

107TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 447

Expressing the sense of the Congress regarding the Chinese Government's oppression of Falun Gong in the United States and in the People's Republic of China.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 24, 2002

Ms. WOOLSEY (for herself, Mr. HILLIARD, Ms. LEE, and Mr. LANTOS) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, 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

Expressing the sense of the Congress regarding the Chinese Government's oppression of Falun Gong in the United States and in the People's Republic of China.

Whereas Falun Gong is a peaceful spiritual movement that originated in China but has grown in popularity worldwide and is now accepted and practiced by thousands in the United States;

Whereas demonstrations by Falun Gong practitioners in the People's Republic of China and the United States have been peaceful, meditative sessions;

Whereas the Constitution of the People's Republic of China provides to the citizens of that country freedom of speech, assembly, association, and religious belief;

Whereas members of the Falun Gong spiritual movement, members of Chinese prodemocracy groups, and advocates of human rights reform in the People's Republic of China have been harassed, libeled, imprisoned, and beaten for demonstrating peacefully inside that country;

Whereas the Chinese Government has also attempted to silence the Falun Gong movement and Chinese prodemocracy groups inside the United States;

Whereas Chinese consular officials have pressured local elected officials in the United States to refuse or withdraw support for the Falun Gong spiritual group;

Whereas individuals that physically harassed Falun Gong practitioners in San Francisco, California, on October 22, 2000, were later seen at anti-Falun Gong meetings and the Chinese consulate in San Francisco;

Whereas San Francisco City Supervisor Chris Daly, after receiving complaints that Chinese officials were intimidating his constituents, authored a resolution condemning human rights violations and persecution of Falun Gong members by the Chinese Government;

Whereas Mr. Daly and the other members of the San Francisco City Council subsequently received a letter from the Chinese consul general in San Francisco, claiming that Falun Gong was an "evil cult" that was undermining the "normal social order" in the People's Republic of China, and that Mr. Daly's resolution should therefore be rejected, which it subsequently was;

Whereas in November 2000, the former Mayor of Saratoga, California, Stan Bogosian, issued a proclamation honoring the contributions of Falun Gong practitioners to the Saratoga community;

Whereas Mr. Bogosian was given a letter from the Chinese consul in San Francisco that strongly urged Mr. Bogosian to retract his support for local Falun Gong activities;

Whereas many local and national media organizations have reported that other local officials across the United States, including the mayors of several major cities, have been pressured by Chinese consular officials to recant statements of support for the Falun Gong spiritual group;

Whereas the United States and the People's Republic of China have developed an extensive trading relationship that is beneficial to local communities in both countries;

Whereas journalists have cited fear of hurting trading relationships as the motivation for some local United States officials to recant their support for Falun Gong after receiving pressure from Chinese consular officials;

Whereas notwithstanding rights provided by the Consitution of the People's Republic of China, the Government of that country has repeatedly and consistently suppressed expression by its citizens of freedom of religion, speech, press, assembly, association, procession, and demonstration inside the People's Republic of China, and is now projecting its restrictive practices into the local affairs of the United States; and

Whereas the Constitution of the United States guarantees freedom of religion, the right to assemble, and the right

to speak freely, and the people of the United States strongly value protecting the ability of all people to live without fear and in accordance with their personal beliefs: Now, therefore, be it

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

3 (1) the Government of the People’s Republic of
4 China should—

5 (A) immediately stop interfering in the ex-
6 ercise of religious and political freedoms within
7 the United States, such as the right to practice
8 Falun Gong, that are guaranteed by the United
9 States Constitution;

10 (B) cease using the diplomatic missions in
11 the United States to spread falsehoods about
12 the nature of Falun Gong;

13 (C) release from detention all prisoners of
14 conscience, including practitioners of Falun
15 Gong, who have been incarcerated in violation
16 of their rights as expressed in the Constitution
17 of the People’s Republic of China;

18 (D) immediately end the harassment, de-
19 tention, physical abuse, and imprisonment of in-
20 dividuals who are exercising their legitimate
21 rights to freedom of religion, including the
22 practices of Falun Gong, freedom of expression,

1 and freedom of association as stated in the
2 Constitution of the People’s Republic of China;
3 and

4 (E) demonstrate its willingness to abide by
5 international standards of freedom of belief, ex-
6 pression, and association by ceasing to restrict
7 those freedoms in the People’s Republic of
8 China;

9 (2) the President of the United States should,
10 in accordance with section 401(a)(1)(B) of the
11 International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22
12 USC 6401 et seq.), and with the intention of dis-
13 suading the Chinese Government from attempting to
14 stifle religious freedom in the People’s Republic of
15 China and the United States, take action such as—

16 (A) issuing an official public demarche, a
17 formal protest, to the Chinese Foreign Ministry
18 in response to the repeated violations by the
19 Chinese Government of basic human rights pro-
20 tected in international covenants to which the
21 People’s Republic of China is a signatory; and

22 (B) working more closely with Chinese
23 human rights activists to identify Chinese au-
24 thorities who have been personally responsible

1 for acts of violence and persecution in the Peo-
2 ple’s Republic of China;

3 (3) the Attorney General of the United States
4 should investigate reports that Chinese consular offi-
5 cials in the United States have committed illegal
6 acts while attempting to intimidate or inappropri-
7 ately influence Falun Gong practitioners or local
8 elected officials, and, in consultation with the Sec-
9 retary of State, determine an appropriate legal re-
10 sponse; and

11 (4) officials of local governments in the United
12 States should—

13 (A) in accordance with local statutes and
14 procedures, recognize and support organizations
15 and individuals that share the goals of all or
16 part of the local community, including Falun
17 Gong practitioners; and

18 (B) report incidents of pressure or harass-
19 ment by agents of the People’s Republic of
20 China to Members of Congress, the Attorney
21 General of the United States, and the United
22 States Secretary of State.

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