



GERALD E. CONNOLLY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

May 13, 2020

Dear Falun Gong Practitioners,

I would like to join you in commemorating the 28th World Falun Dafa Day and express my unwavering support for your advocacy on behalf of basic human rights and religious freedom.

Falun Dafa, also known as Falun Gong, emphasizes the moral principles of truthfulness, compassion, and tolerance, and is practiced in at least 70 countries worldwide. Nevertheless, since July 1999 when the Chinese Communist Party launched the persecution nationwide, we have seen increasing reports that Falun Gong practitioners have been oppressed by the Chinese government, and that persecution continues as the world responds to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Victims of the persecution have come to my office to give their real life narratives of torture, suffering, and damages experienced by their families. Some of my own constituents are themselves refugees of this persecution. I understand that Falun Gong practitioners have responded to the state-sanctioned violence using entirely peaceful means. They have persistently educated Chinese citizens about the nature of their practice and the persecution against it.

I want to thank you for sharing your stories and advocating the widely shared values that define us both as a nation and as a broader international community. Again, I join you in celebrating the 28th anniversary of World Falun Dafa Day and hope that this will be the year in which we see significant progress in your cause and encouraging changes take place in China.

Best Regards,

Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress
11th District, Virginia