

ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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ENERGY POLICY, AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS

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

July 11, 2024

To Falun Gong Practitioners and Supporters:

I write in support of Falun Gong practitioners and supporters in the District of Columbia and across 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, constitutional lawyer and a lifelong civil rights advocate, I take this moment not only to speak out against the persecution of Falun Gong practitioners, but also to remember those who have died for their beliefs.

Falun Gong is a peaceful religion that teaches self-improvement through meditation based on slow movements and regimented breathing. For over two decades, Falun Gong practitioners have suffered from forced detention, torture and organ harvesting at the hands of the Chinese government. The only crime of those who practice Falun Gong is to be born into a society of intolerance.

It is a sign of a just society when citizens feel safe to express their beliefs and criticize the government. The United States of America was founded on the conviction that individuals have fundamental rights, including freedom of religion, freedom of speech and due process under the law, and that the government cannot deprive its citizens of these fundamental rights. The Chinese government's acts of suppression and violence are a reminder for Americans who take these rights for granted. We must work to preserve these freedoms both here and abroad. We must fight to raise awareness of those persecuted in China who cannot raise awareness themselves.

On June 25, 2024, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 4132, the Falun Gong Protection Act, which I strongly supported. I will continue to work with colleagues in the House and Senate to pass this bill.

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I stand in solidarity with the many Falun Gong practitioners who fight for the freedom to speak and to practice the religion of their choice. I hear you, and I stand with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Eleanor H. Norton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Eleanor" and the last name "Norton" being more prominent.

Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress