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Today marks the 21st anniversary of China's egregious crackdown on Falun Gong practitioners. I am saddened by this anniversary and the years of persecution it represents.

Reports from the U.S. State Department, U.S. Commission for International Religious Freedom (USCIRF), Congressional-Executive Commission on China (CECC), and Freedom House have found credible evidence that China has conducted a state-sanctioned campaign of organ harvesting from prisoners of various ethnic and religious groups, especially members of the Falun Gong. In light of these credible reports, public displays of support for Falun Gong practitioners and other persecuted groups are doubly important.

As we mark this solemn anniversary, my thoughts are also with Falun Gong practitioners — and all the people of Hong Kong — whose rights and freedom are being threatened by China's so-called national security law.

I am proud to be a co-sponsor of Senate Resolution 274, which expresses solidarity with Falun Gong practitioners and their families for the lives, freedoms, and rights they lost for adhering to their beliefs and practices. This resolution expresses to the Government of China that freedom of religion includes allowing Falun Gong practitioners to practice freely in China and to be protected against any forms of religious persecution.

I greatly appreciate the efforts of the Falun Dafa Association of Washington, D.C. and Falun Gong practitioners around the world to bring important information to the Chinese people.

Sincerely,

/s/Chris Van Hollen

Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator

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