

20 percent of their central [switching] offices capable of carrying high speed data within the first year after enactment. In the second year, that number would rise to 40 percent of the central offices, and in the third year, 70 percent. After five years after enactment, 100 percent of the offices must be able to provide high-speed Internet access. While this does not mean that 100 percent of the nation will be hooked up, it will make an enormous leap in availability.

The amendment is flexible in that it allows the Bell Operating Companies to provide service through alternative technologies other than Digital Subscriber Lines (DSL), which utilize copper and fiber telephone infrastructure, in meeting this requirement. If a company would like to provide wireless or satellite as an alternative to DSL, they can under my amendment. A failure to comply with the requirements could trigger substantial Federal Communications Commission (FCC) fines.

Finally, the amendment requires the affected companies to report annually to the FCC on progress in deployment of these services to the underserved communities.

I believe this is a reasonable approach, that simply holds the Bells accountable for what they have promised if they get relief.

The bill, with my amendment, was accepted by the Energy and Commerce Committee on May 9, 2001. The Judiciary Committee has also held a hearing on the bill and plans to consider it before it comes to the floor of the House for a vote later this summer.

The future of telecommunications is full of uncertainty as competing companies and industries try to anticipate technological advances, market conditions, consumer preferences, and even cultural and societal trends. Congress should work to ensure industry competition and to provide for service to all sectors and geographical locations of American society. I believe the bill, with my amendment, has the potential to reach this public policy goal.

STATE DEPARTMENT LETTER DESCRIBING RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION IN CHINA

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 13, 2001

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, as co-chairman of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus, I want to share a letter I recently received from the State Department regarding religious persecution in China. The letter notes that the State Department currently estimates that, "roughly ten Catholic Bishops, scores of Catholic priests and house church leaders, 100-300 Tibetan Buddhists, hundreds (perhaps thousands) of Falun Gong adherents, and an unknown but possibly significant number of Muslims are in various forms of detention in China for the expression of their religious or spiritual beliefs." An illustrative list of religious prisoners in China notes that many have been tortured to death or are serving sentences of up to 21 years for simply practicing their religion.

I look forward to the day when the citizens of China will be free to worship the religion of their choosing and enjoy the basic human right of religious freedom.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, DC, May 31, 2001.

HON. FRANK WOLF,
Co-Chairman, Human Rights Caucus,
House of Representatives.

DEAR MR. WOLF: This is in response to your request of Acting Assistant Secretary Michael Parmly for additional information during his testimony before the Human Rights Caucus on May 15 on the status of religious freedom in China. We appreciate your concern about the recent deterioration of religious freedoms in China and the large number of persons held in China for the peaceful expression of their religious or spiritual views. We regret the delay in responding to your request for information, but we wanted to provide as comprehensive a list of these individuals as possible.

We currently estimate that roughly ten Catholic Bishops, scores of Catholic priests and house church leaders, 100-300 Tibetan Buddhists, hundreds (perhaps thousands) of Falun Gong adherents, and an unknown but possibly significant number of Muslims are in various forms of detention in China for the expression of their religious or spiritual beliefs. The forms of detention range from de facto house arrest to imprisonment in maximum security prisons. As you know, we regularly raise cases of religious prisoners with Chinese officials both here and in China. Our information about such cases comes from sources as diverse as religious dissidents, human rights NGOs, interested Americans and, most importantly, regular reporting from our embassies and consulates. Unfortunately, the opaqueness of the Chinese criminal justice system and absence of any central system that provides basic information on who is incarcerated and why makes it exceedingly difficult to determine the exact number of religious prisoners currently being held in China. We have, however, attached lists of cases of particular concern that we have raised with Chinese authorities or have included in our human rights and religious freedom reports.

We recognize the importance of compiling and maintaining a database of political and religious prisoners from additional sources such as Chinese newspapers and government notices and appreciate Congressional interest in providing us additional resources to fund such activities. At present, the Bureau for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor is discussing with the International Republican Institute a proposal which will be submitted through the National Endowment for Democracy. This proposal will be for a Human Rights and Democracy Fund grant specifically for the purpose of funding a U.S. NGO's efforts to develop and maintain a list of political and religious prisoners in China.

Such a database will be extremely valuable to the human rights work done not only by this bureau but also by other government agencies, the Congress, and NGOs. We welcome your interest in and support of this effort and look forward to cooperative efforts to develop and fund a comprehensive record of religious prisoners in China.

In the meantime, we hope the information in this letter and the attached lists are helpful to you. We would welcome any case information that you might have available that could improve the quality of this list.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL E. GUEST,
Acting Assistant Secretary,
Legislative Affairs.

Enclosure: Listing of Religious Prisoners in China.

ILLUSTRATIVE LIST OF RELIGIOUS PRISONERS
IN CHINA

Note: See comments in cover letter. The following illustrative list is compiled from

various sources, including information provided to us by reputable non-governmental organizations and from the State Department's annual reports on human rights and on religious freedom. We cannot vouch for its overall accuracy or completeness.

STATUS

MUSLIMS

Xinjiang Abduhelil Abdumijit, tortured to death in custody.
Turhong Awout, executed.
Rebiya Kadeer, serving 2nd year in prison.
Zulikar Memet, executed.
Nurahmet Niyazi, sentenced to death.
Dulkan Roid, executed.
Turhan Saidalamoud, sentenced to death.
Alim Younous, executed.
Krubanjiang Yusseyin, sentenced to death.

PROTESTANTS (MISC.)

Qin Baocai, reeducation through labor sentence.
Zhao Dexin, serving 3rd year in prison.
Liu Haitao, tortured to death in custody.
Miao Hailin, serving 3rd year in prison.
Han Shaorong, serving 3rd year in prison.
Mu Sheng, reeducation through labor sentence.
Li Wen, serving 3rd year in prison.
Yang Xian, serving 3rd year in prison.
Chen Zide, serving 3rd year in prison.

EVANGELISTIC FELLOWSHIP

Hao Huaiping, serving reeducation sentence.
Jing Quinggang, serving reeducation sentence.
Shen Yiping, Reeducation; status unknown.

COLD WATER RELIGION

Liu Jiaguo, executed in October 1999.

FENGCHENG CHURCH GROUP

Zheng Shuquian; reeducation; status unknown.
David Zhang; reeducation; status unknown.

CATHOLICS

Bishops

Bishop Han Dingxiang; arrested in 1999, status unknown.
Bishop Shi Engxiang; arrested in October 1999.
Bishop Zeng Jingmu; rearrested on September 14, 2000.
Bishop Liu; house arrest in Zhejiang.
Bishop Jiang Mingyuan; arrested in August 2000.
Bishop Mattias Pei Shangde; arrested in early April 2001.
Bishop Xie Shiguang; arrested in 1999; status unknown.
Bishop Yang Shudao; arrested Feb. 2001; status unknown.
Bishop An Shuxin; remains detained in Hebei.
Bishop Li Side; house arrest.
Bishop Zang Weizhu; detained in Hebei.
Bishop Lin Xili; arrested Sept. 1999, status unknown.
Bishop Su Zhimin; whereabouts unknown.

Priests

Fr. Shao Amin; arrested September 5, 1999.
Fr. Wang Chengji; serving reeducation sentence.
Fr. Wang Chengzhi; arrested September 13, 1999.
Fr. Zhang Chunguang; arrested May 2000.
Fr. Lu Genjun; serving 1st year of 3 year sentence.
Fr. Xie Guolin; serving 1st year of 1 year sentence.
Fr. Li Jianbo; arrested April 19, 2000.
Fr. Wei Jingkun; arrested August 15, 1998.
Fr. Wang Qingyuan; serving 1st year of 1 year sentence.
Fr. Xiao Shixiang; arrested June 1996, status unknown.

Fr. Hu Tongxian; serving 3rd year of 3 year sentence.

Fr. Cui Xingang; arrested March 1996.

Fr. Guo Yibao; arrested April 4, 1999.

Fr. Feng Yunxiang; arrested April 13, 2001.

Fr. Ji Zengwei; arrested march 2000.

Fr. Wang Zhenhe; arrested April 1999.

Fr. Yin; serving 1st of 3 year sentence.

Fr. Kong Boucu; arrested October 1999.

Fr. Lin Rengui; arrested Dec. 1997, status unknown.

Fr. Fr. Pei Junchao, arrested Jan. 1999, status unknown.

Fr. Wang Chengji; arrested Dec. 1996, status unknown.

TIBETAN BUDDHISTS

Lamas

Gendun Choekyi Nyima; house arrest.

Pawo Rinpoche; house arrest.

Nuns

Ngawang Choekyi; serving 9th year of 13 year sentence.

Ngawang Choetzom; serving 9th year of 11 year sentence.

Chogdrub Drolma; serving 6th year of 11 year sentence.

Jamdrol; serving 6th year of 7 year sentence.

Namdrol Lhamo; serving 9th year of 12 year sentence.

Phuntsog Nyidrol; serving 12th year of 17 year sentence.

Yeshe Palmo; serving 4th year of 6 year sentence.

Ngawang Sangdrol; serving 9th year of 21 year sentence.

Jigme Yangchen; serving 11th year of 12 year sentence.

Monks

Ngawang Gyaltzen; serving 12th year of 17 year sentence.

Ngawang Jamtsul; serving 12th year of 15 year sentence.

Jamphel Jangchub; serving 12th year of 18 year sentence.

Ngawang Kalsang; serving 6th year of 8 year sentence.

Thubten Kalsang; sentence not reported.

Lobsang Khetsun; serving 5th year of 12 year sentence.

Phuntsok Legmon; sentenced to 3 years in prison.

Namdrol; sentenced to four years in prison.

Yeshe Ngawang; serving 12th year of 14 year sentence.

Ngawang Oezer; serving 12th year of 17 year sentence.

Ngawang Phuljung; serving 12th year of 19 year sentence.

Lobsang Phuntsog; serving 6th year of 12 year sentence.

Sonam Phuntsok; arrested in October 1999.

Phuntsog Rigchog; serving 7th year of 10 year sentence.

Lobsang Sherab; serving 5th year of 16 year sentence.

Sonam Rinchen; serving 15 year sentence.

Ngawang Sungrab; serving 9th year of 13 year sentence.

Jampa Tenkyong; serving 10th year of 15 year sentence.

Ngawang Tensang; serving 10th year of 15 year sentence.

Lobsang Thubten; serving 7th year of 15 year sentence.

Agya Tsering; arrested in October 1999.

Trinley Tsondu; serving 5th year of 8 year sentence.

Tenpa Wangdrag; serving 13th year of 14 year sentence.

HONORING CINDY CALERICH FOR HER DEDICATION AND HARD WORK

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 13, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to ask Congress to pay tribute to one of Colorado's leading citizens. Earlier this year 41-year-old Cindy Calerich of Monte Vista passed away unexpectedly. Throughout her life, Cindy donated her time to help others. For that she was named its "Hero" for the past year, an award given as an honorary memorial tribute by the San Luis Valley Red Cross.

A Colorado native, Cindy moved to the San Luis Valley 5 years ago. For the last two and a half years she volunteered at the San Luis Valley Red Cross. She spent most of her time on call for disaster services and assisted families in the San Luis Valley during emergency situations. Several times a week, coupled with her on call status, she went into the Red Cross office and helped answer phones and entered computer data.

During the Sand Dunes fire, Cindy worked three days straight without any sleep to assist in feeding and caring for the families who were relocated, and the firefighters involved in the disaster. Cindy also volunteered for the Alamosa Search and Rescue Service. According to the Red Cross, Cindy will always be remembered as "someone who was always on call and willing to help."

Cindy donated a great deal of her time to the Red Cross to help those in need, while managing to raise her son Ben. Mr. Speaker, Cindy is a role model to her friends and family for all that she has done for those families that needed a helping hand. Family, friends, co-workers and the community will miss her. Cindy touched many lives and for that Congress should take a moment to remember her and thank her for her helping hand.

7 DAYS IN JUNE

HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 13, 2001

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to send a simple message: employer interference with workers' choices is unacceptable. When working people join together to form unions with the hope of improving their standard of living, their community and their jobs, harassment, coercion, firings and other attempts by employers to block the efforts of workers will not be tolerated.

This message is at the heart of the AFL-CIO's "7 Days in June" campaign. "7 Days in June" is a week long series of activities around the country sponsored by the AFL-CIO to shine the spotlight on how hard it is for people to form legal unions in the United States. I am pleased to participate in today's special order and to be a part of this campaign. And I thank my Colleague, Mr. BONIOR for organizing this event today.

Whenever I hear the term union-busting, I think back to my high school history book, with

black and white pictures of men with fedoras and billy clubs hopping out of old trucks and rushing picket lines to break up strikes in the 1920s and 30s. But the sad reality is that union busting is not relegated to the history books. It is a practice that is alive and well.

Today, the men in fedoras have been replaced with lawyers in Armani suits. The billy clubs have been replaced with lawsuits, company-sponsored sham-unions, and other tactics intended to harass or intimidate employees. These new tactics may not be as brazen as they once were, but they are just as effective in squelching the rights of workers to organize.

I had the unfortunate opportunity to see these new tactics first hand earlier this year. On March 5, 2001, I was joined by 63 of my colleagues in the House of Representatives in sending a letter to the Chairman and CEO of Delta Airlines, Leo Mullen, a copy of which I will submit to the record. In this letter we simply asked him to allow the flight attendants at Delta to decide for themselves whether to support union representation.

The genesis of this letter was a meeting I had with constituents from Kew Gardens, New York, who are flight attendants at Delta. They told me of the difficulties that they were having in organizing at Delta due to interference by supervisors and other employees who opposed the union's efforts. When I heard their stories, I offered to send a letter to Delta's CEO, asking him to sign the Association of Flight Attendants' "Appeal for Fairness," a six-point pact aimed at creating an atmosphere that will allow for a free and positive discussion, void of intimidation, threats and harassment.

When word got out that I was sending this letter, I was overwhelmed by the amount of letters, e-mails, phone calls and faxes that my office received. From all over the country, flight attendants at Delta were contacting me to let me know of their own personal stories of intimidation, harassment and interference by supervisors and other employees at Delta Airlines who were opposed to the union's organizing efforts.

The stories I heard were textbook cases of modern union-busting activities. Flight attendants in Boston who told me of a supervisor's effort to deny them meeting space in the airport. The supervisor even attempted to get them thrown out of the food court when he saw AFA literature on a table where three activists happened to be sitting. I also heard from flight attendants in Orlando whose supervisors were keeping lists of union supporters. And I hear from flight attendants in New York who were told that they weren't allowed in their own crew lounge if they were going to distribute AFA literature.

Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, the experiences of the flight attendants at Delta are not isolated incidents. All over the country there are companies that foster such an anti-union corporate culture that encourages these familiar union busting activities. I believe that it is our responsibility as Members of Congress to stand-up and lend our voices in criticizing this behavior, which is why I am participating in this "7 Days in June" special order tonight.

Working men and women who undertake union organizing drives do so for many different reasons. But at the heart of every organizing drive is a desire to improve their lives and the lives of their co-workers. Employer