

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CALLING FOR RELEASE OF LIU XIAOBO

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 151) expressing the sense of Congress that China release democratic activist Liu Xiaobo from imprisonment, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 151

Whereas Liu Xiaobo has inspired untold numbers of Chinese people to stare down their government and demand change;

Whereas on December 9, 2008, a diverse group of more than 300 Chinese scholars, writers, lawyers, and activists issued Charter 08, a manifesto calling on the Chinese Communist Party to abandon authoritarian rule in favor of democracy, the guarantee of human rights, and the rule of law;

Whereas Liu Xiaobo was one of the original signers of Charter 08 and was taken into custody shortly before the manifesto was released, has been detained ever since, and now faces charges of "inciting subversion of state power";

Whereas Charter 08 documents the widespread failings of the Chinese Communist Party, calls for urgent and extensive political reforms in China, enumerates and endorses the ideas and principles of freedom, human rights, equality, Republicanism, democracy, and constitutional rule, and enumerates 19 recommendations for political reform within Communist China;

Whereas Charter 08 says that "the most fundamental principles of democracy are that the people are sovereign, and that the people select their own government";

Whereas Chinese authorities violated Chinese law in handling Liu Xiaobo's case, including keeping him under "residential surveillance" beyond the legal time limit and at an undisclosed location, denying him access to his family or lawyers, and refusing to allow a fellow Charter 08 signatory to represent him;

Whereas the signatories of Charter 08 represent numerous strata of Chinese society, including former members of the Chinese Communist Party;

Whereas the document which caused him to be confined to a windowless room, without access to books or writing materials, is as simple as those in the founding documents of this country which have inspired us all for over 200 years;

Whereas Liu Xiaobo signed his name to those simple but powerful words despite having already spent 20 months in prison for his part in the 1989 protests in Tiananmen Square, and three years in a re-education through labor camp for challenging China's one-party rule; and

Whereas Liu Xiaobo's leadership has inspired the Chinese people and the world: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that China's Government immediately release Liu Xiaobo and begin making strides toward true representative democracy.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. BERMAN) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. 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 California?

There was no objection.

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

This resolution expresses the sense of Congress that China should immediately release democratic activist Liu Xiaobo from prison. I would like to thank my friend Mr. MINNICK of Idaho for sponsoring this important resolution that allows Congress to stand in solidarity with Mr. Liu and to express support for the democratic ideals he is fighting for.

Last December, Chinese police hauled away Mr. Liu, a writer, former university professor, and a veteran of the 1989 Tiananmen protests just hours after the circulation of an online petition he helped organize. Called Charter 08, this petition calls for greater development of human rights and reform of the Chinese political system.

Charter 08 has more than 300 original signers, representing a broad cross-section of Chinese society, including not only dissidents and public intellectuals, but also workers, farmers, entrepreneurs, professionals, local officials, and others. The petition was circulated widely online and accumulated more than 8,000 signatures throughout China before the Chinese Government shut down the Web site.

Charter 08 was conceived and written in conscious admiration of Charter 77, a document issued in 1977 by dissidents in Czechoslovakia. The Chinese document calls for an end to some features of China's current political system, including replacing one-party rule with a system based on human rights and democracy. The courageous Chinese citizens who have signed the charter are bravely declaring that the status quo in China is unacceptable and unsustainable.

Instead of thoughtfully addressing the ideas raised by the petition and responding to the dissidents, the Chinese Government has sought to silence their voices by harassing, intimidating, and arresting them.

Chinese authorities violated Chinese law in the handling of Mr. Liu's case, holding him incommunicado beyond the legal time limit at an undisclosed location and denying him access to his family or lawyers. In June, Mr. Liu was charged with subversion. He could face up to 15 years in jail.

The Chinese Government seems unaware of the irony of its actions, since its efforts to quash Charter 08 only underscore China's failure to uphold the very principles that the charter advances.

I strongly support this resolution and encourage my colleagues to do the same.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong and enthusiastic support of this resolution which calls for the release of one of the true heroes of the democracy movement in China. I want to thank our colleague from Idaho, Mr. MINNICK, for introducing this measure and for agreeing to include portions of the similar resolution that was introduced 4 months ago beforehand by my friend, the chairman of the Republican Policy Committee, Mr. MCCOTTER.

As a young professor, Liu Xiaobo served bravely as an advisor to the students at Tiananmen Square. For his courageous stand, he was detained and imprisoned by the Chinese Communist authorities. Now he has been detained again.

What led to Mr. Liu's detention this time was his promotion of Charter 08, which he signed last December on the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Mr. Liu's court sentencing awaits, however, another anniversary. A military extravaganza to be staged by China's Communist Party will take place tomorrow. Tanks will roll in once again and the sounds of the boots of PLA soldiers will echo once more in Tiananmen Square as they did on that fateful June night two decades ago when democracy in China was killed.

Tomorrow's holiday, October 1, is remembered as the day in 1949 when Chairman Mao stood atop the Gate of Heavenly Peace and declared victory for Communist forces. After that, things were neither heavenly nor peaceful in China. Mr. Liu saw the need for reform.

He and his associates took their inspiration for a charter calling for greater freedom of expression for human rights and for free elections from the Charter 77 movement in Czechoslovakia. One of the architects of that movement, democracy advocate and former Czech President Vaclav Havel, had this to say about Mr. Liu and his efforts. In a December 19, 2008, opinion piece in the Wall Street Journal, Mr. Havel wrote, "The Chinese Government should learn well the lesson of the Charter 77 movement that intimidation, propaganda campaigns, and repression are no substitute for reasoned dialogue. Only the immediate and unconditional release of Liu Xiaobo will demonstrate that, for Beijing, that this lesson has been learned."

Our words should echo those of that greater fighter for democracy, Vaclav Havel. Beijing, open your eyes. That

flashy new weapon that you will display in tomorrow's military parade is no substitute for the torch light of the Goddess of Freedom and the Goddess of Democracy torn down in Tiananmen Square.

Use the October 1 movement, that anniversary, to immediately release democratic activist Liu Xiaobo. That would be the best way to commemorate China's national day.

I urge all of my colleagues to join us in vigorous support for this important resolution.

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

Mr. BERMAN. I'm pleased to yield 4 minutes to the sponsor of this very important resolution, the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. MINNICK).

Mr. MINNICK. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the chairman and ranking member for their leadership and for bringing this important issue to the floor.

On May 16, I delivered the commencement address to the 2009 graduates of the University of Idaho. During my speech, I challenged each of those college graduates to take up the cause of Mr. Liu Xiaobo, an intellectual and literary critic who has spent much of his adult life imprisoned or under house arrest by the Chinese authorities because he had the courage to speak and write that China should allow its citizens freedom of speech and urge that it should allow those citizens to select their government by free and open elections.

Today, on the eve of the 60th anniversary of the People's Republic of China, Mr. Liu's trial is set to begin any day on charges which could lead him to be sentenced for up to 15 years in prison. Mr. Liu has been held since officials took him into custody on December 8, 2008, a day before the release of Charter 08, a declaration he coauthored that calls for political reform, greater human rights, and an end to one-party rule in China.

Mr. Liu Xiaobo was formally arrested on June 23, 2009, by the Beijing Public Security Bureau and charged with "inciting subversion of state power." He has been held under criminal detention while Chinese authorities investigate his case.

In the months after taking Mr. Liu into custody, officials kept Liu in residential surveillance under conditions that violated Chinese laws, including denying Mr. Liu access to counsel and keeping him at an undisclosed location beyond the legal time limit.

I urge that the Chinese Government, as a much admired global power and important partner of my country on many issues important to the future of mankind, grant Mr. Liu a free and fair trial. It should be open to the public, including representatives of international news agencies, where the charges against him will be fairly decided by a judge free from political pressure and instructed to consider only the law and facts of the case.

I further urge that Mr. Liu be allowed to be represented by qualified

counsel of his own choosing, have the right to face and cross-examine his accusers, and present witnesses and evidence to prove his innocence. If he is allowed to do so, I anticipate he will be cleared of all charges, and then urge that he be immediately set free and allowed to resume his peaceful pursuit of civil rights and a fully democratic government.

Mr. Liu's leadership has been an inspiration to me and to an untold number of people in China and around the world for his courage to stand up for civil liberties and to demand that his great and proud nation allow free elections at all levels of its government. His courage embodies the emerging global consensus that all people should be allowed to speak freely and have the right to demand that their country be governed by a true representative democracy.

By passing this resolution, the House of Representatives will be sending a strong message that the American people do not condone suppression of freedom of thought or expression.

I thank my colleagues and ask for their support.

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Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, it is fitting that we meet here today to consider this resolution, for tomorrow, as I said, will mark a day of infamy that has profoundly influenced the history of the world for the past 60 years. On October 1, 1949, Chairman Mao stood astride Tiananmen Gate in Beijing and declared a new communist China. That was the same square where 40 years later on a June 9 night in 1989, tanks and troops overran students, workers and the goddess of democracy, crushing their peaceful cries for democratic reform.

Tomorrow 200,000 PLA troops will march through Tiananmen Square. In a display worthy of the height of Stalinism in the former Soviet Union, Beijing's leader will show off the might of their latest military hardware. Foreign diplomats have been warned to close their windows and stay off their balconies as this parade passes by, however, for fear of being shot.

This is the new China which Mao proclaimed. Some say that we should hold our tongues with regard to the Beijing regime's actions because that regime holds America's pocketbook. Others say that the day of accommodation has arrived.

But I believe that this is a wrong, misguided, and immoral stance. We should stand tall for American values and with the goddess of democracy and not remain silent in the face of systematic human rights abuses. Next week, that ambassador of peace and serenity, His Holiness the Dalai Lama, will visit us in Washington. Every President since George Herbert Walker Bush has met with the Dalai Lama during his Washington visits, despite vigorous

protests from Beijing that he is a splittist. President Obama should do no less.

Tomorrow I will join my voice with that of Liu Xiaobo and the other signers of the Charter 08 whom we honor in this resolution in calling for a new, free and democratic China. This is what we should commemorate on October 1, rather than 60 years of repression by the Communist regime in China.

Mr. Speaker, I'm now pleased to yield such time as he may consume to Mr. CAO, a member of the Homeland Security and Transportation Committees.

Mr. CAO. I thank the gentlewoman from Florida.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Concurrent Resolution 151. Today I urge Congress to demand that China release democratic activist Liu Xiaobo from imprisonment. Liu Xiaobo has inspired millions of people to stare down their government and demand change. For his stance on democracy, he has unjustly been put under house arrest with almost no contact with the outside world.

As the Chinese Government commemorates the 60th anniversary of the Communist Party's rule in China, we remember under Communist domination millions of innocent Chinese citizens were imprisoned and murdered. Liu Xiaobo once wrote that "the most fundamental principles of democracy are that the people are sovereign and that the people select their own government. I must ask that the United States, as a representative of the free world, stand with the Chinese people and people all over the world in fighting for freedom and the abolition of totalitarian governments in favor of democracy."

We must resolve to demand that the Chinese Government immediately release Liu Xiaobo and begin making strides toward a true representative democracy.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, having no further requests for time, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. BERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 151, 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. BERMAN. 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.

RECOGNIZING 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ANTARCTIC TREATY

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the