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July 16, 2015

Falun Gong Ride to Freedom Day Washington, D.C.

Dear Friends:

I am writing to recognize the noble actions of the young Ride to Freedom cyclists working to bring awareness to the Chinese government's abuses of Falun Gong practitioners, as well as the plight of the orphaned children of Falun Gong adherents.

My constituents in New Jersey have kept me informed of the horrific and relentless persecution of the millions of Falun Gong practitioners in China, which has stripped them of their most basic human rights, and even left the children of Falun Gong adherents subject to harassment and abuse. This continued persecution is intolerable and must be stopped immediately. I have long been proud to stand up on behalf of Falun Gong practitioners, and in the past have sponsored a resolution calling for an immediate end to the Chinese government's campaign against the Falun Gong.

Speaking out against human rights violations, wherever they occur, is a critical component in finally bringing an end to these abusive practices. I congratulate these brave cyclists for raising their voices, both in Washington, D.C. and at the UN General Assembly, to highlight the plight of Falun Gong practitioners and their young children, and to exert needed pressure on the Chinese Government to encourage change in their international and domestic policies regarding human rights. Please accept my best wishes for a most successful event.

Sincerely,

ROBERT MENENDEZ

United States Senator