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***Appeal to President Obama: Seriously Raise Forced Abortion  
With Chinese Leaders in Beijing--  
The Worst Violation of Women's Rights in History***  
**Hearing of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission**  
**November 10, 2009**  
**Rep. Chris Smith, Chairing**

Welcome to our witnesses and to everyone who is joining us this afternoon.

This year we mark at least three infamous anniversaries, the fiftieth anniversary of the 1959 Tibet Uprising, the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Tiananmen Square Massacre, and the thirtieth anniversary of the Chinese government's one-child-per-couple policy, with its attendant horrors of massive forced abortion campaigns and rampant sex-selective abortion. In effect since 1979, the coercive one-child policy is, in scope and seriousness, the worst human rights abuse in the world today.

Few people outside China understand what a massive and cruel system of social control the one-child policy entails. As the U.S. China Commission summarized, the system is "marked by pervasive propaganda, mandatory monitoring of women's reproductive cycles, mandatory contraception, mandatory birth permits, coercive fines for failure to comply, and, in some cases, forced sterilization and abortion."

The price for failing to conform to this system is staggering. A Chinese woman who becomes pregnant without a permit will be put under mind-bending pressure to abort. She knows that "out-of-plan" illegal children are denied education, health-care, and marriage, and that fines for bearing a child without a birth permit can be 10 times the average annual income of two parents, and those families that can't or won't pay are jailed, or their homes smashed in, or their young child is killed. If the brave woman still refuses to submit, she may be held in a punishment cell, or, if she flees, her relatives may be held and, very often, beaten. Group punishments will be used to socially ostracize her--her colleagues and neighbors will be denied birth permits. If the woman is by some miracle still able to resist this pressure, she may be physically dragged to the operating table and forced to undergo an abortion.

Her trauma is incomprehensible. It is a trauma she shares, in some degree, with every woman in China, whose experience of intimacy and motherhood is colored by the

atmosphere of fear created by the government, by government threats and determination to intrude itself, in deadly fashion, into the most private aspects of her life. The WHO reports over 500 female suicides per day in China. China is the only country in the world where the female suicide rate is higher than the male, and according to the Beijing Psychological Crisis Study and Prevention Center, in China the suicide rate for females is three times higher than for males.

The result of this policy is a nightmarish “brave new world” with no precedent in human history, where women are psychologically wounded, girls fall victim to sex-selective abortion (in some provinces 140 boys are born for every 100 girls), and most children grow up without brothers or sisters, aunts or uncles or cousins.

On Thursday President Obama travels to Asia, and will be in Beijing for four days of meetings with the government responsible for these crimes against humanity. I hope he will not conduct these meetings in the same airy spirit that Secretary Clinton expressed on her first visit to China, when she dismissed the human rights of the Chinese people as irrelevant to her relationship with the Chinese government. She said that we can’t let human rights “interfere” with peddling US debt.

I believe the Chinese government would respond to the President if he were to take the lead in speaking up in defense of human rights in China. The Chinese government is sensitive to how it is viewed by the rest of the world. Its rapidly increasing influence in the world, serving as the new model for authoritarian regimes throughout Asia and Africa, is all the more reason for us to defend the rights of the Chinese people. If we are not willing to work to improve the human rights standards by which China is governed, we are going to find China degrading the human rights standards the rest of us live by.

And so I—we—appeal to President Obama: seriously raise the plight of Chinese women who are every day cruelly and systematically assaulted by population control police. China’s population control policy is violence against women and violence against children—by the hundreds of millions. It is the worst violation of women’s rights in human history. It is outrageous that the Obama administration lavishly funds—to the tune of \$50 million—organizations, including the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), that partner with China’s National Population Planning Commission.

This should not be a partisan issue. On June 10, 1998, at a hearing I chaired, Congressman Tom Lantos said, “There are few crimes against human beings which are more horrendous, more despicable, more outrageous than the practice of forced abortion and forced sterilization. Such brutal violations of human rights must be condemned across the political spectrum and you and I have stood together through the years in condemning them.”

At that hearing, a woman, Mrs. Gao, who had run the forced abortion program in Fujian province, described herself as a “monster”, and testified that they routinely paid

informants for information on women who were pregnant without government permission.

I ask the President, consider the appeal of Wujian a Chinese woman victimized by forced abortion who is taking a great risk to be here today and tell her story—the story of millions of Chinese women:

About one hour later, the van stopped in the hospital. As soon as I was drug out of the van, I saw hundred of pregnant Moms there – all of them, just like pigs in the slaughterhouse. Immediately I was drug into a special room, and without any preliminary medical examination, one nurse did Oxytocin injection intravenously. Then I was put into a room with several other Moms.

The room was full of Moms who had just gone through a forced abortion. Some Moms were crying, some Moms were mourning, some Moms were screaming, and one Mom was rolling on the floor with unbearable pain...

Then I kept saying to her [the abortionist], "...how could you become a killer by killing people every day?"...

She also told me that there was nothing serious about this whole thing for her. She did these all year. She also told me that there were over 10,000 forced abortions in our county just for that year, and I was having just one of them. I was astonished by her words and I realized that my baby and I were just like a lamb on the cutting board. Finally, she put the big, long needle into the head of my baby in my womb. At the moment, it was the end of the world for me and I felt even time had stopped...

Since it did not come out as expected, they decided to cut my baby into pieces in my womb with scissors, and then suck it out with a special machine... I did not have any time to think as this most horrifying surgery began by force. I could hear the sound of the scissors cutting the body of my baby in my womb...

Eventually the journey in hell, the surgery was finished, and one nurse showed me part of a bloody foot with her tweezers. Through my tears, the picture of the bloody foot was engraved into my eyes and into my heart, and so clearly I could see the five small bloody toes. Immediately the baby was thrown into a trash can... The one-child policy and forced abortion policy have killed millions of innocent lives in China.

Silence in the face of this barbaric Chinese government behavior, Mr. President, is not an option.