

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 477

Calling on the People's Republic of China immediately and unconditionally to release Rebiya Kadeer, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 8, 2003

Mr. ABERCROMBIE submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

RESOLUTION

Calling on the People's Republic of China immediately and unconditionally to release Rebiya Kadeer, and for other purposes.

Whereas Rebiya Kadeer, a prominent businesswoman from Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region of the People's Republic of China, was arrested in September 1999, while trying to meet United States Congressional staff;

Whereas the Congressional staff was on an official visit to China organized under the auspices of the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Program of the United States Information Agency;

Whereas Rebiya Kadeer was convicted at a secret trial and sentenced on March 10, 2000, to 8 years in prison for "illegally giving state information across the border";

Whereas the newspapers she was carrying with her at the time of her arrest were all available to the public;

Whereas from 1993 to 1998, Rebiya Kadeer was elected as a member of the Provincial People's Political Consultative Conference in Xinjiang;

Whereas in 1995, Rebiya Kadeer was a delegate to the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing;

Whereas Rebiya Kadeer's health is deteriorating in prison and she is finding it difficult to perform her prison labor due to sickness;

Whereas Rebiya Kadeer is the mother of 10 children;

Whereas the United States Department of State has repeatedly expressed concerns about the continued imprisonment of Rebiya Kadeer;

Whereas United States Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, Lorne Craner, visited Xinjiang in December 2002 with the expectation that she would soon be released;

Whereas the day before Secretary Craner's visit to Xinjiang, 3 of Rebiya Kadeer's children were taken into custody and were released later with strict instructions not to talk to anyone about their mother's case;

Whereas Rebiya Kadeer's case was brought up before a hearing of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on September 11, 2003, by T. Kumar of Amnesty International USA; and

Whereas Chinese authorities are ignoring repeated requests from the United States Congress to release her: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) condemns and deplores the detention of
3 Rebiya Kadeer and calls for her immediate and un-
4 conditional release; and

5 (2) urges President Bush to take urgent steps
6 to secure the release of Rebiya Kadeer as soon as
7 possible.

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