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Congress of the United States House of Representatives

October 5, 2005

The Honorable Wen Jiabao Premier, Government of the People's Republic of China c/o The Embassy of China 2300 Connecticut Avenue, N.W. Washington, DC 20008

Dear Mr. Premier:

We are writing to express the grave concern of the United States Congress regarding the Chinese government's systematic persecution of Falun Gong practitioners and its failure to protect religious freedom. We are particularly concerned with reports that several Falun Gong practitioners have recently been arrested and detained, Mrs. Lixiang Lu and Mr. Yongkang Lu by the Shenyang Police, and Ms. Yuan Yuju, and Mr. Liang Jinhui by the Luzhou police.

Police reportedly confiscated their possessions such as computers, printers, bankbooks, and cash from them in an apparent application of Chinese policy to illegally impound detainee's possessions. Yuan Yuju was sentenced for a year of forced labor, which she is now serving at the Zizhong Nanmu Temple Female Labor Camp for "using cult to sabotage the law," an offense she allegedly committed while selling Falun Gong music on MP3 players. Liang Jinhui has not been charged with a crime, yet he is being held at the Luzhou Detention Center and has been denied the right for familial visits and the legal representation of a lawyer. Furthermore, we are concerned that conditions in the detention center and labor camp will likely result in immeasurable damage to the health of the detainees. The U.S. deplores the Chinese government's continued persecution of religious groups, and calls upon the People's Republic of China to respect its citizen's rights to freedom of religion as is guaranteed by the Chinese Constitution.

The U.S. Congress requests that you release Mrs. Lixiang Lu, Mr. Yongkang Lu, Ms. Yuan Yuju, and Mr. Liang Jinhui and urges an independent investigation of the police confiscation of property and unlawful arrest. Those found to be responsible for violations of Chinese law and its international human rights commitments should be prosecuted and brought to justice.

Sincerely,

Christopher H. Smith Member of Congress Donald M. Payne Member of Congress

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