

these five approved religions, such as the more than 10 million Roman Catholics, face harassment, imprisonment, torture and death.

We have no wish to sanction the worshippers in the Catholic Patriotic Association in China; rather, we wish to offer our support to the Catholic population of China that is persecuted by its government for their faith. We condemn the Chinese Government's persecution of the Catholics and its refusal to permit a Vatican-sponsored Catholic church to operate legally in China. This is a great resolution, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF).

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution. I heard Mr. ENGLISH speaking and wanted to come over to add my support for this resolution.

Frankly, this whole place ought to be packed with people speaking on behalf of this resolution. Today in China, the Catholic Church is being severely persecuted. Why has the administration been silent, and other than this resolution, why has the Congress been relatively silent?

There are a number of Catholic bishops that are in jail today, as stated in the New York Times piece the other day. There is also the issue of what they have done to the Vatican with regard to the Chinese Communist Government. Evangelical church leaders are being persecuted. I just wanted to put my two cents in with regard to support of this.

For Members who just think this is another political thing, this is a moral issue.

Isaiah says, "Learn to do right, seek justice, encourage the oppressed." By passing this resolution, we encourage the oppressed.

Isaiah goes on to say in Isaiah 59, "The Lord looked and was displeased that there was no justice." When the Lord looks at China, he has got to be displeased that there is no justice.

Isaiah goes on to say, "He saw that there was no one, he was appalled that there was no one to intervene." Fortunately, Mr. ENGLISH, Mr. SMITH and Mr. LANTOS are intervening.

But this Congress has to do more, and this administration's silence is becoming deafening on this issue. The condition in China with regard to the Catholic Church, the Protestant Church, the Uighurs, the Buddhists is worse today after President Hu left than before President Hu came.

I want to thank the gentlemen for cosponsoring this. We ought to have a roll call vote. Frankly, everybody ought to vote on this issue because this would send a message to the Chinese Communist Government that this Congress will become again like the Congress was during the 1980s during the Reagan administration and will not stand for it.

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 804, Condemning

the unauthorized, inappropriate, and coerced ordination of Catholic bishops by the People's Republic of China. I am concerned by reports that on April 30, 2006, and again on May 3, 2006, bishops and priests in the People's Republic of China were subjected to strong pressures and threats to participate in episcopal ordinations against the wishes of the Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI. The ordinations were conducted by the Catholic Patriotic Association of China and without the express approval and sanction of the Holy See. Such ordinations are illegitimate. I urge the People's Republic of China to refrain from pressuring or coercing Chinese bishops and priests to support these ordinations.

Freedom of religious expression is a fundamental right enshrined in the United States Constitution and is recognized by all civilized nations. Freedom of religion and conscience is also enshrined in Article 18 of the Uniform Declaration of Human Rights, to which the People's Republic of China is a signatory. Chinese law and policy, however, continues to restrict religious activities to those associated with the five officially sanctioned "patriotic" religious organizations. Additionally, the Catholic Patriotic Association of China does not represent the vast majority of Chinese Catholics and has no ecclesiastical authority to choose spiritual leaders for Catholics in the People's Republic of China.

The United States Commission on International Religious Freedom identifies China as one of ten "Countries of Particular Concern." H. Res. 804 sends a strong message to the People's Republic of China to refrain from pressuring and coercing Chinese priests. This resolution also sends a strong message to the Catholic Patriotic Association of China to discontinue the practice of ordaining priests without the express support of the Holy Father, the Pope. Not doing so is an insult to the universal Catholic Church.

I strongly support this resolution. I urge my colleagues' support.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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. 804, 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. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania. 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 question will be postponed.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in 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 New Jersey.

There was no objection.

CONDEMNING THE ESCALATING LEVELS OF RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION IN THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 608) condemning the escalating levels of religious persecution in the People's Republic of China, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 608

Whereas the Constitution and laws of the People's Republic of China purport to provide for religious freedom, however, these freedoms are substantively ignored;

Whereas all religious groups and spiritual movements must register with the Chinese Government, which monitors religious services and judges the legitimacy of religious activities;

Whereas unregistered religious groups in China continue to experience official interference and members of religious groups have been subjected to intimidation, harassment, and detention;

Whereas many religious leaders and adherents in China, including those in official churches, have been detained, arrested, or administratively sentenced to prison terms in reeducation-through-labor camps;

Whereas religious believers are denied the ability to hold public office not by law, but by a logical extension of the fact that most government positions go to members of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and CCP membership and religious belief are considered incompatible;

Whereas numerous abuses of unofficial Catholic clergy have occurred, including the detentions of Bishop Zhao Zhendong, Bishop Jia Zhiguo, Bishop Yao Liang, Bishop Su Zhimin, Bishop An Shuxin, Bishop Lin Xili, Bishop Han Dingxiang, and Bishop Shi Enxiang, as well as other Catholic priests and lay leaders who have been beaten or otherwise mistreated;

Whereas the Chinese Government-sanctioned Catholic Patriotic Association of China conducted unauthorized episcopal ordinations of the priests Joseph Ma Yinglin and Joseph Liu Xinhong, elevating them to the office of bishop without the approval and against the wishes of the Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI;

Whereas numerous abuses of Protestant House Church Leaders have occurred, including the detentions of Pastor Gong Shengliang, Pastor Zhang Rongliang, Luo Bingyin, Li Cuiling, Wang Chaoyi, Yang Tianlu, and Zhao Xinlan, as well as other Protestant House Church Leaders who have been beaten or otherwise mistreated;

Whereas the whereabouts of Gendun Choekyi Nyima, the boy identified by the Dalai Lama as the 11th Panchen Lama and detained by Chinese authorities ten years ago, when he was six years old, are still unknown;

Whereas, according to the Department of State, Chinese authorities continue to restrict Muslim religious activity, teaching, and worship in Xinjiang, including reported prohibitions on the participation and religious education of minors;

Whereas the Chinese Government continues its brutal campaign to eradicate the Falun Gong spiritual movement and thousands of its members have been subject to

excessive force, abuse, detention, and torture, including Liu Chengjun who died in 2003 after reportedly being abused in custody in Jilin Province and Huang Wei who is currently detained in Hebei Province, among others;

Whereas Cai Zhuohua, a Beijing underground church leader, was sentenced on November 8, 2005, to three years in prison for distributing Bibles and other Christian materials;

Whereas the Haidian Lower People's Court in Beijing also sentenced Mr. Cai's wife, Xiao Yunfei, to two years in prison and her brother, Xiao Gaowen, to 18 months in prison; and

Whereas on November 20, 2005, after attending services at the Gangwashi Church in Beijing, President George W. Bush stated: "A healthy society is a society that welcomes all faiths and gives people a chance to express themselves through worship with the Almighty": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) the House of Representatives condemns the imprisonment of religious leaders and people of faith in the People's Republic of China and urges their release; and

(2) it is the sense of the House of Representatives that it should be the policy of the Government of the United States to promote and defend religious freedom and freedom of conscience in China.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 608 condemning the escalating levels of religious persecution in the People's Republic of China, and I thank my colleague from Michigan, Mr. McCOTTER, for authoring this important legislation. I am very proud, along with many of my colleagues, to be a cosponsor of the resolution.

Despite China's repression of religion as arguably among the most despotic in the world, despite China's entrance in the world economy, its government refuses to grant its citizens universally recognized rights to freedom of religion and thought.

The People's Republic of China permits religious practice only for government-sanctioned organizations and registered locations of worship. Those who practice other faiths as their consciences demand risk disappearing into one of hundreds of Laogai, the forced education through labor system established by Mao Tse-tung decades ago.

Not only is religious persecution of numerous groups and movements ongoing, but it is actually worsening. In February, the BBC reported that China had warned Hong Kong's newly appointed cardinal, Joseph Zen, a well-known critic of China's suppression of religious freedoms, to remain quiet on political issues.

I have personally known some of the remarkable people that the Chinese Government targets for persecution. In the early 1990s, and I mentioned this earlier when we considered Mr.

ENGLISH's resolution, I met with Bishop Su of Baoding Province, a man who celebrated mass for our small delegation. I was amazed by his lack of animosity, by his lack of anything that even comes close to hate. He actually loved those who persecuted him and said he spent a considerable amount of time praying for his persecutors. He has now spent some 30 years of his life in prison and has suffered time and time again the ravages of torture by his persecutors. What kind of barbaric regime hurts a man like this?

Last summer, our Subcommittee on Africa, Global Human Rights and International Operations heard compelling testimony from Mr. Chen Yonglin, formerly a diplomat for the Chinese Government who said, "According to my knowledge, the persecution of the Falun Gong by the Chinese Government is a systematic campaign."

To my horror, we have heard reports of the Chinese government targeting the Falun Gong for organ harvesting. According to the State Department's 2005 International Religious Freedom Report, the China Government's respect for freedom of religion and freedom of conscience remains poor, especially for many unregistered religious groups and spiritual movements.

Members of unregistered groups, including Protestants and Catholics, are subject to restrictions including intimidation, harassment, detention, arrest, and add to that torture.

Those who perhaps read the scathing report that was written by the rapporteur for the United Nations on torture that was released last December cannot help but be repelled by the ongoing systematic use of torture against those who are trying to promote either worker's rights, basic fundamental human rights, but especially those who espouse religious freedom and religious liberty.

Given all of these disturbing facts, Madam Speaker, Mr. McCOTTER's resolution condemning the government of China's systematic persecution of religious freedom is both appropriate and timely.

Let me also say, Madam Speaker, and I do hope the press takes some notice, today we are considering an unprecedented three resolutions on China. Each and every one of these is bipartisan. Mr. LANTOS, as Mr. WOLF said a moment ago, has been a great champion of human rights all over the world, including in China, has joined with HENRY HYDE, the chairman of the committee, and myself, along with Mr. WOLF and Mr. ENGLISH. This is bipartisan. We talk a lot about bipartisanship or lack of it in recent weeks and months in this Chamber, but when it comes to human rights, especially as it relates to China, we are together.

Now that we know what the problem is, we need to speak more about solutions. Hopefully as we move forward in this congressional session, we will talk more about what we need to be doing

to try to get this government to roll back its repression.

President Hu's visit was an opportunity. I would respectfully submit that it was a missed opportunity to raise these issues in a powerful way. He went back home to China thinking he had won over the American people. He has not. His record is deplorable, especially as it relates to religious persecution.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution. Nearly three decades after the normalization of relations, Beijing and Washington have a mature, evolving relationship. Our two countries are working cooperatively on a broad range of issues facing the world from North Korea to matters before the U.N. Security Council.

But in our effort to maintain this cooperative spirit, we must not sugarcoat the areas of intense disagreement between the United States and China. Beijing's systematic denial of religious liberty to the Chinese people is one of the darkest episodes in modern Chinese history.

Pushing for religious tolerance must remain at the core of our bilateral agenda with Beijing, regardless of China's Government's predictably negative reactions to our entreaties.

The leadership in Beijing must understand that we will never have a fully normal relationship with China until there is measurable progress on a broad range of human rights issues, including religious freedom.

As this resolution notes, an intolerably long list of religions and faiths are squarely in the cross-hairs of the Chinese Government. The treatment of Tibetans, Catholics, and the Falun Gong is emblematic of the broader Chinese campaign against those who worship in an unauthorized manner.

In the case of Tibetan Buddhists, Beijing has a perfect opportunity to demonstrate that it has opened a new chapter in an otherwise tragic story of the Chinese repression and marginalization of the Tibetans in their own land.

□ 1515

While we are pleased that China has held five rounds of discussions with representatives of His Holiness the Dalai Lama regarding the future of Tibet, the talks have not produced any concrete results, and our patience is wearing thin. If Beijing truly cares about preserving Tibet's unique religious and cultural heritage, it should invite the Dalai Lama to visit China and Tibet in the near future. Chinese leaders should also negotiate a deal with the Dalai Lama that allows His Holiness to return permanently to Tibet to manage the religious and cultural and economic affairs of the Tibetan people.

Religious freedom is a right due all Chinese, whether Tibetan, members of

the Catholic Church or the Falun Gong spiritual movement. Tens of thousands of Falun Gong adherents have been locked away in psychiatric institutions. They have been tortured and jailed and even killed for refusing to renounce their faith. What a tragedy, Madam Speaker.

The resolution before us shines the spotlight on China's horrendous record of religious freedom. The words in our resolution will cause great discomfort in Beijing. But when dealing with friends, it is far better to lay the facts on the table than to sweep the bitter truth under the rug.

Madam Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished chairman of the appropriations subcommittee for the State Department, FRANK WOLF of Virginia.

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I want to just, before I talk on this resolution, mention the one on Tiananmen. I want to be here and have the world know that I stood with the tank man and stood with those who are in prison in Tiananmen.

CHRIS SMITH and I were in Beijing Prison Number 1. I am sure he talked about it. But some of those young men and women are still in prison today, and some of you listening to this are wearing socks or underwear that have been made by them. So I want the world to know, Tiananmen Square demonstrators are still in prison, still in prison.

Now, on this resolution, I want to express grave disappointment with the Bush administration. I wrote every member of the Bush administration after meeting with dissidents in China and over here, who said, please have the Bush administration come to our church services, the way that they did in the Reagan administration with regard to the Soviet Union. They said, please, we will stand with them. We want someone, someone from the Bush administration to come into a house church. We are tired of seeing the Bush administration going into the churches that are recognized by the Chinese government.

So I wrote every high appointee in the Bush administration and I asked them would they call the individuals and stand with them, go to their apartments, as we used to do in the 1980s in Moscow with the Sakharovs and the Scharanskys, and in 3 months, not one Bush administration person has taken the time to pick up the telephone and to call the name and the telephone numbers of the individuals.

What do you get out of the Bush administration? Silence. Silence. We should remember the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, who said, and I quote, "In the end we will remember not the words of our enemies but the silence of our friends." And Dr. King's statement is so poignant. "In times of trouble,

the silence of an enemy is expected, but the silence of a friend is devastating." I ask the Bush administration to break the silence. Speak out for Riba Qadiri, speak out for the Catholic Church. Speak out for the Evangelical Church. Speak out for those in Tibet who are being persecuted. The young Buddhist nun who came to my office 2 weeks ago had been in the Drapchi prison for 15 years for doing nothing.

This is a test. I am writing the Bush administration officials again, and I am giving the telephone number to call. I say now, with this opportunity, and I am going to give them the words of Dr. Martin Luther King. Silence should be over. It is now time for the Bush administration to adopt the policies of the Reagan administration, of Ronald Reagan, to stand with the dissidents because by standing next, it is like in government or politics. If somebody says they are really for you, but they don't want to be identified with you, how much are they really for you?

How much is the Bush administration really for the Catholic Church in China? How much is the Bush administration really for the Evangelical house church who are putting their lives on the line? How much are they for those who are being persecuted in Tibet? How much are they for the Uighurs? How much for the Falun Gong? And keep in mind, this government is spying against our government much more aggressively than they did in the Soviet Union.

I close again with the words of Dr. Martin Luther King. "In the end we will remember not the words of our enemies but the silence of our friends." If the Bush administration wants to be the friends of the dissidents, the silence should be broken. And Clark Randt, our Ambassador in China, should be the first one to begin to break the silence.

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 608, Condemning the escalating levels of religious persecution in the People's Republic of China. I am concerned by reports that the People's Republic of China persecutes, coerces, and harasses its citizens based solely on religious beliefs. Freedom of worship is a human right enshrined in Article 18 of the Uniform Declaration of Human Rights, to which the People's Republic of China is a signatory.

The abuses of members of the Catholic clergy by the Chinese government are especially troubling. The people of Guam predominantly follow the teaching and leadership of the Roman Catholic Church. The people of Guam, however, enjoy and indeed benefit from those on the island who practice different faiths. Faith in God and religious tolerance are both celebrated characteristics of the people of Guam.

The Constitution of the People's Republic of China provides for the freedom to worship as an individual chooses. I urge the People's Republic of China to act accordingly.

I strongly support this resolution. I urge my colleagues' support.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I want to thank Mr. WOLF for

his very powerful statement, as well as Mr. LANTOS, on this resolution.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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. 608, 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. 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 question will be postponed.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days 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 New Jersey?

There was no objection.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING THE ACTIVITIES OF ISLAMIST TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 338) expressing the sense of Congress regarding the activities of Islamist terrorist organizations in the Western Hemisphere.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 338

Whereas the brutal attacks of September 11, 2001, demonstrated that terrorists can strike anywhere in the world;

Whereas terrorist activity that goes unaddressed is an invitation for terrorist organizations to carry out attacks against the United States, our allies and interests;

Whereas the Department of State has concluded in its most recent Country Reports on Terrorism, which was released in April 2005, that although the threat of international terrorism in the Western Hemisphere remains relatively low as compared to other world regions, international terrorists may seek safe-haven, financing, recruiting, illegal travel documentation, or access to the United States from Latin American and Caribbean countries and thus pose serious threats;

Whereas in recent years, the activities of Islamist terrorist organizations in the Western Hemisphere have focused on financing their criminal and terrorist activities outside of the region rather than carrying out or directly supporting terrorist attacks in the Western Hemisphere;

Whereas, as the 1992 bombing of the Israeli Embassy in Argentina and the 1994 bombing