

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. FOLEY] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. FOLEY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

IMPRISONED CHINESE PASTOR XU

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas [Mr. DELAY] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, now and then an occasion will occur to shatter our complacency, stir our indignation and seize us with outrage. Too often we take our priceless freedoms in America for granted, but a recent event in China symbolizes the stark contrast between liberty and tyranny.

On September 25, a court in China sentenced Pastor Xu Yongze to 10 years in prison. Pastor Xu, the leader of a movement of more than 3 million Christians in China, was charged with the so-called crime of disrupting public order.

Mr. Speaker, this charge would be laughable were it not so cruel. Pastor Xu is often described as the Billy Graham of China, and he is one of the most well known and widely respected pastors in China.

The Communist authorities first arrested him back in March and engaged in a vicious smear campaign. Their propaganda described Pastor Xu as an evil cult abettor who plays evil tricks on his parishioners. In reality Pastor Xu is a sincere, devout believer who only seeks to serve his Lord and spread the gospel. We have seen this so many times in Communist countries, whether it be Cuba or Nicaragua or Russia, but it is particularly gruesome in China.

Persecution and imprisonment are nothing new for Pastor Xu. In 1988, on the day before he was scheduled to meet with Dr. Billy Graham in China, Pastor Xu was arrested and spent the next three years in prison. Following his release, he courageously resumed his ministry activities.

Reliable reports indicate that Pastor Xu has been beaten and tortured while in prison, and from what we know of the heinous conditions in China's prison labor camps, I fear that his treatment may only worsen.

Mr. Speaker, I believe in a comprehensive, balanced and sophisticated approach in American policy towards China. I believe in trade engagement, a patient dialogue with China. But I also believe in liberty and justice. The time has come to speak out with force against China's outrageous assault on Pastor Xu, human dignity and religious freedom. The values that America stands for and my own conscience demand nothing less.

Mr. Speaker, I have no doubt that my words today may upset some members of the Chinese government. Let me tell my colleagues, I do not care. Let me

remind them that I and many others in America have been very patient, and our patience has worn thin, worn very thin.

In May, I quietly wrote to the Chinese Ambassador to politely express my concern over Pastor Xu's arrest. He remained in prison. In June, I led a bipartisan coalition of 44 of my colleagues in writing to President Jiang Zemin, further politely expressing our concern about Pastor Xu. Again, he remained in prison, and we never even received the courtesy of a reply.

In July, August and September, I sponsored and encouraged quiet discussions with Chinese officials about Pastor Xu's situation. Not only did Pastor Xu remain in prison, but the Chinese regime has now given him a 10-year sentence, which I am told is the harshest sentence handed down to a Christian in China since 1982.

Meanwhile, Mr. Speaker, President Jiang Zemin will be arriving in the United States in just a few weeks. I really look forward to the Chinese President's visit. I believe it presents me with an opportunity for dialogue, strong dialogue, and cooperation on issues of mutual interest and concern to the United States and to China.

But I must say, Mr. Speaker, that I am so upset and puzzled by this horrific sentence on such contrived charges that were given to Pastor Xu. Such brazen disregard for American concerns causes me to question China's commitment to a positive, constructive relationship with the United States. As China modernizes its economy, refines its political system and seeks to fully participate in the marketplace of nations, I frankly do not understand why its leadership continues to insist on persecuting innocent people of faith.

I guarantee my colleagues, I personally will make sure that President Zemin's trip here to the United States will not be a happy one.

So, Mr. Speaker, China finds itself at a crossroads. Pastor Xu has been sentenced, but reports indicate that his case may come up for appeal. On the eve of President Jiang Zemin's visit, I believe that the Chinese government has a valuable opportunity to demonstrate its commitment to the rule of law and to positive relations with the United States.

As Pastor Xu's case comes up for review, I believe it would be a very meaningful gesture if the Chinese government were to guarantee that Pastor Xu's constitutional rights are respected, that his personal welfare is ensured, and his situation is favorably resolved.

Mr. Speaker, let me close by simply quoting an earnest plea from Pastor Xu's son:

Dear friends, I hope that you can help my father. For God and for the church he has sacrificed all that he had. The church in China needs him.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from Idaho [Mr. CRAPO] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. CRAPO addressed the House. His remarks will appear in the Extensions of Remarks.]

BREAST CANCER LEGISLATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. MCINTYRE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to address an issue of extreme importance to all women in American society, breast cancer. As the most commonly diagnosed cancer among women, breast cancer is the second leading cause of cancer deaths among American women. The impact of this disease cannot be overstated. This year alone over 180,000 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer and 43,000 will die from it.

In a nationwide attempt to raise awareness about this problem, this deadly disease, the month of October has been designated as Breast Cancer Awareness Month. And October 17, next week, has been named National Mammography Day in an effort to encourage women to get mammograms and to make sure that they are joined in the fight against this deadly disease.

□ 1845

I am joining many of my colleagues in the House, both here in Washington and other concerned citizens back home in southeastern North Carolina, in making sure that National Breast Cancer Awareness Month and National Mammography Day are used as an opportunity to push for the consideration of two bills that have been pending for too long here in this Congress. It is time for these bills to come out of committee, it is time for this Congress to take a stand in fighting a deadly disease that day in and day out is taking the lives of too many women, young, middle aged and old, in our society.

The Breast Cancer Patient Protection Act would end the practice of drive-through mastectomies, and the Reconstructive Breast Surgery Benefits Act would require health insurance companies to provide coverage for reconstructive breast surgery resulting from mastectomies.

Finding a cure for breast cancer is essential, but until it arrives we must address the vital importance of early detection, treatment and recovery from this deadly killer. It is time to take action, it is time to stop the talk and to get on with the walk to walk toward a recovery of this dreaded disease and do all that we can to get these bills out of committee and on this floor and voted on so that our women in this Nation can receive the help they need against this deadly killer. We can and should demand no less.