

108TH CONGRESS
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S. RES. 365

Expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the detention of Tibetan political prisoners by the Government of the People's Republic of China.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 19, 2004

Mr. BROWNBACK (for himself and Mr. BINGAMAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the detention of Tibetan political prisoners by the Government of the People's Republic of China.

Whereas, for more than 1,000 years, Tibet has maintained a sovereign national identity that is distinct from the national identity of China;

Whereas armed forces of the People's Republic of China invaded Tibet in 1949 and 1950, and have occupied it ever since;

Whereas, according to the Department of State and international human rights organizations, the Government of the People's Republic of China continues to commit widespread and well-documented human rights abuses in Tibet;

Whereas the People's Republic of China has yet to demonstrate its willingness to abide by internationally accepted standards of freedom of belief, expression, and association by repealing or amending laws and decrees that restrict those freedoms;

Whereas the Government of the People's Republic of China has detained hundreds of Tibetan nuns, monks, and lay persons as political prisoners for speaking out against China's occupation of Tibet and for their efforts to preserve Tibet's distinct national identity;

Whereas Phuntsog Nyidron was arrested on October 14, 1989, together with 5 other nuns, for participating in a peaceful protest against China's occupation of Tibet;

Whereas, on February 26, 2004, following a sustained international campaign on her behalf, the Government of the People's Republic of China released Phuntsog Nyidron from detention after she served more than 14 years of her 16-year sentence;

Whereas Tenzin Delek, a prominent Tibetan religious leader, and 3 other monks were arrested on April 7, 2002, during a nighttime raid on Jamyang Chokhorling monastery in Nyagchu County, Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture;

Whereas, following a closed trial and more than 8 months of incommunicado detention, Tenzin Delek and another Tibetan, Lobsang Dhondup, were convicted of inciting separatism and for their alleged involvement in a series of bombings on December 2, 2002;

Whereas Lobsang Dhondup was sentenced to death and Tenzin Delek was sentenced to death with a 2-year suspension;

Whereas the Government of the People's Republic of China promised senior officials of the United States and other governments that the cases of Lobsang Dhondup and Tenzin Delek would be subjected to a "lengthy review" by the Supreme People's Court prior to the death sentences being carried out;

Whereas the Supreme People's Court never carried out the promised review, and Lobsang Dhondup was executed on January 26, 2003;

Whereas the Government of the People's Republic of China has failed to produce any evidence that either Lobsang Dhondup or Tenzin Delek were involved in the crimes for which they were convicted, despite repeated requests from officials of the United States and other governments;

Whereas the Government of the People's Republic of China continues to imprison Tibetans for engaging in peaceful efforts to protest China's occupation of Tibet and preserve the Tibetan identity;

Whereas Tibetan political prisoners are routinely subjected to beatings, electric shock, solitary confinement, and other forms of torture and inhumane treatment while in Chinese custody;

Whereas the Government of the People's Republic of China continues to exert control over religious and cultural institutions in Tibet, abusing human rights through the torture, arbitrary arrest, and detention without fair or public trial of Tibetans who peacefully express their political or religious views or attempt to preserve the unique Tibetan identity; and

Whereas the Government of the People's Republic of China has paroled individual political prisoners for good behav-

ior or for medical reasons in the face of strong international pressure, but has failed to make the systemic changes necessary to provide minimum standards of due process or protections for basic civil and political rights: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

2 (1) the Government of the People’s Republic of
3 China is in violation of international human rights
4 standards by detaining and mistreating Tibetans
5 who engage in peaceful activities to protest China’s
6 occupation of Tibet or promote the preservation of
7 a distinct Tibetan identity;

8 (2) sustained international pressure on the Gov-
9 ernment of the People’s Republic of China is essen-
10 tial to improve the human rights situation in Tibet
11 and secure the release of Tibetan political prisoners;

12 (3) the Government of the United States
13 should—

14 (A) raise the cases of Tenzin Delek and
15 other Tibetan political prisoners in every meet-
16 ing with officials from the People’s Republic of
17 China; and

18 (B) work with other governments con-
19 cerned about human rights in Tibet and China
20 to encourage the release of Tibetan political

1 prisoners and promote systemic improvement of
2 human rights in Tibet and China; and
3 (4) the Government of the People's Republic of
4 China should, as a gesture of goodwill and in order
5 to promote human rights, immediately release all Ti-
6 betan political prisoners, including Tenzin Delek.

