



ONE HUNDRED FOURTEENTH CONGRESS

June 2, 2016

His Excellency Xi Jinping
President of the People's Republic of China

Dear President Xi:

We write as members of the bipartisan U.S. Congressional-Executive Commission on China (CECC) on the 27th anniversary of the violent suppression of nationwide protests that started in and around Beijing's Tiananmen Square. These events and the ongoing prohibition of public and online discussion of what transpired on June 4, 1989 have done more to negatively shape global perceptions of the Chinese government than almost anything else in your country's recent history.

It has been reported that the last known prisoner, Miao Deshun, sentenced for participating in the Tiananmen protests will be released later this year after having spent more than half of his life behind bars. This event offers your government an opportunity to open public space for discussion and commemoration of the tragic and historic events of 1989.

In addition to allowing uncensored, public discussion of the Tiananmen protests and the government's response, we ask that you end efforts to retaliate against those who participated in the protests, particularly the former student leaders and those, such as the Tiananmen Mothers group, seeking information about family members who died or disappeared on or after June 3-4, 1989.

We are also gravely concerned about those who remain imprisoned or detained in connection with their attempts to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Tiananmen protests, including Yu Shiwen who himself took part in protests in 1989 and who is reportedly in poor health having suffered a stroke in detention and others such as Chen Wei, Chen Yunfei, Chen Xi (Chen Youcai), Liu Shaoming, Sheng Guan (Xu Zhiqiang), Tang Jingling, Wang Qingying, and Yuan Xinting (Yuan Chaoyang). We urge their immediate and unconditional release.

The spirit of the 1989 protests, the sacrifices made by the protestors, and their peaceful demands for reform and universally recognized freedoms continue to inspire international admiration and respect. Those students and others who, to this day, cling to the goals embodied by those events more than 25 years ago, should be celebrated, not imprisoned and persecuted.

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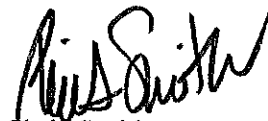
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For it is they who are the true Chinese patriots who wish nothing more for their fellow citizens than the freedom to live their lives as they see fit.

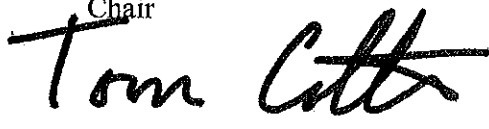
We solemnly commemorate the Tiananmen massacre each year because of the lives lost and persons permanently injured, because of the profound impact the event has had on U.S.-China relations, because so many former student leaders have made important and lasting contributions to global understanding of China, and because the Chinese people themselves are unable to mark this event.


We make the above requests respectfully in the spirit of improving U.S.-China relations. Greater transparency and better adherence to international rule of law standards are the keys to advancing a range of mutual bilateral interests from fighting corruption to building investor confidence, from food safety to greater security in the Pacific. We believe an honest accounting of the events of 1989 will reap domestic and global benefits for the Chinese government and the Chinese people.

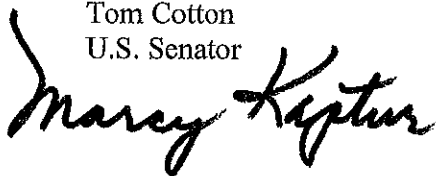
We thank you for considering our request.

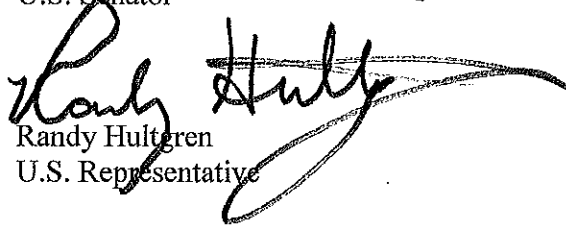

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