

MAR 08 2024

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# SENATE 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,  
32 Catholicism, Daoism, Islam, and Protestantism, but religious  
33 measures in the People's Republic of China's Constitution create



1 undefined and broad religious regulations that do not guarantee  
2 the right to practice or worship; and

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4 WHEREAS, as reported in a United States Congress Senate  
5 Resolution the People's Republic of China has harassed,  
6 intimidated, imprisoned, and committed acts of violence against  
7 minorities based on religion which include but are not limited  
8 to: Uyghur Muslims, Christians, Tibetan Buddhists, and Falun  
9 Gong practitioners; and

10  
11 WHEREAS, the Human Rights Watch expressed concern over new  
12 regulations, worried that religious practitioners are expected  
13 to conform with ideologies of the Chinese Communist Party or  
14 risk imprisonment; and

15  
16 WHEREAS, as reported by Human Rights Watch and the United  
17 Nations, the People's Republic of China has committed crimes  
18 against humanity for systematic abuse against Uyghurs and other  
19 Turkic Muslims in Xinjiang; and

20  
21 WHEREAS, in 2014, the People's Republic of China launched a  
22 movement titled Strike Hard Campaign Against Violent Terrorism  
23 that resulted in extreme religious regulations over Xinjiang and  
24 implemented punishments for religious online activities  
25 involving owning digital copies of the Quran; and

26  
27 WHEREAS, as further reported by Human Rights Watch in  
28 February 2024, the People's Republic of China implemented  
29 regulations to tighten control over religious practices to  
30 sinicize (modify by or adjust to Chinese influence) religions as  
31 a new government priority under President Xi Jinping; now,  
32 therefore,

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34 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second  
35 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024,  
36 that the government of the People's Republic of China is urged  
37 to stop the persecution of religious minorities; and

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39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if this practice is still  
40 state-sanctioned and continues, the United States Department of  
41 State is urged to express and promote concern over the  
42 violations of the People's Republic of China on religious



1 minorities subject to persecution and deprivation of religious  
2 freedom; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Department of  
5 State is urged to hold the People's Republic of China  
6 accountable for violating rights to religious freedom; and

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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
9 Resolution be transmitted to the Majority Leader of the United  
10 States Senate, Speaker of the United States House of  
11 Representatives, United States Secretary of State, Ambassador of  
12 the People's Republic of China to the United States, and  
13 Hawaii's congressional delegation.

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OFFERED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

