

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 619

Honoring the 65th anniversary of the uprising of the people of Tibet in
defense of freedom.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 22, 2024

Mr. CRUZ submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the
Committee on Foreign Relations

RESOLUTION

Honoring the 65th anniversary of the uprising of the people
of Tibet in defense of freedom.

Whereas, on October 7, 1950, forces of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) entered Tibet with the goal of imposing Chinese Communist rule on the people of Tibet and subjugating it to the rule of the People's Republic of China;

Whereas the Tibetan people resisted peacefully in defense of their freedom, faith, and culture and have sought to protect their national identity from the progressive encroachment by the Chinese Communist Party, and continue to do so;

Whereas, on March 10, 1959, hundreds of thousands of Tibetans gathered in Lhasa to prevent a reported PLA plot to abduct the Dalai Lama;

Whereas, on March 12, 1959, approximately 5,000 women joined in those demonstrations for their national identity and freedom;

Whereas the Chinese Communist Party subsequently executed many of those women for their participation;

Whereas, on the evening of March 17, 1959, artillery shells landed near the residence of the Dalai Lama;

Whereas the Dalai Lama decided to leave Lhasa for India, where he arrived on March 30, 1959;

Whereas protests continued after the Dalai Lama's departure and spread across the city and region;

Whereas PLA soldiers in central Tibet eventually killed an estimated 86,000 Tibetans;

Whereas, as a result of the widespread slaughter of Tibetans in and after the Lhasa Uprising, a 1959 finding by the International Commission of Jurists found that the People's Republic of China's treatment of Tibetans constituted genocide;

Whereas the People's Republic of China has deepened its repression of the people of Tibet, exploits Tibet's natural resources to advance the interests of the Chinese Communist Party, and seeks to undermine freedom of religion and conscience in Tibet by determining the spiritual succession of the Dalai Lama;

Whereas for 65 years, the Dalai Lama continues to defend the cause of Tibetan freedom and national identity on the global stage; and

Whereas the Tibetan Policy Act of 2002 (22 U.S.C. 6901 et seq.) provided for a Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues in the Department of State, tasked to "coordinate

United States Government policies, programs, and projects”, but the Secretary of State has not designated a non-concurrent appointment to that position: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) stands with the people of Tibet and the
3 Dalai Lama in their continuing defense of their free-
4 dom and national identity;

5 (2) condemns the Chinese Communist Party for
6 its repression of the people of Tibet, its exploitation
7 of Tibet’s natural resources, and its efforts to under-
8 mine freedom of religion and conscience in Tibet, in-
9 cluding through efforts to determine the spiritual
10 succession of the Dalai Lama;

11 (3) recommits to the Tibetan Policy Act of
12 2002 as the basis of United States engagement with
13 Tibet and its people;

14 (4) calls upon the President to—

15 (A) ensure that the voice, vote, and diplo-
16 matic capital of the United States are utilized
17 to address and counter China’s repression of
18 the people of Tibet; and

19 (B) include mention of the legitimate aspi-
20 rations of the people of Tibet to freedom and
21 national identity in all engagements with the
22 People’s Republic of China and particularly in

1 engagements that include the human rights sit-
2 uation in that country; and

3 (5) calls upon the Secretary of State to ensure
4 independent focus on Tibet by designating a non-
5 concurrent appointment to the position of Special
6 Coordinator for Tibetan Issues.

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