

As the largest protest movement Hong Kong has ever seen continues into its fifth month, major concerns have arisen about the Hong Kong police's independence and professionalism. The people of Hong Kong are rightfully furious about well-documented cases of excessive force, brutal tactics, and the tolerance of violence against protesters and journalists by the government.

The Hong Kong police's actions are now a cause in and of themselves of protest. There has been widespread police misuse of crowd control equipment and less lethal weaponry, including incidents that have seriously injured journalists. Police have used teargas, rubber bullets, water cannons, sponge grenades, pepper spray, and batons against demonstrators, some of which, indeed, are American-made equipment. In recent weeks two protesters have been shot with live rounds.

Meanwhile, while we discuss a move to ban the sale of such offensive equipment, the Hong Kong Government, via executive fiat, has simultaneously moved to ban the use by demonstrators of defensive equipment used to protect themselves against police attacks; namely, gas masks and face masks.

The PROTECT Hong Kong Act will prohibit the issuing of licenses for the export of munitions and crowd control equipment to the Hong Kong police. The Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce and other relevant Federal agencies, will also be required to issue a report on what has been sold to the Hong Kong police over the past several years.

These prohibitions will remain in effect until these incidents are independently examined and the Hong Kong police have demonstrated truly professional conduct.

In sum, the U.S. should not be complicit in any way, shape, or form in violence being used to squash the legitimate demands guaranteed to the Hong Kong people by international treaty. That is unacceptable, and it is contrary to U.S. interests, and it is contrary to U.S. law.

I strongly support unanimous support for this measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL), the chair of the full Foreign Affairs Committee, a stalwart supporter of human rights.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend for yielding to me. He is a valued member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee. Let me start by thanking Mr. MCGOVERN for his hard work on this legislation.

The relationship between the United States and Hong Kong is rooted in our shared values. Among them are a fierce belief in the freedom of speech, and the right to assemble. That is why the American people are so troubled by the images coming out of Hong Kong lately.

Hundreds of thousands of protesters who have taken to the streets have

been met with increasing violence by the Hong Kong Police Force. These pro-democracy activists faced teargas, pepper spray, and rubber bullets by the police force sworn to supposedly protect them.

I remember when China took over Hong Kong from the U.K. and said that they would adhere to a system of two systems in China, and that the people of Hong Kong would have freedom like they had before to speak their mind. And here it is, probably about 20 years later, and that is already being eroded, taken away, and the people of Hong Kong see that they were promised something which isn't being brought forth from the Beijing regime.

Mr. MCGOVERN's measure would ensure that American companies are not contributing equipment for the Hong Kong police to use against protesters. This bill also calls on the police to take the steps needed to address those issues from within. When there are instances of police brutality, there must be prompt, independent investigations and proper accountability.

The PROTECT Hong Kong Act shows the people of Hong Kong that the United States stands with them in their fight for their freedoms. It makes sure that American companies are not facilitating violence against brave Democratic protesters.

It is a shame that it has come to this, but it is really uplifting to watch people possess enormous courage in the wake of having their lives threatened. In the wake of having their society destroyed, they stood up and they are standing up to the Beijing regime and to the people who would try to strip them of their basic freedoms.

I think that we all, no matter where we are on this planet, have to admire the brave people of Hong Kong. We had the good fortune of meeting a number of the protesters when Speaker PELOSI called a press conference a few weeks ago, and we talked about this bill. It was really heartening to be able to speak to these young people one-on-one. These are young people who have shown just enormous amounts of courage. And they should know that the United States will always support them, will continue to support them, and we won't stop until the people of Hong Kong have their democracy and the freedom they deserve.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 4270.

□ 1630

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, so I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume for the purpose of closing.

The people of Hong Kong have the right to peaceably assemble without fear of violence. They need to know that their friends in the United States are not providing tools of the violent repression being used against them.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support H.R. 4270, and I urge all Members of the House to do likewise. I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4270, the "PROTECT Hong Kong Act."

H.R. 4270 calls for the President to prohibit the issuance of export licenses for nonlethal crowd control items and defense articles to the Hong Kong police.

This prohibition will be terminated once the Hong Kong police have stopped engaging in a pattern of gross human rights abuses, and there has been an independent investigation conducted on policy brutality.

During the 2019 anti-extradition bill and pro-democracy protests, the Hong Kong Police Force used non-lethal crowd control articles such as water cannon trucks, tear gas, rubber bullets, sponge grenades, beanbag rounds, batons, pepper spray, pepper balls, and projectile launchers.

Hong Kong citizens and the international community have called for changes to the Hong Kong Police's crowd control tactics and these requests have gone unheeded by the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region government.

I applaud the efforts and sacrifices pro-democracy activists have made and they ought to know that the United States fully supports their desire for freedom and peace, and we strongly condemn the violent and oppressive tactics of the Hong Kong police.

When enacted, H.R. 4270 will prohibit the issuance of licenses to export covered defense articles and services and covered munitions items to the Hong Kong Disciplined Services.

As a senior member of the House Committee on Homeland Security I find it important to increase bilateral relations with allies and abroad to help eliminate the injustices of the world.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 4270 to confront the pattern of gross human rights abuses which pose a strong threat to the democratic values we work to protect.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4270, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to prohibit commercial exports of certain nonlethal crowd control items and defense articles and services to the Hong Kong Police, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Miss Kaitlyn Roberts, one of his secretaries.

COMMENDING GOVERNMENT OF CANADA FOR UPHOLDING RULE OF LAW AND EXPRESSING CONCERN OVER ACTIONS BY GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 521) commending the Government of Canada for upholding the rule of law and expressing concern over actions by the Government of the People's Republic of China in response to a request from the United States Government to the Government of Canada for the extradition of a Huawei Technologies Co., Ltd., executive.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 521

Whereas, on December 1, 2018, Canadian authorities detained Huawei Technologies Co., Ltd., chief financial officer Meng Wanzhou based on an arrest warrant issued pursuant to a request made by the United States under the Extradition Treaty Between the United States of America and Canada, signed at Washington December 3, 1971;

Whereas, on January 24, 2019, the United States filed a superseding indictment in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York against Huawei Technologies Co., Ltd. ("Huawei"), Huawei Device USA Inc., Skycom Tech Co. Ltd. ("Skycom"), and Meng Wanzhou;

Whereas the January 24, 2019, indictment charges two counts of bank fraud, two counts of conspiracy to commit bank fraud, one count of conspiracy to commit wire fraud, one count of wire fraud, one count of conspiracy to defraud the United States, two counts of conspiracy to violate the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, two counts of violations of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, one count of money laundering conspiracy, and one count of conspiracy to obstruct justice;

Whereas the January 24, 2019, indictment charges that "Huawei operated Skycom as an unofficial subsidiary to obtain otherwise prohibited U.S.-origin goods, technology, and services, including banking services, for Huawei's Iran-based business while concealing the link to Huawei";

Whereas the United States Government is seeking the extradition of Meng Wanzhou;

Whereas Canadian authorities granted Meng Wanzhou access to Chinese consular officials, and she was able to engage a lawyer of her choice and was released on bail pending the outcome of the extradition hearing;

Whereas the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs strongly urged Canada "to immediately release" Meng Wanzhou and threatened that otherwise "it will definitely have grave consequences, and [Canada] will have to bear the full responsibility for it";

Whereas the Government of the People's Republic of China detained Canadian diplomat Michael Kovrig and Canadian executive Michael Spavor on December 10, 2018, in apparent retaliation for the arrest of Meng Wanzhou;

Whereas Michael Spavor and Michael Kovrig have faced harsh conditions while in detention that include limited consular access, no access to a lawyer, being unable to turn off the lights at night, and lengthy interrogations, including in the case of Mr. Kovrig, about his official activities during his previous tenure as an accredited diplomat in the People's Republic of China, po-

tentially in violation of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, done at Vienna April 18, 1961;

Whereas, on January 14, 2019, a third Canadian, Robert Schellenberg, in Chinese custody for drug smuggling, had his case reviewed and his 15-year sentence changed to the death penalty;

Whereas the Department of State's Country Report on Human Rights Practices for 2018 stated that "[a]rbitrary arrest and detention remained serious problems" in China and that Chinese judges "regularly received political guidance on pending cases, including instructions on how to rule, from both the government and the CCP [Chinese Communist Party], particularly in politically sensitive cases"; and

Whereas while neither Michael Kovrig nor Michael Spavor has been formally charged with any crime under Chinese law, the Government of the People's Republic of China formally arrested them on May 6, 2019, following their detention on December 10, 2018: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) commends the Government of Canada for upholding the rule of law and complying with its international legal obligations, including those pursuant to the Extradition Treaty Between the United States of America and Canada, signed at Washington December 3, 1971;

(2) commends the Government of Canada for providing consular access and due process for Huawei Technologies Co., Ltd., chief financial officer Meng Wanzhou;

(3) expresses concern over the Government of the People's Republic of China's apparent arbitrary detention and abusive treatment of Canadian nationals Michael Spavor and Michael Kovrig in apparent retaliation for the Government of Canada's detention of Meng Wanzhou; and

(4) joins the Government of Canada in calling for the immediate release of Michael Spavor and Michael Kovrig and for due process for Canadian national Robert Schellenberg.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Res. 521.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this is a good, bipartisan resolution, and I was glad to join Ranking Member MCCAUL as a cosponsor of this bill. This measure deals with something that we have all seen lately—how China responds to those who go against the Chinese Communist Party's agenda. Whether we are talking about individuals, private companies, or countries, China doesn't hesitate to extort, coerce, and punish those who challenge it.

Right now, our neighbor to the north, Canada, is experiencing this firsthand.

Back in December, Canada arrested and extradited the chief financial officer of Chinese company Huawei for her role in violating American sanctions law. The Canadians were completely in the right here. They were upholding the rule of law.

China launched an outrageous response, arresting two innocent Canadian citizens on trumped-up charges. These men are still languishing in China's detention and legal process limbo, deprived of their freedom and denied basic consular rights—rights that all countries should honor—solely because China wanted to use them in a political bullying tactic. Their rights went out the window.

This is an outrageous affront to the rule of law, and we must condemn it.

H. Res. 521 denounces this practice by China and sends a clear signal that the United States Congress stands with Canada in demanding the immediate release of their innocent citizens.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this good measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this resolution commending the Government of Canada for upholding the rule of law and expressing concern about China's use of hostage diplomacy.

I thank Chairman ENGEL for cosponsoring this resolution with me. As always, we work in a very bipartisan way on this committee.

This resolution recognizes Canada's help with the extradition of Huawei Technologies' chief financial officer, Meng Wanzhou. It also expresses concern with China's retaliatory and hostile actions against Canadian citizens detained in China.

China's hostage diplomacy is abhorrent. As retaliation for Canada's arrest of Ms. MENG, Canadian citizens Michael Kovrig and Michael Spavor have been detained in China since last year. They have been denied due process and have been subjected to harsh conditions, such as limited consular access, no attorney representation, and lengthy interrogations. Meanwhile, Ms. MENG has received proper treatment in Canadian custody and is currently released on bail.

The cases show the stark contrast between Canada's commitment to the rule of law and China's.

I commend Canada and regret that Canadian citizens are paying the price of China's malfeasance. Canada's citizens must be released immediately.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I thank the people of Canada for standing with us to uphold the rule of law and assist in the extradition of Huawei's CFO, who is accused of willfully violating United States sanctions to proliferate technology to Iran. It is unacceptable that the Chinese Communist Party is punishing innocent Canadian citizens to interfere in this criminal process.