

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2358

To provide for improved monitoring of human rights violations in the People's Republic of China.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 31, 1997

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN (for herself, Mr. KING, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. COX of California, Mr. GIBBONS, Mr. GILMAN, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. MCINTOSH, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. SHADEGG, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. SOLOMON, and Mr. SPENCE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

A BILL

To provide for improved monitoring of human rights violations in the People's Republic of China.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the "Political Freedom in
5 China Act of 1997".

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress makes the following findings:

8 (1) The Congress concurs in the following con-
9 clusions of the United States State Department on

1 human rights in the People’s Republic of China in
2 1996:

3 (A) The People’s Republic of China is “an
4 authoritarian state” in which “citizens lack the
5 freedom to peacefully express opposition to the
6 party-led political system and the right to
7 change their national leaders or form of govern-
8 ment”.

9 (B) The Government of the People’s Re-
10 public of China has “continued to commit wide-
11 spread and well documented human rights
12 abuses, in violation of internationally accepted
13 norms, stemming from the authorities’ intoler-
14 ance of dissent, fear of unrest, and the absence
15 or inadequacy of laws protecting basic free-
16 doms”.

17 (C) “[a]buses include torture and mistreat-
18 ment of prisoners, forced confessions, and arbi-
19 trary and incommunicado detention”.

20 (D) “[p]rison conditions remained harsh
21 [and] [t]he Government continued severe re-
22 strictions on freedom of speech, the press, as-
23 sembly, association, religion, privacy, and work-
24 er rights”.

1 (E) “[a]lthough the Government denies
2 that it holds political prisoners, the number of
3 persons detained or serving sentences for
4 ‘counterrevolutionary crimes’ or ‘crimes against
5 the state’ and for peaceful political or religious
6 activities are believed to number in the thou-
7 sands”.

8 (F) “[n]on-approved religious groups, in-
9 cluding Protestant and Catholic groups . . . ex-
10 perience intensified repression”.

11 (G) “[s]erious human rights abuses persist
12 in minority areas, including Tibet, Zinjiang,
13 and Inner Mongolia[, and] [c]ontrols on religion
14 and other fundamental freedoms in these areas
15 have also intensified”.

16 (H) “[o]verall in 1996, the authorities
17 stepped up efforts to cut off expressions of pro-
18 test or criticism. All public dissent against the
19 party and government was effectively silenced
20 by intimidation, exile, the imposition of prison
21 terms, administrative detention, or house ar-
22 rest. No residents were known to be active at
23 year’s end.”.

24 (2) In addition to the State Department, credi-
25 ble independent human rights organizations have

1 documented an increase in repression in China dur-
2 ing 1996, and effective destruction of the dissident
3 movement through the arrest and sentencing of the
4 few remaining pro-democracy and human rights ac-
5 tivists not already in prison or exile.

6 (3) Among those were Wang Dan, a student
7 leader of the 1989 pro-democracy protests, sen-
8 tenced on October 30, 1996, to 11 years in prison
9 on charges of conspiring to subvert the Government;
10 Li Hai, sentenced to 9 years in prison on December
11 18, 1996, for gathering information on the victims
12 of the 1989 crackdown, which according to the
13 court's verdict constituted "state secrets"; and Liu
14 Nianchun, an independent labor organizer, sentenced
15 to 3 years of "re-education through labor" on July
16 4, 1996, due to his activities in connection with a
17 petition campaign calling for human rights reforms.

18 (4) Many political prisoners are suffering from
19 poor conditions and ill-treatment leading to serious
20 medical and health problems, including—

21 (A) Wei Jingsheng, sentenced to 14 years
22 in prison on December 13, 1996, for conspiring
23 to subvert the government and for "communica-
24 tion with hostile foreign organizations and indi-
25 viduals, amassing funds in preparation for over-

1 throwing the government and publishing anti-
2 government articles abroad,” is currently held
3 in Jile No. 1 Prison (formerly the Nanpu New
4 Life Salt Farm) in Hebei province, where he re-
5 portedly suffers from severe high blood pressure
6 and a heart condition, worsened by poor condi-
7 tions of confinement;

8 (B) Gao Yu, a journalist sentenced to 6
9 years in prison on November 1994 and honored
10 by UNESCO in May 1997, has a heart condi-
11 tion; and

12 (C) Chen Longde, a leading human rights
13 advocate now serving a 3-year reeducation
14 through labor sentence imposed without trial in
15 August 1995, has reportedly been subject to re-
16 peated beatings and electric shocks at a labor
17 camp for refusing to confess his guilt.

18 (5) In 1997, only 1 official in the United States
19 Embassy in Beijing is assigned to human monitoring
20 human rights in the People’s Republic of China, and
21 no officials are assigned to monitor human rights in
22 United States consulates in the People’s Republic of
23 China.

1 **SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR ADDI-**
2 **TIONAL PERSONNEL AT DIPLOMATIC POSTS**
3 **TO MONITOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE PEO-**
4 **PLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.**

5 There are authorized to be appropriated to support
6 personnel to monitor political repression in the People's
7 Republic of China in the United States Embassy in
8 Beijing, as well as the American consulates in Guangzhou,
9 Shanghai, Shenyang, Chengdu, and Hong Kong,
10 \$2,200,000 for fiscal year 1998 and \$2,200,000 for fiscal
11 year 1999.

○