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

July 20, 2023

To Falun Gong Practitioners and Supporters:

On the 24<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the start of the persecution of Falun Daffa in China, I write in support of Falun Gong practitioners in the District of Columbia and around the world 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, meditation, 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, speech, and due process under the law. 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 stand in solidarity with the many Falun Gong practitioners who fight for the freedom to speak and practice the religion of their choice. I hear you, and I stand with you.

Sincerely,

Eleanor Holmes Norton

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