



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **For Immediate Release**

*Rep. McGovern Introduces Resolution, with Reps. Ellison, Moran, Pitts, Smith, and Wolf as Original Co-Sponsors, Calling on China to Cease Crackdowns on Uyghurs and Urging President Obama to Raise Concerns about Repression of Uyghurs with Chinese Leaders*

Washington—Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission Co-Chairman Jim McGovern (D-MA) this week introduced a resolution – H. Res. 576 – calling on the People’s Republic of China to cease all government-sponsored crackdowns against the people of the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region. The resolution also calls on President Obama to raise concerns about these crackdowns with Chinese leaders, and to clearly state the United States’ strong opposition to the mistreatment of Uyghurs by the Chinese government.

Commission Co-Chairman Frank Wolf (R-VA); Commission Executive Committee Members Keith Ellison (D-MN), Joseph Pitts (R-PA), and Chris Smith (R-NJ); and Commission Member James Moran (D-VA) are original co-sponsors of the resolution.

In recent years, the Chinese government has implemented increasing controls on religious, political and cultural activities in the Xinjiang region of China – an area traditionally inhabited by the Uyghur ethnic minority group. As a result of this worsening repression, confrontations between Chinese police and the Uyghur people have intensified since July 2009, when China experienced the worst outbreak of ethnic violence in over 30 years. Since 2009, China has significantly increased police patrols for the purported reason of cracking down on “illegal religious activities,” a phrase often used to justify government-sponsored ethnic repression. Uyghurs have reportedly been subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention, prison abuse and torture, as well as forced confessions, disappearances, and extrajudicial killings by Chinese police. In addition, China has reportedly pressured other countries to unlawfully and forcibly return Uyghur refugees to China, where they are often “disappeared.”

The resolution strongly urges the Chinese Government to immediately cease these repressive human rights violations and appeals to President Obama to ensure that this issue remains a priority for the administration and in talks with Chinese officials.

The mission of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission is to promote and advocate human rights in a nonpartisan manner both inside and outside of Congress.

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