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Today, as co-chair of the Falun Gong parliamentary friendship group, I stand in solidarity with Canadian Falun Gong practitioners on the anniversary of their fellow practitioners' April 25 appeal for their freedom of belief in China.

I commend Falun Gong practitioners for their courage, dignity, perseverance, and unwavering commitment to safeguarding the universal principles of Truthfulness, Compassion, and Forbearance.

On April 25, 1999, 10,000 Chinese Falun Gong practitioners peacefully assembled in Beijing to call on China's leadership to uphold their constitutional rights to freely practise their faith without harassment and intimidation and without state control by the Chinese Communist Party.

Unfortunately, their peaceful appeal led to an illegal nationwide campaign of hatred, imprisonment, torture, killings, and forced organ harvesting by the communist regime, targeting 100 million innocent Chinese people who were practising Falun Gong across China.

Today, 23 years later, Falun Gong remains the largest and most violently persecuted group in China.

However, year after year, I am honoured and humbled by Canadian Falun Gong adherents' continuing proactive and peaceful efforts to raise awareness of the atrocities suffered by the people in China.

I also call on our government to urge China to end the persecution of Falun Gong; to immediately release Canadian citizen Ms. Qian Sun, who was illegally sentenced to 8 years in prison in June 2020 for her belief; and to release the father of Jack Liu, a student at Carleton University, who were illegally arrested and detained by the Chinese police late last year.

As Canadians, we must not remain silent, but instead voice our concerns to help stop these atrocities.

Sincerely,

Hon. Judy A. Sgro, P.C., M.P.
Humber River-Black Creek