ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1501

July 20, 2020

To Falun Gong supporters:

I write in support of Falun Gong practitioners in Washington, D.C. and worldwide who are working to end the persecution of Falun Gong practitioners.

As a former assistant legal director for the American Civil Liberties Union, a constitutional lawyer and a lifelong civil rights advocate, I take this moment not only to offer my support in ending the persecution of Falun Gong practitioners, but to remember those who have died for their beliefs.

Falun Gong is a peaceful religion based on self-improvement through teachings and meditation through slow movements and regimented breathing. Falun Gong practitioners have suffered mercilessly at the hands of the Chinese government for over two decades. Reports of this persecution include detention, torture and organ harvesting. The only crime of those who practice Falun Gong is to be born into a society of intolerance.

The United States of America was founded on the belief that individuals have fundamental rights, including freedom of religion, freedom of speech and due process under the law, and the government cannot deprive its citizens of these fundamental rights. The Chinese government's acts of suppression and violence are a reminder for Americans who take these rights for granted. We must fight to raise awareness of those persecuted in China who cannot raise awareness themselves. I write in support of the many individuals calling for freedom in China, including Falun Gong practitioners.

I hear you, and I stand with you. Today and every day.

Sincerely,

Eleanor H. Norton

Eleanor Holmes Norton

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PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER
THIS MAILING WAS PREPARED, PUBLISHED, AND MAILED AT TAXPAYER EXPENSE.

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