

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

January 6, 2009

The Honorable John Negroponte  
Deputy Secretary of State  
2201 C St NW Ste 7220  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Mr. Negroponte:

We wish to express our concerns regarding the rapidly increasing violations of human rights and religious freedom in China. While acknowledging the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the normalization of the Sino-U.S. diplomatic relations, and the prosperous business partnership between the U.S. and China, we also must emphasize the necessity of a critical foundation for a healthy diplomatic relationship to address basic universal rights, religious freedom, and rule of law.

We urge you to publicly address the importance of human rights and religious freedom with Chinese officials, and to request the immediate cessation of unjust and inhumane acts toward people of faith including: "house church" Christians, unregistered Catholics, Tibetan Buddhists, Uyghur Muslims, and Falun Gong adherents. We also urge you to further demonstrate the importance of human rights by meeting with families of imprisoned religious adherents, visiting an unregistered church, and consulting with leading Chinese intellectuals who are calling for increased religious freedom. Central to a country's reputation abroad is its ability to keep promises to its own people. Religious freedom is a right guaranteed in China's Constitution. Unfortunately, Chinese government officials have trampled on this right in numerous provinces just in the last few months since the Olympic Games.

Specifically, during November and December 2008 alone, at least 460 Christians have experienced harassment from Chinese government officials, including officials from the Public Security Bureau, Bureau of State Security, State Administration of Religious Affairs, and Ministry of Civil Affairs. This harassment has been carried out in numerous provinces, including Anhui, Guangdong, Henan, Hubei, Jiangsu, Shandong, Sichuan, Zhejiang, and Xinjiang Autonomous Region. Christians in Beijing were also targeted. Notable instances include nine college student meetings which were simultaneously disrupted; four earthquake-victimized households in Sichuan which were raided because they received help from Christians; attacks on Christmas day, and beatings and other violent treatment of detained citizens.

The actions of government officials stand in stark contrast to the goal of the rule of law promoted by the Chinese party. It is our request that such trespasses of constitutional rights and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights be firmly addressed with Chinese officials and that personal visits be made to those who are oppressed in order to honorably complete the administration of President Bush who has repeatedly prioritized the fundamental right of religious freedom.

Sincerely,



Frank R. Wolf  
Member of Congress



Christopher H. Smith  
Member of Congress



Joseph R. Pitts  
Member of Congress



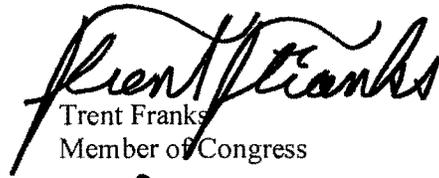
Michele Bachmann  
Member of Congress



Thaddeus G. McCotter  
Member of Congress



John Boozman  
Member of Congress



Trent Franks  
Member of Congress



Scott Garrett  
Member of Congress