

Chinese New Year's celebrations, she herself faces imminent trial and sentencing.

The crimes she is accused of committing remain unclear, despite letters from a number of us on Capitol Hill, and despite a series of requests to Chinese officials stretching back to August. Our attempts at quiet diplomacy, perhaps unsurprisingly, have failed. And so, with her trial and sentencing about to take place, it is vital that we try a different tack. That is why I am offering this resolution.

Ms. Kadeer is a prominent member of an ethnic minority group in China called Uighurs. These people are Turkic-speaking Moslems, and they form the largest ethnic group in China's northwestern-most province.

A few years back, Ms. Kadeer was lauded by the PRC for her promotion of business enterprises among women and for contributing to the economic and social development of her province. To honor her efforts, she was named by authorities to the China People's Political Consultative Congress and as a delegate to the United Nations World Conference on Women held in Beijing.

But Ms. Kadeer began to fall out of favor with officials in Beijing after her husband emigrated to the United States in 1997 and became a commentator for Voice of America. Soon thereafter, her passport was seized and the assets of an organization she founded to improve opportunities for Moslem businesswomen were frozen. Then, in 1998, Ms. Kadeer lost her position in the Consultative Congress.

Perhaps that is why five of Ms. Kadeer's children, three sisters and a brother are now living in the United States, in addition to her husband. And perhaps that is why Ms. Kadeer has expressed a desire to move to the United States herself.

That desire, for the moment, has been quashed. Last summer, as she was on her way to the hotel where the Congressional staff delegation was waiting to meet her, Kadeer was arrested. The arrest is troubling enough, but the fact that it took place as she was attempting to have a simple conversation with staffers who work for the United States Congress, I believe, requires that we take a firm stand.

Let's not forget that the PRC signed the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in 1998. Among other things, that Covenant requires signatories to guarantee their citizens the right to liberty and freedom of movement; the right to presumption of innocence until guilt is proven; freedom of thought, conscience, and religion; freedom of opinion and expression; and freedom of assembly and association. It also forbids torture, inhumane or degrading treatment, and arbitrary arrest and detention.

In signing that Covenant on behalf of the PRC, China's Permanent Representative to the United Nations said, and I quote, "To realize human rights is the aspiration of all humanity. It is

also a goal that the Chinese Government has long been striving for. We believe that the universality of human rights should be respected * * *."

Well, I don't think China has respected the human rights of Rabiya Kadeer, her son or her secretary. That's why this resolution calls on China to release them and give them the chance to move to the United States, if they wish. Mr. President, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution and move for its earliest possible passage as Ms. Kadeer's fate will soon be determined by a country that offers her little or no chance of a fair trial.

SENATE RESOLUTION 256—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 14-18, 2000, AS "NATIONAL HEART FAILURE AWARENESS WEEK"

Mr. SPECTER (for himself, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. ASHCROFT, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BAYH, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. BIDEN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BREAUX, Mr. L. CHAFEE, Mr. CLELAND, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. DODD, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. FITZGERALD, Mr. FRIST, Mr. GORTON, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRAMM, Mr. GRAMS, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HATCH, Mr. HELMS, Mr. INOUE, Mr. KERRY, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. MACK, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MOYNIHAN, Mr. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. REED, Mr. REID, Mr. ROBB, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. ROTH, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. SMITH of Oregon, Mr. THURMOND, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WELLSTONE, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. STEVENS, and Mr. LIEBERMAN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 256

Whereas the primary goals of "National Heart Failure Awareness Week" are—

(1) to promote research related to all aspects of heart failure and provide a forum for presentation of that research;

(2) to educate heart failure caregivers and patients through programs, publications, and other media allowing for more effective treatment and diagnosis of heart failure; and

(3) to enhance the quality and duration of life for those with heart failure;

Whereas heart failure, a disease of the heart muscle, is of epidemic proportions in the United States;

Whereas as of January 1, 2000, approximately 4,600,000 Americans had been diagnosed with congestive heart failure, and an estimated 450,000 more cases will be diagnosed in the year 2000;

Whereas coronary artery disease is a cause in approximately 50 percent of the cases of patients with heart failure, and in such cases, patients often have heart attacks or require bypass surgery;

Whereas the incidence of heart failure increases with age and is the most frequent cause of hospitalization for individuals over the age of 65;

Whereas the prognosis for those diagnosed with heart failure is not promising, as less than 50 percent of patients live more than 5 years after their initial diagnosis; and

Whereas it is vital that the American public become aware of the enormous impact of heart failure, and be better educated regarding the signs and symptoms of the disease: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) in recognition of all the individuals who have devoted time and energy toward increasing public awareness and education on heart failure, designates the week of February 14-18, 2000, as "National Heart Failure Awareness Week"; and

(2) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to observe the week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 257—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE UNITED STATES TO ENSURE THAT THE PANAMA CANAL WILL REMAIN OPEN AND SECURE TO VESSELS OF ALL NATIONS

Mr. CRAIG (for himself, Mr. INHOFE, Mrs. HUTCHISON, and Mr. CRAPO) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 257

Whereas the 1977 Treaty Concerning the Permanent Neutrality and Operation of the Panama Canal provides that Panama and the United States have the joint responsibility to ensure that the Panama Canal will remain open and secure, and provides that each signatory, in accordance with its constitutional processes, shall defend the Canal against any threat to its neutrality and shall have the right to act against threats against the peaceful transit of vessels through the Canal;

Whereas the United States Armed Forces have depended upon the Panama Canal for rapid transit in times of global conflict, including during World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Cuban Missile Crisis, and the Persian Gulf War;

Whereas the common interests of Panama and the United States have produced close relations between the two nations and a shared interest in protecting the Canal and its operations;

Whereas the passage of Panama Law Number 5 and the port facilities lease agreements have created concern about the future security of the Canal and its continued unfettered operations;

Whereas Panama does not have an army, navy, or air force, and the national police capabilities are inadequate to defend the Canal against terrorism from internal or external sources;

Whereas occupation, damage, or destruction of this crucial naval choke point would be catastrophic to the United States, its allies, and the world;

Whereas the Canal has influenced world trade patterns, spurred growth in developed countries, and has been a primary impetus for economic expansion in developing countries;

Whereas the Panama Canal remains a vital economic and strategic asset to the United States, its allies, and the world; and

Whereas 53 percent of Canal traffic originates or ends at United States port facilities: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) any attack on or against the Panama Canal by any country will be considered an act of war against the United States;

(2) the President should, prior to June 1, 2001, negotiate security arrangements with