

TESTIMONY OF SAM BROWNBACK BEFORE THE CHINA COMMISSION

November 20, 2025

Mr. Chairman:

China is at War with Faith. It is a battle for control of their people. The CCP annually spends billions of dollars in their own country to suppress, contain, control, deceive or eliminate all religious entities that do not have the CCP as their leader. Religious freedom is seen as an existential threat to the Communist leadership. We should strongly back these oppressed people of faith. A cause our country was founded on.

Ultimately, the battle is over authority. The Kingdom of God verses the Kingdom of Man—who will be supreme in the hearts and minds of the people. Communism makes no space for the people's pursuit of the Divine that in any way could challenge the authority of the government.

Thus, the battle is engaged.

Our national interest, our global ideological confrontation with authoritarianism, and our hearts are with the Souls of the religious people of all faiths in China who are oppressed, but still resisting the Dragon. They are our Brothers and Sisters of Faith. They are also our most powerful ally against the CCP. We should embrace their cause. They love their nation but despise what over 70 years of Communist dictatorship has done to their ancient Civilization.

It is in our national interest to strongly back the Falun Gong practioners, Christians, Buddhist, and Muslim adherents in China. The Chinese people are a very spiritual people. To back their religious affiliation, is to back them against the foreign ideology of Communism. The CCP often rails against “foreign influences” in their country, but blindly forgets that communism itself is a “foreign ideology” from Industrial era Europe.

I recommend the following actions:

- 1) Make religious freedom in China a part of our National Security objectives toward China.
- 2) Develop a National Security Strategy for the US and other nations to support the religious communities inside China.
- 3) Use economic sanctions provided in the Frank Wolf International Religious Freedom Act, against China for ongoing and egregious religious freedom violations.

- 4) President Trump, Vice President Vance, Secretary of State Rubio and/or Secretary of War Hegseth meet with exiled leaders or those who have been persecuted in China from the Falun Gong, Christian, Muslim and Buddhist communities.

Specifically for each religious community, I recommend:

Falun Gong:

This is the community the CCP fears the most because they are the most natural and indigenous to the Chinese people. They went from introduction in 1992, to 90 million practitioners in seven years, before being banned by the CCP.

They have a registry of millions of Chinese who were members of the CCP and have now renounced it. Their objective is to bring back the Chinese culture before communism.

We should:

- 1) Recognize a genocide against the Falun Gong by the Chinese government.
- 2) Meet with their key leaders in exile to support their right to freedom of religion in China.
- 3) Support their work to break the Great Chinese Internet Firewall.

Christians:

One of the places where Christianity is growing the fastest.

We should:

- 1) Strongly advocate for the release of Christian hostages being held by the CCP. People like Pastor Ezra Jin Mingri of the Zion Church, Pastor Wang Yi of the Early Rain Covenant Church and the ten Catholic Bishops identified in an article by Nina Shea in an October 17, 2024 article.
- 2) Encourage private sector entities with significant ties to China to advocate for the release of prisoners of conscience and human rights lawyers. Groups like the NBA, Hollywood and major businesses with ties to China.

Tibetan Buddhist:

China continues to aggressively push forward a Cultural Genocide in Tibet, doing everything possible to remove Tibetan language and culture from the next generation and to distance the people from their reverence for the Dalai Lama.

We should:

- 1) Categorically reject the Chinese government's claim to the right to appoint the next Dalai Lama.
- 2) Send Vice President Vance or Secretary Rubio to Dharamsala, India to confer with the Dalai Lama and announce our support for the Dalai Lama's Middle Way approach for Tibet. Genuine autonomy for Tibet within China. While I have significant doubts this will work, just look at Hong Kong. If China will not agree to this within 60 days, we should announce our recognition of an independent Tibet.
- 3) Tibet, and for that matter, Xinjiang (East Turkestan), are no more a part of China than Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan were a part of Russia. They are occupied territories and we should see them as such.

Uyghur Muslims:

Many of the Uyghurs have now been moved from concentration camps to forced labor confinements. Same incarceration, different setting. The transnational oppression experienced by Uyghurs and Falun Gong, in particular, must be confronted in our own country and Europe.

We should:

- 1) Pass legislation to address the transnational oppression and do high profile prosecutions of those doing the criminal activities.
- 2) Start addressing Xinjiang as East Turkistan in our government documents.
- 3) Aggressively address the enforcement of our laws against the use of forced labor, particularly of the Uyghurs, and ask our allies to similarly ban the sale of products made by forced labor in their markets.

Conclusion:

To date, we have failed to recognize and support our most potent ally in our struggle against the CCP, the religious people of China. The CCP fears them more than our nuclear missiles or aircraft carriers. It's time to engage them and their fundamental human dignity and God given human right to do with their own Souls what they choose. No fight could be more American than to fight for religious freedom.

Appendix



Credit: Washington.Examiner.Magazine