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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

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Mr. Shengde Lian
Executive Director
Free China Movement
13195 Rover Glen Ct
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Dear Mr. Lian:

Fifteen years ago this Friday, grave human rights violations occurred in Tiananmen Square in Beijing. Several hundred demonstrators were killed and over 1,000 wounded after martial law was declared by China's People's Liberation Army. They, like you, were speaking out for freedom and democracy. They stood for the principles of basic decency and human rights for all people and all religions across the world.

Their message, 15 years later, cannot be lost. China's government has yet to improve its human rights practices. Over 2,000 people are still imprisoned from the "Beijing Spring" and the incident at Tiananmen Square. The Chinese government continues to harass members of all faiths. Catholic priests, Protestant pastors, Falun Gong members, Muslim followers, and Buddhist nuns and monks are all subject to random arrests, beatings, imprisonment without due process, or sentencing to "reeducation through labor" camps. Over 100,000 members of Falun Gong have been sent to labor camps without trial since it was officially banned in 1999. More than 20,000 Christians have been arrested and beaten since 1983 simply based on their faith. At least 10 Catholic bishops are still in jail. These sort of continued human rights abuses cannot go unchecked.

The State Department just released its annual countries report on human rights. The section on China is 71 pages long, detailing the long list of oppressions by the Chinese government. I have long stood beside the persecuted and those who are dedicated to the enhancement of human rights. I greatly appreciate your efforts in standing up and bringing to the attention of the world again the horrible human rights record of China. We must speak out for those who cannot speak for themselves. I urge you to continue to fight for the rights of others across the world. Our voices will give strength to those who are languishing in the darkness.

Sincerely,

Frank R. Wolf
Member of Congress