

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 217

Relating to the freedom of belief, expression, and association in the People's Republic of China.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 2, 1999

Mr. HUTCHINSON (for himself, Mr. LOTT, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. NICKLES, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. MACK, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. GORTON, Mr. COVERDELL, and Mr. WELLSTONE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

NOVEMBER 5, 1999

Reported by Mr. HELMS, with amendments to the preamble

[Omit the part struck through and insert the part printed in *italic*]

NOVEMBER 19, 1999

Considered, amended, and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Relating to the freedom of belief, expression, and association
in the People's Republic of China.

Whereas the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights affirm the freedoms of thought, conscience, religion, expression, and assembly as fundamental human rights belonging to all people;

Whereas the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights is a common standard of achievement for all peo-

ples and all nations, including the People's Republic of China, a member of the United Nations;

Whereas the People's Republic of China has signed the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights but has yet to ratify the treaty and thereby make it legally binding;

Whereas the Constitution of the People's Republic of China provides for the freedom of religious belief and the freedom not to believe;

Whereas according to the Department of State and international human rights organizations, the Government of the People's Republic of China does not provide these freedoms but continues to restrict unregistered religious activities and persecutes persons on the basis of their religious practice through measures including harassment, prolonged detention, physical abuse, incarceration, and police closure of places of worship; and

Whereas under the International Religious Freedom Act, the Secretary of State has designated the People's Republic of China as a country of special concern: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate calls on the Government
2 of the People's Republic of China to—

3 (1) release all prisoners of conscience and put
4 an immediate end to the harassment, detention,
5 physical abuse, and imprisonment of Chinese citizens
6 exercising their legitimate rights to free belief, ex-
7 pression, and association; and

1 (2) demonstrate its willingness to abide by
2 internationally accepted norms of freedom of belief,
3 expression, and association by repealing or amending
4 laws and decrees that restrict those freedoms and
5 proceeding promptly to ratify and implement the
6 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

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