

VII. Additional Views of Commission Members

Additional Views of Senator James Lankford

I wholeheartedly support the important work of the Congressional-Executive Commission on China (CECC) in monitoring human rights and rule of law in the People's Republic of China (PRC). Much of this year's Annual Report ("the Report") effectively addressed the most concerning trends in the PRC. However, I see it necessary to address certain aspects of the Report that raise concerns.

With respect to the citation of reports by United Nations Treaty Monitoring bodies or Independent Experts, these reports constitute non-binding recommendations and do not mandate a response by States. Parties are, however, obliged to carry out specific commitments contained in treaties which they have duly ratified. The inclusion of these non-binding reports divert attention away from China's failure to meet its hard-law obligations.

The Report identifies United States insistence and PRC cooperation on the adoption of human rights legislation as a solution to changing human rights situations in China. By directing the Report's criticism away from deliberate policies of the PRC that are directly opposed to international human rights standards, the Commission does a disservice. The PRC routinely uses the absence of rule of law to cover up human rights abuses and deny their existence.

It is essential that we focus on the most serious and egregious human rights abuses, such as the ongoing genocide against Uyghurs and other predominantly Muslim ethnic groups in the Xinjiang Autonomous Uyghur Region. The CECC should prioritize documenting the CCP's unspeakable crimes against Uyghurs, Tibetans, Falun Gong practitioners, Christians, journalists, defense lawyers, and others who suffer grave abuses for China's forced assimilation policies.

For these reasons, I vote in favor of the report with the inclusion of this statement.