

## March 13, 2000: Hearing on Religious Persecution in China

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom is holding its second hearing on Thursday, March 16 to examine religious persecution in China. The hearing is scheduled from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the board room of the Los Angeles Unified School District building at 450 North Grand Avenue, Los Angeles, California. The purpose of the hearing is to gather information for the Commission's first annual report to the Administration and Congress, due May 1. The witnesses and schedule are as follows:

9:00-9:15 Opening Comments: Rabbi David Saperstein, Chair  
 9:15-10:30 Wei Jingsheng, human rights activist and former political prisoner  
 Lu (Frank) Siqing, Director, Information Center for Human Rights and Democratic Movements, Hong Kong  
 Mickey Spiegel, religious issues specialist (China), Human Rights Watch - Asia, New York City  
 10:30-10:45 Break  
 10:45-11:45 Xiqu (Bob) Fu, house-church leader, fled China in 1997  
 Harry Wu, former detainee, President, Laogai Research Foundation  
 Dr. Kim-Kwong Chan, Executive Secretary, Hong Kong Christian Council  
 11:45-12:30 Aja Rinpoche, former Senior Abbot of Kumbum Monastery and former Vice President of the Buddhist Association of China  
 12:30-1:30 Lunch  
 1:30-2:45 Erping Zhang, Falun Gong spokesman  
 Uighur witness via Dr. Erkin Sidick, a leader of the U.S. Uighur community  
 Dr. Dru Gladney, Dean, Asia-Pacific Center, Hawaii  
 2:45-3:00 Break  
 3:00-4:30 Gare Smith, Foley, Hoag & Eliot (Washington D.C. office)  
 Fr. Drew Christiansen, Society of Jesus, Woodstock Theological Center, Georgetown University  
 Dr. Merle Goldman, John K. Fairbank Center for East Asian Research, Harvard University  
 4:30 Closing remarks of Rabbi David Saperstein, Chair

The hearing is held under authority of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998. Reporters and producers wishing assistance in arranging interviews with witnesses or Commissioners may contact Communications Director Lawrence J. Goodrich at (202) 523-3240.

Rabbi David Saperstein, Chair

- Dean Michael K. Young, Vice Chair  
 Hon. Elliott Abrams  
 Laila Al-Marayati, M.D.  
 Hon. John R. Bolton  
 Firuz Kazemzadeh  
 Archbishop Theodore E. McCarrick  
 Nina Shea  
 Justice Charles Z. Smith  
 Ambassador Robert Seiple, Ex-Officio  
 Steven T. McFarland, Executive Director