

is busy preparing for an upcoming art performance organized by the center. "I have never been abused since my detention and have not seen any sign of beating or admonishment here. Police in the center are very polite and kind," said Teng.

Jin Hua, vice director of the re-education center, said that police in the center are required to treat every Falun Gong follower in the center equally, and discrimination is absolutely forbidden. Jin said: "We encourage Falun Gong followers to communicate with their family members. 'They can write to or call their family members as well as meet with relatives once a month.'"

The 75-year-old father of Teng Chunyan came from Heilongjiang Province last week to visit her and was relieved to see his daughter regaining energy and vigor. "I am happy now," Teng said. "Justice will finally defeat evil."

STATEMENT OF TRACY ZHAO FALUN GONG PRACTITIONER AND FORMER DETAINEE IN CHINA MARCH 2, 2000

HEARING ON "HUMAN RIGHTS IN CHINA AND TIBET"

Good afternoon everyone. I would like to thank the members of this committee for the opportunity to speak at this hearing today. I hope that my testimony will help shed some light on what is happening right now in China regarding the suppression of Falun Gong and the persecution of innocent Chinese citizens.

Before I begin, I would like to briefly introduce myself. My name is Tracy Zhao. I was born and raised in Beijing, China. Currently, I am an American citizen residing in Queens, New York. I am 30 years old and work as a flight attendant. I am also a Falun Gong practitioner.

Falun Gong, also known as Falun Dafa, is a spiritual practice based on ancient Chinese principles. It has five sets of traditional exercises and teaches practitioners to follow the universal virtues of "Truth, Compassion, and Tolerance." It has attracted millions of people all over the world, because of the positive effects it has on people's overall health and well-being.

In early February of this year, I traveled to Beijing with a number of other practitioners. I was interested to see what it was like for Falun Gong practitioners in China. I had heard stories through news reports and friends, but I wanted to get a first-hand look at what was really going on. I had no intention of participating in any protests, nor was I there to cause trouble. I simply wished to observe the situation first-hand.

Shortly before midnight on February 4th, which was the night before the Chinese New Year, I arrived at Tiananmen Square. I saw many policemen beating and kicking Falun Dafa practitioners, and dragging them into police vans. Many policemen were without coats and were sweating profusely from beating people. The practitioners were trying to peacefully practice their meditative exercises as a way to appeal to the government to allow them their constitutional right to freedom of belief, assembly, and speech.

I quickly took out a camera to take a picture. The flash caught the attention of the police and three of them immediately pushed me into the police van without asking me any questions. We were all taken to the nearby police station. There were hundreds of practitioners being held there. Some were bleeding in the face; others had bruises or black eyes. There were children in detention, too.

These Falun Gong practitioners had not committed any criminal acts but had only been exercising their constitutional rights. The Chinese government claims it is a coun-

try ruled by law, but it often violates its own laws. In the early hours of February 5th, around 1,200 practitioners, including myself, were taken to the Dong Cheng detention center on the outskirts of Beijing. For 24 hours there was no water or heat. Each of us received only two pieces of Chinese bread for food. And we were not allowed to use the bathroom.

After 24 hours, the police questioned me and I told them I was an American citizen. They did not believe me and sent me to a prison cell. There were 15 other people there. Six of them were practitioners and they told me they had been secretly tried and had been sentenced for up to a year. All they had done was go to the government office of appeals to offer their personal testimony to the government on how Falun Gong had improved their health and made them better people. They were arrested the moment they got there.

The Premier of China has recently urged the Government Offices of Appeals to improve their operating procedures, so that the offices would become better places for citizens to voice their concerns without fear of retribution. But for Falun Gong practitioners, walking into these offices is more like walking directly into prison.

Every practitioner in my cell had been abused at some point by the prison guards and policemen. In prison, we were given two meals a day, and it was always two pieces of Chinese bread with cabbage soup. At night all of us slept on one big wooden platform, with one blanket for two people and no pillows. It was very crowded. In the entire time I was there, we weren't allowed to take any showers. None of the practitioners were allowed any contact with the outside, nor were family or relatives allowed to visit. And the families usually also faced huge fines.

In one instance a female practitioner was trying to do the meditative exercises. But each time she started, a prison guard kicked her to the ground. This scene repeated itself many times until she had been kicked into a corner. The guard finally left her alone, and she finished her exercises.

While I was in prison, the police interrogated me and threatened that if I didn't answer all their questions I would be kept in prison forever. Finally, with the assistance of the U.S. Embassy and reports made by the international media, I was released and deported on February 12th, the eighth day of my detainment. I was not allowed to make any contact with anyone the entire time.

Since the ban on Falun Gong was announced on July 20th, 1999, the brutality with which this "ban" has been enforced has continued to escalate. It is reported that more than 5,000 practitioners, including the elderly, pregnant women, and young children have been sent to labor camps without proper legal procedures—without trial, legal representation, or due process.

In addition, more than 300 practitioners have been tried in secret and jailed with sentences of up to 18 years. In November, an internal government report stated that in Beijing alone, more than 35,000 practitioners have been detained, with many being under extremely inhumane conditions. So far, 11 people are known to have died while in police custody, while countless others remain unaccounted for.

Unfortunately, as I mentioned before, the scope and severity of this persecution continues to escalate. For example, in January of this year the Hong Kong-based Information Center of Human Rights and Democratic Movement in China discovered that some Falun Gong practitioners were now being held in mental hospitals where they were being injected with various drugs and were subject to other tortures. This situation has been reported in the world news by

CNN, AP, and Agency France Press, to name a few. All this is ironic in light of the fact that The People's Daily, the state-owned paper, published a report just last May stating that Falun Gong is a 'beneficial practice' with no political motives that can help people improve their health. This was prior to the current crackdown.

Other television programs drew similar conclusions back then as well. Despite the overwhelming brutality currently happening in China, I would like to make it clear that Falun Gong practitioners are not against the Chinese government, nor do they seek any particular political change or reform. What they ask is that they regain the basic human rights to freedom of assembly and freedom of belief, which are protected under China's own constitution as well as under the UN Declaration of Human Rights that China has signed.

In short, we seek your help to open a dialogue with the Chinese government so as to peacefully resolve this crisis. On behalf of tens of millions of Falun Gong practitioners around the world, we want to thank Congressman Chris Smith for introducing House Resolution 218 that condemns China's brutal persecution of Falun Gong practitioners in China. This House Resolution 218 was unanimously passed on November 18, 1999. I would like to personally thank the United States government for the many steps it has taken thus far to encourage the Chinese government to end this persecution, and I hope you will continue to support a peaceful resolution. Thank you.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PLATTS). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 188, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

PERIODIC REPORT ON THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO SIERRA LEONE AND LIBERIA—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 107-249)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), I am providing

herewith a 6-month periodic report prepared by my Administration on the national emergency with respect to Sierra Leone and Liberia that was declared in Executive Order 13194 of January 18, 2001, and expanded in scope in Executive Order 13213 of May 22, 2001.

GEORGE W. BUSH.
THE WHITE HOUSE, July 22, 2002.

OVARIAN CANCER RESEARCH FUNDING AND NURSE REINVESTMENT ACT PASSED IN HOUSE

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, two very important legislative initiatives passed today, and I would like to acknowledge the importance of H. Con. Res. 385. This bill expresses the Congress that the Secretary of Health and Human Services should conduct research on certain tests to screen for ovarian cancer. Out of the work of the gentleman from New York (Mr. ISRAEL) and the great leadership of the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO), a survivor of this cancer, it is very important for women who suffer from this, as well as those not yet diagnosed, to realize this legislation will help. I believe, in bringing down the numbers of those who are not able to survive with this disease.

Experts estimate that more than 23,000 cases of ovarian cancer will be diagnosed this year with an estimated 13,000 dying. This legislation will help us focus on research for ovarian cancer, and I believe it is an important initiative.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to add my applause for the Nurse Reinvestment Act for 2002 sponsored by the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPS) for the important resources it will bring to improving the professional development of nurses around the Nation, but also recruiting nurses. In my community as we speak, the Black Nurses Association will be meeting in Houston, Texas. They have been on the forefront of increasing the professional development of nurses, and providing opportunities for recruiting nurses, compensation for nurses, and the respect for nurses. The Nurses Reinvestment Act will give us the opportunity to increase the nursing population, or those who are seeking to train as nurses, increasing the professionalism of nurses, and thank them for providing good health care in America.

□ 2100

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to extend their remarks on the subject of the DeLay and the Leach Special Orders today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PLATTS). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Iowa?

There was no objection.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

ACKNOWLEDGING THE INVALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS OF SUSAN B. HIRSCHMANN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, this evening I'm taking the opportunity to speak for a few moments about someone very special to me and the whole Whip Team.

I want to speak about the enormous contribution my Chief-of-Staff Susan Hirschmann has made by building the most effective staff on Capitol Hill, assisting the leadership of our House Republican Majority, and struggling tremendously hard day after day to advance our conservative, constitutional principles.

As a Member of Congress, I've found that one of the most critical factors determining our ability to effect the political process is determined by the qualities and convictions held by the men and women we hire.

Fortunately, in Susan, I found a leader with the courage to stand firm for our principles, the vision and creativity to develop effective solutions, and the heart and humor to hold together my committed and boisterous staff.

Different observers bring different interpretations about what, precisely, it is that constitutes true leadership but I know it when I see it and this much I know; only a strong leader can command the Whip Team. I've been truly fortunate to have Susan as my right hand for the past five years.

Over the years, we've won a lot of battles, we've lost a few battles, but I can't think of single occasion when we backed down from a struggle involving our core principles with a chance for victory still within site.

That's a testament to Susan's passion, determination, and strategic vision. I'm gratified to have shared so many close votes with her and pleased that our team has been able to prevail so many times.

So, Mr. Speaker, let me close by reiterating the extent of my gratitude for all the sacrifices that Susan Hirschmann made for me, our party, and our country.

We've accomplished some amazing things for the American people.

And I'm deeply grateful for everything that she's given up to build my staff into the most determined, passionate, and effective organization in Washington. We'll all miss her laughter, her wisdom, and her leadership. We'll send her off with every good wish for future happiness, success and fulfillment.

Mr. HILLEARY. Susan B. Hirschmann is known throughout official Washington, D.C. and beyond as an intelligent, hard charging, political powerhouse who has made a tremendous contribution to the Republic through her work on Capitol Hill to influence and steer federal public policy in a conservative direction. Her reputation is well deserved.

In seven and a half years as a Member of the House of Representatives, I have met no

one for whom I have more respect and admiration than Susan Hirschmann. I am proud and honored to be able to call her my friend. She will be sorely missed by all of us who work with her in the House, but we all wish her well as she seeks new challenges.

I had the great fortune to hire Susan Hirschmann to serve as my Chief of Staff during my first term in office. She was, and is, the best of the best. Because of her I was the envy of my 1994 freshman class. The question most frequently asked of me by my colleagues in Congress during my first term was, "How did you get Susan Hirschmann to be your Chief of Staff?" I knew I needed someone with ample knowledge of Washington to supplement my lack of D.C. experience. Susan not only met that need, she was also the most talented person around. On behalf of myself, and the approximately 600,000 good folks who live in the 4th Congressional District of Tennessee, I thank you for the time you gave us.

As anyone on Capitol Hill knows, Susan went on to become Majority Whip TOM DELAY's Chief of Staff. In that position, she has played no small role in helping TOM to become the most effective Whip the House has ever seen.

Susan embodies a rare combination of wit, wisdom, tenacious work ethic and political savvy, along with a personal touch. She is loyal to her friends and a formidable and feared foe to her enemies. With regard to her personal touch, she has shown tremendous kindness to me and so many others over the years, the most notable of which for me was an introduction several years ago to my future wife, Meredith.

Thank you, Susan, for your warm friendship and for the service you have rendered to our nation, the Congress and to so many of us individually. May God's blessings be with you and your husband, David, wherever life takes you.

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to pay tribute to a great American, and a great leader. Susan Hirschmann is an unsung hero here in these hallowed halls of Congress.

Susan has dedicated her life to common sense conservative principles upon which America was founded. Like other great leaders, Susan is a principled and determined advocate, seemingly never missing an opportunity to advance her cause.

I met Susan shortly before being sworn into office, and since then, I have benefited often from her wise counsel on a myriad of topics.

Anyone spending just a short time here in Washington knows what an important role staff plays in facilitating the work of this House. As Chief of Staff to the Majority Whip, Susan takes her responsibilities seriously. She has ensured an effective Whip operation, and I know she will be sorely missed by leadership.

Susan also took a keen interest in the success of the Freshman class. Frankly, I believe her guidance and input has contributed greatly to the development of countless members of our class. And we too will feel the loss of her departure.

I know that Susan Hirschman and her husband David are one of a kind—a dynamic duo made for success. They are natural born leaders, and I am proud to call them friends.

I wish Susan and David the best of luck as Susan prepares to enter the next chapter of her career. God bless.