

104TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 117

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 13, 1995

Received and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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 beatings and other severe 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 candidate for the 1995 Nobel Peace Prize, having been nominated by par-

liamentarians throughout the world, including 58 members of the United States Congress;

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;

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

13 (3) urges the United States Department of
14 State to make the release of Wei Jingsheng and the
15 protection of his internationally recognized human
16 rights a particularly important objective in relations

1 with the Government of China, and that it raise
2 these issues forcefully and effectively in every rel-
3 evant bilateral and multilateral forum; and

4 (4) recognizes that the efforts of Wei Jingsheng
5 once again merit careful consideration for the Nobel
6 Peace Prize in 1996.

Passed the House of Representatives December 12,
1995.

Attest:

ROBIN H. CARLE,
Clerk.