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One Hundred and Fifteenth Congress
Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission

April 5, 2017

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington DC 20500

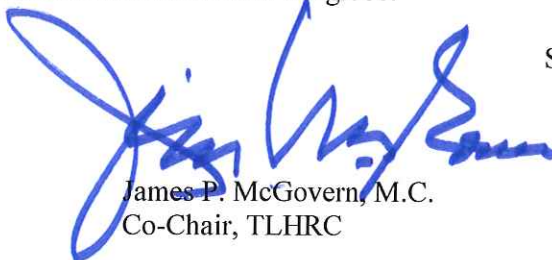
Dear Mr. President:

This week you will hold your first meeting with President Xi Jinping of the People's Republic of China. As Co-Chairs of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, an official bipartisan human rights body in the United States House of Representatives, we write to strongly encourage you to prioritize human rights issues in your discussions with the Chinese leader.

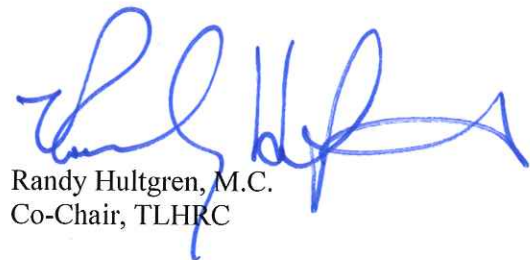
The China chapter of the State Department's recently released *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2016* characterized as "severe" the repression and coercion of organizations and individuals engaged in human rights advocacy. Many very serious human rights abuses were documented, including widespread lack of due process, extrajudicial disappearances and killings, restrictions on nongovernmental organizations, and the detention and harassment of journalists, lawyers, writers, bloggers, dissidents and others whose views or actions the Chinese authorities deemed unacceptable. As the Congressional Executive Commission on China has documented, the PRC continues to hold hundreds of political prisoners. Ethnic and religious minorities, especially Tibetans, Uighurs and Christians, faced severe restrictions on their most fundamental rights and freedoms, including the right to religious freedom.

Mr. President, United States leadership on human rights has long been a beacon to the world. In your upcoming dialogue with President Xi Jinping, we hope that you will continue the noble American tradition of standing up for the repressed and the voiceless, which we believe to be central to the pursuit of American interests around the globe.

Sincerely,



James P. McGovern, M.C.
Co-Chair, TLHRC



Randy Hultgren, M.C.
Co-Chair, TLHRC