

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 171

Commending the people who have sacrificed their personal freedoms to bring about democratic change in the People's Republic of China and expressing sympathy for the families of the people who were killed, wounded, or imprisoned, on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Tiananmen Square Massacre in Beijing, China from June 3 through 4, 1989.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 8, 2009

Mr. INHOFE (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. KYL, Mr. COBURN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. VITTER, Mr. WEBB, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, and Mr. CARDIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Commending the people who have sacrificed their personal freedoms to bring about democratic change in the People's Republic of China and expressing sympathy for the families of the people who were killed, wounded, or imprisoned, on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Tiananmen Square Massacre in Beijing, China from June 3 through 4, 1989.

Whereas freedom of expression, assembly, association, and religion are fundamental rights that all people should be able to possess and enjoy;

Whereas, in April 1989, in a demonstration of democratic progress, thousands of students took part in peaceful protests against the communist government of the People's Republic of China in the capital city of Beijing;

Whereas, throughout the month of May 1989, the students, in peaceful demonstrations, drew more people, young and old and from all walks of life, into central Beijing to demand better democracy, basic freedoms of speech and assembly, and an end to corruption;

Whereas, from June 3 through 4, 1989, the Government of China ordered members of the People's Liberation Army to enter Beijing and clear Tiananmen Square (located in central Beijing) by lethal force;

Whereas, by June 7, 1989, the Red Cross of China reported that the People's Liberation Army had killed more than 300 people in Beijing, although foreign journalists who witnessed the events estimate that thousands of people were killed and thousands more wounded;

Whereas more than 20,000 people in China were arrested and detained without trial, due to their suspected involvement in the protests at Tiananmen Square;

Whereas, according to the Department of State, the Government of China has worked to censor information about the massacre at Tiananmen Square by blocking Internet sites and other media outlets, along with other sensitive information that would be damaging to the Government of China;

Whereas the Government of China has continued to deny basic human rights, such as freedom of speech and religion;

Whereas, during the 2008 Olympic Games, the Government of China promised to provide the international media covering the Olympic Games with the same access given the media at all the other Olympic Games, but denied access to certain internet sites and media outlets in attempts to censor free speech;

Whereas the Department of State Human Rights Report for 2008 found that the Government of China had increased already severe cultural and religious suppression of ethnic minorities in Tibetan areas and the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region, detained and harassed dissidents and journalists, and maintained tight controls on freedom of speech and the Internet;

Whereas the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom in 2009 stated, “The Chinese government continues to engage in systematic and egregious violations of the freedom of religion or belief, with religious activities tightly controlled and some religious adherents detained, imprisoned, fined, beaten, and harassed.”; and

Whereas the China Aid Association reported that in 2007, Christians were detained or arrested and Christian house church groups were persecuted by the Government of China: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) commends the people who demonstrated at
3 Tiananmen Square and elsewhere in the People’s
4 Republic of China in 1989, many of whom sacrificed
5 their lives and freedom to—

6 (A) bring about democratic change in
7 China; and

1 (B) gain freedom of expression, assembly,
2 association, and religion for the people of
3 China;

4 (2) expresses its sympathy for the families of
5 the people who were killed, wounded, or imprisoned
6 due to their involvement in the peaceful protests in
7 Tiananmen Square in Beijing, China from June 3
8 through 4, 1989;

9 (3) condemns the ongoing human rights abuses
10 by the Government of China;

11 (4) calls on the Government of China to—

12 (A) release all prisoners that are—

13 (i) still in captivity as a result of their
14 involvement in the events from June 3
15 through 4, 1989, at Tiananmen Square;
16 and

17 (ii) imprisoned without cause;

18 (B) allow freedom of speech and access to
19 information, especially information regarding
20 the events at Tiananmen Square in 1989; and

21 (C) cease all harassment, intimidation, and
22 unjustified imprisonment of—

23 (i) members of religious and minority
24 groups; and

1 (ii) people who disagree with policies
2 of the Government of China;

3 (5) supports efforts by free speech activists in
4 China and elsewhere who are working to overcome
5 censorship (including censorship of the Internet) and
6 the chilling effect of censorship; and

7 (6) urges the President to continue to support
8 peaceful advocates of free speech around the world.

○