

for criminal defendants that marred Mr. Liu's trial from the outset. I refer here to matters such as the failure of Chinese prosecutors adequately to consult defense lawyers, and the speed with which prosecutors acted in indicting Mr. Liu and bringing him to trial, effectively denying his lawyers sufficient time to review the state's evidence and to prepare for his defense. Chinese officials prevented Mr. Liu's wife from attending his trial, in which she had hoped to testify on behalf of her husband. Mr. Liu's lawyers reportedly were ordered by state justice officials not to grant interviews. It is these abuses committed by Chinese officials in China, not the actions of a committee in Oslo, that demonstrated "a lack of respect for China's judicial system."

All nations have the responsibility to ensure fairness and transparency in judicial proceedings. The effective implementation of basic human rights and the ability of all people in China to live under the rule of law depend on careful attention to, and transparent compliance with, procedural norms and safeguards that meet international standards. I serve as Cochairman of the Congressional-Executive Commission on China (CECC). The Commission's Political Prisoner Database, which is available to the public on-line via the Commission's web site, [www.cecc.gov](http://www.cecc.gov), contains information on thousands of political prisoners in China. These are individuals who have been imprisoned by the Chinese government for exercising their civil and political rights under China's Constitution and laws or under China's international human rights obligations. The enhancement of the database that the Commission announced this past summer roughly doubled the types of information available to the public, enabling individuals, organizations, and governments to better report on political imprisonment in China and to more effectively advocate on behalf of Chinese political prisoners. And people around the world have been using the database to do just that. The number of "hits" to the database from individual users, NGOs, academic institutions and governments around the world has skyrocketed. The database makes clear that political imprisonment in China is well-documented, it is a practice whereby the Chinese government has shown disrespect for the law not only in Liu Xiaobo's case, but in thousands of other cases, and it must end.

Unfortunately, the end to political imprisonment in China does not appear likely at this time. Since the Nobel Committee's announcement, Mr. Liu's wife, Liu Xia, has been harassed relentlessly, and remains confined virtually incommunicado under what appears to be house arrest. In the weeks following the Nobel Committee's announcement, there have been over 100 documented incidents in which Chinese citizens have been harassed, interrogated, subjected to police surveillance, detained or placed under house arrest for their expressions of support for Liu. Articles in China's official state-run media have attacked the Nobel committee and painted a harshly negative portrait of Liu. Chinese authorities have attempted to limit the dissemination of information about Liu's receiving the Nobel Prize. Chinese officials have censored unauthorized references to Liu on the Internet and cell phones and blocked access to news about Liu from outside China. Chinese officials have imposed severe travel restrictions on Chinese activists, scholars, and lawyers whom they

fear will attempt to attend the Nobel peace prize award ceremony in Norway on December 10. In the last month, Beijing police reportedly have prevented leading scholars and lawyers from boarding flights to attend international conferences for fear they will attend the Nobel peace prize award ceremony. Other public intellectuals physically have been prevented by police from meeting foreign reporters.

The Director of the Nobel Institute said China's pressure on other governments to boycott this year's ceremony has been unprecedented in his twenty years as Director. China's G20 negotiator said that countries sending officials to attend the award ceremony honoring Mr. Liu must be ready to "accept the consequences." Diplomats report that the Chinese Embassy in Oslo has sent official letters to foreign embassies in the Norwegian capital asking them not to make statements in support of Liu, and not to attend the Nobel awards ceremony on December 10. This is not the behavior of a strong, responsible government.

As Liu Xia said the morning her husband was selected to receive the Nobel Prize, "China's new status in the world comes with increased responsibility. China should embrace this responsibility, and have pride in his selection and release him from prison." As Nobel laureate Vaclav Havel correctly noted, "intimidation, propaganda, and repression are no substitute for reasoned dialogue. . . ." And as Nobel laureate Desmond Tutu recently wrote together with Vaclav Havel:

We know that many wrongs have been perpetrated against China and its people throughout history. But awarding the Nobel Peace Prize to Liu is not one of them. Nor is the peaceful call for reform from the more than 10,000 Chinese citizens who dared to sign Charter 08. . . . China has a chance to show that it is a forward-looking nation, and can show the world that it has the confidence to face criticism and embrace change. . . . This is a moment for China to open up once again, to give its people the ability to compete in the marketplace of ideas. . . .

I take particular note of the words of Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao, who, in a recent interview with CNN, stated:

Freedom of speech is indispensable. . . . The people's wishes for, and needs for, democracy and freedom are irresistible."

Sadly, the Chinese government clearly has shown the world, through its mistreatment of Liu Xiaobo and countless others, that Premier Wen's words are not the basis for government action in China.

This Resolution shines a light on the Chinese government's failure to enforce basic human rights, and underlines that China once again is at an important crossroads, and seems to be turning in the wrong direction. This has implications not only for the development of institutions of democratic governance in China, but also for the United States in managing our relations with China.

I am pleased to co-sponsor this important Resolution.

IN HONOR OF CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER JOHN ULSTROM

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 8, 2010*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of retired Chief Warrant Officer John Ulstrom, who walked 1,500 miles from Desdemona, TX to Washington, DC in an effort to bring attention to the need for better mental health care for troops returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.

Officer Ulstrom made this journey in memory of his friend's son Joe Vitalec, a 21 year old Army reservist who committed suicide after developing Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) in Iraq. Unfortunately, stories like Mr. Vitalec's are not uncommon. Statistics from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) reveal that veterans account for 20% of American suicides, which amounts to 18 suicides per day. Today's soldiers are deployed for unprecedented amounts of time, and the extra exposure to combat takes its toll. A study published in the Archives of Internal Medicine found that nearly one out of three veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan who required services from the VA in the first part of the decade were diagnosed with psychological trauma. The VA has been underfunded for years, and it employs only a fraction of the number of mental health care workers needed to give veterans the treatment they need. Many veterans receive no treatment at all, and many of those who do receive it in the form of a pill.

In his blog, Ulstrom explains the situation in more personal terms. "I have seen firsthand that there is a severe shortage of mental health workers and psychiatrists in the military and Dept. of Veterans Affairs. PTSD is a severe problem with our returning veterans, with no one to talk to and nowhere to turn, many vets suffer alone with no treatment whatsoever, slowly descending into their own personal hell."

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in applauding Officer Ulstrom for his work. By making this journey and sharing his story, he has personalized the pain of mentally ill veterans and their families. These men and women who have given so much of themselves to our country deserve our full support.

HONORING MAJOR GENERAL DONALD J. GOLDHORN, THE ADJUTANT GENERAL OF THE GUAM NATIONAL GUARD, FOR HIS EXEMPLARY SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE OF GUAM AND TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 8, 2010*

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the exemplary service and leadership of Major General Donald J. Goldhorn, the Adjutant General of the Guam National Guard. Major General Goldhorn has been an outstanding leader of the men and women in the Guam National Guard and has been actively involved in our community on