

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 103

Concerning the tenth anniversary of the Tiananmen Square massacre of
June 4, 1989, in the People's Republic of China.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 18 (legislative day, MAY 14), 1999

Mr. HUTCHINSON (for himself, Mr. WELLSTONE, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. KYL, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. SESSIONS, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. BROWNBACK, and Mr. HELMS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

MAY 27, 1999

Committee discharged; considered, amended, and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Concerning the tenth anniversary of the Tiananmen Square
massacre of June 4, 1989, in the People's Republic of China.

Whereas the United States was founded on the democratic
principle that all men and women are created equal and
entitled to the exercise of their basic human rights;

Whereas freedom of expression and assembly are funda-
mental human rights that belong to all people and are
recognized as such under the United Nations Declaration
of Human Rights and the International Covenant on
Civil and Political Rights;

Whereas the death of the former General Secretary of the Communist Party of the People's Republic of China, Hu Yaobang, on April 15, 1989, gave rise to peaceful protests throughout China calling for the establishment of a dialogue with government and party leaders on democratic reforms, including freedom of expression, freedom of assembly, and the elimination of corruption by government officials;

Whereas after that date thousands of prodemocracy demonstrators continued to protest peacefully in and around Tiananmen Square in Beijing until June 3 and 4, 1989, when Chinese authorities ordered the People's Liberation Army and other security forces to use lethal force to disperse demonstrators in Beijing, especially around Tiananmen Square;

Whereas nonofficial sources, a Chinese Red Cross report from June 7, 1989, and the State Department Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 1989, gave various estimates of the numbers of people killed and wounded in 1989 by the People's Liberation Army soldiers and other security forces, but agreed that hundreds, if not thousands, were killed and thousands more were wounded;

Whereas 20,000 people nationwide suspected of taking part in the democracy movement were arrested and sentenced without trial to prison or reeducation through labor, and many were reportedly tortured;

Whereas human rights groups such as Human Rights Watch, Human Rights in China, and Amnesty International have documented that hundreds of those arrested remain in prison;

Whereas the Government of the People's Republic of China continues to suppress dissent by imprisoning prodemocracy activists, journalists, labor union leaders, religious believers, and other individuals in China and Tibet who seek to express their political or religious views in a peaceful manner; and

Whereas June 4, 1999, is the tenth anniversary of the date of the Tiananmen Square massacre: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) expresses sympathy to the families of those
3 killed as a result of their participation in the democ-
4 racy protests of 1989 in the People's Republic of
5 China, as well as to the families of those who have
6 been killed and to those who have suffered for their
7 efforts to keep that struggle alive during the past
8 decade;

9 (2) commends all citizens of the People's Re-
10 public of China who are peacefully advocating for
11 democracy and human rights; and

12 (3) condemns the ongoing and egregious human
13 rights abuses by the Government of the People's Re-
14 public of China and calls on that Government to—

15 (A) release all prisoners of conscience, in-
16 cluding those still in prison as a result of their
17 participation in the peaceful prodemocracy pro-
18 tests of May and June 1989, provide just com-

1 pensation to the families of those killed in those
2 protests, and allow those exiled on account of
3 their activities in 1989 to return and live in
4 freedom in the People's Republic of China;

5 (B) put an immediate end to harassment,
6 detention, and imprisonment of Chinese citizens
7 exercising their legitimate rights to the freedom
8 of expression, freedom of association, and free-
9 dom of religion; and

10 (C) demonstrate its willingness to respect
11 the rights of all Chinese citizens by proceeding
12 quickly to ratify and implement the Inter-
13 national Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
14 which it signed on October 5, 1998.

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