

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 16

Urging that the International Olympic Committee rebid the 2022 Olympic Winter Games, and expressing the sense of Congress that the United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee should not participate if the Games are held in the People's Republic of China and that the United States Government should lead an international boycott if the Games are held in the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 11, 2021

Mr. RESCHENTHALER submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Urging that the International Olympic Committee rebid the 2022 Olympic Winter Games, and expressing the sense of Congress that the United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee should not participate if the Games are held in the People's Republic of China and that the United States Government should lead an international boycott if the Games are held in the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes.

Whereas, in 2015, the International Olympic Committee announced Beijing, the capital city of the People's Republic

of China, as the host city of the 2022 Olympic Winter Games;

Whereas the Olympic charter states the goal of Olympism is to promote “a peaceful society concerned with the preservation of human dignity”;

Whereas, according to the September 2020 House of Representatives China Task Force Report, the Government of China is the leading human rights abuser in the world, depriving 1,400,000,000 human beings of their fundamental rights;

Whereas, since 2017, the Government of China has detained and persecuted up to 1,800,000 Turkic Muslims, including ethnic Uyghurs, Kazakhs, and Kyrgyz, in “political re-education” centers, and many detainees who have not “graduated” from the facilities have been convicted of formal crimes and sentenced to prison terms;

Whereas detained and imprisoned Muslim minorities in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region are held arbitrarily and without due process, coerced to disavow religious beliefs and cultural practices, forced to work in factories, deprived of food and other essential needs, and subjected to physical abuse, including torture and alleged organ harvesting;

Whereas the Government of China is implementing a policy of employing large numbers of Uyghurs, including former detainees, in labor-intensive factories in Xinjiang and elsewhere in China under forced labor conditions;

Whereas the Government of China has implemented policies against minority groups in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region to lower birth rates, including forced abortions, sterilizations, and contraception;

Whereas according to the Australian Strategic Policy Institute, an estimated 8,500 mosques have been demolished in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, and nearly 30 percent of Islamic shrines, cemeteries, and other sites of religious importance in the region have been damaged or destroyed, mostly since 2017;

Whereas Article 2 of the 1948 United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, which both the United States and China have ratified, defines genocide as “any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such: (a) killing members of the group; (b) causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group; (c) deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part; (d) imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group; [or] (e) forcibly transferring children of the group to another group.”;

Whereas, on January 19, 2021, the Department of State determined that the Government of China, under the direction and control of the Chinese Communist Party, “has committed genocide against the predominantly Muslim Uyghurs and other ethnic and religious minority groups in Xinjiang”, and on the same day, Secretary of State Antony Blinken agreed, stating, “forcing men, women and children into concentration camps, trying to in effect re-educate them to be adherents to the Chinese Communist Party—all of that speaks to an effort to commit genocide”;

Whereas, in June 2020, the legislature of China passed a national security law for Hong Kong restricting basic polit-

ical rights and authorizing severe punishments for anyone inside or outside Hong Kong found guilty of broad vaguely defined crimes, effectively ending the longstanding “one country, two systems” policy;

Whereas, in September 2020, the House Foreign Affairs Committee Minority Staff Report on the origins of the COVID–19 global pandemic found that—

(1) authorities in China harassed, detained, and disappeared individuals who told the truth about the Chinese Communist Party’s handling of the COVID–19 pandemic;

(2) during the early outbreak of the COVID–19 pandemic, the Government of China failed to meet an international legal requirement to inform the World Health Organization of the COVID–19 outbreak in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China;

(3) during the early stages of the COVID–19 pandemic, the Government of China knew of the deadly human-to-human transmission capabilities of the virus and took steps to hide it from the public and global community; and

(4) in February 2020, the Government of China nationalized their medical supply chain to stockpile personal protective equipment and stop foreign exports to other countries battling the COVID–19 pandemic;

Whereas, in October 2020, United Kingdom Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab stated, regarding a potential boycott of the 2022 Winter Olympics due to human rights violations against the Uyghurs, that “my instinct is to separate sport from diplomacy and politics, but there comes a point where that may not be possible”;

Whereas, in September 2020, an international coalition of human rights organizations wrote to the International Olympic Committee requesting the committee “reverse its mistake in awarding Beijing the honor of hosting the Winter Olympic Games in 2022”;

Whereas, in November 2020, the Australian Parliament debated a motion calling on the “Australian Government to work with the Australian Olympic Committee to ensure Australia boycotts the 2022 Winter Olympics games in Beijing”;

Whereas, in January 2020, the editorial board of The Washington Post opposed the Government of China hosting the 2022 Winter Olympics and stated, “the world must ask whether China, slowly strangling an entire people, has the moral standing to host the 2022 Winter Olympic Games. We think not.”;

Whereas, in 1980, in H. Con. Res. 249, the House of Representatives voted 386 to 12, and the Senate voted 88 to 4, to urge the United States Olympic Committee to propose the transfer or cancellation of the 1980 Summer Olympics in Moscow; to urge the International Olympic Committee to adopt such a proposal; and, if the International Olympic Committee rejected the proposal, to urge the United States Olympic Committee and those of other countries not to participate in the Games and to conduct alternative games of their own, due to concerns over the Soviet Union’s invasion of Afghanistan; and

Whereas since the 2008 Summer Olympic Games in Beijing, the human rights record and global authoritarian influence of China have severely worsened and do not meet the values of Olympism: Now, therefore, be it

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

3 (1) supports the achievements of the athletes,
4 coaches, and personnel of the United States Olympic
5 & Paralympic Committee;

6 (2) affirms the values and goals of Olympism;

7 (3) urges the International Olympic Committee
8 to rebid the 2022 Winter Olympics to a country that
9 recognizes and respects human rights;

10 (4) calls on the United States Olympic &
11 Paralympic Committee to support human rights and
12 boycott the 2022 Winter Olympics if held in the
13 People’s Republic of China; and

14 (5) calls on the Administration to support inter-
15 national efforts toward a boycott of the 2022 Olym-
16 pic Winter Games if they are held in China.

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