

HOWARD L. BERMAN, CALIFORNIA
CHAIRMAN

GARY L. ACKERMAN, NEW YORK
ENI F. H. FALEOMAVAEGA, AMERICAN SAMOA
DONALD M. PAYNE, NEW JERSEY
BRAD SHERMAN, CALIFORNIA
ROBERT WEXLER, FLORIDA
ELIOT L. ENGEL, NEW YORK
BILL DELAHUNT, MASSACHUSETTS
GREGORY W. MEEKS, NEW YORK
DIANE E. WATSON, CALIFORNIA
RUSS CARNAHAN, MISSOURI
ALBIO SIRES, NEW JERSEY
GERALD E. CONNOLLY, VIRGINIA
MICHAEL E. MCMAHON, NEW YORK
JOHN S. TANNER, TENNESSEE
GENE GREEN, TEXAS
LYNN WOOLSEY, CALIFORNIA
SHEILA JACKSON LEE, TEXAS
BARBARA LEE, CALIFORNIA
SHELLEY BERKLEY, NEVADA
JOSEPH CROWLEY, NEW YORK
MIKE ROSS, ARKANSAS
BRAD MILLER, NORTH CAROLINA
DAVID SCOTT, GEORGIA
JIM COSTA, CALIFORNIA
KEITH ELLISON, MINNESOTA
GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, ARIZONA
RON KLEIN, FLORIDA

RICHARD J. KESSLER
STAFF DIRECTOR

DOUGLAS J. CAMPBELL
DEPUTY STAFF DIRECTOR

DAVID S. ABRAMOWITZ
CHIEF COUNSEL

ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, FLORIDA
RANKING REPUBLICAN MEMBER

CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH, NEW JERSEY
DAN BURTON, INDIANA
ELTON GALLEGLY, CALIFORNIA
DANA ROHRBACHER, CALIFORNIA
DONALD A. MANZULLO, ILLINOIS
EDWARD R. ROYCE, CALIFORNIA
RON PAUL, TEXAS
JEFF FLAKE, ARIZONA
MIKE PENCE, INDIANA
JOE WILSON, SOUTH CAROLINA
JOHN BOOZMAN, ARKANSAS
J. GRESHAM BARRETT, SOUTH CAROLINA
CONNIE MACK, FLORIDA
JEFF FORTENBERRY, NEBRASKA
MICHAEL T. MCCAUL, TEXAS
TED POE, TEXAS
BOB INGLIS, SOUTH CAROLINA
GUS M. BILIRAKIS, FLORIDA

YLEEM D. S. POBLETE
REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR

MARK C. GAGE
REPUBLICAN SENIOR POLICY ADVISOR

DOUGLAS C. ANDERSON
REPUBLICAN CHIEF COUNSEL

ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH CONGRESS
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

TELEPHONE: (202) 225-5021
[HTTP://WWW.FOREIGNAFFAIRS.HOUSE.GOV/](http://www.foreignaffairs.house.gov/)

July 6, 2009

The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Madam Secretary:

As Chairman and Ranking Member of the U.S. House Human Rights and Oversight Subcommittee, we urge you to condemn the recent Chinese crackdown in Xinjiang province and demand the Chinese investigate attacks made against Uighurs in Guangdong on June 25 and June 26.

This past weekend, while Americans were celebrating their independence, Uighurs in the far western province of Xinjiang in China peacefully took to the streets to demand similar rights. The Uighurs simply sought a thorough investigation of a mob attack on Uighurs that took place in the Guangdong region that was allegedly spurred by rumors—that were later proven false—that a Uighur man raped a Han Chinese woman. The Chinese-controlled media reported two Uighurs dead and 118 people injured in that incident. First-person accounts of the attack suggest the death toll was much higher.

In response to protesting Uighurs, the Chinese government assembled a formidable police force, and human rights groups have reported that an unknown number of Uighurs were fired upon by Chinese authorities and killed. The state-controlled Chinese media puts the death toll at 156 while Uighur groups have placed the dead at closer to 500.

This senseless slaughter cannot and should not be tolerated. We cannot have a “business as usual” relationship with a regime that shoots down factory workers and students over labor issues—the Communist Chinese must announce who was personally responsible and ordered this outrageous action.

In defending their actions, Chinese officials have blamed the regime’s violence on Mrs. Rebiya Kadeer, a well-known Chinese dissident, democracy advocate and Uighur currently living in the United States. Mrs. Kadeer, a three-time nominee for the Nobel Peace Prize, has never encouraged nor supported violence in the past and instead has sought a peaceful resolution to her people’s troubles in China. We have both met and heard Mrs. Kadeer testify at our Subcommittee’s hearings and find it appalling that the Chinese government is attempting to ascribe its own brutal acts as the responsibility of this courageous woman who fully embraces democracy and non-violence.

Secretary Clinton, we urge you to condemn the recent violence against China's ethnic minority. The Chinese regime in Beijing should not be allowed to engage in another Tiananmen Square with international impunity. Over the past few months, our Subcommittee has held a series of hearings on the plight of Uighurs in China and the wrongful detention of 22 Uighurs at Guantanamo Bay. We have had numerous experts testify to Chinese persecution of the Uighur minority.

We believe it is time for the United States to take a stand against Chinese abuse of Uighurs in Xinjiang. We therefore urge you to condemn Chinese violence against Uighurs in the strongest possible terms and to strongly encourage an investigation into the mob attacks in Guangdong province.

Sincerely,



Bill Delahunt
Chairman
Subcommittee on International Organizations,
Human Rights, and Oversight



Dana Rohrabacher
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on International Organizations,
Human Rights, and Oversight