

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 1450

Expressing support for the recognition of October 30, 2022, as the
International Day of Political Prisoners.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 28, 2022

Mr. COHEN (for himself and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina) submitted the
following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Expressing support for the recognition of October 30, 2022,
as the International Day of Political Prisoners.

Whereas the number of political prisoners across the world,
including cases of journalists, academics, peace and polit-
ical activists, political oppositionists and dissidents, and
human rights defenders being detained, arrested, con-
victed, and otherwise punished for political motives with-
out connection to any credible offence has steadily in-
creased;

Whereas the United States Government estimates that there
are more than 1 million political prisoners worldwide;

Whereas authoritarian and repressive regimes around the
world have engaged in systematic destruction of inde-
pendent voices, including but not limited to the Russian
and Belarusian Governments;

Whereas national governments and legislative bodies have an obligation to raise awareness about the plight of political prisoners;

Whereas national governments and legislative bodies should advocate with states holding political prisoners their prompt release;

Whereas, on October 30, 1974, Soviet human rights activists and dissidents initiated the idea of marking the day of political prisoners in the USSR and consequently held a hunger strike that day while in jail;

Whereas, in 1978, the Moscow Helsinki Group—founded in 1976, disbanded in 1982 due to KGB intimidation, and reestablished by former USSR political prisoners and human rights activists in 1989—declared October 30 Political Prisoner Day; and

Whereas October 30, 1991, marked the first annual Remembrance Day for the Victims of Political Repression observed in Russia: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) deplores all forms of political repression and
3 imprisonment;

4 (2) supports statements by the United States
5 Government condemning political imprisonment and
6 the continuance of the Department of State's efforts
7 to raise international awareness of political prisoners
8 and secure their release; and

- 1 (3) expresses support for the recognition of the
- 2 International Day of Political Prisoners.

