S.R. NO. 90

MAR 0 8 2024

SENATE RESOLUTION

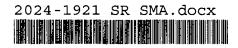
URGING THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA TO STOP PERSECUTION BASED ON RELIGION AND FOR THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE TO HOLD THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA ACCOUNTABLE FOR VIOLATING THE RIGHT OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM.

WHEREAS, since 1999, the United States Department of State 1 has labeled China as a country of particular concern regarding 2 religious freedom; and 3 4 5 WHEREAS, in December 2023, the Biden Administration reported the People's Republic of China as one of the countries 6 of particular concern regarding religious freedom; and 7 8 WHEREAS, in February 2024, the United States Congress 9 introduced a resolution to recognize religious freedom as a 10 fundamental right and expressed concern over continuing threats 11 to religious freedom around the world; and 12 13 WHEREAS, the People's Republic of China has the highest 14 population of religious prisoners in the world, many of whom 15 face high levels of persecution, and are pressured to adhere to 16 Chinese Communist Party ideology; and 17 18 19 WHEREAS, certain religious and spiritual groups have been banned by the People's Republic of China, claiming that these 20 religious groups will use religion as camouflage, spread 21 superstitious ideas, deceive members, and endanger society; and 22 23 WHEREAS, religious minorities have been subject to torture, 24 mass arbitrary detention, forced disappearances, mass 25 surveillance, cultural and religious persecution, separation of 26 27 families, forced labor, sexual violence, and violations of reproductive rights; and 28 29 WHEREAS, regulations on religious belief implemented by the 30 Chinese government only recognize five religions: Buddhism, 31 Catholicism, Daoism, Islam, and Protestantism, but religious 32 measures in the People's Republic of China's Constitution create 33



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undefined and broad religious regulations that do not guarantee 1 2 the right to practice or worship; and 3 WHEREAS, as reported in a United States Congress Senate 4 5 Resolution the People's Republic of China has harassed, intimidated, imprisoned, and committed acts of violence against 6 minorities based on religion which include but are not limited 7 8 to: Uyghur Muslims, Christians, Tibetan Buddhists, and Falun Gong practitioners; and 9 10 11 WHEREAS, the Human Rights Watch expressed concern over new regulations, worried that religious practitioners are expected 12 to conform with ideologies of the Chinese Communist Party or 13 risk imprisonment; and 14 15 WHEREAS, as reported by Human Rights Watch and the United 16 17 Nations, the People's Republic of China has committed crimes against humanity for systematic abuse against Uyghurs and other 18 Turkic Muslims in Xinjiang; and 19 20 21 WHEREAS, in 2014, the People's Republic of China launched a movement titled Strike Hard Campaign Against Violent Terrorism 22 23 that resulted in extreme religious regulations over Xinjiang and implemented punishments for religious online activities 24 involving owning digital copies of the Quran; and 25 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 sinicize (modify by or adjust to Chinese influence) religions as 30 31 a new government priority under President Xi Jinping; now, 32 therefore, 33 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second 34 35 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024, that the government of the People's Republic of China is urged 36 37 to stop the persecution of religious minorities; and 38 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 violations of the People's Republic of China on religious 42



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minorities subject to persecution and deprivation of religious 1 2 freedom; and 3 4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Department of State is urged to hold the People's Republic of China 5 accountable for violating rights to religious freedom; and 6 7 8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Majority Leader of the United 9 States Senate, Speaker of the United States House of 10 Representatives, United States Secretary of State, Ambassador of 11 the People's Republic of China to the United States, and 12 Hawaii's congressional delegation. 13 14 Harl Rbook 15

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OFFERED BY:

