

Chairman Gallagher Gives Support for Jimmy Lai

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as prepared for delivery

Today marks the start of the sham trial against Hong Kong's Jimmy Lai. Hong Kong authorities arrested Mr. Lai on dubious charges such as colluding with foreign forces and sedition.

In reality, his only crime was fighting for freedom and democracy in his beloved home of Hong Kong.

Mr. Lai, has already spent over three years behind bars, with his trial twice delayed as authorities scramble to prepare for these kangaroo court proceedings.

This abuse of power has not been limited to Mr. Lai. The Chinese Communist Party, through its proxy puppets in Hong Kong, continues to prosecute pro-democracy activists at an alarming rate.

Despite its skyscrapers and glamor, Hong Kong is increasingly on par with the likes of Belarus and Myanmar for its number of political prisoners.

If the CCP thinks it can maintain Hong Kong's status as a global financial center while simultaneously locks up thousands of pro-democracy protestors and activists, they are sorely mistaken. It's time for the U.S. government to take action and recognize that there is no difference between the CCP's control of Hong Kong and of the mainland PRC.

We will not allow the passage of time and media news cycles to distract us. We need to hold those responsible for eroding Hong Kong democracy accountable.

Xi Jinping must end the political persecution of Jimmy Lai and other Hong Kong democracy activists and immediately release them from jail.

The United States Congress will continue to stand with the freedom-loving people of Hong Kong and pursue sanctions on those eroding democracy and abusing human rights in Hong Kong.

I join the millions of believers in prayer for our Catholic brother Jimmy Lai.