

MAR 08 2024

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA TO STOP PERSECUTION BASED  
ON RELIGION AND FOR THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
TO HOLD THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA ACCOUNTABLE FOR  
VIOLATING THE RIGHT OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM.

1           WHEREAS, since 1999, the United States Department of State  
2 has labeled China as a country of particular concern regarding  
3 religious freedom; and

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5           WHEREAS, in December 2023, the Biden Administration  
6 reported the People's Republic of China as one of the countries  
7 of particular concern regarding religious freedom; and

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9           WHEREAS, in February 2024, the United States Congress  
10 introduced a resolution to recognize religious freedom as a  
11 fundamental right and expressed concern over continuing threats  
12 to religious freedom around the world; and

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14           WHEREAS, the People's Republic of China has the highest  
15 population of religious prisoners in the world, many of whom  
16 face high levels of persecution, and are pressured to adhere to  
17 Chinese Communist Party ideology; and

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19           WHEREAS, certain religious and spiritual groups have been  
20 banned by the People's Republic of China, claiming that these  
21 religious groups will use religion as camouflage, spread  
22 superstitious ideas, deceive members, and endanger society; and

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24           WHEREAS, religious minorities have been subject to torture,  
25 mass arbitrary detention, forced disappearances, mass  
26 surveillance, cultural and religious persecution, separation of  
27 families, forced labor, sexual violence, and violations of  
28 reproductive rights; and

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30           WHEREAS, regulations on religious belief implemented by the  
31 Chinese government only recognize five religions: Buddhism,



1 Catholicism, Daoism, Islam, and Protestantism, but religious  
2 measures in the People's Republic of China's Constitution create  
3 undefined and broad religious regulations that do not guarantee  
4 the right to practice or worship; and  
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6 WHEREAS, as reported in a United States Congress Senate  
7 Resolution the People's Republic of China has harassed,  
8 intimidated, imprisoned, and committed acts of violence against  
9 minorities based on religion which include but are not limited  
10 to: Uyghur Muslims, Christians, Tibetan Buddhists, and Falun  
11 Gong practitioners; and  
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13 WHEREAS, the Human Rights Watch expressed concern over new  
14 regulations, worried that religious practitioners are expected  
15 to conform with ideologies of the Chinese Communist Party or  
16 risk imprisonment; and  
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18 WHEREAS, as reported by Human Rights Watch and the United  
19 Nations, the People's Republic of China has committed crimes  
20 against humanity for systematic abuse against Uyghurs and other  
21 Turkic Muslims in Xinjiang; and  
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23 WHEREAS, in 2014, the People's Republic of China launched a  
24 movement titled Strike Hard Campaign Against Violent Terrorism  
25 that resulted in extreme religious regulations over Xinjiang and  
26 implemented punishments for religious online activities  
27 involving owning digital copies of the Quran; and  
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29 WHEREAS, as further reported by Human Rights Watch in  
30 February 2024, the People's Republic of China implemented  
31 regulations to tighten control over religious practices to  
32 sinicize (modify by or adjust to Chinese influence) religions as  
33 a new government priority under President Xi Jinping; now,  
34 therefore,  
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36 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second  
37 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024, the  
38 House of Representatives concurring, that the government of the  
39 People's Republic of China is urged to stop the persecution of  
40 religious minorities; and  
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# S.C.R. NO. 108

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if this practice is still  
2 state-sanctioned and continues, the United States Department of  
3 State is urged to express and promote concern over the  
4 violations of the People's Republic of China on religious  
5 minorities subject to persecution and deprivation of religious  
6 freedom; and  
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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Department of  
9 State is urged to hold the People's Republic of China  
10 accountable for violating rights to religious freedom; and  
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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
13 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Majority Leader of  
14 the United States Senate, Speaker of the United States House of  
15 Representatives, United States Secretary of State, Ambassador of  
16 the People's Republic of China to the United States, and  
17 Hawaii's congressional delegation.  
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OFFERED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

