

**Chairman Moolenaar Opening Remarks**  
*Committee Press Conference – Tiananmen at 35: The Ongoing Struggle for Human  
Rights and Democracy in China*  
6.4.24  
*as prepared for delivery*

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Thirty-five years ago, hundreds of thousands of students and workers gathered in Beijing's Tiananmen Square, joined by millions more across China, to demand democracy. The CCP chose to stamp them out, crushing calls for freedom under Communist tanks.

My colleague Raja and I lead the Select Committee on the Chinese Communist Party.

Our name is deliberate. Our strategic competition is not with a nation or people, but with the regime that holds 1.3 billion humans under its authoritarian thumb.

For seventy-five years, the greatest victims of the CCP have been the Chinese people themselves. Tens of millions have lost their lives, with countless more reduced to forced labor. The rest live in fear and oppression. The best anyone can hope for under the rule of the CCP is to be ignored. That if they remain silent, the party just might forget they exist.

The brave men and women with us today refused to be silent. They refused to hide. They refused to repeat the party line that the CCP represents the Chinese people.

The CCP's ambassador to our country recently claimed his party has always been a champion of democracy.

We all know this is a lie.

It was a lie in 1956 when Mao Zedong called for critics to speak out, only to throw hundreds of thousands into prison.

It was a lie in 1978 when activists erected a Democracy Wall, only to be rewarded with imprisonment.

It was a lie in 1989 in Tiananmen Square when the CCP sent tanks against their own people.

And it was a lie in 2022, when the party allowed tens of thousands to starve, and chased those who held up blank pieces of paper to protest, rather than admit the party made a mistake with COVID-19.

Throughout decades of Communist oppression, generations of courageous Chinese patriots – including the dead, the disappeared, the imprisoned, and the exiled – have kept the light of liberty burning and sought to bring a brighter future to China.

Today, we honor them and stand with those who continue the work to bring freedom to the Chinese people, including the incredible lineup of speakers we have here today.

But it's not just those gathered in the room here with us today- the Congress stands with them.

As we speak, the Congressional-Executive Commission on China is holding its own commemoration hearing, building upon the incredible work they do to shed light on the CCP's human rights abuses and support the victims.

Today, on this 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Tiananmen Square, Congress sends a clear message: we stand with the victims of Tiananmen Square and all those currently facing the oppression of the Chinese Communist Party.

And with that, I turn it over to the Ranking Member.