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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2504

July 20, 2020

Dear Friends,

I appreciate your invitation to participate in recognizing the human rights violations of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). In commemorating the 21-year anniversary of religious persecution against Falun Gong practitioners, it is imperative that the CCP continue to be held accountable for their actions. I am happy to lend my support for the freedom of all religious beliefs across the globe.

Religious freedom is an inalienable right of all humans, and I believe it should be recognized by all governments. Sadly, the heritage of religious freedom that Americans are blessed with does not extend into many parts of the world today, including China. There are many people who are being persecuted and tortured simply because they hold to a religion different than the one propagated by their nation. The imprisonment and treatment of Falun Gong practitioners and Christians in modern-day China is unconscionable, and it truly is a violation of human rights of the highest degree. It is absolutely imperative that these egregious violations of human decency come to an end and that all religious minorities in China are free from all persecution.

In 2016, the House of Representatives took action and passed a resolution calling on the Chinese government to end its horrifying practice of forced organ harvesting and immediately release all Falun Gong practitioners and other prisoners of conscience. While this is a step in the right direction, our work is far from over. It is absolutely imperative that these egregious violations of human decency come to an end and that all religious minorities in China are free from all persecution.

I commend you for your hard work and determination in advocating for this cause. Public awareness is key to getting things changed and you play an important part in this vital endeavor. I am, and always have been, a strong supporter of religious freedom for all, and I am currently a member of the International Religious Freedom Caucus in the House of Representatives, which works to advocate for religious freedom abroad, and encourages pursuance of international religious freedom in American foreign policy. Religious persecution must be stopped. Please know that I will continue to fight for human rights protections and religious freedom for all while serving in Congress.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Vicky Hartzler".

Vicky Hartzler
Member of Congress