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**Congressman Stephen F. Lynch Statement for Falun Gong Rally
Washington D.C.
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Good afternoon. It is a pleasure to join with my fellow Members of Congress and with all of you to call on the Chinese Government to end its persecution of Falun Gong practitioners.

I look forward to the day in which it no longer becomes necessary to demand that fundamental human rights be respected, and that everyone be treated with the dignity owed to every human being. I look forward to a time in which every person can peacefully practice the spiritual beliefs that they hold true, and be able to do so free from fear of being arrested, tortured, and even killed. However, that day is not today.

The disheartening reality is that there is still very much a need to raise our voices and call out injustices when we see them. And in China, the authoritarian regime continues its brutal persecution of its own people, including those who practice Falun Gong. The reports that continue to emerge from China are horrific: unlawful arrests, torture, sham trials with no due process, and even targeting of the attorneys that take on cases in defense of Falun Gong practitioners. In addition, there are continued disturbing reports that China has not stopped its inhuman practice of forced organ harvesting from minorities, including those who practice Falun Gong. Finally, there are recent disturbing reports that as the Chinese government continues its encroachment on the freedoms that had once existed in Hong Kong, that it is now targeting Falun Gong there as well.

So long as the Chinese government engages in these egregious violations of basic human rights, we cannot and will not stand idly by. I am proud to add my voice to those of fellow Members of Congress and Americans here and around the country to call on China to respect the rights of Falun Gong practitioners and all of its citizens.