

104TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 117

Concerning writer, political philosopher, human rights advocate, and Nobel Peace Prize nominee Wei Jingsheng.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 5, 1995

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself, Mr. GILMAN, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. WOLF, Mr. SOLOMON, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. COX of California, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. ROHRABACHER, and Mr. GEJDENSON) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Concerning writer, political philosopher, human rights advocate, and Nobel Peace Prize nominee Wei Jingsheng.

Whereas Wei Jingsheng is a writer, political philosopher, and human rights advocate who is widely known and respected in China and throughout the world;

Whereas on November 21, 1995, the Government of the People's Republic of China announced the arrest of Wei Jingsheng and its intention to try him for "attempt[ing] to overthrow the government";

Whereas prior to this announcement Wei had been detained since April 1994 without formal charges or the opportunity to communicate with his family or with legal counsel, in violation of Article 9 of the Universal Declaration

of Human Rights and other international standards prohibiting arbitrary arrest and detention;

Whereas the government had previously imprisoned Wei from 1979 until 1993 on a charge of “spreading counterrevolutionary propaganda” for his peaceful participation in the Democracy Wall movement;

Whereas Wei’s analysis of democracy in 1979 as a necessary “fifth modernization” was an important theoretical and practical contribution to the movement for freedom and democracy in China and also to modern political philosophy;

Whereas during his long imprisonment Wei was subjected to torture and other ill treatment which left him in extremely poor health;

Whereas after his release in 1993 Wei devoted his time to humanitarian activities, including visiting and assisting the families of victims of the June 4, 1989, massacre at Tiananmen Square, as well as the surviving victims themselves, and assisting the civilian effort to secure compensation for damages caused to the Chinese people by the Japanese Government during World War II;

Whereas, far from advocating an “overthrow” of the Government of China, Wei has been a strong advocate of non-violence and a peaceful transition to democracy;

Whereas Wei was regarded as a leading contender for the 1995 Nobel Peace Prize, having been nominated by parliamentarians throughout the world, including 58 members of the United States Congress, and endorsed by hundreds of prominent human rights advocates including past Nobel Laureates Oscar Arias Sanchez, Elie Wiesel, and His Holiness the Dalai Lama;

Whereas Wei was also the recipient of the 1995 Olaf Palme Foundation Award, the 1994 Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Award, and the 1993 Gleitsman Foundation International Activist Award; and

Whereas because of his great courage, the force of his ideas, and his long unjust imprisonment Wei has come to embody the aspirations of the people of China for democracy and for the enjoyment of free speech and other universal and inalienable human rights, and his fate has come to symbolize their fate: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring),* That the United States Congress—

3 (1) urges the immediate and unconditional re-
4 lease of Wei Jingsheng and the dismissal of all
5 charges against him;

6 (2) urges, in the event Wei Jingsheng is not im-
7 mediately released, that he be afforded all inter-
8 nationally recognized human rights, including the
9 right to consult freely with counsel of his choice, to
10 assist in the preparation of his defense, and to com-
11 municate with his family, and that his trial be open
12 to the domestic and foreign press, to diplomatic ob-
13 servers, and to international human rights monitors;

14 (3) urges the United States Department of
15 State to make the release of Wei Jingsheng and the
16 protection of his internationally recognized human
17 rights among its primary objectives in relations with

1 the Government of China, and that it raise these is-
2 sues forcefully and effectively in every available bi-
3 lateral and multilateral forum; and

4 (4) recommends that Wei Jingsheng once again
5 be nominated and carefully considered for the Nobel
6 Peace Price in 1996.

○