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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

## H. RES. \_\_\_\_\_

Marking the eighth anniversary of the unjust imprisonment of Dr. Gulshan Abbas by the Government of the People's Republic of China, condemning the use of transnational repression to retaliate against the exercise of free speech in the United States, and calling for her immediate and unconditional release.

### IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. MOOLENAAR submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

## RESOLUTION

Marking the eighth anniversary of the unjust imprisonment of Dr. Gulshan Abbas by the Government of the People's Republic of China, condemning the use of transnational repression to retaliate against the exercise of free speech in the United States, and calling for her immediate and unconditional release.

Whereas Dr. Gulshan Abbas is a retired Uyghur medical doctor, mother, and grandmother who was forcibly disappeared by authorities of the People's Republic of China on September 10, 2018;

Whereas, on September 5, 2018, 5 days before the disappearance of Dr. Abbas, her sister, Rushan Abbas, a United States citizen, exercised her right to freedom of speech while participating in a public event at the Hudson Institute in Washington, District of Columbia, where she criticized the Government of the People's Republic of China's treatment of Uyghurs;

Whereas Dr. Abbas had no known history of political activism and her detention has been widely understood as retaliation for the advocacy and speech of her family members in the United States;

Whereas the detention of an individual in the People's Republic of China in retaliation for the lawful speech and advocacy of a family member in the United States represents a particularly egregious form of transnational repression designed to intimidate, punish, and silence individuals exercising fundamental freedoms on United States soil;

Whereas no person in the United States should be forced to choose between exercising the fundamental right to freedom of speech and protecting family members abroad from retaliation by a foreign government;

Whereas the ability of an authoritarian government to punish the relatives of United States citizens for speech occurring in the United States threatens not only the individuals and families targeted, but the fundamental freedoms and national sovereignty of the United States;

Whereas Dr. Abbas was subjected to a secret trial in March 2019 and sentenced to 20 years in prison on charges including participating in organized terrorism, aiding terrorist activities, and seriously disrupting social order;

Whereas the family of Dr. Abbas did not learn of her sentence until December 2020, approximately 21 months after the secret trial;

Whereas the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, in Opinion No. 88/2022, determined that the detention of Dr. Abbas was arbitrary and in violation of multiple provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

Whereas Dr. Abbas suffers from medical conditions requiring regular care and monitoring, heightening concerns regarding her health and treatment during her prolonged imprisonment;

Whereas the Government of the People's Republic of China has engaged in a systematic campaign of repression against Uyghurs and other predominantly Muslim ethnic minorities in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, including arbitrary detention, forced labor, coercive population-control measures, family separation, and restrictions on religious practice and cultural expression;

Whereas Uyghurs and other individuals living outside the People's Republic of China, including United States citizens and individuals residing in the United States, have faced surveillance, threats, intimidation, harassment, and retaliation against family members in an effort by authorities of the People's Republic of China to suppress criticism beyond its borders;

Whereas Congress has repeatedly condemned the arbitrary detention of Dr. Abbas and called for her release;

Whereas, on May 13, 2026, the House unanimously agreed to pass House Resolution 1259, which called on the President to prioritize securing the release of Dr. Abbas

and other individuals unjustly detained by the Government of the People's Republic of China during engagements with President Xi Jinping;

Whereas the continued imprisonment of Dr. Abbas despite repeated bipartisan appeals from Congress and the international community demonstrates the need for sustained diplomatic pressure and accountability;

Whereas September 10, 2026, marks eight years since Dr. Abbas was taken from her family and deprived of her freedom;

Whereas Dr. Abbas has 24 immediate and extended family members who are United States citizens or reside in the United States, including her daughters and sister, making her continued imprisonment a matter that directly affects an American family and community;

Whereas for eight years, the children, grandchildren, siblings, and other loved ones of Dr. Abbas have been denied her presence while continuing to advocate for her freedom from the United States;

Whereas the case of Dr. Abbas is a stark reminder that transnational repression is not an abstract foreign policy concern, but a direct challenge to the ability of people in the United States to exercise their fundamental freedoms without fear that a foreign government will retaliate against their loved ones; and

Whereas defending the freedom of speech of people in the United States requires opposing efforts by foreign governments to silence that speech through coercion, intimidation, or retaliation against family members abroad: Now, therefore, be it

1        *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

1           (1) marks the eighth anniversary of the unjust  
2           and arbitrary detention of Dr. Gulshan Abbas and  
3           stands in solidarity with Dr. Abbas and her family;

4           (2) calls on the Government of the People's Re-  
5           public of China to immediately and unconditionally  
6           release Dr. Abbas and permit her to reunite with her  
7           family;

8           (3) condemns the Government of the People's  
9           Republic of China for using the detention, imprison-  
10          ment, harassment, or intimidation of family mem-  
11          bers as a means of retaliating against and silencing  
12          individuals exercising their fundamental freedoms in  
13          the United States;

14          (4) affirms that attempts by any foreign gov-  
15          ernment to punish individuals or their family mem-  
16          bers because of speech lawfully expressed in the  
17          United States constitute an unacceptable form of  
18          transnational repression and an affront to the fun-  
19          damental freedoms and sovereignty of the United  
20          States;

21          (5) reaffirms that individuals in the United  
22          States must be able to exercise their rights to free-  
23          dom of speech, expression, religion, association, and  
24          peaceful advocacy without fear that a foreign gov-  
25          ernment will retaliate against their relatives abroad;

1           (6) calls on the President, the Secretary of  
2           State, and other appropriate officials of the United  
3           States Government to raise the case of Dr. Abbas at  
4           every appropriate opportunity in bilateral engage-  
5           ments with officials of the People's Republic of  
6           China, including at the highest levels, until she is re-  
7           leased;

8           (7) calls on the President to prioritize securing  
9           the immediate release of Dr. Abbas in engagements  
10          with President Xi Jinping and other senior officials  
11          of the People's Republic of China;

12          (8) urges the Secretary of State, in coordina-  
13          tion with the heads of other appropriate Federal de-  
14          partments and agencies, to use all diplomatic tools  
15          available to the United States to secure the release  
16          of Dr. Abbas and other political prisoners arbitrarily  
17          detained by the Government of the People's Republic  
18          of China;

19          (9) calls on the United States Government to  
20          identify and, where appropriate, impose sanctions  
21          and other accountability measures on officials of the  
22          Government of the People's Republic of China re-  
23          sponsible for the arbitrary detention of Dr. Abbas  
24          and for acts of transnational repression targeting in-

1 individuals in the United States and their family mem-  
2 bers;

3 (10) urges the United States Government to  
4 work with allies, partners, and relevant international  
5 institutions to press for the release of Dr. Abbas and  
6 to oppose the use of arbitrary detention as an in-  
7 strument of transnational repression;

8 (11) calls on the Government of the People's  
9 Republic of China, pending the immediate release of  
10 Dr. Abbas, to provide verifiable information con-  
11 cerning her location, health, and conditions of deten-  
12 tion, permit regular communication with her family,  
13 ensure access to necessary medical treatment, and  
14 permit access by appropriate independent inter-  
15 national observers; and

16 (12) declares that the House of the Representa-  
17 tives will continue to speak the name of Dr. Gulshan  
18 Abbas and advocate for her freedom until she is re-  
19 united with her family.