

Excerpts from Members of Congress floor speeches during House passage of H.Res.427 on the Unified Buddhist Church of Vietnam (UBCV).

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Excerpts from Members of Congress floor speeches during House passage of H.Res.427 on the Unified Buddhist Church of Vietnam (UBCV). Rep. Jim Leach: "I would like to thank the personnel of the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom who worked with our committee staff and with the gentlewoman from California (Ms. Loretta Sanchez), the sponsor, to update and refine the language of the original resolution" Rep. Tom Lantos: "The Vietnamese government's campaign against key religious figures and organizations has been strongly criticized by the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, an organization which we'll be soon commending this morning. Rep. Loretta Sanchez: "According to the 2003 report of the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, the Vietnamese government does not fully support religious freedom. I would like to quote some of the statements from that report. It says, 'The current approach of the U.S. Government to advance religious freedom in Vietnam has failed to yield concrete results. Key religious dissidents have been imprisoned. Others remain under house arrest. In addition, the government has intensified its crackdown on religious minorities in the western provinces and in the Central Highlands.' The report goes on to state that, 'Therefore, the Commission recommends that the United States Government intensify its leverage to hold the government of Vietnam to its international obligation to protect human rights, including that of religious freedom.' This resolution does just that." Rep. Zoe Lofgren: "According to the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, this is pretty much the norm for Vietnam. They say 'key religious dissidents have been imprisoned, and others remain in detention or under house arrest.' They have reports of 18 Buddhists in prison or under house arrest, and 20 UBCV in detention or reeducation camps." Congressional Record online at <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/crecord/index.html>
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