

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 504

Condemning the violence in Tibet and calling for restraint by the Government of the People's Republic of China and the people of Tibet.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 7, 2008

Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. SMITH, Mr. BIDEN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. BROWN, Mrs. DOLE, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. BYRD, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. REID, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. REED, Mrs. CLINTON, and Mr. FEINGOLD) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

APRIL 9, 2008

Committee discharged; considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Condemning the violence in Tibet and calling for restraint by the Government of the People's Republic of China and the people of Tibet.

Whereas, beginning on March 10, 2008, Tibetans and Tibetan Buddhist monks began demonstrations in Lhasa, the capital of the Tibet Autonomous Region in the People's Republic of China;

Whereas those protests spread to elsewhere in the Tibet Autonomous Region and to Tibetan autonomous areas in the Sichuan, Gansu, and Qinghai provinces of China;

Whereas long-suppressed resentment prompted violent clashes between demonstrators and government forces in the streets of Lhasa, resulting in innocent civilian casualties, the burning of buildings, and extensive property damage;

Whereas Chinese and Tibetan sources report dozens of fatalities and the arrest of more than 1,000 protesters in the Tibet Autonomous Region and surrounding Tibetan areas of China;

Whereas Tibet is the center of Tibetan Buddhism and the Dalai Lama is the most revered figure in Tibetan Buddhism;

Whereas the Government of China continues to restrict the rights of Tibetan Buddhists to practice their religion freely;

Whereas the Dalai Lama has condemned the violence that began on March 14, 2008, and announced his continuing support for the Olympic Games to be held in Beijing, China;

Whereas the Dalai Lama has specifically stated that he does not seek independence for Tibet from China and has called for negotiations to bring about meaningful autonomy for Tibet that allows Tibetans to maintain their distinctive identity within China;

Whereas the Constitution of the People's Republic of China guarantees freedom of religious belief for all citizens, but the 2007 Annual Report on International Religious Freedom of the Department of State states that “[d]uring the period covered by this report, the Government [of China]’s respect for freedom of religion remained poor”; and

Whereas, following the demonstrations that began on March 10, 2008, the Government of China began severely restricting access to journalists and diplomats and creating a shortage of independent verification of the situation on the ground in Tibet: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) condemns the violence in Tibet and calls for
3 restraint by the Government of the People's Repub-
4 lic of China and the people of Tibet;

5 (2) calls for a dialogue between the leadership
6 of the Government of China and His Holiness the
7 Dalai Lama on meaningful religious and cultural au-
8 tonomy for Tibet within China and urges that these
9 discussions take place with all deliberate speed;

10 (3) calls for the release of individuals who pro-
11 tested in a peaceful manner and for medical care for
12 those injured and wounded in the violence that fol-
13 lowed the protests;

14 (4) calls on the Government of China to cease
15 its efforts to enter monasteries to 'reeducate' monks
16 and nuns, to respect the right of the people of Tibet
17 to speak of the Dalai Lama and possess his photo-
18 graph, and to respect and protect basic human
19 rights, as provided in the Constitution of the Peo-
20 ple's Republic of China;

5 (6) calls on the Government of China to provide
6 a full accounting of the March 2008 protests in
7 Tibet, the response of the Government of China, and
8 the manner and number of detentions and deaths
9 that occurred following the protests; and

10 (7) both—

11 (A) calls on the United States Department
12 of State to fully implement the Tibetan Policy
13 Act of 2002 (22 U.S.C. 6901 note), including
14 the stipulation that the Secretary of State seek
15 “to establish an office in Lhasa, Tibet, to mon-
16 itor political, economic, and cultural develop-
17 ments in Tibet”, and also to provide consular
18 protection and citizen services in emergencies;
19 and

20 (B) urges that the agreement to permit
21 China to open further diplomatic missions in
22 the United States should be contingent upon
23 the establishment of a United States Govern-
24 ment office in Lhasa, Tibet.

