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Congressman Stephen F. Lynch Statement
for the July 20, 2023, Falun Gong Rally
Washington D.C.

I am proud to join my fellow Members of Congress and all of you today to call on China to end its persecution of Falun Gong practitioners and to respect the rights of all its citizens.

There seems to be no end to the authoritarian Chinese regime's brutal repression of its own people, of political dissidents, ethnic minorities or those who hold different religious or spiritual beliefs, including Falun Gong practitioners. Despite global pressure and the entreaties of its citizens, the Chinese Government's appalling human rights abuses have only worsened. It continues to shamelessly engage in arbitrary arrests, torture and abuse its prisoners, conduct sham trials with no due process, and impose unreasonably harsh sentences. And credible reports still emerge of the appalling practice of organ harvesting.

Unfortunately, the Chinese Government's attempts at harassment and intimidation are not limited to within its borders. Just this past April, U.S. federal agents arrested two persons for operating a secret police station in Manhattan's Chinatown neighborhood and in Los Angeles that worked with Chinese police to pressure fugitives to return to China. And just a month later, the Department of Justice charged two persons in a scheme to bribe an undercover federal agent to strip the Falun Gong entity of its tax-exempt status. Such a lack of respect for its people and for the sovereignty of other nations is simply unacceptable, especially for a country seeking to be recognized as a world leader.

So long as China tramples on the fundamental human rights of its people, the people of the United States will and must speak out. That is why I am proud to stand with you today and add my voice to those of fellow Members of Congress to call on China to end the persecution of Falun Gong practitioners and to respect the fundamental rights of all of its citizens.