

always say that our children are our future. Let's give them the chance to speak out and address the concerns of our changing world.

Mr. LUCAS of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 657.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the Senate bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LUCAS of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on S. 657, the Senate bill just passed.

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

There was no objection.

CALLING ON CHINA TO RELEASE LI SHAOMIN AND ALL OTHER AMERICAN SCHOLARS OF CHINESE ANCESTRY BEING HELD IN DETENTION

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 160) calling on the Government of the People's Republic of China to immediately and unconditionally release Li Shaomin and all other American scholars of Chinese ancestry being held in detention, calling on the President of the United States to continue working on behalf of Li Shaomin and the other detained scholars for their release, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 160

Whereas in recent months the Government of the People's Republic of China has arrested and detained several scholars and intellectuals of Chinese ancestry with ties to the United States, including at least 2 United States citizens and 3 permanent residents of the United States;

Whereas according to the Department of State's 2000 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices in China, and international human rights organizations, the Government of the People's Republic of China "has continued to commit widespread and well-documented human rights abuses, in violation of internationally accepted norms";

Whereas the harassment, arbitrary arrest, detention, and filing of criminal charges against scholars and intellectuals has created a chilling effect on the freedom of expression, in contravention of internationally accepted norms, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which the People's Republic of China signed in October 1998;

Whereas the Government of the People's Republic of China frequently uses torture and other human rights violations to produce coerced "confessions" from detainees;

Whereas the Department of State's 2000 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices in China has extensively documented that human rights abuses in the People's Republic of China "included instances of extrajudicial killings, the use of torture, forced confessions, arbitrary arrest and detention, the mistreatment of prisoners, lengthy incommunicado detention, and denial of due process", and also found that "[p]olice and prosecutorial officials often ignore the due process provisions of the law and of the Constitution . . . [f]or example, police and prosecutors can subject prisoners to severe psychological pressure to confess, and coerced confessions frequently are introduced as evidence";

Whereas the Government of the People's Republic of China has reported that some of the scholar detainees have "confessed" to their "crimes" of "spying", but it has yet to produce any evidence of spying, and has refused to permit the detainees to confer with their families or lawyers;

Whereas the Department of State's 2000 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices in China also found that "police continue to hold individuals without granting access to family or a lawyer, and trials continue to be conducted in secret";

Whereas Dr. Li Shaomin is a United States citizen and scholar who has been detained by the Government of the People's Republic of China for more than 100 days, and was formally charged with spying for Taiwan on May 15, 2001;

Whereas Dr. Li Shaomin has been deprived of his basic human rights by arbitrary arrest and detention, and has not been allowed to contact his wife and child (both United States citizens), or his lawyer;

Whereas Dr. Gao Zhan is a permanent resident of the United States and scholar who has been detained by the Government of the People's Republic of China for more than 114 days, and was formally charged with "accepting money from a foreign intelligence agency" on April 4, 2001;

Whereas Dr. Gao Zhan has been deprived of her basic human rights by arbitrary arrest and detention, and has not been allowed to contact her husband and child (both United States citizens), her lawyer, or Department of State consular personnel in China;

Whereas Wu Jianmin is a United States citizen and author who has been detained by the Government of the People's Republic of China, has been deprived of his basic human rights by arbitrary arrest and detention, has been denied access to lawyers and family members, and has yet to be formally charged with any crimes;

Whereas Qin Guangguang is a permanent resident of the United States and researcher who has been detained by the Government of the People's Republic of China on suspicions of "leaking state secrets", has been deprived of his basic human rights by arbitrary arrest and detention, has been denied access to lawyers and family members, and has yet to be formally charged with any crimes;

Whereas Teng Chunyan is a permanent resident of the United States, Falun Gong practitioner, and researcher who has been sentenced to three years in prison for spying by the Government of the People's Republic of China, apparently for conducting research which documented violations of the human rights of Falun Gong adherents in China, has

been deprived of her basic human rights by being placed on trial in secret, and her appeal to the Beijing Higher People's Court was denied on May 11, 2001;

Whereas Liu Yaping is a permanent resident of the United States and a businessman who was arrested and detained in Inner Mongolia in March 2001 by the Government of the People's Republic of China, has been deprived of his basic human rights by being denied any access to family members, by being denied regular access to lawyers, is reported to be suffering from severe health problems, and has yet to be formally charged with any crimes;

Whereas because there is documented evidence that the Government of the People's Republic of China uses torture to coerce confessions from suspects, and because the Government has thus far presented no evidence to support its claims that the detained scholars and intellectuals are spies, and because spying is vaguely defined under Chinese law, there is reason to believe that the "confessions" of Dr. Li Shaomin and Dr. Gao Zhan may have been coerced; and

Whereas the arbitrary imprisonment of United States citizens and residents by the Government of the People's Republic of China, and the continuing violations of their fundamental human rights, demands an immediate and forceful response by Congress and the President of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) the House of Representatives—

(A) condemns and deplores the continued detention of Li Shaomin, Gao Zhan, Wu Jianmin, Qin Guangguang, Teng Chunyan, and other scholars detained on false charges by the Government of the People's Republic of China, and calls for their immediate and unconditional release;

(B) condemns and deplores the lack of due process afforded to these detainees, and the probable coercion of confessions from some of them;

(C) condemns and deplores the ongoing and systematic pattern of human rights violations by the Government of the People's Republic of China, of which the unjust detentions of Li Shaomin, Gao Zhan, Wu Jianmin, Qin Guangguang, and Teng Chunyan, are only important examples;

(D) strongly urges the Government of the People's Republic of China to consider carefully the implications to the broader United States-Chinese relationship of detaining and coercing confessions from United States citizens and permanent residents on unsubstantiated spying charges or suspicions;

(E) urges the Government of the People's Republic of China to consider releasing Liu Yaping on medical parole, as provided for under Chinese law; and

(F) believes that human rights violations inflicted on United States citizens and residents by the Government of the People's Republic of China will reduce opportunities for United States-Chinese cooperation on a wide range of issues; and

(2) it is the sense of the House of Representatives that the President—

(A) should make the immediate release of Li Shaomin, Gao Zhan, Wu Jianmin, Qin Guangguang, and Teng Chunyan a top priority of United States foreign policy with the Government of the People's Republic of China;

(B) should continue to make every effort to assist Li Shaomin, Gao Zhan, Wu Jianmin, Qin Guangguang, and Teng Chunyan, and their families, while discussions of their release are ongoing;

(C) should make it clear to the Government of the People's Republic of China, that the detention of United States citizens and residents, and the infliction of human rights violations upon United States citizens and residents, is not in the interests of the Government of the People's Republic of China because it will reduce opportunities for United States-Chinese cooperation on other matters; and

(D) should immediately send a special, high ranking representative to the Government of the People's Republic of China to reiterate the deep concern of the United States regarding the continued imprisonment of Li Shaomin, Gao Zhan, Wu Jianmin, Qin Guangguang, Teng Chunyan, and Liu Yaping, and to discuss their legal status and immediate humanitarian needs.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH).

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

Madam Speaker, in an emotional appeal before the House Committee on International Relations last Tuesday, the wife of Dr. Li Shaomin and the husband of Dr. Gao Zhan, two highly respected scholars held hostage by the People's Republic of China, asked Congress and the President to leave no stone unturned in securing the release of their loved ones.

Also at that hearing, Mike Jendrzeczyk of Human Rights Watch made a number of incisive comments and said, "The detentions of respected China scholars have sent a shock wave through the international academic community. Many researchers are increasingly worried about the risks of working in China, and have taken extraordinary steps to speak out."

He noted on April 17, more than 400 leading scholars from 14 countries, as well as Taiwan and Hong Kong, all of them who work in the field of China studies, sent a petition to President Jiang Zemin. The authors of the letter noted that the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the latter, which was ratified last February, makes it very clear that holding academics and scholars are precluded by international law. Moreover, China's intolerance to free expression will likely deter other academics from pursuing research in the People's Republic of China. The respected human rights leader bottom-lines it and says, "The detentions raise serious questions about the rule of law in China and whether it exists."

Indeed, Madam Speaker, at least six Chinese American scholars and intellectuals are today being unjustly detained. They are being held hostage by the PRC, an outrage that demands immediate relief. H. Res. 160, which I in-

troduced on June 8 and now has approximately 40 cosponsors, calls for the immediate and unconditional release of these scholars and academics.

These include: Dr. Li Shaomin, who is a United States citizen and scholar who has been detained by the PRC for 120 days and counting. He has been deprived of his basic human rights by arbitrary arrest, detention and indictment, and has not been allowed to contact his wife and child, both of whom are American citizens as well, nor has he been in contact with his lawyer.

Dr. Gao Zhan is a permanent resident of the United States and is a member of the faculty of American University. She has been detained by the People's Republic of China for 134 days and counting.

Mr. Wu Jianmin is an American citizen and author who has been detained by China and deprived of his basic human rights by arbitrary arrest and detention.

Qin Guangguang is a permanent resident of the United States and a researcher who has been detained by China on suspicions of leaking state secrets. His human rights have been violated by arbitrary arrest and detention.

Ms. Teng Chunyan is a permanent resident of the United States, a researcher and a Falun Gong practitioner. She has been sentenced to 3 years in prison for spying by the PRC. The apparent reason for her sentence is her research showing that the PRC is violating the human rights of Falun Gong adherents in China. If that is true, Madam Speaker, the U.S. State Department is guilty of that charge. This country's Report on Human Rights Practice, which catalogs the myriad of human rights abuses by China, also points out that at least 100 Falun Gong were tortured to death last year as part of their crackdown.

Then there is Mr. Liu Yaping. He is a permanent resident of the United States and a businessman. He was arrested in Inner Mongolia in March 2001. He has been diagnosed with severe health problems while in detention, including a brain aneurysm which may rupture. The reason for his arbitrary arrest and detention are unclear. He has had no contact with his family, and has not had regular access to his lawyers.

Madam Speaker, at a hearing of the Committee on International Relations, noting that both she and her husband, Li Shaomin, are American citizens, Liu Yingli testified, "If China's Ministry of State Security can get away with imprisoning my husband now, it may well detain more academics in China in the future, regardless of their skin color, or country of origin."

Despite the fact that Dr. Li is not a political activist or dissident, but is a teacher who worked for AT&T in New Jersey for 8 years, Liu Yingli said,

"This case is not just about the freedom of one man, but about academic freedom." Again, Dr. Li has been held hostage for 120 days.

Liu Yingli also testified, "It has been nearly 4 months since Li Shaomin's detention on February 25: 4 months of grief and pain, 4 months of worry and fear. But we are American citizens. We should not have to live with such fears."

She said, "This painful experience has not spared our daughter, who is only 9, and our parents, who are more than 70 years old. Our family has spent sleepless nights and restless days waiting for news of Shaomin. Our daughter, Diana, has asked repeatedly when Daddy will come home."

□ 1530

Madam Speaker, when this unjust detention was brought to my attention I expressed concern and dismay. But when I met with Liu and her daughter—I knew more—much more had to be done. Diana, the 9-year-old daughter of Dr. Li asked me to help her dad. She composed two letters and drawings in crayon that really hit home with me. One that was for me and one I was asked to give to President Bush. I would just like to quote the one that I gave to the President on April 25. I hand delivered it to him.

"Hi, Mr. President,

"My name is Diana Li. I am 9 years old. I have never written to a President before in my life. Now I am writing because China has captured my daddy, Shaomin Li. I need your help to rescue my daddy. Would you please help me? I miss my daddy very much. I can imagine if you were captured by China, your daughters would miss you very much, too. And so would their mom.

"Please help me rescue my daddy. Thank you. Diana Li."

Madam Speaker, let us hope that the crayon is mightier than the sword and that Beijing will understand the extreme folly of their hostage-taking and listen as well to the plea of a 9-year-old asking for her father.

And, Madam Speaker, the cases of the other hostages are equally compelling. At the hearing last Tuesday, we also heard from Donghua Xue, the husband of Dr. Gao Zhan, who has been held hostage for 134 days. Mr. Xue, a senior systems analyst at EDS Corporation, told us how on February 11 when he and his wife, a U.S. permanent resident and research fellow at American University and their 5-year-old son Andrew, an American citizen, were leaving China after a brief vacation, were arrested and detained. To quote Mr. Xue.

"The three of us were separated by force, blindfolded and held in three different places."

Donghua was held for 26 days. His 5-year-old son, an American citizen, was separately held for 26 days without any

contact whatsoever with his parents or family members. Even our embassy in Beijing was in the dark about this littlest hostage who, I need to say again, is an American citizen.

Madam Speaker, it was and is abundantly clear that Mr. Xue is desperately worried about his wife's condition, and he told us at the hearing that her attorneys in Beijing have made several attempts to visit her and they have all been denied. The only reason we can think of, he went on to say, is that she perhaps has been physically tortured or at least has some obvious wounds that they do not want the outside world to see. In a word he went on, "My wife Gao Zhan is in a very dangerous situation. I am calling on the American government to try even harder to help."

In his testimony, Madam Speaker, Mr. Xue also underscored the Chinese government's rhetorical commitment to the rule of law. He said "the Chinese Ambassador to the U.S. emphasized several times in his letters to the congressional Members and to U.S. officials that, quote, "China is a country ruled by laws." The spokesman from the Chinese foreign minister has said that they, quote, "strictly follow the legal procedures to deal with the scholars' cases."

"I certainly wish that these statements were true," he went on, "but from my nightmare experience in China, the statements are far from reality. To make a family disappear from the earth for almost a month, to illegally detain my son Andrew," he testified, "a U.S. citizen for 26 days, without even notifying the U.S. embassy, to separate a 5-year-old American child by force from his legal guardians and his family, to emotionally and psychologically torture a 5-year-old child for several weeks just for interrogations hostage. These actions not only violate Chinese and international laws and U.S.-China treaties, these actions are inhuman and they are barbaric. We can only associate these actions with the terrorism organizations, not with a country that purports to be ruled by laws."

Mr. Xue also made an important comparison, Madam Speaker, with the way in which his wife's case has been portrayed and that of our 24 detained servicemen and women from the EP-3E reconnaissance aircraft. I quote him again:

"When our 24 crew members had been detained in China, they were allowed to meet with U.S. officials. They were allowed to send messages to their families. They lived in a hotel condition according to news reports. They were finally released after 11 days of diplomatic negotiations. We don't know where our scholars are. We don't know anything about my wife's health condition. But one thing we are 100 percent sure of, they are not living in a hotel

condition. Why do they treat crew members and the scholars so differently? It is the Chinese government who is discriminating against the Chinese people. I hope the American government pays the same effort as they did for the crew members to rescue these detained scholars."

Madam Speaker, I urge the passage of this resolution. Hopefully, this is the first step in raising everyone's consciousness concerning this outrage of hostage-taking of these Chinese Americans.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise in strong support of H. Res. 160. I commend my good friend and colleague, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), for introducing this important resolution and for his quite eloquent advocacy of it. We have so often heard the pleas of children hurt by governments, hurt by violations of human rights; and I think that it will often be quoted, "Let the crayon be mightier than the sword." I say to the gentleman from New Jersey, that is a line that I think we should remember.

Madam Speaker, this resolution calls on the government of the People's Republic of China to immediately and unconditionally release American scholars of Chinese ancestry, including both United States citizens and U.S. permanent residents, being held in detention. Unfortunately, the recent arrest of these scholars is only the latest example of the Chinese Government's willingness to invent false accusations against perfectly innocent people, especially those involved in the noble but dangerous effort to secure human rights for the people of China.

To illustrate the cost in human terms of China's brutality, let us look at one case, one of the several cases that our colleague from New Jersey brought up, and that is the case of Dr. Gao Zhan. Gao Zhan is an academic who specializes in researching women's issues. She and her husband are permanent residents of the United States and their 5-year-old son, Andrew, is an American by birth. Gao and her family traveled to China to visit relatives. As they stood in line at the Beijing airport waiting for their flight back to the United States, they were seized by Chinese officials. Each family member was forced into a separate car waiting outside the terminal and taken away.

Imagine the horror of a mother being suddenly separated from her child by nameless Chinese officials. Imagine the fear experienced by Gao's husband as he was blindfolded, driven for hours to an unknown location, and subsequently interrogated about his wife's research. Imagine being a 5-year-old boy torn away from your parents under such circumstances. Gao's son was taken to a

state-run institution. He was held alone for 26 days, completely separated from his family. Let me repeat, a 5-year-old boy held alone for 26 days without his mother, without his father, or without even access to his grandparents, who happen to live in China.

These actions violate international law and bilateral agreements between the United States and China, not to mention basic human decency in the way of treating people, particularly a 5-year-old child. Chinese authorities finally allowed Gao's husband to retrieve his son and return to the United States. Gao, however, has not fared so well. She is still imprisoned in China on false charges. The Chinese Government refuses to reveal the nature of the so-called evidence against Gao or to give her a chance to publicly defend herself with adequate defense counsel.

We know about the cases of Gao Zhan and the other five scholars that are specifically mentioned in the resolution because they have connections to the United States. They are residents or citizens of the United States. But let us also remember that there are tens of thousands of Chinese citizens who have no connection with America but are dissidents struggling to lay the groundwork for a future democratic China. These thousands are locked away for years in Chinese jails. There is no embassy to ask about them, no newspapers to write about them, and they are relegated to a most uncertain and most inhumane fate. We must remember them. We must honor them and the democratic cause for which they fight.

As a first step, it is absolutely imperative that the Bush administration make the release of these six Chinese Americans a top priority in our relationship with the People's Republic of China. We can win the release of these Chinese Americans if we bring this issue to the highest level. If President Bush personally asks President Jiang to release these and other imprisoned scholars, I am confident that Gao Zhan will see her husband and son again, and that Li Shaomin will soon come home to his wife and his daughter.

It is important that we pass this resolution. It is also important that we keep these human rights abuses in mind when we decide what position to take as a country and as a Congress on the issue of whether the Olympics should be held in Beijing in 2008. It is perhaps unfortunate that the administration has announced that it is neutral with regard to that bid for the Olympics. But the Olympics stands for something. It stands, in part, for the humane treatment of all people. I think this Congress ought to take up and bring up on this floor the resolution urging that the Olympics not be held in Beijing while human rights abuses continue.

In addition, it is important that we as Members of Congress keep these

human rights issues in mind as we vote on annual, quote, "normal trade relations," also known as most-favored-nation status when that issue comes to this floor. But for now, I urge all my colleagues to support H. Res. 160.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE).

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time, and I thank my colleague from New Jersey for his outstanding leadership on House Resolution 160, calling on the Government of the People's Republic of China to immediately and unconditionally release Dr. Li Shaomin and other American scholars of Chinese ancestry currently being held in detention. I also would commend the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN) for his eloquent words today in support of this important resolution.

Madam Speaker, the Good Book says that we are to stand with those in prison as though we ourselves were prisoners. In this well of liberty, this well where resides the dreams and hopes and ambitions of freedom-loving people all over the world, today's resolution authored by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) is an important statement. It is important that this Congress call on the Government of the People's Republic of China to immediately and unconditionally release Dr. Li Shaomin and other American scholars of Chinese ancestry held in detention and that we call today on the President of the United States to continue immediately and urgently working on behalf of their release.

The Government of the People's Republic of China, Madam Speaker, has targeted, arrested, and detained several scholars and intellectuals of Chinese ancestry with ties to the United States, including, as astonishingly as it may seem, two United States citizens and three permanent residents of the United States of America. According to the Department of State's 2000 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices in China and international human rights organizations, the Government of the PRC has, quote, "continued to commit widespread and well-documented human rights abuses in violation of internationally accepted norms. Targeting of intellectuals and scholars for harassment, arbitrary arrest, detention and criminal charges has created a chilling effect on the nascent freedom of expression which has begun to take hold within the People's Republic of China."

Dr. Li Shaomin is a United States citizen, Madam Speaker, and a scholar who has been detained by the Government of the PRC for more than 100 days. He was formally charged with spying for Taiwan on May 15, 2001. Dr.

Li has been deprived of his basic human rights by arbitrary arrest and detention and has not, as the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) stated with passion, even been allowed to contact his wife and child or his attorney or been offered even the most rudimentary due-process rights which, while not secured and vouchsafed for the citizens of China, certainly ought to be respected for the citizens of the United States of America within the geographic boundaries of China.

Accordingly, this resolution, Madam Speaker, does in fact condemn and deplore the continued detention of Dr. Li, of Dr. Gao Zhan and other scholars detained on false charges by the Government of China, calls for their immediate release, deplores the lack of due process and urges the Government of the PRC to consider carefully the implications to its broader relationship with the United States through this detainment and coercion of American citizens and citizens of Chinese descent.

□ 1545

We need look no further, Madam Speaker, than the cover of *The Washington Post* today, which speaks about China's concern about U.S. actions affecting our long-term relationship.

Madam Speaker, I would say it is time for China to begin to worry how its actions against American citizens will affect the relationship of this body to that government.

I close again with that challenge, that quote, from two millennia ago that we ought to stand with those that are in prison, Madam Speaker, as though we ourselves were prisoners. We in this Congress should stand today strongly for House Resolution 160 and call on the government of the People's Republic of China to make this small step toward liberty.

Mr. SHERMAN. Madam Speaker, I yield 6 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT).

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, as representatives of the American people, with this resolution we will today urge the People's Republic of China, in the strongest possible terms, to release Li Shaomin, a naturalized American citizen, and I might add a constituent of mine from New Jersey, from my congressional district, from custody of the Beijing State Security Bureau, where he has been detained since February of this year.

Our actions today are also intended to call attention to the other scholars of Chinese ancestry who are being illegally detained in China. I have met personally on three occasions with Liu Yingli, Mr. Li Shaomin's wife and their charming young daughter, Diana.

When one meets with them and talks with them and sees the pain and uncertainty that they are experiencing over

the detainment of their husband and father, it is impossible not to realize how important this legislation is.

I am pleased to join my colleague, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), in presenting this legislation and urging its passage.

Li Shaomin received his Ph.D. in sociology from Princeton a decade and a half ago. He is a respected and published scholar in demography, has contributed greatly to research focused on strategic management and marketing.

On February 25, Dr. Li, who over the years has traveled frequently to Beijing and other parts of China, was traveling across the border to visit a friend. Upon crossing, Dr. Li was detained by state security officials who claimed he had been, well, we do not know. They now say he was engaged in espionage.

The detention of Dr. Li is just another in a string of a half dozen arrests by Chinese authorities of academics who have connections with China. We have a responsibility to let the Chinese Government know that the United States and the world are aware of these actions, are watching closely, and find this sort of behavior unacceptable.

The charges brought against Dr. Li are vague and unsubstantiated. The fact that Dr. Li is the son of a prominent Chinese dissident, Li Honglin, who now resides in Hong Kong, I think is a significant point. It raises extremely serious questions of political motivation for the Chinese detainment of Dr. Li.

Since his detention, Dr. Li's detention, Chinese authorities have refused to release any information or describe any so-called evidence that has surfaced against Dr. Li. Disturbingly, the Chinese authorities also failed to inform Dr. Li's wife directly about the detention until May 17, when she was informed via telephone that her husband was arrested and charged with espionage. U.S. consular officials have not been granted sufficient access to him, and in addition without explanation from the Chinese authority, Liu Yingli and Dr. Li's lawyer have been denied access to Dr. Li.

Of course, all of this raises questions about the rights of people in China who do not have the U.S. embassy watching out for their interests, how much worse it must be for them.

The People's Republic of China is a proud nation that is increasingly taking its place on the world stage. All of us are aware of their desire to have increased trading relationships with the West; to host the Olympic games; to be on the modern stage of nations. If China wants to be a member of the community of nations, actions like the detainment of Dr. Li are unacceptable and, I would argue, counterproductive. It is only appropriate that Congress make clear that Dr. Li and other U.S. citizens who are being illegally detained must be released.

Violation of human rights, violation of standards, international standards of law, are not behavior consistent with a modern nation that wants to be part of the modern world of trade, of academic inquiry and exchange, and international exchange.

I urge my colleagues in the strongest possible terms to pass this legislation. We must do all we can to see that these Americans are released as quickly as possible.

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

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

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote yes on H. Res. 160 and to keep these issues in mind as other issues involving the U.S.-China relationship come before this House.

Mr. GILMAN. Madam Speaker, I want to thank Chairman HYDE and the distinguished East Asia and Pacific Subcommittee Chairman, The gentleman from Iowa, Congressman LEACH, for swiftly moving H. Res. 160, a resolution calling on the Government of the People's Republic of China to immediately and unconditionally release certain American citizens and residents from detention in China. I commend the gentleman from New Jersey, Mr. SMITH for drafting this important, timely resolution.

I am very concerned that Chinese-American citizens and U.S. permanent residents of Chinese ancestry are being illegally held by the government of the People's Republic of China. There is no rule of law in that country. In China a person is not innocent until proven guilty. A person's guilt or innocence is predetermined by the government, and, as we all know, thousands of arrests and imprisonments are carried out for political reasons.

Let's be perfectly clear about this. Government sponsored kidnapping is terrorism. It is no less a crime than what is being committed by terrorists against Americans currently being held in the Philippines.

Madam Speaker, as you will recall, the People's Republic of China has done this before. One year it held activist Harry Wu. Another time it held Wang Dan and Wei Jingsheng. Harry Wu was released to ensure the First Lady Hillary Clinton would attend the UN 1995 Beijing Women's Conference. Wang Dan and Wei Jingsheng were temporarily released in 1993 as China was bidding to host the 2000 Olympics game. For years the Chinese dictatorship have been holding and releasing, and then holding and releasing Catholic clergy loyal to Pope John Paul II. Some of these hostages are beaten to death, some are eventually released, some permanently, some temporarily after they are leveraged on MFN, WTO, Taiwan or some other significant issue.

So let us be clear. Our State Department is on notice that we want our people back immediately and unconditionally. The President should put on hold any consideration about his meeting with Chinese leaders until this occurs.

The Chinese government and the bureaucrats in the State Department who are still in place from the previous Administration must

understand that our people are not pawns for trade. First the Chinese government must return our people and then we can talk about other things, such as trade.

The cautious U.S. response that we have given to date, just will not do. The taking of our citizens is an outrage and they should be released now and unconditionally. Accordingly, I strongly support H. Res. 160.

Mr. HUNTER. Madam Speaker, I would like to make a statement on behalf of H. Res. 160, a bill that I have cosponsored which calls on the Chinese government to immediately and unconditionally release from prison Dr. Li Shaomin and all other American scholars of Chinese ancestry.

As you know, in recent months we have seen the shocking arrest of United States citizens and permanent residents by the People's Republic of China (PRC). These prisoners represent some of the best and brightest of the U.S. academic and business communities, and they have been falsely and tragically charged with committing crimes of espionage and violation of "state secrets" laws while traveling in China. In most cases, these prisoners have been held for long periods of time without formal charges filed against them, without the ability to meet with their attorneys, and without communication with their families and loved ones.

Although the Chinese government has said that many of these individuals have confessed to their crimes, our own State Department's Country Reports on Human Rights Abuses routinely denies prisoners basic due process rights, and regularly extracts confessions by coercion.

As we know, this behavior by the Chinese is nothing new. We remember the brutal way that their government suppressed a movement toward free speech in Tiananmen Square a decade ago, and we have seen no redeeming conduct since that time that would lead us to believe that they intend to change their ways. It was just several weeks ago that an American military aircraft was shot down while flying in international waters, and the service members aboard held hostage while the Chinese government attempted to force an apology by the United States. To this date, we still have been unable to retrieve our own aircraft from their country.

This unending succession of events is being watched on the world stage by nations that the PRC would do well to please in order to secure their place in the world economy. However, China neither feels contrite regarding their actions, nor do they exhibit acceptable efforts to improve their lot with democratic countries. Unfortunately, the United States consistently regards them for their provocative and brutal actions by extending to them a privileged trade status ideally afforded friendly and democratic nations.

Madam Speaker, this legislation's passage would send a strong signal to the Chinese government that their actions are barbaric and unacceptable. When confronted with situations that threaten American citizens abroad, it is absolutely necessary to speak in a united front. We should also refuse to award them with the riches gleaned from an unbalanced trading relationship that comes at the expense of American jobs and national security.

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 160, which condemns and deplores the continued detention of Li Shaomin, Gao Zhan, Wu Jianmin, Tan Guangguang, Teng Chunyan, and other scholars detained on false charges by the Government of the People's Republic of China, and calls for their immediate and unconditional release. The resolution condemns and deplores the lack of due process afforded to these detainees, and the probable coercion of confessions from some of them.

Furthermore, it condemns and deplores the ongoing and systematic pattern of human rights violations by the Government of the People's Republic of China. Also, the resolution strongly urges the Government of the People's Republic of China to consider the implications to the broader United States-Chinese relationship of detaining and coercing confessions from United States citizens and permanent residents on unsubstantiated spying charges or suspicions. In addition, the measure urges the Government of the People's Republic of China to consider releasing Liu Yaping on humanitarian grounds.

In addition, the measure expresses the sense of the House that human rights violations inflicted on United States citizens and residents by the Government of the People's Republic of China will reduce opportunities of United States-Chinese cooperation on a wide range of issues.

I congratulate Representative SMITH for his work in bringing this resolution to the floor. This is an important statement by the people's House today. It says to the Government of China, that the U.S. House of Representatives cares about the human rights abuses committed by the Government of China.

Just two months ago in March, I had the honor of leading a ceremony in which my constituent, Dong Hau Xue, husband of the imprisoned American University scholar named in this legislation, Dr. Gao Zhan, became a U.S. citizen.

This ceremony was bittersweet. When he and his wife first applied for permanent residency 1998, it had been their hope and prayer that they would experience the joyous day of citizenship together, having both completed the requirements of citizenship.

But this was not to be. Gao Zhan should have been standing alongside her husband and their 5-year-old son Andrew. Instead, Gao Zhan was languishing in a Chinese prison, thousands of miles away, separated from her family and loved ones.

Today marks Gao Zhan's 134th day in captivity. Gao Zhan is an academic researcher at the American University studying women's issues. What kind of government imprisons academics who focus on women's issues?

I know how grim conditions can be in Chinese prisons. I visited Beijing Prison #1 in 1991 where some 40 Tiananmen Square demonstrators were being held. When I was in Tibet, I talked with several individuals who had been in Drapche Prison who told me of the horrible conditions.

It is an outrage that a country pressing to host the athletes of the world during the 2008 Summer Olympic games continues to abuse the basic human rights of citizens and visitors to their nation.

If the Chinese government ever hopes to have any credibility in the world community, China must immediately release Gao Zhan, an innocent woman, wife and mother; U.S. citizens Dr. Li Shaomin and Mr. Wu Jianmin; permanent U.S. residents Mr. Qin Guangguang, Mrs. Teng Chunyan, and Mr. Liu Yaping.

I urge a unanimous vote in support of H. Res. 160 and I implore the government of the People's Republic of China to free Gao Zhan and the other scholars and reunite them with their families.

Mr. DELAY. Madam Speaker, I rise today because I am outraged. Outraged that the People's Republic of China is holding American scholars against their will. H. Res. 160, introduced by my colleague Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, takes an important step toward addressing the human and civil rights abuses committed by the Communist Chinese government. This Congress must not let human rights abuses by China or any other nation go unchecked.

At the present time, Li Shaomin and other scholars are being held in Chinese prisons for "crimes against the State." These Americans may be enduring torture and coercion, and may be forced into "confessing" to crimes they did not commit. But these are perhaps the least of the indignities that these men and women must endure.

The imprisonment of Li Shaomin and other American scholars of Chinese ancestry are just symptoms of the larger disease that is China's blatant disregard for human life and human rights. It is clear from the State Department's 2000 Country Report on Human Rights Practices in China, that the Communist Chinese government commits, on a daily basis, violations of the most essential and basic human rights.

Let our support for this resolution send a clear and compelling signal that this Congress and our Nation will not stand silently by while natural and universal human rights are curtailed in China or anywhere else.

Mr. FALCOMA. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Resolution 160.

Madam Speaker, I am deeply disturbed by the Government of China's recent arrests and detentions of American citizens and U.S. permanent residents of Chinese ancestry.

Prosecutions of Americans by China's State Security Ministry and agencies have been rare since the Korean War. With the recent outbreak of detentions, however, it is troubling that China may now feel it acceptable to target American subjects—as long as they have Chinese blood.

In particular, I find it deplorable that those detained have been held virtually incommunicado for months—denied any contact with immediate family members and even their attorneys. Given the lack of due process and the hidden, clandestine proceedings, it is no wonder that China's charges of espionage and other serious violations against the detainees are viewed as false, and any confessions produced as resulting from torture.

In an effort to address these matters, Madam Speaker, I commend Mr. SMITH, Mr. LANTOS and Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN for introducing House Resolution 160. I am honored to be a co-sponsor of the measure.

In addition to calling upon the Chinese Government for the immediate and unconditional release Dr. Li, Dr. Geo and other American scholars of Chinese ancestry who have been detained, this important legislation urges President Bush to appoint a special envoy and make the detainees' release a top priority in U.S.-Sino relations.

I cannot agree more Madam Speaker, as American citizens and U.S. permanent residents, when they go overseas, must be protected and not be subject to arbitrary harassment and detention on unsubstantiated charges, whether by China or any other nation.

I strongly urge adoption of the legislation by our colleagues.

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

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, we do have some additional speakers; but regrettably, they are either en route from their home districts or are in appropriations markups. So at this point since they are not here, Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of our time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 160, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam 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.

CALLING UPON HEZBOLLAH TO ALLOW RED CROSS TO VISIT FOUR ABDUCTED ISRAELIS

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 99) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that Lebanon, Syria, and Iran should call upon Hezbollah to allow representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross to visit four abducted Israelis, Adi Avitan, Binyamin Avraham, Omar Souad, and Elchanan Tannenbaum, presently held by Hezbollah forces in Lebanon.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 99

Whereas on October 7, 2000, Hezbollah units, in clear violation of international law, crossed the Lebanese border into Israel and kidnapped three Israeli soldiers, Adi Avitan, Binyamin Avraham, and Omar Souad;

Whereas on October 15, 2000, Hezbollah announced that it had abducted a fourth Israeli, Elchanan Tannenbaum;

Whereas these captives are being held by Hezbollah in Lebanon;

Whereas the 1999 Department of State report on foreign terrorist organizations stated that Hezbollah receives substantial amounts of financial assistance, training, weapons, explosives, and political, diplomatic, and organizational assistance from Iran and Syria;

Whereas Syria voted in favor of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in the United Nations General Assembly;

Whereas Lebanon voted in favor of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in the United Nations General Assembly;

Whereas Iran voted in favor of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in the United Nations General Assembly;

Whereas the International Committee of the Red Cross has made numerous attempts to gain access to assess the condition of these prisoners; and

Whereas the International Committee of the Red Cross has been denied access to these prisoners: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that Lebanon, Syria, and Iran should call upon Hezbollah to allow representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross to visit four abducted Israelis, Adi Avitan, Binyamin Avraham, Omar Souad, and Elchanan Tannenbaum, presently held by Hezbollah forces in Lebanon.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH).

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

Madam Speaker, even in the midst of war or violent conflict, the need for some limits must be underlined. Those limits are of crucial importance in that they remind us of our essential humanity. When humanitarian standards are ignored, we need to call them to the attention of those who seem to be violating them. In the case of the individuals mentioned in the resolution now before us, who are Israeli soldiers and civilians, the rules are, in fact, being ignored. This resolution relates to several Israeli soldiers and one civilian who have been kidnapped from Israel itself or in Europe. Their captors have admitted holding them and they have said that they are alive, but that is all that is known about them.

In defiance of international norms, their captors are not permitting the International Committee of the Red Cross to have access to them. Of course, the captives should be treated humanely. Of course, they should be released, but they should certainly, at the very least, be provided with protections of international humanitarian law. The International Committee of the Red Cross should be provided with access to them so that their welfare can be ascertained and other appropriate protections be afforded to them. It is cynical and cruel for Hezbollah to deny the ICRC access to them. The real harm is being done to their families who wait for word of their welfare.