

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 843

Supporting the designation of October 30 as the “International Day of Political Prisoners”.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 31, 2025

Mr. COHEN (for himself, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Ms. NORTON, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. GOODLANDER, Mr. CROW, and Mr. CARSON) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Supporting the designation of October 30 as the “International Day of Political Prisoners”.

Whereas there are an estimated 1,000,000 political prisoners across the world, including cases of journalists, academics, political opposition activists, dissidents, antiwar campaigners, and human rights defenders being detained, arrested, imprisoned, convicted, and otherwise punished for political motives without connection to any credible offense;

Whereas authoritarian and repressive regimes around the world, including the Republic of Belarus, the People’s Republic of China, the Republic of Cuba, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Republic of the Union of Burma, the Russian Federation, and the

Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, have engaged in systematic imprisonment of independent voices;

Whereas, in 2024 and 2025, the United States Government, through bilateral and multilateral negotiations, secured the release of several dozen political prisoners from the Republic of Belarus, the Russian Federation, and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela;

Whereas, on October 30, 1974, Ukrainian and Russian prisoners of conscience in the Soviet Gulag initiated the tradition of marking the annual Day of Political Prisoners in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) to draw public attention to the plight of those imprisoned for their political or religious beliefs and to express solidarity with them; and

Whereas, in subsequent years, the Day of Political Prisoners on October 30 was marked by hunger strikes by prisoners inside the Soviet Gulag and by public demonstrations of solidarity in cities across the USSR: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) deplores all forms of political repression and
3 imprisonment and conveys its unwavering solidarity
4 with all those imprisoned around the world for
5 peacefully expressing their political or religious be-
6 liefs;

7 (2) supports efforts by the United States Gov-
8 ernment to condemn political imprisonment, hold ac-
9 countable those regimes responsible for persecuting
10 and imprisoning dissenters, raise international

1 awareness of political prisoners, and secure their re-
2 lease through bilateral and multilateral negotiations
3 with other states, and urges it to continue such ef-
4 forts in the future; and

5 (3) supports the designation of an “Inter-
6 national Day of Political Prisoners” in the United
7 States.

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