Zhang Baoku, 39, worker—12 years (reduced by 2 years), #4; Zhang Baojun, 27—13 years, #4, #9; Zhang Pu, 34—Susp. death, #4; Yang Yupu, 33—15 years, #4; Yang Guanghui, 25—12 years, #4; Yang Jian, 35, worker—12 years, #3; Chen Qinghe, 25, Life, #4; Liu Xu, 28, worker—15 years, #4; Liu Decheng—16 years for counter-revolutionary sabotage. Lu Decheng is a former art editor of the Liuyang News, a city paper of Liuyang city, Hunan Province. He traveled to Beijing in May 1989 to join the demonstrations there. On May 23, Yu and two friends threw ink- and paint-filled eggs at the portrait of Mao Zedong in Tiantanmen Square. Yu was sentenced to life in prison in August 1989. According to a 1996 Human Rights Watch report, he was believed to be serving in solitary confinement at the Lingling Prison in Hunan Province.

Yu Dongyue—20 years for counter-revolutionary sabotage. Yu Dongyue is a former art editor of the Liuyang News, a city paper of Liuyang city, Hunan Province. He traveled to Beijing in May 1989 to join the demonstrations there. On May 23, Yu and two friends threw ink- and paint-filled eggs at the portrait of Mao Zedong in Tiantanmen Square. Yu was sentenced to twenty years imprisonment in August 1989. He reportedly served at least two years in solitary confinement. He is said to be serving in Hunan Province Yuanjiang No. 1 Prison. Recent news articles report Yu "was suffering severe mental illness." Lu Decheng—16 years for counter-revolutionary sabotage. Lu Decheng is a former worker at the Liuyang (Hunan Province) Public Motors Company. He traveled to Beijing in May 1989 to join the demonstrations there. On May 23, Lu and two friends threw ink- and paint-filled eggs at the portrait of Mao Zedong in Tiantanmen Square. Yu was sentenced to sixteen years imprisonment in August 1989. He reportedly served at least two years in solitary confinement. He is said to be serving in Hunan Province Yuanjiang No. 1 Prison. Recent news articles report Yu "was suffering severe mental illness."
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Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 178, a resolution concerning the massacre at Tiananmen Square on June 4 and June 3 of 1989. Next week marks the 10th anniversary of that historic tragic event, and so the Chinese Government ought to know we are not going to forget about it. But more importantly, we want the men and women who are still in jail to know.

And I thank the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH). He and I visited Beijing Prison Number One, where we saw 40 Tiananmen Square prisoners working on socks to export to the United States.

Also, by us doing this and the Congress voting this way, it sends a message the same way we did to Sharansky. When Sharansky was in Perm Camp 35, he told us he knew every time the United States Congress spoke out on behalf of him and other Soviet dissidents. It encouraged them and emboldened them and let them know that the West cared and was going to stand with them no matter what.

So it has been a decade since the crackdown, but we are not going to forget.

Also, Mr. Speaker, it is important to know that the persecution of the church and the persecution in Tibet still continues unabated in China. They have Catholic priests in jail, Catholic bishops in jail; they have plundered Tibet, they are persecuting the Buddhist monks, they are persecuting the Muslims in the northwest portion of the country. So in addition to commemorating the 10th anniversary, to letting the Tiananmen Square demonstrators know we stand in solidarity, it also sends a message that this government cannot get away with what it has done.

I am convinced that the Chinese Government cannot last much longer. I am convinced they will go the way of the Ceausescu administration. In fact, they must have found Ceausescu's playbook because everything Ceausescu did against the church, they are doing against the church. Everything Ceausescu did against the demonstrators in Tiananmen Square in Bucharest, they are doing.

And so this government and all of us here, all of us in this body, will live to see the day that they fall. And one day in China, in the not too distant future, the good people of China, and they are good people, will be free, able to choose their leaders in democracy and free elections. Everything Ceausescu did against the church will end with the press and have freedom of worship.

Until then, we applaud all those fighting inside China to keep the struggle for human rights and democracy alive. We call on the Chinese Government to respect human rights by releasing all of the prisoners of conscience. If we were to wake up tomorrow or in celebration of the anniversary and were to see they were to release all of the prisoners of conscience, that may make a big difference in that country. But until they do that, we will remember.

Lastly, for the administration and Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle to talk about giving this country Most Favored Nation trading status is absolutely crazy. And after the Cox report, released today, if we have a vote on MFN, it ought to go down overwhelmingly. And, quite frankly, the administration ought not even send anything up.

But more importantly, back to the brave young men and women and their families, we will remember and stand with them in solidarity and will celebrate in victory in Tiananmen Square when freedom comes to China.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to associate myself strongly with the remarks of all the previous speakers, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF), the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN), and the gentleman from California (Ms. PELOSI). And I want to thank the gentlewoman for her leadership in drafting this legislation. I am very proud to be a cosponsor of it.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a “yes” vote on H. Res. 178, which many of us want to see passed unanimously today. Ten years ago, Mr. Speaker, the ground at Tiananmen Square was literally awash by the blood of thousands of peaceful democracy advocates. Those Chinese patriots were slaughtered by a Communist regime that remains defiantly unapologetic for its actions and that continues to deny the very truth of what happened.

I was gravely disappointed last year when the President of the United States and our country, which more than any other in the world ought to bear the standard of freedom and democracy, and do so very, very diligently, met at that very site with the dictators who continued to lie about the murders committed less than a decade ago. In December of 1996, Mr. Speaker, General Chi Haotian, the Defense Minister of the People's Republic of China and the operational commander of the forces that attacked the pro-democracy demonstrators, we call him the “Butcher of Beijing,” was invited to the United States by the Clinton administration.

During his visit he was given full military honors, a 21-gun salute, visits to several military bases and a tour of Sandia Nuclear Laboratory. And I would just say parenthetically, the Cox report suggests that that visit probably was not needed. He even had a personal meeting, Mr. Speaker, with the President of the United States at the White House. He also stated in what he called a responsible and serious manner, and I quote this, “Not a single person lost his life in Tiananmen Square.” He claimed that on June 4th, 1989, the People's Liberation Army did nothing more violent than pushing. General Chi Haotian said the only thing they did in Tiananmen Square was push people that he called hooligans. General Chi’s remarkable “big lie” statement about Tiananmen Square helped the American people and the world to understand what he and his government are really like.

Mr. Speaker, my Subcommittee on International Operations and Human Rights of the Committee on International Relations has had more than a dozen hearings on China and its repressive human rights regime, and during one of those, when we heard those outrageous remarks, we very quickly put together a hearing with people who were there on the ground—students—and we also had a man that was a journalist from the People’s Daily, who was actually arrested for his honest reporting as to what had occurred, a TIME magazine correspondent, and, like I said, some of the students. But we also invited General Chi.

The gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) and I, then the ranking member of the Committee on International Operations and Human Rights, sent a message to the Chinese government that we would not permit a visit to China to go forward. And, like I said, some of the students. But we also invited General Chi.
We offered it to a representative of his government and we also invited Ambassador Lee for a roundtable discussion. At the very last minute, he opted out. C-SPAN, everybody was there to cover it and there was another empty chair because they do not want to be held accountable for the atrocities.

Perhaps General Chi, perhaps the ambassador, perhaps any representative of the government could tell us that there are no persecuted Christians in China. Perhaps they could tell us there is no ethnic and religious persecution in Tibet or Xinjiang. Perhaps they could tell us there is no forced abortions or forced sterilization, no dying rooms for unwanted children, usually baby girls and usually handicapped children.

They also perhaps could tell us there is no political suppression or dissent and no torture. Of course, we would know that is a lie, but it is about time we held them to account.

At one of our hearings recently, Mr. Speaker, Amnesty International issued a report card and on every one of the items, they gave the conclusion that there was a total failure by the dictatorship. For example, release of all Tiananmen Square prisoners and other prisoners of conscience. Amnesty’s response, total failure. Not one Tiananmen Square prisoner has been released since President Clinton’s visit. Review all counterrevolutionary prison terms, about 2,000 of them; total failure. Not one counterrevolutionary prisoner sentence has been reviewed.

There has been no indication by Chinese authorities that they will undertake a systematic review of such cases; according to Amnesty, allow religious freedom; continued strong repression, says Amnesty.

There has been no indication of improvement since the President’s visit. On the gross violation of coercive family planning and the harvesting of organs, again, Amnesty International reports no progress whatsoever. Those are crimes against humanity. The information concerning the practice of coercive population control is “unequivocal.” And the Chinese authorities have announced no steps to stop it.

Review of the system and reeducation through labor; total failure says Amnesty. Chinese authorities have made no changes in the system, nor have they announced any plans to do so.

End police and prison brutality. Amnesty reports total failure in these two areas as well. Chinese authorities continue to use torture and beatings. Mr. Speaker, as I indicated, General Chi did not respond to our invitation. Nor has the ambassador. And we reissue it again to them. Come and speak before the House, through our subcommittee or any other forum, because we think that there is much to be held accountable for.

What happened on Tiananmen Square? I think Ms. Pelosi put it so well. There were people on the ground who reported. Let us not forget the very images we saw. It was captured on videotape. And yet, they still lie right through their teeth.

Nicholas Kristoff of the New York Times, who was in the Square on that night, reports, and this is his reporting. "The troops began shooting. Some people fell to the ground wounded or dead. Each time the soldiers fired again and more people fell to the ground."

When he went to the Xiehe Hospital, the nearest to the Square, “It was a bloody mess with hundreds of injured lying on the floors. I saw bullet holes in the ambulance’s doors.

Jan Wong of The Toronto Globe and Mail, looking down from a balcony in Beijing, “watched in horror as the army shot directly into the crowds. People fell with gaping wounds.”

Later she observed the soldiers strafed ambulances and shot medical workers trying to rescue the wounded. “In all,” she reported, “I recorded eight long murderous volleys. Dozens died before my eyes.”

General Chi said this was just pushing. What an outrageous lie, reminiscent of what the Nazis did during their terrible reign of terror.

This is what Tiananmen Square means to the people of China, Mr. Speaker, and to the world. We should mark the tenth anniversary of that tragedy by remembering those who lost their lives in Tiananmen Square and by publicly committing ourselves to the cause for which they died, freedom for the people of China.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. The Congress is always at its best when we speak with a bipartisan voice. There is no issue on which we speak with a stronger, clearer, more articulate bipartisan voice than the issue of human rights violations in China and in Tibet.

All of my colleagues who have spoken and all who will vote for this resolution recognize that determination that we shall not rest until China becomes a free and open and democratic society. The Chinese people deserve no less, one of the most talented people with an incredible record in science, literature, music, art, in every aspect of human endeavor, who are suffering under the yoke of an unspeakable totalitarian communist dictatorship. The day of the Chinese people will come. I call on all my colleagues to vote for this resolution.

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, following the death of Mao and the end of the chaotic Cultural Revolution in 1976, China embarked down the path of significant economic and political reform, comparatively speaking. With Deng Xiaoping’s Reform and Opening Policy, traditional foreign involvement expanded and rigid communist economic policies were relaxed. As a result, the Chinese people were exposed to new standards of living, access to information and commercial freedoms never before realized. These progressive economic reforms stimulated the desire for increased political freedom and democratization, especially among students in China.

Unfortunately, while the Chinese Communist Party leadership acknowledged that economic reform was necessary and encouraged it, these initiatives fearfully viewed even modest political liberalization as a serious threat to the Communist Party’s monopoly on power. Thus, when Chinese students peacefully demonstrated for democratic change, hard-line Communist leaders responded with tanks, bullets and mass arrests. The most visible and brutal incidents occurred on June 3rd and 4th in Tiananmen Square. Many people were killed by the People’s Liberation Army and other security forces. A great many more were wounded. It is reported that 10,000 people nationwide suspected of taking part in the democracy movement were arrested and sentenced without trial to prison or labor camps. Hundreds of these individuals remain incarcerated today.

As the Chairman of the House International Relations Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, this Member follows developments in China as closely as possible and believes that it is certainly in America’s national security interests to integrate China into the international community. Yet, it is clear that China-American relations are complex and comprehensive, and have become increasingly problematic. Our concerns continue to multiply in scope and seriousness: espionage, illegal campaign contributions, weapons proliferation, abortion, Tibet, Taiwan, unfair trade and human rights. Each of these issues needs to be addressed by the appropriate means in the appropriate fora.

In some cases we will find ourselves in conflict with the views of China. For example, we have a shared interest in supporting a sustainable recovery from the Asian financial crisis. In other matters, such as to what constitutes a respect and proper actions on matters relating to human rights, we strongly disagree. Responsible engagement does not equate to appeasement. It is a comprehensive approach focusing on both areas of agreement and disagreement.

Freedom and democracy are the very foundation of the United States and are principles the American people cherish. American students were outraged watching Chinese students whose only apparent crime was asking for more political freedom being crushed by PLA tanks and shot in the back as they tried to flee Tiananmen Square. Our consciences will not allow us to quietly mislead or to de facto undermine a government towards its people. While Tiananmen Square may have been cleared of protesters ten years ago, the aftermath of that violence remains.

Over the past decade since the tragic incident in Tiananmen Square, the human rights situation in China gradually began to improve, relatively speaking. Unfortunately, that encouraging progress was reversed six months ago.
when hundreds of prodemocracy activists, journalists, labor union leaders, religious believers, and others labeled by the Communist Party as dissidents began to be exiled, imprisoned or harassed.

Therefore, as part of our policy of responsible engagement, this Member supports H. Res. 178, the resolution before the House concerning the tenth anniversary of the Tiananmen Square massacre of June 4, 1989, in the People’s Republic of China. This is an appropriate and measured way to send a message to the Communist leadership in Beijing and to the Chinese people at large that Americans are understandably and as a matter of principle and conscience very much concerned about human rights and democratic reform in China.

If China is to be integrated and welcomed into the international community as a responsible member and positive force, China ultimately must respect the rule of law. H. Res. 178 serves as a strong reminder that, in the opinion of the House of Representatives, very significant actions still need to be taken by Beijing to achieve that standard.

Mr. Speaker, with the 10th anniversary of the Tiananmen Square massacre just a week away, this Member urges his colleagues to join him in supporting H. Res. 178.

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate a group of courageous individuals and their commitment to freedom and democracy—the thousands of Chinese students and activists who took part in the Tiananmen Square demonstration in May and June of 1989.

I want to thank the chairman of the Congressional Working Group on China, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. Wolf) and the gentle lady from California (Ms. Pelosi) for bringing this resolution to the floor of the House so quickly and in such a timely fashion.

Days after the June 4th massacre, the Congressional Human Rights Caucus, held a briefing on this topic. The pictures we saw, and the stories we heard are some of the most disturbing pictures of brutality and barbarity I have ever been exposed to.

And yet, ten years later the perpetrators of this massacre have not been brought to justice. Hundreds of people are still held in prison for their involvement. Thousands more have been jailed since for similar reasons. Far too much time has passed for these cries of despair.

The Chinese leadership remains unapologetic about the events of June 4, 1989, they continue to vilify, imprison and exile these and other brave democracy activists. As recently as the beginning of this month, Yang Tao, a student leader of Tiananmen Square, was picked up from his house and arrested for calling on the government to “re-evaluate” its position on the events of June 1989. Other leaders have been put under house arrest for calling on the government to apologize for the murders and compensate the victims’ families. Radio Free Asia reports in the days following the bombing of the Chinese Embassy, over half of the callers to their talk show were critical of the Chinese Government.

The time has come for the Chinese government to take a close look at what happened ten years ago and to apologize to its people. The government cannot continue its harassment and imprisonment of its citizens who exercise the right of freedom of speech, expression and religion. The hope and desire for democracy is still alive. We must do all we can to support it. I stand in strong support of H. Res. 178.

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, today, I honor the hundreds, if not thousands of Chinese students that were brutally slain on June 4, 1989, by the Communist Chinese authorities. On that fateful day ten years ago, the best and brightest of a generation perished needlessly and the lives of countless Chinese families were disrupted forever.

I commend my colleague NANCY PELOSI for her continuing leadership on China issues and for introducing H. Res. 178, to commemorate the Tenth Anniversary of the Tiananmen Square massacre. Her efforts insure that the voices of the U.S. House of Representatives and the American people will never forget.

To all the activists in China fighting today for the freedom of their country, I vow never to forget Tiananmen Square. I remind you that your allies across the globe continue to fight for your universal cause; to attain freedom, democracy and human rights for the Chinese people.

The Chinese leaders say that they want to bring China into the modern world economy. I say to the Chinese leaders, you can’t have capitalism without democracy and human rights. Capitalism and democracy go hand in hand, you can’t have one without the other.

The democratic rights advocated by these slain students ten years ago are universal, not uniquely western values as the Chinese leadership would have us believe. Indeed the blooming of full democracy in Taiwan, Korea, South Africa, Eastern Europe, Russia and many other countries since 1989 proves the universality of democracy and human rights.

Ultimately, the values of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights will prevail. As that document states, “all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.” Until that day I will join NANCY PELOSI, many of my colleagues here in the House, and countless others around the world in fighting for this just cause.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I urge a “yes” vote on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SUNUNU). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 178.

The question was taken.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair’s prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.