

these five approved religions, such as the more than 10 million Roman Catholics, face harassment, imprisonment, torture and death.

We have no wish to sanction the worshipers in the Catholic Patriotic Association in China; rather, we wish to offer our support to the Catholic population of China that is persecuted by its government for their faith. We condemn the Chinese Government's persecution of the Catholics and its refusal to permit a Vatican-sponsored Catholic church to operate legally in China. This is a great resolution, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF).

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution. I heard Mr. ENGLISH speaking and wanted to come over to add my support for this resolution.

Frankly, this whole place ought to be packed with people speaking on behalf of this resolution. Today in China, the Catholic Church is being severely persecuted. Why has the administration been silent, and other than this resolution, why has the Congress been relatively silent?

There are a number of Catholic bishops that are in jail today, as stated in the New York Times piece the other day. There is also the issue of what they have done to the Vatican with regard to the Chinese Communist Government. Evangelical church leaders are being persecuted. I just wanted to put my two cents in with regard to support of this.

For Members who just think this is another political thing, this is a moral issue.

Isaiah says, "Learn to do right, seek justice, encourage the oppressed." By passing this resolution, we encourage the oppressed.

Isaiah goes on to say in Isaiah 59, "The Lord looked and was displeased that there was no justice." When the Lord looks at China, he has got to be displeased that there is no justice.

Isaiah goes on to say, "He saw that there was no one, he was appalled that there was no one to intervene." Fortunately, Mr. ENGLISH, Mr. SMITH and Mr. LANTOS are intervening.

But this Congress has to do more, and this administration's silence is becoming deafening on this issue. The condition in China with regard to the Catholic Church, the Protestant Church, the Uighurs, the Buddhists is worse today after President Hu left than before President Hu came.

I want to thank the gentlemen for cosponsoring this. We ought to have a roll call vote. Frankly, everybody ought to vote on this issue because this would send a message to the Chinese Communist Government that this Congress will become again like the Congress was during the 1980s during the Reagan administration and will not stand for it.

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 804, Condemning

the unauthorized, inappropriate, and coerced ordination of Catholic bishops by the People's Republic of China. I am concerned by reports that on April 30, 2006, and again on May 3, 2006, bishops and priests in the People's Republic of China were subjected to strong pressures and threats to participate in episcopal ordinations against the wishes of the Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI. The ordinations were conducted by the Catholic Patriotic Association of China and without the express approval and sanction of the Holy See. Such ordinations are illegitimate. I urge the People's Republic of China to refrain from pressuring or coercing Chinese bishops and priests to support these ordinations.

Freedom of religious expression is a fundamental right enshrined in the United States Constitution and is recognized by all civilized nations. Freedom of religion and conscience is also enshrined in Article 18 of the Uniform Declaration of Human Rights, to which the People's Republic of China is a signatory. Chinese law and policy, however, continues to restrict religious activities to those associated with the five officially sanctioned "patriotic" religious organizations. Additionally, the Catholic Patriotic Association of China does not represent the vast majority of Chinese Catholics and has no ecclesiastical authority to choose spiritual leaders for Catholics in the People's Republic of China.

The United States Commission on International Religious Freedom identifies China as one of ten "Countries of Particular Concern." H. Res. 804 sends a strong message to the People's Republic of China to refrain from pressuring and coercing Chinese priests. This resolution also sends a strong message to the Catholic Patriotic Association of China to discontinue the practice of ordaining priests without the express support of the Holy Father, the Pope. Not doing so is an insult to the universal Catholic Church.

I strongly support this resolution. I urge my colleagues' support.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 804, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey.

There was no objection.

#### CONDEMNING THE ESCALATING LEVELS OF RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION IN THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 608) condemning the escalating levels of religious persecution in the People's Republic of China, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

#### H. RES. 608

Whereas the Constitution and laws of the People's Republic of China purport to provide for religious freedom, however, these freedoms are substantively ignored;

Whereas all religious groups and spiritual movements must register with the Chinese Government, which monitors religious services and judges the legitimacy of religious activities;

Whereas unregistered religious groups in China continue to experience official interference and members of religious groups have been subjected to intimidation, harassment, and detention;

Whereas many religious leaders and adherents in China, including those in official churches, have been detained, arrested, or administratively sentenced to prison terms in reeducation-through-labor camps;

Whereas religious believers are denied the ability to hold public office not by law, but by a logical extension of the fact that most government positions go to members of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and CCP membership and religious belief are considered incompatible;

Whereas numerous abuses of unofficial Catholic clergy have occurred, including the detentions of Bishop Zhao Zhendong, Bishop Jia Zhiguo, Bishop Yao Liang, Bishop Su Zhimin, Bishop An Shuxin, Bishop Lin Xili, Bishop Han Dingxiang, and Bishop Shi Enxiang, as well as other Catholic priests and lay leaders who have been beaten or otherwise mistreated;

Whereas the Chinese Government-sanctioned Catholic Patriotic Association of China conducted unauthorized episcopal ordinations of the priests Joseph Ma Yinglin and Joseph Liu Xinhong, elevating them to the office of bishop without the approval and against the wishes of the Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI;

Whereas numerous abuses of Protestant House Church Leaders have occurred, including the detentions of Pastor Gong Shengliang, Pastor Zhang Rongliang, Luo Bingyin, Li Cuiling, Wang Chaoyi, Yang Tianlu, and Zhao Xinlan, as well as other Protestant House Church Leaders who have been beaten or otherwise mistreated;

Whereas the whereabouts of Gendun Choekyi Nyima, the boy identified by the Dalai Lama as the 11th Panchen Lama and detained by Chinese authorities ten years ago, when he was six years old, are still unknown;

Whereas, according to the Department of State, Chinese authorities continue to restrict Muslim religious activity, teaching, and worship in Xinjiang, including reported prohibitions on the participation and religious education of minors;

Whereas the Chinese Government continues its brutal campaign to eradicate the Falun Gong spiritual movement and thousands of its members have been subject to