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During its first 50 years, NCIV has organized professional programs, cultural activities and home visits for more than 190,000 foreign visitors. To that we say thank you.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Virginia, the author of the resolution, Mr. MORAN.

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. I want to thank my friends and colleagues, Mr. KLEIN from Florida and Mr. SMITH from New Jersey. I appreciate their support of this.

This is an important resolution. What the National Council of International Visitors sponsors day in and day out has a long-term impact that cannot be overstated within our country or around the globe.

The National Council of International Visitors, Madam Speaker, is a nonprofit membership association currently marking 50 years of leadership in citizen diplomacy. It embodies the concept that individual citizens have the right and the responsibility to help shape U.S. foreign relations, in their words, "one handshake at a time."

NCIV's nationwide network consists of 92 community organizations as well as program agencies, associate members and individuals. Each year, the aggregate efforts of NCIV members involve more than 80,000 volunteers across the country.

With leadership and training provided by NCIV, its member organizations design and implement professional programs, provide cultural activities, and offer the actual experience of living within an American family and an American community for foreign leaders and specialists participating in the U.S. Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program and other exchange programs.

For the last 50 years, NCIV has built a network of citizen diplomats committed to bridging international cultural gaps and building mutually beneficial relationships through international exchanges. More than 285—although Mr. KLEIN said 286, so apparently in the last few days another person who was involved with this program has been elected around the world as a world leader, but regardless of the number, we know it is very substantial, the number of people who lead other countries but have an understanding of who we are as a Nation, our values and beliefs as a result of NCIV's efforts.

More than 1,700 cabinet-level ministers—and so many other distinguished world leaders that you can't even count them—have benefited from firsthand exposure to the United States through the International Visitor Leadership Program and the NCIV network.

With its commitment to building long-term personal relationships, NCIV

will continue to be an asset for American public diplomacy and indeed for national security efforts as it moves into its second half century.

Some examples that I think bear citing: Tony Blair, former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, participated in this program. Anwar Sadat, who was so instrumental in bringing peace between Israel and Egypt, participated in this program; Felipe Calderon, President of Mexico; Nicolas Sarkozy, President of France; Kim Dae-Jung, who was the former President of South Korea; Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of India; Abdullah Gul, President of Turkey; Morgan Tsvangirai, Prime Minister of Zimbabwe.

It is also worth noting that nearly the entire international visitor leadership program in the State Department spends its budget here in communities throughout the United States, and that by implanting its programs in those communities, the IVLP is also important for generating economic development and cultivating a globally literate workforce in our U.S. communities. Nothing is more instructive than having a foreign visitor actually live in an American home to understand our culture, our values, and our beliefs.

Lastly, Madam Speaker, it is clear that in contributing to the quality of our international engagement, the International Visitor Leadership Program is an investment in our national security. It is imperative to continue rebuilding the image of the United States abroad and to build stronger long-term personal relationships between foreign leaders and U.S. decision makers, by connecting them with people who simply represent what America is all about day in and day out. In fact, the Organization of American Ambassadors ranks the International Visitor Leadership Program as the most important among all 63 U.S. diplomacy programs.

In closing, as well as Mr. SMITH and his staff, I want to thank Chairman HOWARD BERMAN and his staff, Katherine Brown for their efforts in highlighting the important work of citizen diplomats, and the NCIV, and obviously Mr. KLEIN and his staff. I also want to give a shout out to the National Council of International Visitors, especially Sherry Mueller and her staff, Chris Bassett and Ed Thompson, who worked so hard with my staff on this resolution; Tom Gittens, the former head of Sister Cities International, for his leadership in promoting the National Council of International Visitors. Shai Tamara and Tom Garofalo of my staff, who is here as well and has steered this through the Congress.

I hope and trust we will get unanimous support for this and let the International Council of International Visitors know that we do appreciate all their efforts on behalf of our country.

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

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Madam Speaker, again I thank the gentleman who brought this forward to us, Mr. MANZULLO as well, and Mr. SMITH.

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 Florida (Mr. KLEIN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1402, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

CONGRATULATING LIU XIAOBO ON NOBEL PEACE PRIZE

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1717) congratulating imprisoned Chinese democracy advocate Liu Xiaobo on the award of the 2010 Nobel Peace Prize, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1717

Whereas Liu Xiaobo played a leading role in the 1989 Tiananmen Square demonstration for democratic reform, insisting on peaceful means and democratic process;

Whereas since 1989, Liu Xiaobo has been a leading figure promoting democratic reform and respect for human rights, including by writing hundreds of notable essays on these subjects;

Whereas between June 6, 1989, and October 1999, Chinese officials detained Liu Xiaobo 3 times, totaling over 4 years confinement for his role in Tiananmen Square and continued promotion of political reform;

Whereas in 2008, Liu Xiaobo was one of the principal drafters and organizers as well as one of the first signers of Charter 08, a manifesto that proposed democratic reform in China;

Whereas, on December 8, 2008, Chinese officials detained Liu Xiaobo for his role in Charter 08, and found him guilty of "inciting subversion of state power" in 2009 and sentenced him to 11 years imprisonment;

Whereas since December 2008, thousands of Chinese citizens from all walks of life have signed Charter 08, and Chinese officials have detained, placed under house arrest, or harassed many of them;

Whereas in 2010, many persons from around the world nominated Liu Xiaobo for the Nobel Peace Prize, including the 14th Dalai Lama, Bishop Desmond Tutu, Vaclav Havel, and 7 members of the United States House of Representatives;

Whereas, on October 8, 2010, the Norwegian Nobel Committee announced its award of the 2010 Nobel Peace Prize to Liu Xiaobo for his

"long and non-violent struggle for fundamental human rights in China";

Whereas the Norwegian Nobel Committee noted that, "the campaign to establish universal human rights also in China is being waged by many Chinese . . . through the severe punishment meted out to him, Liu has become the foremost symbol of this wide-ranging struggle for human rights in China";

Whereas when on October 9, 2010, Liu Xia, Liu Xiaobo's wife, notified her husband that he had been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, he responded by dedicating the prize to "the Tiananmen martyrs";

Whereas Chinese officials responded to the award by placing Liu Xia under house arrest, harassing and detaining Liu Xiaobo's friends and supporters, censoring Internet Web sites and blacking out television broadcasts that reported the award, and defaming Liu Xiaobo by describing him as a "criminal", a "political tool of the West", and a "traitorous operative";

Whereas Chinese officials have claimed that the imprisonment of Liu Xiaobo is an internal matter and that the award constitutes meddling in China's internal affairs; and

Whereas President Barack Obama, the recipient of the 2009 Nobel Peace Prize, has congratulated Liu Xiaobo on the award and called on Chinese officials to release him from prison: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) congratulates Liu Xiaobo on the award of the 2010 Nobel Peace Prize;

(2) honors Liu Xiaobo's promotion of democratic reform in China, and the courage with which he has bore repeated imprisonment by Chinese officials;

(3) states that in honoring Liu Xiaobo, it also honors all those who have promoted democratic reform in China, including all those who participated in the 1989 Tiananmen Square demonstration for democratic reform;

(4) asserts that Liu Xiaobo is a political prisoner, and that Liu Xia, Liu Xiaobo's supporters, and all signers of Charter 08 who have been detained, placed under house arrest, or harassed, are the victims of political persecution;

(5) calls on Chinese officials to release Liu Xiaobo from prison, and to release Liu Xia, Liu Xiaobo's supporters, and all signers of Charter 08 from detention, house arrest, and harassment;

(6) calls on Chinese officials to cease censoring media and Internet reporting of the award of the Nobel Peace Prize to Liu Xiaobo and to cease their campaign of defamation against Liu Xiaobo;

(7) urges President Barack Obama to continue to work for the release of Liu Xiaobo from prison, as well as the release of Liu Xia, Liu Xiaobo's supporters, and all signers of Charter 08 from detention, house arrest, and harassment; and

(8) emphasizes that violations of human rights in general, and the persecution of Liu Xiaobo, Liu Xia, Liu Xiaobo's supporters, and all signers of Charter 08 specifically, are matters of legitimate concern to other governments.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may 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 Florida?

There was no objection.

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, this resolution congratulates Chinese democracy activist Liu Xiaobo on being awarded this year's Nobel Peace Prize and calls for his immediate release from imprisonment by the Chinese Government.

I would like to thank the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) for sponsoring this resolution and bringing it forward to discuss with many of us, as well as the other six Members of Congress who originally nominated Mr. Liu for the Nobel Peace Prize.

Mr. Liu was a leader during the 1989 pro-democracy Tiananmen Square protests and one of the drafters last year of Charter 08, a document signed by more than 300 Chinese intellectuals and rights advocates that called for political reform and improvement in China's human rights policies. As a result of his activism, the Chinese Government charged Mr. Liu with the phony offense of "inciting subversion of state power." He was convicted on Christmas day of last year and subsequently sentenced to 11 years in prison, a sentence that has been widely regarded as unusually harsh.

This past October, Mr. Liu became the first Chinese citizen residing in China to win the Nobel Peace Prize and one of three laureates to have received it while in prison. The Nobel Committee awarded the prize to Mr. Liu "for his long and non-violent struggle for fundamental human rights in China."

□ 1530

Mr. Liu's wife visited him in prison shortly after he learned of winning the prize, and during their visit Mr. Liu reportedly was moved to tears and said that the prize was "for the lost souls of June 4."

Mr. Liu remains locked away in a Chinese cell and thus is not able to receive the prize in person. The Chinese Government has also placed his wife under house arrest and is preventing her and Mr. Liu's other family, friends and supporters from leaving China to attend the awards ceremony in Norway.

The Chinese Government has denounced the prize as a "political tool" of the West, blocking all media reporting of the news in China and trying to bully foreign governments from sending representatives to the awards ceremony later this week. China's boorish and arrogant behavior over Mr. Liu's award won't produce the global respect and clout that Chinese authorities so desperately crave, and its tactics only underscore China's failure to uphold

the very principles to which Mr. Liu has dedicated his life and work and for which he is being recognized by the Nobel committee.

Today, the United States House of Representatives stands in solidarity with Mr. Liu and all those who have risked their lives to promote democratic reform in China. We call on China to immediately release Mr. Liu from prison and to cease its harassment and detention of Mr. Liu's wife and supporters.

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

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I thank my good friend and colleague from Florida for his eloquent statement. I thank the Speaker and the majority leader for bringing this resolution to the floor, and of course to HOWARD BERMAN the chairman and HEENA ROS-LEHTINEN for their strong support for it as well.

Madam Speaker, for far too long the Chinese Government has evaded virtually all serious scrutiny of its horrific human rights record—usually by employing bullying tactics, including threats to nations, multilateral organizations like the U.N., and to individuals. Today the Chinese Government brutalizes women and children through forced abortion and coerced sterilization as part of its barbaric one-child-per-couple policy, which makes brothers and sisters illegal. Today China crushes all political opposition. It tortures and incarcerates Falun Gong practitioners, Uyghurs, Tibetan Buddhists and Christians. Today China violently crushes independent labor unions and has transformed the Internet into a tool for surveillance and censorship.

I note parenthetically, Madam Speaker, that immediately prior to the Olympics, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) and I visited Beijing, one of many human rights trips to China. While we were there, we sought to meet with some of the house church leaders who wanted to meet with us and pray with us. All but one were arrested and detained, and after we left that particular pastor was arrested and detained and interrogated as well.

Madam Speaker, the naming of Liu Xiaobo as the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize laureate and the Chinese Government's outrageous response to that naming, including the way they have mistreated his wife but now it's even worse, and friends can't even travel to Oslo to be a part of the ceremony, that reaction, of course is the underlying problem. The actual abuses that are committed, oblige us to sustained scrutiny and meaningful action. News reports suggest that over one-and-a-half dozen countries have been so intimidated by Beijing that they won't even send a delegation to Oslo. I think that's outrageous.

So today I urge my colleagues to adopt H. Res. 1717, expressing Congress'

profound respect for and solidarity with Liu Xiaobo and all those who peacefully advocate for human rights and democracy in the PRC.

Madam Speaker, the resolution honors Liu Xiaobo, who in the 1980s had a brilliant academic career in front of him in China. When the Tiananmen Square demonstrations began in 1989, he was actually a visiting professor in New York City. He effectively gave all of that up when he flew back to China to join the students demonstrating for democracy on the square, and even there he insisted that the students themselves adhere to a democratic process. Liu has been working and sacrificing for democratic reform ever since—through hundreds of remarkable essays that he has written and the courage with which he has borne imprisonment, no less than four times.

My resolution highlights Charter 08, the democracy proclamation that Liu played a leading role in organizing, drafting, and of which he was one of the first signers. It is an astonishing document, a worthy heir of the great models that it is based upon, the U.S. Bill of Rights, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and Charter 77, the Czech human rights declaration that in the late 1970s contributed so much to the rebirth of conscience and respect for the rule of just law in eastern European captive nations, and ultimately to their peaceful democratization.

But the Chinese Government saw in this magnificent document only a crime, as my friend and colleague pointed out earlier, “inciting subversion of state power”—whatever that is. The government arrested Mr. Liu in December of 2008 and in December 2009 sentenced him to 11 years in prison.

Madam Speaker, in February of this year, I led a group of some six Members in petitioning the peace prize committee to name Mr. Liu and two other Chinese dissidents for the Nobel Peace Prize. Our nomination described him as “a visionary leader,” remarkable for his patriotism and civic courage and the generous tone of his work. This man is absolutely nonviolent.

Though we didn’t know it at the time, many other people had the exact same idea. Mr. Liu was nominated by two Nobel Peace Prize laureates—the 14th Dalai Lama and Bishop Desmond Tutu—as well as by former Czech President Vaclav Havel and many members of the Czech and Slovak parliaments, the Norwegian parliamentarian, and a number of human rights defenders from around the world and leaders in the fields of philosophy, literature, philanthropy and finance.

Madam Speaker, H. Res. 1717 underscores and points up the words of the Norwegian Nobel Committee that said, and I quote: “The campaign to establish human rights in China is being waged by many Chinese. Through the severe punishment meted out to him, Liu has become the foremost symbol of this wide-ranging struggle for human

rights in China.” The resolution explicitly states that in honoring Liu Xiaobo, it honors all those who have promoted democratic reform in China, including all those who participated in the 1989 Tiananmen Square demonstration. After Liu’s wife told him of the award, he wept and dedicated the prize to “the Tiananmen martyrs.”

Madam Speaker, the resolution makes it very clear that Mr. Liu Xiaobo is a political prisoner, emphasizes that “violations of human rights,” including his persecution, “are matters of legitimate concern to other governments,” because we are hearing the tired old refrain from the government in Beijing that this is purely an internal matter.

Similarly, the resolution calls on the Chinese Government to cease censoring media and Internet reporting of the award and cease defaming Mr. Liu as a “political tool of the West” and as a “traitorous operative.” These are ridiculous charges, but they go to the heart of the issue that Mr. Liu himself analyzed in his 2005 essay called “The CPC’s Dictatorial Patriotism,” the dictatorial government’s fallacious equation of itself with the Chinese nation, so that whoever opposes the dictatorship is treated as an enemy of the state.

Finally, I will conclude with Liu Xiaobo’s closing statement in his 2009 trial, only a small part of it. It is very rich and I hope all will read it. I will put it in the RECORD. This shows his gentleness of soul. He said:

“But I still want to say to this regime, which is depriving me of my freedom, that I stand by the convictions I expressed in my June 2 Hunger Strike Declaration 20 years ago—I have no enemies and no hatred. None of the police who monitored, arrested and interrogated me, none of the prosecutors who indicted me, and none of the judges who judged me are my enemies. Hatred can rot away at a person’s intelligence and conscience.

Enemy mentality will poison the spirit of a nation, incite cruel mortal struggles, destroy a society’s tolerance and humanity, and hinder a nation’s progress toward freedom and democracy. That is why I hope to be able to transcend my personal experiences as I look upon our nation’s development and social change, to counter the regime’s hostility with utmost goodwill, and to dispel hatred with love.”

To his wife, he said:

“My dear, with your love I can calmly face my impending trial, having no regrets about the choices I’ve made and am optimistically awaiting tomorrow. I look toward to the day when my country is a land with freedom of expression, where the speech of every citizen will be treated equally well.”

□ 1540

This man is a moral giant, absolutely worthy of the Nobel Peace Prize, and he is the future of China.

I HAVE NO ENEMIES: MY FINAL STATEMENT

(By Liu Xiaobo)

CLOSING STATEMENT IN COURT. TRANSLATION BY HRIC, BASED ON A TRANSLATION BY J. LATOURELLE, DECEMBER 23, 2009

In the course of my life, for more than half a century, June 1989 was the major turning point. Up to that point, I was a member of the first class to enter university when college entrance examinations were reinstated following the Cultural Revolution (Class of ’77). From BA to MA and on to PhD, my academic career was all smooth sailing. Upon receiving my degrees, I stayed on to teach at Beijing Normal University. As a teacher, I was well received by the students. At the same time, I was a public intellectual, writing articles and books that created quite a stir during the 1980s, frequently receiving invitations to give talks around the country, and going abroad as a visiting scholar upon invitation from Europe and America. What I demanded of myself was this: whether as a person or as a writer, I would lead a life of honesty, responsibility, and dignity. After that, because I had returned from the U.S. to take part in the 1989 Movement, I was thrown into prison for “the crime of counter-revolutionary propaganda and incitement.” I also lost my beloved lectern and could no longer publish essays or give talks in China. Merely for publishing different political views and taking part in a peaceful democracy movement, a teacher lost his lectern, a writer lost his right to publish, and a public intellectual lost the opportunity to give talks publicly. This is a tragedy, both for me personally and for a China that has already seen thirty years of Reform and Opening Up.

When I think about it, my most dramatic experiences after June Fourth have been, surprisingly, associated with courts: My two opportunities to address the public have both been provided by trial sessions at the Beijing Municipal Intermediate People’s Court, once in January 1991, and again today. Although the crimes I have been charged with on the two occasions are different in name, their real substance is basically the same—both are speech crimes.

Twenty years have passed, but the ghosts of June Fourth have not yet been laid to rest. Upon release from Qincheng Prison in 1991, I, who had been led onto the path of political dissent by the psychological chains of June Fourth, lost the right to speak publicly in my own country and could only speak through the foreign media. Because of this, I was subjected to year-round monitoring, kept under residential surveillance (May 1995 to January 1996) and sent to Reeducation-Through-Labor (October 1996 to October 1999). And now I have been once again shoved into the dock by the enemy mentality of the regime. But I still want to say to this regime, which is depriving me of my freedom, that I stand by the convictions I expressed in my “June Second Hunger Strike Declaration” twenty years ago—I have no enemies and no hatred. None of the police who monitored, arrested, and interrogated me, none of the prosecutors who indicted me, and none of the judges who judged me are my enemies. Although there is no way I can accept your monitoring, arrests, indictments, and verdicts, I respect your professions and your integrity, including those of the two prosecutors, Zhang Rongge and Pan Xueqing, who are now bringing charges against me on behalf of the prosecution. During interrogation on December 3, I could sense your respect and your good faith.

Hatred can rot away at a person’s intelligence and conscience. Enemy mentality will poison the spirit of a nation, incite cruel mortal struggles, destroy a society’s tolerance and humanity, and hinder a nation’s

progress toward freedom and democracy. That is why I hope to be able to transcend my personal experiences as I look upon our nation's development and social change, to counter the regime's hostility with utmost good will, and to dispel hatred with love.

Everyone knows that it was Reform and Opening Up that brought about our country's development and social change. In my view, Reform and Opening Up began with the abandonment of the "using class struggle as guiding principle" government policy of the Mao era and, in its place, a commitment to economic development and social harmony. The process of abandoning the "philosophy of struggle" was also a process of gradual weakening of the enemy mentality and elimination of the psychology of hatred, and a process of squeezing out the "wolf's milk" that had seeped into human nature.¹ It was this process that provided a relaxed climate, at home and abroad, for Reform and Opening Up, gentle and humane grounds for restoring mutual affection among people and peaceful coexistence among those with different interests and values, thereby providing encouragement in keeping with humanity for the bursting forth of creativity and the restoration of compassion among our countrymen. One could say that relinquishing the "anti-imperialist and anti-revisionist" stance in foreign relations and "class struggle" at home has been the basic premise that has enabled Reform and Opening Up to continue to this very day. The market trend in the economy, the diversification of culture, and the gradual shift in social order toward the rule of law have all benefitted from the weakening of the "enemy mentality." Even in the political arena, where progress is slowest, the weakening of the enemy mentality has led to an ever-growing tolerance for social pluralism on the part of the regime and substantial decrease in the force of persecution of political dissidents, and the official designation of the 1989 Movement has also been changed from "turmoil and riot" to "political disturbance." The weakening of the enemy mentality has paved the way for the regime to gradually accept the universality of human rights. In [1997 and] 1998 the Chinese government made a commitment to sign two major United Nations international human rights covenants,² signaling China's acceptance of universal human rights standards. In 2004, the National People's Congress (NPC) amended the Constitution, writing into the Constitution for the first time that "the state respects and guarantees human rights," signaling that human rights have already become one of the fundamental principles of China's rule of law. At the same time, the current regime puts forth the ideas of "putting people first" and "creating a harmonious society," signaling progress in the CPC's concept of rule.

I have also been able to feel this progress on the macro level through my own personal experience since my arrest.

Although I continue to maintain that I am innocent and that the charges against me are unconstitutional, during the one plus year since I have lost my freedom, I have been locked up at two different locations and gone through four pretrial police interrogators, three prosecutors, and two judges, but in handling my case, they have not been disrespectful, overstepped time limitations, or tried to force a confession. Their manner has been moderate and reasonable; moreover, they have often shown goodwill. On June 23, I was moved from a location where I was kept under residential surveillance to the Beijing Municipal Public Security Bureau's No. 1 Detention Center, known as "Beikan." During my six months at Beikan, I saw improvements in prison management.

In 1996, I spent time at the old Beikan (located at Banbuqiao). Compared to the old

Beikan of more than a decade ago, the present Beikan is a huge improvement, both in terms of the "hardware"—the facilities—and the "software"—the management. In particular, the humane management pioneered by the new Beikan, based on respect for the rights and integrity of detainees, has brought flexible management to bear on every aspect of the behavior of the correctional staff, and has found expression in the "comforting broadcasts," Repentance magazine, and music before meals, on waking and at bedtime. This style of management allows detainees to experience a sense of dignity and warmth, and stirs their consciousness in maintaining prison order and opposing the bullies among inmates. Not only has it provided a humane living environment for detainees, it has also greatly improved the environment for their litigation to take place and their state of mind. I've had close contact with correctional officer Liu Zheng, who has been in charge of me in my cell, and his respect and care for detainees could be seen in every detail of his work, permeating his every word and deed, and giving one a warm feeling. It was perhaps my good fortune to have gotten to know this sincere, honest, conscientious, and kind correctional officer during my time at Beikan.

It is precisely because of such convictions and personal experience that I firmly believe that China's political progress will not stop, and I, filled with optimism, look forward to the advent of a future free China. For there is no force that can put an end to the human quest for freedom, and China will in the end become a nation ruled by law, where human rights reign supreme. I also hope that this sort of progress can be reflected in this trial as I await the impartial ruling of the collegial bench—a ruling that will withstand the test of history.

If I may be permitted to say so, the most fortunate experience of these past twenty years has been the selfless love I have received from my wife, Liu Xia. She could not be present as an observer in court today, but I still want to say to you, my dear, that I firmly believe your love for me will remain the same as it has always been. Throughout all these years that I have lived without freedom, our love was full of bitterness imposed by outside circumstances, but as I savor its aftertaste, it remains boundless. I am serving my sentence in a tangible prison, while you wait in the intangible prison of the heart. Your love is the sunlight that leaps over high walls and penetrates the iron bars of my prison window, stroking every inch of my skin, warming every cell of my body, allowing me to always keep peace, openness, and brightness in my heart, and filling every minute of my time in prison with meaning. My love for you, on the other hand, is so full of remorse and regret that it at times makes me stagger under its weight. I am an insensate stone in the wilderness, whipped by fierce wind and torrential rain, so cold that no one dares touch me. But my love is solid and sharp, capable of piercing through any obstacle. Even if I were crushed into powder, I would still use my ashes to embrace you.

My dear, with your love I can calmly face my impending trial, having no regrets about the choices I've made and optimistically awaiting tomorrow. I look forward to [the day] when my country is a land with freedom of expression, where the speech of every citizen will be treated equally well; where different values, ideas, beliefs, and political views . . . can both compete with each other and peacefully coexist; where both majority and minority views will be equally guaranteed, and where the political views that differ from those currently in power, in particular, will be fully respected and protected;

where all political views will spread out under the sun for people to choose from, where every citizen can state political views without fear, and where no one can under any circumstances suffer political persecution for voicing divergent political views. I hope that I will be the last victim of China's endless literary inquisitions and that from now on no one will be incriminated because of speech.

Freedom of expression is the foundation of human rights, the source of humanity, and the mother of truth. To strangle freedom of speech is to trample on human rights, stifle humanity, and suppress truth.

In order to exercise the right to freedom of speech conferred by the Constitution, one should fulfill the social responsibility of a Chinese citizen. There is nothing criminal in anything I have done. [But] if charges are brought against me because of this, I have no complaints.

Thank you, everyone.

TRANSLATOR'S NOTES

1. Writers in China today often refer to indoctrination with the ideology of class struggle as "drinking wolf's milk," and the ideology of the Cultural Revolution era as the "wolf's milk culture," which had turned humans into wolf-like predatory beasts.

2. China signed the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) in 1997, and ratified it in 2001. It signed the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) in 1998, but has not yet ratified the covenant.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WU).

Mr. WU. Madam Speaker, I rise today to support House Resolution 1717, congratulating imprisoned Chinese democracy advocate Liu Xiaobo on the award of the 2010 Nobel Peace Prize. I thank my colleague and good friend Congressman CHRIS SMITH for introducing this resolution.

China is an appropriately proud nation, with more than 5,000 years of recorded history, a history filled with great achievements. Chinese is perhaps the world's oldest, continuously used written language. More recently, the nation has achieved near universal literacy and has fed its 1.3 billion people most adequately. And most recently, China has achieved human space flight, joining the international community of space-faring nations.

And on this Friday, another first, the first Nobel Peace Prize. But inexplicably, this achievement has been met by this Chinese Government with opposition and outright hostility. This is an incomprehensible failure of national pride and patriotism. I call upon this Chinese Government to be on the right side of history. I know that Chinese history will some day vindicate Liu Xiaobo, as it has done with other great figures in Chinese history.

In the city of Hangzhou, which is near Suzhou, my ancestral home where my family has lived for 500 to 600 years, Hangzhou was the capital of the Southern Song Dynasty and the scene of conflict between the Song Dynasty and northern tribes. In that city is a memorial park to honor a general of the Song Dynasty, Yue Fei, who is now

considered a national hero. He was executed by a jealous emperor. And today, his statue, he stands upon that jealous emperor's neck tall and proud.

History has a way of setting things right. By failing to honor the fundamental rights guaranteed by its own constitution, the current Chinese Government not only fails the Chinese people, but it is also failing to live up to China's 5,000-year history as one of the great civilizations on this planet. People like Liu Xiaobo are the future of China. Let us honor him today and every day as this struggle continues.

Why is Liu Xiaobo, a prolific writer and a longstanding advocate for peaceful democratic reform in China, in prison today, unable to attend the ceremony in Oslo? This year, the world's spotlight will be on the Nobel Peace Prize ceremony, and that spotlight will shine upon an empty chair. I and others from this body will be there, and we hope to underscore both the universality of the struggle for freedom and the singularity not only of the great achievement but also of the Chinese Government's unpatriotic, incomprehensible reactions to Mr. Liu's historic recognition.

Madam Speaker, it is time for change. With proper recognition and proper action, China can take another important step and evolve peacefully toward its future. The alternative will be a harsh judgment of history.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF), who is cochair of the Tom Lantos Congressional Human Rights Commission and a great advocate of human rights all over the world, including and especially in China.

(Mr. WOLF asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WOLF. I want to thank my good friend and distinguished colleague Congressman CHRIS SMITH of New Jersey for introducing this important resolution which congratulates Chinese democracy advocate Liu Xiaobo on the award.

Congressman SMITH—and I think all the colleagues in this House on both sides should know—is one of the greatest human rights advocates in the Congress, and his leadership on this issue and on human rights and religious freedom is really, I think, one of the finest that I have ever served with since I have been here in Congress. I also want to say parenthetically, why hasn't the Church in the West and in the United States also spoken out on some of these more profound issues of human rights and religious freedoms? The silence of the Church in the West is quite disturbing.

On Friday, the award ceremony will be held with an empty chair, as my colleague Mr. WU said, as a solemn reminder that this year's Nobel laureate remains languishing in prison. Chinese authorities have placed his wife under house arrest to ensure that she will not

be able to accept the prize on his behalf.

Since 1901, only three other Nobel Prize winners have been prevented from attending the ceremony to accept the prize. In 1935, Carl von Ossietzky, a German peace activist, was prevented from receiving the prize by the Nazi government. In 1975, Andrei Sakharov, a Russian nuclear scientist, was barred from leaving the Soviet Union to accept the prize. And in 1991, Aung San Suu Kyi, the leader of Burma's democracy movement, was not allowed to leave the country by the brutal ruling military junta.

China should be ashamed and embarrassed to be in the company of Nazi Germany, the Soviet Union, and Burma. Instead, the Chinese Government has launched a diplomatic campaign to encourage other nations to boycott Friday's ceremony. In a public statement, China's vice foreign minister threatened that "if they make the wrong choice, they have to bear the consequences." The 18 countries that have sided with China and will not attend Friday's ceremonies are Afghanistan, Colombia, Egypt, Russia, Kazakhstan, Cuba, Morocco, Iraq, Iran, Pakistan, the Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Sudan—the genocide Government of Sudan—Tunisia, Ukraine, Venezuela, and Vietnam.

And when their lobbyists come up here next year begging for help, remember, they were not willing to go to Oslo even to stand up for human rights. Here we are giving the Moroccan Government \$697 million in the Millennium Challenge grant, and they won't even go to Oslo. These countries, which are among the world's worst human rights abusers, will join China in its shameful boycott.

This year's Nobel Prize winner is representative not just of Dr. Liu, but of the thousands of Chinese prisoners that remain languishing in prisons and labor camps due to their political and religious beliefs. Chinese authorities continue to crack down on the Protestant house church Christians, Catholics, Tibetan Buddhists, Muslim Uyghurs, and members of the Falun Gong.

In passing this resolution, the U.S. Congress sends an important message to the dissidents of China and all those who are being persecuted around the world. The people of the United States stand with those who sit in their jail cells day after day, week after week, year after year in their quest for freedom.

Robert F. Kennedy once said: "Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope" and "those ripples build a current which can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance."

The awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize to Dr. Liu has sent out that ripple of hope that cannot be stopped. And I believe that in my lifetime—and re-

member, the Berlin Wall fell like that—in my lifetime, the Chinese people will know the true freedom, and I will look forward to celebrating that day.

I thank Mr. SMITH again for his leadership on this and so many other issues.

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Madam Speaker, as we've been discussing, this is a travesty of great magnitude. The Chinese Government has shown over and over again its lack of respect and dignity for human life. And, certainly, for someone who has such great respect in the academic community and worldwide as a leader in the views of non-violence to be locked up and put away when the rest of the world recognizes the importance of his respect and his leadership in this important endeavor is obviously more than disgusting.

□ 1550

But we have an opportunity, obviously, today to create a resolution and speak on behalf of the United States and our people about what we believe are human rights and the respect that should be given someone who has been given the Nobel Peace Prize.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRABACHER), ranking member of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on International Organizations, Human Rights, and Oversight. He too has been outspoken on behalf of the dissidents in China.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Madam Speaker, let me first suggest that I am honored to be here in the presence of CHRIS SMITH, who has done so much, and Speaker PELOSI, who over the years, over these last two decades while I have been in Congress, have proven to me over and over again that they are the type of moral and honest people that I emulate and would seek to strive to meet your standards. So thank you very much for the leadership both of you have shown, and nowhere is that more evident than when it comes to our relations with China.

I rise in strong support of H. Res. 1717, which urges President Obama to work for the release of Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Liu Xiaobo, as well as the release of all the heroic signers of Charter 08. They are now in detention and house arrest for being so courageous to put their name on a democratic document.

There is nothing so low in the arena of global politics as officials of a regime who order the arrest and imprisonment of a Nobel Prize winner. Such oppressors deserve a prize of their own, a prize for arrogance and brutality. This year's prize would then go again to the Chinese leadership, who have awarded themselves this prize of infamy.

More perplexing than gangsters acting like gangsters are American Government officials who insist on treating the communist dictatorship as if it

is morally equivalent to democratic government, thus worthy of respect, of trust and cooperation. For 30 years, our State Department has pushed a policy of open doors, of trade and commerce with Communist China. And we have, of course, shared our technology with Communist China, invested in Communist China. We have closed factories here and opened them up in China. We have trained their young people and equipped them. And we were told that if we so outreached, that our goodwill would then civilize the brutal thugs in the Communist Chinese Party.

Now that all of our jobs and factories have been sent to Communist China, they still repress their people, even Nobel Prize winners. Yet we must watch out how heavily we criticize. They might turn down our requests for loan extensions, or our CEOs might feel threatened that their factories that they put over there might be expropriated.

Madam Speaker, we need to raise our voices for freedom in China and the imprisoned Nobel Prize winner. But more importantly, we need to identify the Chinese regime as a militaristic dictatorship that threatens everything we hold dear, threatens the peace of the world, and threatens all freedom-loving people in the world, and then act accordingly. Therefore, I rise in support of this resolution, joining with Speaker PELOSI and Congressman SMITH and my other colleagues who know if we do not stand for these truths that our country supposedly believes in, it will come back and hurt us later.

Therefore, I rise in support and urge my colleagues and the American people to wake up and stop treating China like as if we treat them well and ignore their crimes against humanity that they will change. That may be what you do when you are complaining to a democratic government and you suggest that they made a mistake, they are doing something wrong, yes, and then follow through with goodwill gestures. That is seen as weakness on the part of dictatorships. And it is about time that America stands strong and be seen as a courageous voice throughout the world for freedom, democracy, and peace, and especially as we send that message to the people of China.

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I would like to acknowledge and thank the Speaker of the House for her leadership in the fight for human rights throughout the world, and I yield 1 minute to the Speaker of the House.

Ms. PELOSI. I thank the gentleman from Florida for yielding and thank him for giving us this opportunity to talk about Liu Xiaobo on the floor of the House today. I especially want to thank CHRIS SMITH, the gentleman from New Jersey, FRANK WOLF, DANA ROHRBACHER, three Members whom I heard speak on the subject, and I know many others have, DAVID WU, who is with us on this side, for their commitment to democratic freedoms in China.

Madam Speaker, Mr. SMITH, Mr. ROHRBACHER, and Mr. WOLF and I have been working on this issue for decades. Even before Tiananmen Square, many of us met with our former colleague, now gone from us, Tom Lantos, to meet with His Holiness the Dalai Lama. I think that was in 1987. A couple years later, we saw what happened in Tiananmen Square. And at that time, as advocates for human rights throughout the world, we were advocating for human rights in China as well. For a long time, we had that debate.

We were joined then by our colleague DAVID WU and others in this important statement that said, if we are advocating for human rights throughout the world, which this Congress has done over and over again, we lose all moral authority to talk about human rights in the rest of the world if we do not talk about human rights in China, despite the commercial interests we have in China, despite a number of other issues that had been called to our attention. And so the news that the Nobel Committee had awarded the Nobel Peace Prize to Liu Xiaobo came as good news to those of us who had been calling attention to this issue for a very long time.

Congressman SMITH was instrumental in nominating Liu Xiaobo for the Nobel Prize. He has been a fighter. He and FRANK WOLF, how many times did you go to China, visit the prisons and the rest? On this score, Mr. ROHRBACHER has been relentless. And so for us, this is a very important occasion, not only that he is receiving the Nobel Prize, but that this Congress is recognizing that prize as well.

The Nobel Prize has been called the most prestigious prize in the world. It is appropriate that in 2010, Chinese democracy advocate Liu Xiaobo joins the illustrious group of former recipients.

On Christmas Day 2009, Chinese authorities sentenced Liu Xiaobo to 11 years in prison for inciting subversion of state power. It was a harsh sentence that disrespects the rule of law and the freedom of Chinese citizens to express their opinions, which is even guaranteed in the Chinese constitution. Liu Xiaobo is still in prison today, and his wife has been put under house arrest.

Liu Xiaobo was one of the original signers of Charter 08, an online petition calling for new policies to improve human rights and democracy in China. Mr. Liu wrote, "The most fundamental principles of democracy are that people are sovereign, and that the people select their own government."

Charter 08 now has over 10,000 signatories, many of whom have been harassed and intimidated by the Chinese authorities. The courageous efforts by the signatories of Charter 08 to express themselves in the face of arrest and detention are truly an inspiration around the world.

One of the things that we have done in the past decades is to make sure that those who have been arrested for

expressing their views, whether they be religious or political, are not forgotten. One of the techniques of imprisonment is to tell those who have been arrested that on the outside nobody even remembers you, nobody cares that you are here; they have forgotten you and all that you have done. And, of course, with the awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize, what greater spotlight could there be placed on freedom of expression in China?

□ 1600

The awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize for the first time to a Chinese citizen is a momentous occasion for the Tiananmen democracy movement.

Liu Xiaobo was arrested in Tiananmen Square in 1989. At the time, he was on a hunger strike to protest martial law and support peaceful negotiations with Chinese students. He spent many years in Chinese prison camps for only expressing his right to free expression.

The Nobel Peace Prize is not only a testament to Liu Xiaobo, but Chinese dissidents, many, many Chinese dissidents, who have sacrificed so much in pursuit of freedom and democracy in China.

Today, the House of Representatives is congratulating Liu Xiaobo on the Nobel Peace Prize and sending a clear message of support for human rights and democracy in China. We do this in recognition of the importance of the relationship between China and the United States, that we have many issues where we have common ground or where we should seek common ground, but all of that is better served by the candor in our friendship and not ignoring sore spots.

We continue to call for Liu Xiaobo's immediate and unconditional release and for the Chinese Government to listen to the many Chinese citizens who are calling for human rights and freedom in China.

Once again, I thank Congressman SMITH for his leadership over the many years and for nominating Liu Xiaobo and helping to bring this resolution to the floor, and I thank Mr. KLEIN for his leadership as well.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I yield myself 30 seconds.

First of all, I want to thank our distinguished Speaker of the House, NANCY PELOSI, for her very eloquent defense of the human rights defenders in China, especially for Liu Xiaobo. I also wish to thank her for these many decades, in which we have worked side by side, along with FRANK WOLF and others, and I thank her for that and for scheduling this resolution to come to the floor today.

I yield 2 minutes to my good friend and colleague, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS).

Mr. PITTS. Thank you, Congressman SMITH, for your leadership on this issue.

Madam Speaker, here is a picture of Liu Xiaobo, a modern-day human

rights hero who is suffering and languishing in prison as we speak.

This resolution celebrates the fact that the Chinese dissident Liu Xiaobo has been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize and notes with sadness the fact that he remains in prison because of his commitment to freedom and human rights. He has been a true hero, defending those who cannot defend themselves and lending a voice to those who have no voice.

He has worked tirelessly to protect human rights but has been repeatedly detained, sent to reeducation through labor camps, placed under house arrest, harassed, and monitored by the Chinese Government. For years, he has withstood the brutal intimidation tactics of the Chinese Government and has continued to fight for freedom.

In 2008 he helped draft Charter 08, calling for greater freedom of expression, respect for human rights, and free elections. Because of his role in drafting and circulating the charter, he was arrested and sentenced to 11 years in prison, a term he continues to serve.

Liu's long, arduous, and peaceful struggle for human rights has made him most deserving of this award, and we act today to recognize and honor his life's work. But we also take this opportunity to call on the Chinese Government to respect the basic human rights of its people and to release Liu from prison.

Unfortunately, the Chinese Government's response to the Nobel Prize Committee's decision was shameful. News about the award was censored, and the Foreign Ministry issued a statement calling Liu a criminal. His wife was placed under house arrest, and events commemorating the award were raided.

In addition, China has declined to attend the Nobel Peace Prize ceremony for the award, and now it's being boycotted.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, how much time remains on both sides?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New Jersey has 30 seconds remaining, and the gentleman from Florida has 11 minutes remaining.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. I yield the gentleman from Pennsylvania an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. PITTS. The countries of Kazakhstan, Morocco, Egypt, and Iraq are boycotting. That's shameful. It's my hope that, as the resolution says, the Government of China will release him from prison and the President, when the President of China comes next month, will raise this issue vigorously and urge him to be released.

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) to close.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. I thank my good friend.

Mr. Speaker, just let me close with a statement of Liu Xiaobo himself. Re-

member, this was stated at his trial in 2009. He said, in pertinent part: I hope that I will be the last victim of China's endless literary inquisitions and that from now on no one will be incriminated because of speech.

He went on to say: Freedom of expression is the foundation of human rights, the source of humanity, and the mother of truth. To strangle freedom of speech is to trample on human rights, stifle humanity, and suppress truth.

He went on to say: There is nothing criminal in anything I have done. If charges are brought against me because of this, I have no complaints.

Liu Xiaobo had bogus charges leveled against him, and today he endures 11 years in prison. Today, the Congress stands with the oppressed, all of the oppressed in China, but including and especially Liu Xiaobo.

We stand with him and we stand against the oppressor. We are united Democrats, Republicans, liberals, moderates, and conservatives in saying that human rights matter, and we thank the Nobel Peace Prize Committee for naming this outstanding moral leader one of the greatest moral leaders of our time as the 2011 laureate.

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. I would like to thank the gentleman from New Jersey for his very eloquent presentation, and all the speakers today, including the Speaker of the House. This is a statement of the American people, a statement of all of us from whatever background we come, about the importance of human rights and the recognition that all of us fight for human rights, no matter what the situation, politically or otherwise.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise as a cosponsor and strong supporter of House Resolution 1717. For over two decades, Liu Xiaobo has been a tireless advocate for human rights and democratic self-government for the people of China. In 1989, he left a temporary appointment in the United States to participate in the Tiananmen Square pro-democracy protests. After the army crackdown, he was instrumental in negotiating a non-violent resolution to the standoff. Liu continued to promote reforms in China during periods of imprisonment that followed Tiananmen Square. He was one of the primary authors of Charter 08, a declaration of human and civil rights for the Chinese people that was published on December 10, 2008. In 2009, the Chinese government sentenced Liu to eleven years in prison for "inciting subversion of state power."

I applaud the Norwegian Nobel Committee for recognizing Liu Xiaobo with the 2010 Nobel Prize for Peace. Liu is a brave spokesman for the billions of Chinese citizens who are denied their individual liberties in favor of "state power." His nonviolent struggle and sacrifice follows in the venerable tradition of Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr., and he richly deserves this honor. Liu is the first Chinese citizen to receive a Nobel Prize. Sadly, however, his continued imprisonment by the Chinese government will prevent him from accepting his prize in person. I hope that the Government of China soon will realize that Liu Xiaobo and others who engage in non-

violent activism on behalf of universal human rights are not dissidents to be swept under the rug. They are noble and constructive members of society whose goal is a more just world. I join with my colleagues in congratulating Liu Xiaobo and calling for his immediate release, along with all political prisoners and prisoners of conscience in China and around the globe.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, this morning I was proud to participate in a press conference in honor of Mr. Liu Xiaobo, the 2010 Laureate of the Nobel Peace Prize. I was joined by my fellow co-Chair of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, Congressman FRANK WOLF, as well as Representatives JOSEPH PITTS, CHRIS SMITH (NJ), ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, DAVID WU and ROBERT ADERHOLT. Representatives from human rights organizations also made statements in support of Mr. Liu, including Sophie Richard with Human Rights Watch; T. Kumar with Amnesty International; Paula Schrieffer with Freedom House; Todd Stein with the International Campaign for Tibet; Clothilde de Le Coz with Reporters Without Borders; and Harry Wu, well-known Chinese human rights activist.

I would like to submit the statement that I made this morning in support of Liu Xiaobo's non-violent advocacy on behalf of democratic and human rights in China and his having been awarded this well-deserved honor.

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen:

Today I proudly stand shoulder to shoulder with my colleagues in Congress and so many distinguished human rights defenders and congratulate Liu Xiaobo on being awarded the 2010 Nobel Peace Prize.

When the Norwegian Nobel Committee announced its decision on October 8th, it renewed its past proud history of awarding this prestigious award to outstanding individuals and groups who embody incredible courage and humanity in the face of severe suppression, to bravely stand up for their fellow citizens, for truth, democracy and human rights—despite the likely consequences.

The Nobel Committee in its announcement specifically cited that it awarded the Peace Prize to Mr. Liu because of "his long and non-violent struggle for fundamental human rights in China."

When the award ceremony takes place this Friday in Oslo, Norway, on December 10th, International Human Rights Day, Mr. Liu will be serving yet another day of the 11-year sentence he received last December for alleged "subversion of State power."

If the Chinese Government had to explain what exactly is the alleged "subversion," it would of course be hard pressed. Mr. Liu's entire life has been dedicated to the peaceful reform of his country, a country that yearns for greater space for democracy and human rights. That is exactly why the People's Republic of China does not explain its blatant abuse of judicial power, or allow judicial review or meaningful court proceedings in the first place.

Instead, China immediately embarked on a massive international campaign to pressure the Nobel Committee not to award the Prize to Mr. Liu as the first Chinese recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize, and pressed foreign governments not to attend the ceremonies in Oslo. We remember how China responded in a similar fashion when His Holiness, the Dalai Lama, won the award, and when Uyghur human rights and democracy leader Rebiya Kadeer was nominated for the Peace Prize.

China's arm reaches far, and the PRC, unfortunately, has been able to exert pressure on a handful of countries. The United States, however, must be a beacon of hope. I call on President Obama—as a Peace Prize recipient

himself—to send a high level delegation to Oslo as a very clear signal to the world that the U.S. stands full square for human rights and democracy, and that we stand with Liu Xiaobo and the Chinese human rights and democracy movement.

China also cracked down harshly on any attempts to celebrate Mr. Liu's achievements in his country, and has so far prevented Mr. Liu's wife, Liu Xia, from traveling to Oslo, as well as most of China's democracy activists and scholars who were invited by Mr. Liu's family.

The speeches in Oslo will no doubt highlight Mr. Liu's incredible courage and peaceful convictions. We will hear about his leadership as a writer, literary critic, professor and human rights activist; his role during the 1989 pro-democracy protest in Tiananmen Square, where he negotiated on behalf of student demonstrators, that he served as President of the Independent Chinese PEN Center since 2003, and the prominent leadership role he played in the drafting of one of the most important Chinese reform documents, Charter 08.

This Friday, Mr. Liu will take his rightful place among those human rights giants who were also imprisoned when they were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize—Germany's Carl von Ossietzky in 1935 and Burma's Aung San Suu Kyi in 1991.

But what Mr. Liu needs most is not the ornate medal, or even the cash prize which goes with the award, but our ongoing commitment to stand with him and the goals and aspirations he represents. That is our job as law makers, NGOs, the public, and the international community—today, tomorrow, in Oslo, and most importantly, beyond December 10th.

Mr. KLEIN OF Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LANGEVIN). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. KLEIN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1717, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. 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.

EXTENDING CONDOLENCES TO VICTIMS OF FIRE IN ISRAEL

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1751) mourning the loss of life and expressing condolences to the families affected by the tragic forest fire in Israel that began on December 2, 2010.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1751

Whereas, on December 2, 2010, a forest fire began in the Carmel region of Israel;

Whereas the fire quickly spread and became the worst fire in Israel's history;

Whereas over 40 people have been killed by the blaze;

Whereas more than 17,000 people have been displaced by the fire;

Whereas more than 4,000,000 trees have already burned in the fire;

Whereas Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu declared December 2, 2010, a national day of mourning in Israel;

Whereas Israel has exhausted its supplies and equipment necessary to sustain the firefighting effort;

Whereas United States Ambassador to Israel James Cunningham rapidly issued a disaster declaration, prompting significant coordination within the United States Government to identify and provide Israel with firefighting assistance;

Whereas President Barack Obama and Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton have pledged significant United States assistance to address this disaster;

Whereas the United States has already provided Israel with technical assistance, over 110 metric tons of fire suppressant, 3,800 gallons of fire retardant concentrate, and other needed assistance to fight this fire;

Whereas State and local governments in the United States have mobilized to send firefighting supplies to Israel; and

Whereas Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Jordan, the Netherlands, Norway, Romania, Russia, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the Ukraine are among the other nations that have provided assistance or offered assistance to Israel to fight this fire: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) mourns the loss of life and extends condolences to the families affected by the fire in northern Israel that began on December 2, 2010;

(2) supports the Obama Administration's offer of, and rapid efforts to provide, United States firefighting assistance to Israel in response to this disaster;

(3) recognizes the efforts of foreign governments that have provided assistance or offered assistance to Israel;

(4) commends State and local governments in the United States that have offered and provided assistance to Israel; and

(5) reaffirms United States support for the people and State of Israel in their time of need.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution.

As my colleagues are aware, last week the State of Israel faced the worst natural disaster in its history. A forest fire ravaged the Carmel Forest, killing over 40 people, displacing over

17,000 Israelis, and burning 4 million trees. People from all over the world have planted trees in forests throughout Israel to make it greener and make the desert bloom.

This is a tragedy, because of the loss of these forests, that really is something that has to be recognized. But, more importantly, this is a moment that we, as Americans, want to send a message of condolence to the Israeli people for the loss of life, loss of property, and to make an important statement of support and solidarity with our ally and friend, the State of Israel.

Thankfully, over the last day or so, the fire has now been successfully contained, and hopefully it will soon be fully extinguished. With the help of the international community, Israel will now be able to rebuild, and that's why it's important that at this moment in time we recognize the importance of this international effort from countries around the world who offered or provided assistance to fight the fire.

□ 1610

Those countries include Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Jordan, Norway, the Netherlands, the Palestinian Authority, Russia, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, and the United Kingdom.

We're also proud of our State and local governments in the United States who selflessly mobilized to send firefighting supplies and firefighting experts to Israel. I would like to especially acknowledge the round-the-clock efforts by USAID, Department of Defense, National Security Council, U.S. Fire Services Professionals, as well as our embassy personnel in Tel Aviv, who were in constant contact with their Israeli counterparts offering assistance and support at every juncture.

We must note that time and again Israel sends its supplies and its experts to disasters around the world. It was one of the first countries that provided support to the people of Haiti after the earthquake. And certainly we know in the aftermath of floods, earthquakes, terrorist attacks, and other natural and manmade disasters, Israel offers its expertise. Now Israel knows that it can rely on others as well.

Restoration will be a long-term effort after this fire and will require cooperation on many fronts. I would like to commend the important efforts of the Jewish National Fund which is taking a leading role in the replanting effort as it has operated for decades.

I would like to thank my partner in this bipartisan legislation, Congressman PETER KING, the chairman of the Fire Services Caucus, and many others who have cosponsored this piece of legislation. And I would also like to thank Chairman BERMAN and Ranking Member ROS-LEHTINEN for quickly bringing this resolution to the floor.

Our expeditious consideration allows us to send a message to the people of