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July 11, 2023

Dear Falun Gong Practitioners,

I would like to welcome those attending the event on the National Mall this July to celebrate 31 years since Falun Gong was founded and made public. Despite a 24-year campaign to eradicate Falun Gong (Falun Dafa), millions of people in and outside of China continue to exercise their basic rights and practice Falun Gong. I would like to express my unwavering support for your advocacy on behalf of universal human rights and religious freedom.

Falun Gong emphasizes the moral principles of truthfulness, compassion, and tolerance, and is practiced in at least 70 countries worldwide. Nevertheless, the Chinese Communist Party launched a nationwide persecution in July 1999, and since then we have witnessed increasing reports that Falun Gong practitioners have been targeted and repressed by the Chinese government. Victims of the persecution have come to my office to give their real-life narratives of torture, suffering, and damages experienced by their families. Some of my own constituents are themselves refugees of this persecution. I understand that Falun Gong practitioners have responded to the state-sanctioned violence using entirely peaceful means. They have persistently educated Chinese citizens and people across the globe about the nature of their practice and the persecution against it.

I want to thank you for sharing your stories and advocating the widely shared values that define us both as a nation and as a broader international community. Finally, I hope that this will be the year in which we see significant progress in your cause and improvements of the human rights situation in China.

Best Regards,



Gerald E. Connolly  
Member of Congress  
11<sup>th</sup> District, Virginia