

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8125

To designate the area between the intersections of 18th Street Northwest and Church Street Northwest, and 18th Street Northwest and P Street Northwest, in the District of Columbia as “Jimmy Lai Way”, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 23, 2024

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself and Mr. SUOZZI) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To designate the area between the intersections of 18th Street Northwest and Church Street Northwest, and 18th Street Northwest and P Street Northwest, in the District of Columbia as “Jimmy Lai Way”, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. CONDEMNING THE JAILING OF JIMMY LAI IN**
4 **HONG KONG.**

5 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

1 (1) In 1997, the United Kingdom transferred
2 sovereignty over Hong Kong to the People's Repub-
3 lic of China (PRC) with guarantees that funda-
4 mental rights are protected under both the 1984
5 Sino-British Joint Declaration and the Basic Law,
6 which enumerate specific rights and freedoms in-
7 cluding those of speech, of the press, and of assem-
8 bly.

9 (2) The Government of the People's Republic of
10 China has repeatedly undermined Hong Kong's au-
11 tonomy since the 1997 handover, and in particular
12 since the Umbrella Movement protests in 2014, the
13 mass pro-democracy protests in 2019, and the im-
14 position of the draconian National Security Law in
15 2020, which is vaguely defined and broadly applied
16 to punish people for peacefully exercising their fun-
17 damental rights and freedoms.

18 (3) Since its enactment in June 2020, the Na-
19 tional Security Law, unilaterally passed by the Na-
20 tional People's Congress Standing Committee and
21 enforced by officials in Hong Kong as a pretext to
22 repress legitimate and peaceful speech, assembly,
23 and expression of political opinions.

24 (4) Jimmy Lai, a 76-year-old Hong Kong de-
25 mocracy advocate, media entrepreneur, and a British

1 citizen, has been in prison since December 2020 on
2 multiple fabricated charges, and is currently serving
3 a sentence of almost six years in prison under politi-
4 cally motivated fraud charges, having already served
5 two other sentences, one for joining a vigil to mark
6 the 1989 Tiananmen Square Massacre, and another
7 for participating in peaceful protests in 2019.

8 (5) The Apple Daily newspaper which Jimmy
9 Lai founded and published was forced by the au-
10 thorities in Hong Kong to close in June 2021, and
11 his Next Media company was delisted from the
12 Hong Kong Stock Exchange under government coer-
13 cion in January 2023.

14 (6) The trial of Jimmy Lai on charges of “con-
15 spiracy to collude with foreign forces” under the Na-
16 tional Security Law and “conspiracy to publish sedi-
17 tious publications” under the sedition law began on
18 December 18, 2023, and resumed on January 2,
19 2024.

20 (7) Jimmy Lai pleaded not guilty to all charges.

21 (8) The minimum sentence required under the
22 National Security Law is 10 years imprisonment,
23 and therefore it is possible that he could spend the
24 rest of his life behind bars.

1 (9) A group of United Nations experts, being
2 alarmed by “multiple and serious violations” of his
3 rights, including the right to a fair trial and access
4 to a lawyer of his own choosing, called for Jimmy
5 Lai’s immediate release.

6 (10) Jimmy Lai’s meetings with United States
7 Government officials and public figures, including
8 the former Vice President and Secretary of State,
9 the former Speaker of the House of Representatives,
10 and the former Consul-General in Hong Kong, as
11 well as others, have been cited by the prosecution in
12 the court proceedings.

13 (11) Jimmy Lai stands for the values of democ-
14 racy, human rights, respect for the rule of law, reli-
15 gious freedom, freedom of expression, and media
16 freedom, and is prosecuted and persecuted by the
17 PRC’s proxies in Hong Kong solely because of his
18 opinions and activities in pursuit of these values.

19 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—Congress—

20 (1) condemns the unjust imprisonment and the
21 show trial of Jimmy Lai;

22 (2) calls upon the Hong Kong authorities to re-
23 lease Jimmy Lai immediately and unconditionally
24 and cease prosecuting him and others charged under
25 the National Security Law;

1 (3) reaffirms the importance of media freedom
2 and the right of publishers, journalists, and media
3 workers in Hong Kong and around the world to op-
4 erate free from intimidation, harassment, repression,
5 censorship, and fear;

6 (4) recognizes that the severe restrictions on
7 the free flow of news and information from Hong
8 Kong impacts the ability of individuals, corporations,
9 and diplomats to make decisions about travel, invest-
10 ments, and political conditions in Hong Kong;

11 (5) urges the Secretary of State and other rel-
12 evant Department of State officials to advocate for
13 the release of Jimmy Lai by raising his case with of-
14 ficials of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Re-
15 gion and People's Republic of China;

16 (6) urges the United Nations High Commis-
17 sioner for Human Rights to hold a special session
18 and appoint an impartial and independent United
19 Nations mechanism to evaluate, monitor, and report
20 on a range of human rights violations in the Peo-
21 ple's Republic of China, including the impact of the
22 National Security Law on human rights in Hong
23 Kong, as requested by over 50 United Nations Spe-
24 cial Experts in 2020; and

1 (7) urges all governments that value democracy,
2 human rights, and the rule of law to call for all
3 charges against Jimmy Lai to be dropped, the trial
4 to end, and for the immediate and unconditional re-
5 lease of Jimmy Lai.

6 **SEC. 2. DESIGNATION OF “JIMMY LAI WAY” IN THE DIS-**
7 **TRICT OF COLUMBIA.**

8 (a) DESIGNATION OF STREET NAME.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—The area between the inter-
10 sections of 18th Street Northwest and Church Street
11 Northwest, and 18th Street Northwest and P Street
12 Northwest in the District of Columbia shall be
13 known and designated as “Jimmy Lai Way”.

14 (2) REFERENCE.—Any reference in a law, map,
15 regulation, document, paper, or other record of the
16 United States to the area referred to in paragraph
17 (1) shall be deemed to include “Jimmy Lai Way.”

18 (b) DESIGNATION OF ADDRESS.—

19 (1) DESIGNATION.—The address of 1520 18th
20 Street Northwest in the District of Columbia shall
21 be redesignated as 1 Jimmy Lai Way Northwest.

22 (2) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law,
23 map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of
24 the United States to the address referred to in para-

graph (1) shall be deemed to be a reference to 1
Jimmy Lai Way Northwest.

(c) SIGNS.—The Administrator of General Services
shall construct street signs that shall—

(1) contain the phrase “Jimmy Lai Way NW”;

(2) be similar in design to the signs used by the
District of Columbia to designate the location of
Metro stations; and

(3) be placed on—

(A) the parcel of Federal property that is
closest to 1 Jimmy Lai Way Northwest (as re-
designated by subsection (b)(1)) in the District
of Columbia; and

(B) the street corners of 18th Street
Northwest and Church Street Northwest, and
18th Street Northwest and P Street Northwest,
in the District of Columbia.

SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING MAIL DELIVERY

BY THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE.

It is the sense of Congress that the Postmaster Gen-
eral should recognize any mail which is addressed to the
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office at “1 Jimmy Lai
Way” in San Francisco, California, or New York, New
York, with the appropriate postal codes, and should deliver
such mail to—

- 1 (1) 130 Montgomery Street, San Francisco,
- 2 California 94104; or
- 3 (2) 115 East 54th Street, New York, New York
- 4 10022,
- 5 as the case may be.

