

President Award of the Optimist International.

Ben Atchley has been outstanding in every conceivable way in both public and private life. He also served from 1948 to 1958 in the Naval Reserves. He has served his community, he has served his State, and he has served this Nation. I think it is very accurate to say that this country is a better place today because of the service of Senator Ben Atchley.

So it is with great pride and a special privilege that I have introduced this bill to name this post office facility after him in tribute to his years of public service, and I urge support for this legislation.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

As a member of the House Committee on Government Reform, I am pleased to join my colleague in consideration of H.R. 3769, legislation naming a postal facility in Knoxville, Tennessee, after Ben Atchley. This measure was introduced by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) on February 4, 2004 and unanimously reported by our committee on February 12, 2004.

Ben Atchley was born in Knoxville, grew up in the area and attended the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. He served in the Tennessee State Senate from the 90th through the 103rd general assemblies. Prior to serving in the State Senate, Mr. Atchley was a member of the State House. As a member of the Tennessee State Senate, Senator Atchley served as the Senate Republican leader from the 95th through the 103rd general assemblies.

As a seasoned politician representing District 6 in Knoxville, Tennessee, Senator Atchley has enjoyed a very successful career. I note that he is retiring this year after 32 years in politics. He has also been very involved in community and business organizations.

Madam Speaker, what I find most interesting about Senator Atchley is that, according to his secretary, his first apartment, after he got married, was directly across the street from the post office being named after him. The Senator also worked right next door to the same post office where he had a job with South Central Bell Telephone Company. And his high school, Young High School, was a stone's throw down the road from the post office. This postal designation was definitely meant to happen.

So I commend my colleague for seeking to honor the contributions of Senator Atchley and urge swift passage of this bill.

Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

First, I want to commend my friend, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr.

DAVIS), for his very kind and fitting and appropriate comments in regard to this legislation, and I simply would like to note that our congressional delegation from the State of Tennessee consists of five Democrats and four Republicans. I think we get along about as well as any delegation in this entire Congress. All nine Members of the House Congressional delegation from Tennessee very quickly and eagerly joined this legislation and cosponsored it.

Ben Atchley has been a very loyal Republican, but he has as many friends on the Democratic side as on the Republican side. He is truly a great, great American, and I urge passage of this bill.

Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1430

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3769.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam 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.

URGING INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION CALLING ON CHINA TO END ITS HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 530) urging the appropriate representative of the United States to the 60th session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights to introduce a resolution calling upon the Government of the People's Republic of China to end its human rights violations in China, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 530

Whereas the annual meeting of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights in Geneva, Switzerland, is the most important international forum for discussing human rights and expressing international support for improved human rights performance;

Whereas according to the Department of State, the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, and international human rights organizations, the Government of the People's Republic of China continues to commit well-documented human rights abuses against the Chinese people;

Whereas the People's Republic of China has yet to demonstrate its willingness to abide

by internationally accepted norms of freedom of belief, expression, and association by repealing or amending laws and decrees that restrict those freedoms;

Whereas the Government of People's Republic of China continues to ban and criminalize groups it labels as cults or heretical organizations;

Whereas the Government of the People's Republic of China has repressed unregistered religious groups and spiritual movements and persists in persecuting persons on the basis of unauthorized religious activities using such measures as harassment, surveillance, job discrimination, exorbitant fines, prolonged detention, physical abuse, incarceration, and closure or destruction of places of worship;

Whereas international human rights organizations have documented that torture, maltreatment, the use of confessions extracted through torture, and other abuses while in detention are rampant in the Chinese legal system;

Whereas the persecution of Falun Gong practitioners has been particularly harsh;

Whereas the Government of the People's Republic of China launched a brutal campaign to eradicate Falun Gong from their country;

Whereas since this time large numbers of Falun Gong practitioners have been arrested, subjected to harsh reeducation efforts, and some have even been tortured to death;

Whereas Falun Gong practitioners continue to report harassment and acts of violence at the hands of foreign nationals which have occurred against them during peaceful protests in the United States and other countries;

Whereas the Federal Bureau of Investigation is currently investigating the possibility of links between attacks against Falun Gong practitioners in the United States and the Government of the People's Republic of China;

Whereas Catholics who remain faithful to the Pope and in communion with Rome face continuing restrictions, including difficulties holding worship services, obtaining building permits for churches, and training clergy;

Whereas Protestant house church leaders are facing increased pressure to register with the official Protestant church or face harassment, detention, and destruction of their places of worship;

Whereas many Catholic and Protestant leaders and believers have been imprisoned or subject to house arrest including Su Zhimin, a Catholic Bishop who was reportedly arrested in 1997 and who is currently reported to be in very poor health;

Whereas the Government of the People's Republic of China continues to exert tight control over the religious and cultural institutions of Tibetan Buddhists and Uighur Muslims, using torture, arbitrary arrest, and detention without public trial against these individuals for peacefully expressing their religious or political views;

Whereas the whereabouts of Gendun Choekyi Nyima, the boy identified by the Dalai Lama as the 11th Panchen Lama, are still unknown;

Whereas Gendun Choekyi Nyima was 6 years old when the Chinese authorities took him and his family away in 1995;

Whereas it is believed that the Chinese authorities are holding him in a secret location;

Whereas Tibetans caught displaying photos of the 11th Panchen Lama or the Dalai Lama face harassment, fines, and detention;

Whereas in January 2003, the Government of the People's Republic of China executed a

Tibetan man named Lobsang Dhondup without due process and despite repeated assurances to United States officials that his case and that of Tenzin Delek Rinpoche would be would reviewed by the Chinese Supreme People's Court;

Whereas this review never happened and Tenzin Delek Rinpoche remains on death row, in the second year of his suspended death sentence;

Whereas enforcement by the Government of the People's Republic of China of its one-child per family policy has been cruel and inhumane and has included the use of forced abortion and forced sterilization;

Whereas this one-child per family policy has led to the abandonment and infanticide of baby girls and a disproportionate number of male children in China, which will have serious and detrimental sociological impacts on China for years to come;

Whereas 14 years after the 1989 pro-democracy demonstrations in Tiananmen Square, many protesters remain in prison and no independent investigations have taken place regarding the massacre that occurred during those demonstrations;

Whereas authorities in the People's Republic of China have continued their efforts to extinguish expressions of protest or criticism and have detained and sentenced scores of citizens associated with attempts to organize peaceful protests, to expose corruption, to preserve their ethnic minority identity, and to use the Internet for the free exchange of ideas;

Whereas many prisoners in China are confined to state run psychiatric hospitals for simple acts of expressing their thoughts on political issues, like veteran human rights activist and prisoner of conscience Wang Wanxing;

Whereas many Chinese prisoners are in Laogai, forced labor camps in which inmates are subject to various forms of cruel and forced labor;

Whereas the International Committee of the Red Cross and other international human rights organizations have been denied access to the Chinese prison system;

Whereas it well documented that organs taken from executed prisoners are sold for use in transplants in China and abroad;

Whereas the percentage of transplant kidneys estimated to be derived from executed prisoners in China has been put as high as 90 percent of all transplanted kidneys in China;

Whereas organs reported to be harvested from executed prisoners in China include corneas, kidneys, and hearts;

Whereas the Government of the People's Republic of China agreed during the December 2002 session of the United States-China Bilateral Human Rights Dialogue to invite, without conditions, the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, the United Nations Special Rapporteurs on Religious Intolerance and Torture, and the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention to visit China;

Whereas none of these visits have taken place in the last year and, in the case of the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, two agreed upon trips were canceled because of unacceptable conditions placed on the visit by the Government of the People's Republic of China;

Whereas the United States decision not to introduce a resolution calling upon the People's Republic of China to end its human rights violations in China at the 59th Session of United Nations Commission on Human Rights in Geneva was based, in part, on the belief that the aforementioned agreements signaled a good faith commitment on the part of Chinese officials to improve human rights practice in China;

Whereas when well-founded, balanced, and accurate resolutions regarding human rights in China were raised in previous sessions of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, the Government of the People's Republic of China strongly pressured other countries to oppose the consideration of those resolutions;

Whereas since the last session of the United States China Bilateral Human Rights Dialogue, a number of very troubling incidents have occurred, including—

(1) the arrests of a number of democracy advocates,

(2) the detention and torture of 18 Tibetans who were forcibly repatriated from Nepal with the cooperation of Chinese officials, in contravention of international law,

(3) the ongoing forced repatriation of North Korean nationals, who upon return to North Korea will face almost certain arrest, torture, or even death,

(4) the arrest and sentencing of Internet essayists and labor protesters,

(5) the execution of Lobsang Dondrup and continued detention of Tenzin Delek Rinpoche, and

(6) the continued refusal to allow access by United States diplomats and family members of the accused to the trials of those detained for political or religious activities;

Whereas the People's Republic of China has signed the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, but has yet to take the necessary steps to make the treaty legally binding;

Whereas the Government of the People's Republic of China is a party to the 1951 United Nations Convention Relating to Refugees and its 1967 Protocol;

Whereas the Government of the People's Republic of China is a party to the United Nations Convention Against Torture and Other Forms of Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment; and

Whereas the Constitution and laws of the People's Republic of China purport to provide for fundamental human rights, however, the protections of these rights are often ignored in practice: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) it is the sense of Congress that—

(A) the United States Government should continue to insist that the People's Republic of China adhere to fundamental human rights principles and allow its citizens the full enjoyment of those rights;

(B) at the 60th Session of the United Nations Human Rights Commission in Geneva, Switzerland, the appropriate representative of the United States should introduce a resolution calling upon the People's Republic of China to end its human rights violations in China and meet internationally recognized standards for human rights;

(C) the United States Government should take the lead in organizing multilateral support to obtain passage by the Commission of such a resolution and should draft the resolution in such a way as to highlight specific human rights abuses;

(D) all countries with representatives at the 60th Session of the United Nations Human Rights Commission should support passage of such a resolution and resist efforts by representatives of the People's Republic of China to oppose the consideration or passage of such a resolution; and

(E) United States Government officials and officials from other governments should continue to speak out in international forums and elsewhere against Chinese repression of religious and political freedom, persecution of Tibetans, Falun Gong practitioners, Catholics, Protestants, and Uighur Muslims, the unjust arrest and detention of religious leaders and political dissidents, harsh conditions in Laogai and other prisons, coercive

family planning policies, and the forced return of North Korean refugees; and

(2) Congress urges the Government of the People's Republic of China—

(A) to take the necessary measures to stop the persecution of all religious practitioners and to safeguard fundamental human rights;

(B) to stop the forced return of North Korean refugees, to allow the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees access to North Koreans inside China, and to work with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to develop a viable solution to the humanitarian crisis involving North Korean refugees;

(C) to end its coercive one-child per family policy and ensure that no national, provincial, or local government officials subject women to forced abortions or sterilizations;

(D) to immediately hold an open and transparent investigation into the 1989 crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators in Tiananmen Square, to release all the prisoners held in connection with that event, and to pay compensation to the families who lost their loved ones;

(E) to release from detention all prisoners of conscience, persons held because of their religious activities, and persons of humanitarian concern;

(F) to release the 11th Panchen Lama identified by Dalai Lama and allow him to undertake his rightful role;

(G) to allow the Chinese people to practice freely and openly their religious beliefs;

(H) to adhere to the provisions and guidelines of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the United Nations Convention Against Torture and Other Forms of Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and the 1951 Convention Relating to Refugees and its 1967 Protocol; and

(I) to allow, immediately and without restrictions, visits to China by the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, the United Nations Special Rapporteurs on Religious Intolerance and Torture, the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, and the International Committee of the Red Cross.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from Minnesota (Ms. MCCOLLUM) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH).

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Despite the hopes and expectations of some that robust trade with China would usher in at least a modicum of respect for basic human rights and fundamental liberties, the simple fact of the matter is that the dictatorship in China oppresses, tortures and mistreats tens of millions of its own citizens.

According to the U.S. Department of State, the government's human rights record remains poor, and the government continued to commit numerous and serious abuses, and the repression is getting worse. The State Department Human Rights Report went on to say there was backsliding, their word, backsliding on key human rights issues, including arrests. Abuses include killing, torture, mistreatment of prisoners, and forced confessions.

Amazingly, many years, 15 years after Tiananmen Square when we saw

people protesting the government asking for simple liberties and simple rights, carrying around a facsimile of the Statue of Liberty, 15 years after that there are still some 2,000 people remaining incarcerated in prison camps and detention centers. That is unconscionable this many years afterwards.

I remind my colleagues that people who argue that if we just traded with the Chinese, that things would get better. Back in 1989, the trade deficit was about \$6 billion. Now it is \$124 billion and counting. It goes up by the day. We trade; they torture, abuse, incarcerate, arrest and mistreat.

Some years ago soon after Tiananmen Square, it brought this to life to me and I was thinking about it this morning, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) and I went to Beijing Prison No. 1, a prison where 40 Tiananmen Square prisoners were being held. They were like modern-day concentration camp victims. Their heads were shaved. Men who had been out there protesting, asking peacefully that the government allow just some basic liberties that we take for granted in the United States and in many other nations of the world, and yet for that the book was thrown at them and there they were making jelly shoes and socks for export to the United States.

The torture does not stop with those who demand political freedoms. On the religious front there is ongoing aggressive repression of those who want to practice their faith as they see fit. We see Falun Gong practitioners who are routinely rounded up and beaten and abused, and hundreds have been tortured to death while held in captivity.

I remember meeting in 1994 with a Catholic bishop by the name of Bishop Su. He now, counting all of the years to date he was in Chinese prisons, has spent 27 years of his life being mistreated in Chinese prison and detention centers. Here is a man whose only violation of the law was to practice his faith with faithfulness. He is a very holy man. In 1994 when he was out of prison briefly, I met with him, and there was not one ounce of malice or hate in him for the dictatorship that was so abusing him. He spoke of forgiveness and reconciliation and how he hoped some day China would be free; and for that, he has been severely punished.

After I left, he was made a captive again and spent 9 days. Then he went into hiding, and in 1997 was recaptured again and put back into prison. In mid-November, we discovered that this great man was still alive and was getting some medical care under heavy guard. Here he is 27 years, a Roman Catholic bishop, and he is just a tip of the iceberg.

Protestant underground believers, Catholics who are underground Falun Gong, Tibetan Buddhists, and Uighur Muslims who have been rounded up under the pretext of post-9/11 saying somehow they are committing acts of

terrorism, they are good, honest people, and the government of China enslaves them and mistreats them.

As my colleagues know, China has been designated a CPC country, a country of particular concern, by the U.S. State Department because of its ongoing violations of religious liberties and rights. And as my colleagues know, since 1979 there has been the one-child per family policy. The policy says if the second child happens to come along, he or she has to be aborted. Heavy fines are imposed upon the women, particularly. They call it social compensation fees. Sometimes it is six times the annual salaries of the parents compelling them to abort that baby. Forced abortion and forced sterilization are commonplace in China.

This resolution calls upon the government to cease that horrific attack on the human family and upon women. It is a violation of their basic human rights. It is violence against women, and the child as well.

What this resolution does in a nutshell, it calls on the administration, it calls on all interested parties at the U.N. Commission on Human Rights, which will convene in mid-March, to take up a resolution to just bring out the facts and bring out the basic lack of human rights in China today and not bury it under the table, which unfortunately all of us have done to some extent; and certainly, the U.N. has done it for years.

I would hope that the administration, and I believe they will, will try to get such a resolution passed. We have tried six times. We have not succeeded. One reason is that the Chinese government is very adroit at intimidating other countries or giving them foreign aid so they will back what we call a no-action motion that is offered in Geneva. Even with that as a possibility, and most likely a probability, I think we have a moral duty and obligation to raise it and raise it as aggressively as we can for the victims and those who will be victimized in the future.

Madam Speaker, despite the hopes and expectations of some that robust trade with China would usher in at least a modicum of respect for basic human rights and fundamental liberties, the simple fact of the matter is that the dictatorship in China oppresses, tortures and mistreats tens of millions of its own citizens.

According to the U.S. Department of State, the government's human rights record remains "poor," and the government continued "to commit numerous and serious abuses," and the repression is getting worse. The State Department Human Rights Report went on to say there was "backsliding, on key human rights issues, including arrests. Abuses include killing, torture, mistreatment of prisoners, and forced confessions."

Amazingly, 15 years after Tiananmen Square when we witnessed courageous Chinese protesting government abuse, asking for simple liberties and elemental rights, even carrying around Tiananmen a facsimile of the Statue of Liberty, 15 years after that historic outpouring there are still some 2,000 people

incarcerated in prison camps and detention centers. That is unconscionable.

I remind my colleagues that the people who argued that if we just traded more with the Chinese, that things would get better on the human rights front. Back in 1989, the trade deficit was about \$6 billion. Now it is \$124 billion and counting. It worsens by the day. We trade, they torture; we trade, they abuse; we trade, they incarcerate; we trade, they arrest and mistreat.

Right after Tiananmen Square, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) and I went to Beijing and visited Prison No. 1, a prison where 40 Tiananmen Square prisoners were being held. They were like modern-day Nazi concentration camp victims. Their heads were shaved. These men had been out there in Tiananmen protesting, asking peacefully that the government allow some basic liberties that we take for granted in the United States and in many other nations of the world, and yet for that they were hunted down, tortured and jailed. In the prison they were making shoes and socks for export to the United States.

By now most Members know that the torture does not stop with those who demand political freedoms. On the religious front there is ongoing aggressive repression of those who want to practice their faith as they see fit. We see Falun Gong practitioners who are routinely rounded up and beaten and abused, and hundreds have been tortured to death while held in captivity.

I remember meeting in 1994 with a Catholic bishop by the name of Bishop Su. Bishop Su is a saintly man of God who has spent 27 years of his life being mistreated, tortured and oppressed in Chinese prison and detention centers. Here is a man whose only violation of the law was to practice his faith with faithfulness. He is a very holy man. In 1994 when he was out of prison briefly, I met with him in Beijing and there was not one ounce of malice or hate in him for the dictatorship that was so harsh and cruel to him. It was stunning. He spoke of forgiveness and reconciliation and how he hoped some day China would permit religious freedom; and for that, he has been severely punished.

After I left, he was arrested again and spent 9 days in jail. He was released and then he went into hiding, and in 1997 was recaptured again and put back into prison. In mid-November, we discovered that this great man was still alive, for we feared he might be dead, and was getting some medical care under heavy guard. Here he is 27 years in Chinese jails, a Roman Catholic bishop, a holy man, and he is just one example of many.

Protestant underground believers, Catholics, Falun Gong, Tibetan Buddhists, and Uighur Muslims who have been repressed and even more so recently under the pretext of post-9/11 they are good, honest people, and the government of China enslaves them and mistreats them.

As my colleagues know, China has been designated a CPC country, a country of particular concern, by the U.S. State Department because of its ongoing violations of religious liberties and rights. That's a serious designation shared by rogue states. And as my colleagues know, since 1979 there has been the one-child per family policy. The policy says that any child who happens to come along without explicit government permission is to be aborted. Heavy fines and pressure are imposed upon the women, particularly. They call

it social compensation fees. The fee can be six times the annual salaries of the parents, compelling them to abort that baby. Forced abortion and forced sterilization are commonplace in China.

This resolution calls upon the government to cease their horrific attack on the human family and upon women. It is a violation of their basic human rights. It is violence against women, and violence against the child as well.

What this resolution does in sum is to call on the administration, and on all interested parties at the U.N. Commission on Human Rights in Geneva, which will convene in mid-March, to take up a resolution to bring out the facts and to scrutinize and condemn the lack of human rights in China today and not bury it under the table, which unfortunately all of us have done to some extent; and certainly, the U.N. has done it for years.

I would hope that the administration, and I believe they will, will try to get such a resolution passed. We have tried six times. We have not succeeded. One reason is that the Chinese government is very adroit at intimidating other countries or giving them foreign aid so they will back what we call a no-action motion that will be offered in Geneva. Even with that as a possibility, and most likely a probability, I think we have a moral duty and obligation to raise Chinese human rights abuses and raise the issue as aggressively as we can for the victims who cannot speak or fend for themselves.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution, and before addressing the substance of the resolution I would like to thank its author, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH). He has been a leader on human rights issues, particularly as they relate to China.

This resolution calls upon the administration to offer a resolution on China's human rights record at the upcoming meeting of the Human Rights Convention in Geneva. Given the human rights situation in China, it is imperative that the United States take a leadership role in galvanizing the world community to hold China accountable for gross violations of internationally recognized human rights.

Last year the administration did not offer a China resolution at the Human Rights Commission, which has been only the third time since 1989 that the United States had given China a pass on human rights. In announcing its decision, the administration asserted that China had made progress on human rights and religious freedoms. Madam Speaker, this was a profound mistake.

China took America's unwillingness to lead the charge in Geneva as a sign of weakness, as a statement that China human rights issues had faded from the consciousness of the American public policymakers. Not surprisingly, human rights situations in China grew worse over the past year, not improved. Dissidents jailed remained behind bars;

and incredibly, even some protesters from the 1989 Tiananmen demonstrations continue to be imprisoned. Chinese authorities have arrested average citizens who download or post politically sensitive materials on the Internet and have moved to place greater restrictions on Internet access.

The Chinese government also continues its brutal crackdown on the Falun Gong spiritual movement and unregistered Christian churches. According to the State Department's 2003 Human Rights Report, China continues to deny internationally recognized labor rights, the rights of workers to organize. In addition, forced labor prisons remain a serious concern and a problem.

Labor leaders in northeastern China fighting for the rights of unemployed workers from state-owned enterprises were tried and sentenced to long jail terms for their advocacy. Furthermore, China has not adopted a comprehensive policy to combat child labor. In urban areas children often work as street laborers. The State Department notes that children work in coal mines which often operate far from urban centers out of the view of law enforcement officials. This unacceptable policy puts the health and safety of children at risk. It is time for China to address this issue for once and all.

Finally, this resolution will send a strong message to China that the imprisonment of Tibetan political prisoners is unacceptable. The release of one of Tibet's most prominent political prisoners and the longest serving female political prisoner was a positive step, but it is not sufficient. Hundreds of Tibetans remain imprisoned for their political or religious beliefs, detainees are regularly tortured and exiled Tibetans have only limited access to their country. We must continue to put pressure on China to promote the human rights of the Tibetan people.

In short, Madam Speaker, the decision last year to treat China with kid gloves produced a backsliding on human rights, not progress. I hope the administration does not make this mistake again. True political change and representative government will eventually come to China. But, unfortunately, we cannot know whether it will take 5 years or 25 years. But regardless of how long it takes, leaders of a new democratic China must believe that the United States stood with them in their time of darkness. An American-sponsored resolution in Geneva exposing China's poor human rights record accomplishes this vital task. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF), the man who authored the International Religious Freedom Act 5 years ago.

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr.

SMITH), the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE), the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) and others who have been strong supporters with regard to speaking out on behalf of those being persecuted in China.

I heard the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) talk about the Tiananmen Square demonstrators. We saw them making socks. I still have the socks in my office. That was 15 years ago.

Madam Speaker, I ask Members, what were they doing 15 years ago? For the last 15 years, what were you doing? For the last 15 years, these men and women have been in prison, and very few people really speak out.

I rise in strong support of this resolution. Every Member of Congress should be outraged that the men and women in China are routinely being persecuted by the government. Every Member of Congress and everyone in the administration ought to imagine a country and think about a country where factory workers have no workplace safety, labor and environmental protections, and are required to work 80 hours a week for no more than \$110 per month for goods exported. Imagine a country which boldly supplies missile and chemical weapons technology to countries that harbor terrorists.

□ 1445

Imagine a country that oversees a network of espionage operations against American companies. The Chinese have a spying program against American industry second to none. The KGB could not hold a candle to what the Chinese Government is doing. Imagine a country which is plundering a neighbor and wiping out its religion-based culture. Imagine a country which tortures and imprisons Catholic bishops. There are 11 Catholic bishops according to the Cardinal Kung Foundation in prison today. Eleven. You almost never hear anybody speak out on behalf of them. You have a large number, 250, 300 Protestant house church leaders. I had a Protestant pastor come by to see me 2 weeks ago, a pastor that we had helped and worked with; he had been in prison 10 years. He said his last job in a slave labor camp was making Christmas tree lights. A Protestant pastor in a Chinese prison making Christmas tree lights to celebrate the birth of Jesus. What is wrong? Yet you never really hear anybody speak out with regard to that.

Buddhist monks and nuns, persecuted severely. Keep in mind the leader of the Chinese Government now is the guy who brought down all of the persecution of those who were Buddhists with regard to the Drapchi prison and what took place in Tibet. As the gentleman from New Jersey said, the Muslims are being pounded left and right. If you need a new organ or kidney, you can go to China and for \$50,000, they will go into the prison, take your blood type, take his blood type, find a match, kill him, take him away, transplant the kidney for \$50,000.

Slave labor camps. There are more slave labor camps in China today than there were when Solzhenitsyn wrote that Nobel Prize-winning book, "Gulag Archipelago." There are more in China today than there were then. We all know what country this imaginary country is. It is China.

The other day I was coming in and I heard Simon and Garfunkel on the radio sing the words of "The Boxer." It really struck me: "Man hears what he wants to hear and disregards the rest." This administration and this Congress hears only what it wants to hear and disregards the rest.

I had an opportunity several weeks ago to go to Berlin. We went to a train stop called Grunewald Station. It is where they took people who were Jewish and put them on trains and sent them away. I was there kind of late. As it was getting dark, I looked out, I looked at big, large homes that were all around this station. I said to myself, these people must have known what was taking place in 1941 and 1942 and 1943. They had little signs of how many were put on the trains in 1942 and 1943. Thousands and thousands. It got down to 1944 and 1945, in one train 17 or 18. But the people that lived in the neighborhood had to know what was taking place.

We have a 71-page report that the State Department has put out. So it is kind of like saying, We did not know. But we know. We cannot now say, We do not know what's taking place in China. The one-child per family, the human organ transplants, the slave labor camps. We cannot say we do not know because you get the 71-page report and you read it, 71 pages about China.

Later on when the Chinese Government falls, and it will fall, they will go the way of the Ceausescu government; and God bless Ronald Reagan when he spoke out and called the Soviet Union the Evil Empire and put the cruise missiles into Europe when nobody else wanted them. But they will fall and when they go back and open up the records, nobody will be able to say, we did not know, because now we know. We read the human rights report that came out of the State Department 3 days ago.

Madam Speaker, I am going to put the rest in the RECORD and just say this administration ought to follow this resolution. If it does not follow the resolution and yet it followed that 71-page report, I do not see how it can live with itself. Let me just say, as Dietrich Bonhoeffer said, it is cheap grace for the Congress just to pass a resolution urging them to do a resolution. We ought to be doing a lot more and speaking out on behalf of those who are being persecuted.

Many people will tell you when the Reagan administration and the Carter administration used to go to the Soviet Union, they always met with the dissidents. They went into their apartments. They had them into the em-

bassy. Somewhere there are bracelets with their names on them. They stood in solidarity with the people in the Soviet Union that were being persecuted. I find that when delegations, both congressional and executive branch, go to China, they meet with the leaders. They have their shark fin soup, and they meet in the big halls; but they do not meet with the people.

We have a lot to learn, we in Congress and in the administration, to emulate President Ronald Reagan. Ronald Reagan always spoke out on behalf of the persecuted. Sharansky will tell you that his life got better when Ronald Reagan and the Congress, both Republicans and Democrats, raised the Sharansky case. He sometimes just got more food. He got more visitations. We need the administration, one, to introduce a resolution. Secondly, this Congress ought to do more or else the words from Simon and Garfunkel, "The Boxer," "Man hears what he wants to hear and disregards the rest," will in essence be the theme song for us in the United States where we say Congress hears only what it wants to hear and disregards the rest.

Madam Speaker, there are 71 pages. We cannot ever again say we did not know, because now we know. I urge the strong passage of this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 530 urging the United States to introduce a resolution highlighting China's human rights record at the 60th session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights this month. Every Member of Congress should be outraged that men and women in China are routinely persecuted by the Chinese Government.

Imagine a country where factory workers have no workplace safety, labor, or environmental protections and are required to work 80 hour-weeks for no more than \$110 per month to produce goods for export.

Imagine a country which boldly supplies missile and chemical weapons technology to countries that support or harbor terrorists.

Imagine a country that oversees a network of espionage operations against American companies.

Imagine a country which is plundering a neighbor and wiping out its religion-based culture.

Imagine a country which tortures and imprisons Catholic bishops, Protestant church leaders, Muslim worshipers, Falun Gong followers, and Buddhist monks and nuns just because of their faith and systematically destroys churches and confiscates bibles.

Imagine a country which has a thriving business of harvesting and selling for transplant kidneys, corneas, and other human organs from executed prisoners who are thrown in prison with no trial or sentencing procedures.

Imagine a country which maintains an extensive system of gulags—slave labor camps—as large as existed in the former Soviet Union that are used for brainwashing and "reeducation through labor."

That country is not imaginary. It is the People's Republic of China.

I was appalled last year when the United States administration chose not to introduce a resolution condemning China at the U.N.

Commission on Human Rights meeting in Geneva. We were told over and over again that China's human rights record was improving and that change was coming.

The recently released State Department country reports on human rights unequivocally states that over the last year China didn't improve its human rights record. In fact, there was backsliding.

I would like to share with you some facts from that 71-page report.

The Chinese government has failed to demonstrate its willingness to abide by the internationally accepted norms of freedom of belief, expression, and association.

Citizens lacked both the freedom peacefully to express opposition to the political system or the right to change the system.

Violence against women (including imposition of a birth limitation policy coercive in nature that resulted in instances of forced abortion and forced sterilization) continued.

Last year alone the government executed more prisoners than any other country.

All over China Catholic Bishops and Priests are in jail, some for decades at a time, simply for practicing their faith.

Over 250,000 persons are serving sentences in "reeducation through labor" camps.

As many as 2,000 people remained in prison for their activities during the June 1989 Tiananmen demonstrations.

The government used the international war on terror as a justification for cracking down harshly on suspected Uighur separatists.

The government continues to deport thousands of North Koreans, who face persecution upon their return.

And the list goes on.

China cannot fool the international community any longer. The Chinese Government continues to commit well-documented human rights abuses against the Chinese people.

America must be a country that stands up for basic decency and human rights. America must speak out on behalf of those who cannot speak for themselves—men and women who are being persecuted on account of their religious or political beliefs.

Our foreign policy must be a policy that helps promote human rights and freedom. Not a policy that sides with dictators who oppress their own citizens.

The facts are before us. The United States can no longer say that things are improving in China.

Each day we fail to speak out is another day that a Catholic Priest is arrested.

Another day a Falun Gong practitioner is tortured. Another day that innocent voices are silenced.

Will the United States step up as the leader of the free world and sponsor a resolution on China, or will the world sit by and watch China suppress its citizens for another year?

How will history judge us? We must not be afraid to act.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I yield 3½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN), chairman of the Subcommittee on the Middle East and Central Asia.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution that outlines the deplorable record of China's authoritarian regime, a regime which continues to systematically violate the most basic human rights of all of its people and the civil and political

liberties of all of its citizens. State security personnel are responsible for extensive abuses such as political and extrajudicial killings, lengthy incommunicado detentions, and the use of torture. Police target certain dissidents for incarceration in psychiatric facilities, subjecting them to unspeakable punishment. National, racial, and ethnic minorities remain subject to intense persecution and discrimination. Thugs employed by the regime frequently launch campaigns to crack down on opposition and pro-democracy groups. Freedom of movement, speech, assembly, and association are severely restricted. The controls on religious worship have intensified. Church leaders and other faithful are harassed and repressed with fines, detentions, physical abuse and, yes, torture. Many houses of worship have been destroyed. Catholic and Protestant leaders and believers have been imprisoned or subjected to house arrest.

This cowardly, dictatorial regime has harassed, imprisoned, and tortured members of the Falun Gong group, sending women, children and men to torture camps for doing nothing but exercising their most basic, fundamental rights of freedom of conscience and belief. This deplorable action by the Chinese authorities has included the brutal torture of followers, particularly women, who have been arrested, gang-raped, and brutally beaten. They have been demoted or dismissed from their employment. They have been held in prison. They have been sent to labor camps and psychiatric hospitals, all because they chose to live by the strength of their convictions and refused to renounce their beliefs.

Additionally, trafficking in persons, mainly women and children, for forced prostitution or illegal forced labor continues, placing this segment of the population in constant risk of slavery. The gross violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms by the Chinese regime and the deteriorating situation in China are highlighted in the Department of State's Human Rights Report released last week. The China report says: "The government continued to commit numerous and serious abuses. There was backsliding on key human rights issues during the year."

The People's Republic of China must be held accountable for its deplorable actions. Constant pressure from the U.S. and the international community is vital if any improvements are to take place in China.

Madam Speaker, we must support the Chinese people in their efforts and send a clear message to their oppressors that the U.S. is committed to the defense of democratic principles and human rights. This resolution before us is an important part of that strategy. As the U.S. delegation works to ensure debate on human rights conditions in China and to secure the votes for a resolution at the United Nations Commission on Human Rights calling on China to end its terrible human rights prac-

tices, let us show them our full support by voting in favor of the resolution in front of us, House Resolution 530.

I thank the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) as well as the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) for their steadfast support for the Chinese people to live free one day soon.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. COX).

Mr. COX. I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me this time.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 530, which urges the representative of the United States to the 60th session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights to introduce a resolution calling upon the government of the People's Republic of China to end its human rights violations.

A year ago, the government of the PRC agreed to invite three international human rights organizations to China without conditions. Those three organizations were the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, the U.N. Special Rapporteurs on Religious Intolerance and Torture, and the U.N. Working Group on Arbitrary Detention. Two visits were scheduled, but the arrangement was that they were supposed to come without conditions and none of those visits has taken place precisely because of unacceptable preconditions imposed in violation of its own promises by the government of the People's Republic of China.

The failure of the PRC government to follow through on its promises once again is instructive. First, it demonstrates the lack of commitment and good faith on the part of the PRC to acknowledge and improve the human rights conditions for the Chinese people. Second, it reveals a PRC strategy to assuage international concerns with bare rhetoric and deceptive practices in order to advance the political and economic interests of its rulers. Most importantly, it shows that additional pressure is necessary to improve human rights in the PRC.

Several cases have been cited. In fact, the pattern of hundreds and thousands of cases has been cited during this debate. I will add just one more, the case of Dr. Yang Jianli, the U.S.-educated scholar of democracy. In June 2003, this House unanimously approved legislation calling for Dr. Yang's release. His case is one more example of the unwillingness of the PRC government to fulfill its promise, or to follow its own law. The PRC has held Dr. Yang Jianli, whose wife and children are citizens of the United States, without access to a lawyer, without the right to contact his family, and even without a court ruling against him. This indefinite detention is a violation of international standards and the PRC's own criminal law.

Since 1997, the denial of basic rights is beginning to extend even to Hong Kong. Just today, we read in The Wash-

ington Post that the PRC is secretly holding a group of Hong Kong residents, including at least three British citizens, and prosecuting them for espionage. What have they done? According to The Post, the charges include discussion of the Tiananmen Square massacre. Madam Speaker, there are many people who should be prosecuted for the Tiananmen Square massacre, but they are most assuredly not citizens of China or British citizens living in Hong Kong; and they are not people who simply talk about this abomination. They are, instead, the rulers who perpetrated this assault on the Chinese people and who continue to occupy positions of high power in Beijing.

We ask the government of the PRC to accomplish simple and humane goals: stop the persecution of religious practitioners; stop the forced return of Korean refugees to the totalitarian half of the peninsula; end forced abortions and forced sterilization of women; adhere to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the U.N. Convention Against Torture and Other Forms of Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment; and the 1951 Convention Relating to Refugees and its 1967 Protocol.

Madam Speaker, today there appears in the news the fact that the People's Republic of China has announced it is going to change its constitution to include private property as a right of the Chinese people. In practice, the National People's Congress exists mainly to carry out the will of the party leadership; and if the party leadership will not observe its own laws, we can expect nothing to come of this as well.

Article 35 of the existing state constitution proclaims that citizens of the PRC enjoy freedom of speech, of the press, of assembly, of association, of procession, and of demonstration; and that is a lie.

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We are here today to urge our government to work to see to it that these lies come to an end and that the People's Republic of China honors the citizens of China with basic fundamental human rights.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of the time.

I want to thank, first of all, the gentleman from California (Mr. COX) of the Select Committee on Homeland Security for his very eloquent statement and to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) and to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) and the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. MCCOLLUM) and especially to the gentleman from Illinois (Chairman HYDE), who is a very strong and steadfast supporter of human rights around the globe, including China, and of course the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), who also speaks out boldly on these issues.

I would just say finally, Mr. Speaker, that one of the great leaders of the

whole human rights movement in China is a man by the name of Harry Wu. Most people know about him. He is a man who has an impeccable reputation for honesty, for courage. He spent 19 years in the Chinese laogai system and suffered immensely for it. I will never forget when he helped us organize one of our first committee hearings when I chaired the Committee on International Operations and Human Rights on the laogai. He brought in six survivors of the laogai. One of those survivors was Palden Gyatso, a Buddhist monk who tried to get through security into the Rayburn Building bringing the instruments of torture that are routinely used and deployed to abuse prisoners in the laogai, including cattle prods and the like, horrible, horrific implements, and he was stopped, obviously, by the guards who were wondering what is this all about. We had to go down and usher him through. Those kinds of instruments, Mr. Speaker, are commonplace. Torture is commonplace.

The gentleman from California (Mr. COX) talked about all these promises that are made time after time. They sign covenants. They say they are going to do this. The Chinese government routinely does not follow through, and so it will be with the most recent property rights. They make promises, and routinely it is predictable they do not follow through. And I just want to pay a special tribute to Harry Wu for his great leadership.

The ICRC has been trying for years, the Red Cross, to get into the Chinese prisons. They cannot get in because it is closed, because torture is routinely used against political and religious prisoners and against other prisoners as well. If they are arrested for just about anything, the way they get their conviction is to compel a confession out of them by torturing them.

Let me also remind Members, too, and the gentleman from California (Mr. COX) made mention of this as well, forced abortion is commonplace in China. Brothers and sisters are illegal. Women are compelled to have their children destroyed because they do not fit into a grandiose plan by this dictatorship. That too is an egregious human rights abuse. At the Nuremberg War Crimes Tribunal it was construed to be a crime against humanity. It is a crime against humanity in 2004 as it is practiced in the People's Republic of China. This resolution puts us on record against it and says let us take our case to the UN Human Rights Commission and hopefully we can garner sufficient votes to censure this despicable behavior. I hope we have unanimous support for this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank, first of all, the gentleman from California (Mr. COX) of the Select Committee on Homeland Security for his very eloquent statement and to the gentleman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) and to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) and the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. MCCOLLUM) and especially to the gentleman

from Illinois (Chairman HYDE), who is a very strong and steadfast supporter of human rights around the globe, including China, and of course the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), who also speaks out boldly on these issues.

Mr. Speaker, one of the great leaders in the whole human rights movement in China is a man by the name of Harry Wu. Most people know about him. He is a man who has an impeccable reputation for honesty, persistence, and courage. He is a hero of democracy. He spent 19 years in the Chinese laogai system and suffered immensely for it. His witness is a rebuke to the hardliners in Beijing. I will never forget when he helped us organize one of our first committee hearings on PRC abuse back when I chaired the Committee on International Operations and Human Rights. The hearing was on the laogai. He brought in six survivors of the laogai. One of those survivors was Palden Gyatso, a Buddhist monk who tried to get through security into the Rayburn Building bringing the instruments of torture that are routinely used and deployed to abuse prisoners in the laogai, including cattle prods and the like, horrible, horrific implements. He was stopped, obviously, by the guards who were wondering what is this all about. We had to go down and usher him through. Sadly those kinds of torture instruments, Mr. Speaker, are commonplace in the PRC. Torture is commonplace.—An everyday occurrence.

The gentleman from California (Mr. COX) talked about PRC promises made but never kept. They sign covenants. They say they are going to do this. It makes good headlines. The Chinese government, however, routinely does not follow through, and so it will be with the most recent property rights announcement. They make promises, and it is predictable they do not follow through.

The International Committee for Red Cross has been trying for years, to get into the Chinese prisons. To inspect and to hold the PRC to account. They cannot get in because it is closed, because torture is routinely used against political and religious prisoners and against other prisoners as well. If you are arrested for just about anything, watch out. The way PRC thugs get their conviction is to compel confessions out of the accused by torturing them.

Let me also remind Members, too, and the gentlelady from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) made mention of this as well, forced abortion is commonplace in China. Brothers and sisters are illegal because big brother in Beijing says so. Women are compelled to have their children destroyed because they do not fit into a grandiose plan of quotas and permission slips by the dictatorship. That too is an egregious human rights abuse. At the Nuremberg War Crimes Tribunal forced abortion was construed to be a crime against humanity. It is a crime against humanity in 2004 as it is practiced in the People's Republic of China. This resolution puts us on record against China's brutal one child per couple policy. This resolution admonishes the administration to take our case to the UN Human Rights Commission and work to garner sufficient votes to censure this despicable government behavior. I hope we have unanimous support for this resolution.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 530, a bill that makes a strong statement of advocacy for human rights and urges the People's Republic

of China to adhere to the principles of international law and respect for the fundamental human rights of individuals. This bill is timely in light of the equally urgent crisis that occurs today in Haiti.

We must work to ensure that all of our international neighbors uphold the principles of international law. On July 9th of last year, I participated in a rally held on the Capitol lawn to uphold justice and freedom for the practitioners of the Falun Gong religion.

As I stood that day to support the practitioners of Falun Gong and their unwarranted persecution, I stand today to request that Congress must insist that China adheres to worldwide standards on human rights and toleration.

We as a nation have a unique relationship with the People's Republic of China, and we must take every action to maintain and foster that relationship. Yet we cannot overlook the injustices committed in that nation. The persecution of the Falun Gong, an organization whose three principles are truthfulness, compassion, and tolerance, is a prime example of that very injustice I speak of.

I must preempt my statement by clarifying that this bill will not serve to diminish the strength of our two great nations' relationship; rather it will cultivate an environment of peace and regional security. This bill will send the People's Republic of China a clear message that it must alter its current position on Human rights in order to be a true member of the world community.

As one of our largest trading partners our relationship with China has become closer than ever. We are constantly building new bridges of communication; politically, socially, and economically. Yet we cannot be content with these developments. We cannot sit idly by while China forces women to abort their children and imprisons people based on their religious beliefs. The World Community has set general principles for human rights. The simple fact is that China is not meeting these standards.

The fear of change and diversity has infected the minds of those who are in a position to wield power and physical strength. The situation will not change until we take a clear position condemning China for its human rights abuses.

Because of our unique relationship with the People's Republic of China we have a strong footing upon which to make these claims. By working with China, with the explicit goals of improving human rights conditions in that country, we can make China a better, safer country and create a new and stronger relationship between the United States and China. Our demands that China meet internationally accepted levels for human rights will not serve to hinder China's development, rather it will enable China to flourish.

I will end by saying that we as Americans have a duty to stand up for those who are less fortunate, for those whose voices are forced into silence, and for those shackled down by tyranny. We espouse and will constantly fight for human rights, freedom of speech, and freedom of religion in this country as well as internationally. Join me in supporting H. Res. 530.

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Committee on International Relations and the Congressional Human Rights Caucus, and as a friend of the Chinese people, I am proud to be an original cosponsor of this resolution.

In the three decades since President Nixon made his historic trip to China, that country has undergone a remarkable transformation that all of us in this House should applaud.

Gone are the Red Guards, the mass rallies, and the ubiquitous Mao Suits. Today's, young Chinese enjoy a far better standard of living than their parents. They are often dressed in stylish western fashions. They have access to western movies, books, and the Internet. Bicycles, once the primary means of transportation for millions of urban Chinese, are being replaced by scooters, motorcycles and growing numbers of cars.

But, Mr. Speaker, there is one area where the China of 2004 is little changed from the China of 1972: the Chinese government's persistent and systematic abuse of the human rights of its citizens. Even as we deepen and broaden the commercial, diplomatic, and cultural ties with China, the United States must not sacrifice its commitment to freedom, democracy, the rule of law, human rights and religious freedom.

Chinese prisons, labor camps, and psychiatric hospitals are filled with political prisoners. Fifteen years after the 1989 pro-democracy demonstrations in Tiananmen Square, many protesters remain in prison and Beijing has continued its efforts to extinguish expressions of protest or criticism and have detained and sentenced scores of Chinese citizens associated with attempts to organize peaceful protests, to expose corruption, to preserve their ethnic minority identity, and to use the Internet for the free exchange of ideas.

China's persecution of religious minorities has been especially cruel. China's small Christian population has been subject to persecution and many Catholic and Protestant leaders have been imprisoned or placed under house arrest. Practitioners of Falun Gong, which Chinese authorities denounce as an illegal cult, have been singled out for especially harsh treatment. Some Falun Gong adherents have been tortured to death in Chinese prisons; others have been sent to reeducation camps that have changed little since the days of the Cultural Revolution.

Beijing's obsession with eradicating the Falun Gong has not been confined to China. The FBI is investigating possible links between the Chinese government and attacks upon Falun Gong practitioners here in the United States.

The Chinese government has continued its brutal repression of Tibet. The whereabouts of the boy identified by the Dalai Lama as the 11th Panchen Lama are unknown. Tibetans caught displaying photos of this child or of the Dalai Lama face fines or imprisonment. Tibetan prisoners have been executed without due process and others remain on death row. Beijing continues to move ethnic Chinese citizens into Tibet in order to dilute and gradually extinguish the cultural and social identity of the Tibetan people.

During the December 2002 session of the United States-China Bilateral Human Rights Dialogue, Beijing agreed to invite, without conditions, the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, the United Nations Special Rapporteurs on Religious Intolerance and Torture, and the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention to visit China. None of these visits have taken place and, in the case of the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, two

agreed upon trips were canceled because of unacceptable conditions placed on the visit by the Government of the People's Republic of China, including refusing the Commission entry into Hong Kong.

China's refusal to live up to its promises to cooperate with American and United Nations human rights representatives is especially troubling as the United States decision not to introduce a resolution calling upon the People's Republic of China to end its human rights violations in China at last year's session of United Nations Commission on Human Rights in Geneva was based, in part, on the belief that the aforementioned agreements signaled a good faith commitment on the part of Chinese officials to improve human rights practice in China.

In fact, since the last session of the United States-China Bilateral Human Rights Dialogue, a number of very troubling incidents have occurred, including: arrests of democracy advocates; the detention and torture of 18 Tibetans who were forcibly repatriated from Nepal with the cooperation of Chinese officials, in contravention of international law; ongoing forced repatriation of North Korean nationals, who upon return to North Korea will face almost certain arrest, torture, or even death; arrest and sentencing of Internet essayists and labor protesters; and the continued refusal to allow access by United States diplomats and family members of the accused to the trials of those detained for political or religious activities.

China's continued abysmal human rights record has convinced me that Beijing will not take the necessary steps to improve its human rights record absent the external pressure and exposure of a U.S.-sponsored resolution in Geneva. The late Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis famously said, "Sunlight is the best disinfectant." The Chinese leadership will doubtless resist our efforts to open the shutters to allow that light to illuminate its repression, but I believe that China will be better for it in the end. The Chinese government would do well to remember that the eyes of the world will be focused on China in four years' time when Beijing hosts the 2008 Olympic Games. For China, readying itself to host the world must mean more than building an Olympic Village and sporting venues. China must also rise to meet the aspirations of the Olympic movement by dismantling the systems of repression that stifle dissent, free expression, and religious observance.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues on both sides of the aisle in urging the Members of this House to support this important Resolution.

As I remarked in a speech on trade relations nearly four years ago, the most powerful nation on earth cannot ignore the most populous nation of earth. The United States, in my view, must use its best efforts to move the People's Republic of China toward democratic reform, market economics and the rule of law.

However, even as we seek to engage the People's Republic on issues of mutual interest and concern, we have a continuing obligation, in my view, to hold the communist regime in Beijing accountable for its unjustified and indefensible human rights violations.

Just today, Mr. Speaker, the Washington Post reported that China has detained a group of Hong Kong residents—including at least

three British citizens—and has begun to prosecute them on espionage charges.

One of the British citizens charged is accused of, among other things, discussing the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre with a British agent.

And it remains unclear how these British citizens are being prosecuted under Chinese law for activities that allegedly took place in Hong Kong before China resumed control of that territory.

And just last week, the State Department's 2003 Human Rights Report Scored Beijing on this issue. The report stated:

"We began 2003 with hopes that the incremental but unprecedented progress in China seen in 2002 would be continued and expanded; however, throughout the year, we saw backsliding on key human rights issues. Arrests of democracy activists, individuals discussing subjects deemed sensitive by the Government on the Internet, HIV/AIDS activists, protesting workers, defense lawyers advocating on behalf of dissidents or the dispossessed, house church members and others seeking to take advantage of the space created by Chinese reforms increased."

In short, this Resolution urges the United States to introduce a resolution at the 60th Session of the U.N. Human Rights Commission that calls on China to end its human rights violations and to meet internationally recognized standards for human rights.

Furthermore, it states that the United States should take the lead in organizing support for the passage of such a resolution, and that American officials continue to speak out against religious and political persecution in China, as well as coercive family planning practices, forced labor camps, the forced repatriation of North Korean nationals and other abuses.

Mr. Speaker, I thank our colleagues from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) for introducing this Resolution. And I urge all my Members to support it.

The People's Republic has made great economic progress over the last half century. But its persistent pattern of human rights abuses is a dark stain on its record. As a beacon of liberty and democracy, we have an obligation to ensure that it is held accountable for such abuses.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New Jersey for yielding. I rise in support of H. Res. 530, and I'd like to commend my colleague, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, for sponsoring this important and timely resolution. This bill urges the U.S. Representative to the 60th Session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights to introduce a resolution calling upon the Government of the People's Republic of China to end its human rights abuses. H. Res. 530 also urges the People's Republic of China to safeguard fundamental human rights.

Last year at the 59th Session of the U.N. Commission on Human Rights in Geneva, the United States did not sponsor a resolution on the People's Republic of China. The United States refrained from doing so in part because of commitments which the Government of China made to the United States during bilateral talks in December of 2002 that it would improve its human rights record and would allow greater access of international monitors into the country. However, these commitments were not fulfilled.

In fact, during the past year we witnessed continued disturbing trends in the human rights situation in China. Indeed, in last week's release of the State Department's annual Country Reports of Human Rights Practices, referring to China, it notes that, "We saw backsliding on key human rights issues."

Unfortunately, there are far too many examples of their "backsliding." In January, Tibetan activist Lobsang Dhondup (Lob-sang Dun-op) was executed without due process. Arrests and harsh sentencing of democracy activists, critics on the Internet, and labor organizers continued throughout the year. And other than the lone release of Tibetan prisoner of conscience, Phuntsog Nyidrol (Putt-sok Nee-droo), last week—the day after the State Department's Country Reports on Human Rights Practices was released—there have been no recent releases of political prisoners. Further, religious adherents continue to be persecuted, and Falun Gong followers remain targeted by the government. Another area of grave concern is Beijing's forced repatriation of North Korean refugees in China and other human rights abuses directed against these refugees, including the trafficking of women and children.

Mr. Speaker, the People's Republic of China must understand that increased bilateral cooperation in other areas, including security, does not in any way negate or lessen obligations to uphold basic human rights. I encourage my colleagues to support H. Res. 530.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SCHROCK). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 530, 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.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. 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.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Res. 530, as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

EXPRESSING SYMPATHY OF HOUSE FOR VICTIMS OF EARTHQUAKE IN IRAN

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the reso-

lution (H. Res. 526) expressing the sympathy of the House of Representatives for the victims of the devastating earthquake that occurred on December 26, 2003, in Bam, Iran.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 526

Whereas approximately 40,000 men, women, and children, including a United States citizen, perished in an earthquake that occurred on December 26, 2003, in Bam, Iran;

Whereas the people of the United States immediately expressed their sincerest sympathy by sending aid to the victims of the earthquake in Iran;

Whereas 90 percent of the 2,000 year-old city of Bam was destroyed;

Whereas the magnificent buildings in Bam belonged not only to the people of Iran, but to our common world heritage;

Whereas President George W. Bush lifted sanctions on Iran temporarily in order to enable United States relief organizations to swiftly send aid to Bam;

Whereas United States aid channeled through United States-based relief organizations and charities has been warmly welcomed by the people of Iran;

Whereas United States aid workers have been received with generosity and great appreciation in Iran;

Whereas the United States generosity has confirmed that the United States holds no ill will toward the people of Iran; and

Whereas the spirit and compassionate conduct of the United States has won it tremendous goodwill among the people of Iran: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) expresses its heartfelt sympathy for the victims of the earthquake that occurred on December 26, 2003, in Bam, Iran, and their loved ones;

(2) expresses its heartfelt gratitude and appreciation for the courageous work of the United States and international aid personnel saving lives in Iran; and

(3) welcomes the President's decision to issue a general license for donations to non-governmental entities engaged in humanitarian relief activities in response to the earthquake in Iran.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) and the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. MCCOLLUM) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Today I rise in support of House Resolution 526, introduced by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY) on February 11, 2004, expressing the sympathy of the House of Representatives for the victims of the devastating earthquake that occurred on December 26, 2003, in Bam, Iran. This resolution is a reflection of the goodwill that emanates

from the people of the United States to the people of Iran during their time of great need and profound sorrow.

On that tragic day, an earthquake measuring 6.6 on the Richter scale struck the southeastern area of Iran. During the days that followed, the American people and the rest of the world watched in sympathy as helpless Iranian families tried to put the pieces of their lives back together. With approximately 40,000 people dead, 30,000 people injured, and up to 75,000 people made homeless, the U.S. Government reacted in solidarity with the Iranian people by implementing necessary measures so that millions of dollars in emergency earthquake assistance could be distributed through United States relief organizations.

Immediately, the President directed that a general license be issued to temporarily permit U.S. individuals or nongovernmental organizations to transfer funds to organizations operating in Iran to assist humanitarian aid activities. I commend the administration's handling of this tragic situation and President Bush's message that "We stand ready to help the people of Iran."

Many factors characterize the perceived power and greatness of America throughout the world. However, it is the spirit of our unconditional compassion in times like these that truly resonates in the hearts and minds of the Iranian people and communicates our real hopes and desires for them.

Currently, the people of Iran need their courage and strength to help parallel the efforts by international aid personnel in rebuilding their lives. Children who are orphaned and homeless will need guidance and direction from their elders. Elders who are grieving the loss of their loved ones will need the inspiration of their youth to go on. Through their trials and tribulations, the Iranian people have proved to be a resilient force while never losing hope for the blessings of a new day. I am convinced that through exercising their faith and reconstructing their lives a stronger and empowered community will be unearthed.

I commend the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY) for introducing this meaningful resolution and thank him for his understanding of Iran's needs and challenges. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support this resolution and urge its passage.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution. I commend the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY) for this important resolution.

The suffering of the Iranian people from the Bam earthquake in December is incalculable. As many as 50,000 dead, countless injured. Tragic as well is the destruction of 90 percent of an historic 2,000-year-old city. This is truly a loss to all the world. The resolution appropriately expresses the heartfelt sympathy of the House for the victims of