

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 167

Commending the people who have sacrificed their personal freedoms to bring about democratic change in the People's Republic of China and expressing sympathy for the families of the people who were killed, wounded, or imprisoned, on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Tiananmen Square Massacre in Beijing, China, from June 3 through 4, 1989.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 3, 2009

Mr. INHOFE (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. KYL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. VITTER, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. COBURN, and Mr. WEBB) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

RESOLUTION

Commending the people who have sacrificed their personal freedoms to bring about democratic change in the People's Republic of China and expressing sympathy for the families of the people who were killed, wounded, or imprisoned, on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Tiananmen Square Massacre in Beijing, China, from June 3 through 4, 1989.

Whereas freedom of expression, assembly, association, and religion are fundamental rights that all people should be able to possess and enjoy;

Whereas, in April 1989, in a demonstration of democratic progress, thousands of students took part in peaceful

protests against the communist government of the People's Republic of China in the capital city of Beijing;

Whereas, throughout the month of May 1989, the students, in peaceful demonstrations, drew more people, young and old and from all walks of life, into central Beijing to demand better democracy, basic freedoms of speech and assembly, and an end to corruption;

Whereas, from June 3 through 4, 1989, the Government of China ordered an estimated 300,000 members of the People's Liberation Army to enter Beijing and clear Tiananmen Square (located in central Beijing) by lethal force;

Whereas, by June 7, 1989, the Red Cross of China reported that the People's Liberation Army had killed more than 300 people in Beijing, although foreign journalists who witnessed the events estimate that thousands of people were killed and thousands more wounded;

Whereas more than 20,000 people in China were arrested and detained without trial, due to their suspected involvement in the protests at Tiananmen Square;

Whereas, according to the Department of State, the Government of China has worked to censor information about the massacre at Tiananmen Square by blocking Internet sites and other media outlets, along with other sensitive information that would be damaging to the Government of China;

Whereas the Government of China has continued to oppress the people of China by denying basic human rights, such as freedom of speech and religion, and suppressing minority groups;

Whereas, during the 2008 Olympic Games, the Government of China promised to provide the international media covering the Olympic Games with the same access given the media at all the other Olympic Games, but denied access to certain Internet sites and media outlets in attempts to censor free speech;

Whereas the Department of State Human Rights Report for 2008 found that the Government of China had increased already severe cultural and religious suppression of ethnic minorities in Tibetan areas and the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region, increased the persecution of members of Falun Gong, Christians from China, and other religious minorities, increased the detention and harassment of dissidents and journalists, and maintained tight controls on freedom of speech and the Internet;

Whereas the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom in 2009 stated, “The Chinese government continues to engage in systematic and egregious violations of the freedom of religion or belief, with religious activities tightly controlled and some religious adherents detained, imprisoned, fined, beaten, and harassed.”; and

Whereas the China Aid Association reported that in 2007, there were 693 cases in which Christians from China were detained or arrested and 788 cases in which Christian house church groups were persecuted by the Government of China: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) commends the people who have sacrificed
3 their personal freedoms and, in the case of the peo-
4 ple who demonstrated at Tiananmen Square in
5 1989, sacrificed their lives and freedom to—

1 (A) bring about democratic change in the
2 People's Republic of China; and

3 (B) gain freedom of expression, assembly,
4 association, and religion for the people of
5 China;

6 (2) expresses its sympathy for the families of
7 the people who were killed, wounded, or imprisoned
8 due to their involvement in the peaceful protests in
9 Tiananmen Square in Beijing, China, from June 3
10 through 4, 1989;

11 (3) condemns the ongoing human rights abuses
12 by the Government of China;

13 (4) calls on the Government of China to—

14 (A) release all prisoners that are—

15 (i) still in captivity as a result of their
16 involvement in the events from June 3
17 through 4, 1989, at Tiananmen Square;
18 and

19 (ii) imprisoned without cause;

20 (B) allow freedom of speech and access to
21 information, especially information regarding
22 the events at Tiananmen Square in 1989; and

23 (C) cease all harassment, intimidation, and
24 imprisonment of—

1 (i) members of religious and minority
2 groups; and

3 (ii) people who disagree with policies
4 of the Government of China;

5 (5) supports efforts by free speech activists in
6 China and elsewhere who are working to overcome
7 censorship (including censorship of the Internet) and
8 the chilling effect of censorship; and

9 (6) urges the President to support peaceful ad-
10 vocates of free speech around the world.

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