

CHINA—HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

Nov. 21, 1991
[H. Con. Res. 216]

Whereas the Government of the People's Republic of China maintains up to 5,000 prison, labor reform, reeducation, and juvenile detention facilities holding a large number of political prisoners, including thousands of young men and women jailed after that government's June 1989 suppression of the prodemocracy movement in China;

Whereas many Chinese prisoners are sent to Chinese prisons without any judicial hearing whatsoever and others are forced to stay on after their sentences expire;

Whereas forced labor is an integral part of the Chinese prison system, and Chinese prisoners are forced to labor under extremely inhumane and dangerous conditions with little or no compensation for their work;

Whereas the recent investigations by Harry Wu, a former Chinese political prisoner, and by independent human rights organizations such as Asia Watch, clearly demonstrate that Chinese prisons seek to export forced labor products to the United States, and have devised numerous methods to evade United States laws;

Whereas numerous Chinese government publications explicitly describe the export of forced labor products, and encourage all Chinese prisons to sell their products on the international market;

Whereas Chinese forced labor exports threaten American jobs in many sectors of the United States economy, including the shoe, toy, garment, handtool, and electronics industries; and

Whereas China's \$10,000,000,000 trade surplus with the United States in 1990 can be partly attributed to Chinese forced labor exports: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring),

That (a) the Congress finds that the Government of the People's Republic of China—

(1) systematically exploits the labor of prisoners in the Chinese gulag to produce cheap products for export;

(2) detains many prisoners past the expiration of their sentences in violation of internationally recognized human rights; and

(3) holds many prisoners in conditions that fall below international standards for the treatment of prisoners.

(b) The Congress—

(1) urges the Government of the People's Republic of China to—

(A) allow international inspections of places of detention that are suspected of producing export goods in order to ensure that such production does not take place;

(B) release the texts of any government directives, regulations, or policies regarding the exportation of products made in Chinese prisons, other than the October 10, 1991, joint declaration by the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and the Chinese Ministry of Justice banning prison-made exports;

(C) detail publicly the steps it will take to enforce the joint declaration of October 10, 1991, and any other policy

prohibiting forced labor exports, at all levels of the Chinese government and Chinese prison system; and

(D) vigorously reform the Chinese political, judicial, penal, and economic systems so that Chinese citizens are not jailed for their political and religious beliefs, all Chinese citizens accused of crimes receive fair and open trials, Chinese prisoners are adequately compensated for their work, and workplace conditions in Chinese prisons are safe and humane; and

(2) urges the Government of Hong Kong, and the governments of other nations through which Chinese products are transhipped, to prohibit the importation of Chinese forced labor products and to investigate thoroughly trading companies suspected of dealing in prison-made goods.

Agreed to November 21, 1991.

Nov. 23, 1991
[H. Con. Res. 188]

SYRIAN JEWS—DENIAL OF RIGHTS

Whereas the estimated 4,000 Jews in Syria are deprived of their internationally recognized human rights to freedom of emigration and movement;

Whereas Syrian Jews who wish to leave the country must post an onerous monetary deposit and leave family members behind as assurance for their return;

Whereas the restrictions on emigration and movement on Syrian Jews violate the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Syria is a signatory;

Whereas Syrian Jews are restricted in the extent of their contact with their families outside Syria;

Whereas the Syrian secret police (Mukhabarat) engage in 24 hour a day surveillance of the Jewish quarter in Damascus, keep a file on every Jewish person, monitor all contacts between Jews and foreigners, and read mail and wiretap phone conversations of Syrian Jews;

Whereas some members of the Syrian Jewish community have been arrested on mere suspicion of intention to leave Syria and are imprisoned without trial, often tortured, and held incommunicado;

Whereas families of those Syrian Jews who succeed in fleeing the country are subject to imprisonment and torture;

Whereas there are at present 6 Syrian Jews in prison for attempting to leave Syria, 2 of which have been incarcerated since 1987; and

Whereas Syrian President Hafez al-Assad has ignored the repeated efforts of the United States President, the State Department, and Members of Congress to secure the freedom of emigration for the Syrian Jewish community: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress—

(1) condemns Syria's continuing denial of Syrian Jews' internationally recognized rights to freedom of emigration and movement and calls upon the Syrian Government to—