

(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2522

To designate the area between the intersections of 18th Street Northwest and Church Street Northwest, and 18th Street Northwest and P Street Northwest, in the District of Columbia as “Jimmy Lai Way”, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, and Mr. SUOZZI) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To designate the area between the intersections of 18th Street Northwest and Church Street Northwest, and 18th Street Northwest and P Street Northwest, in the District of Columbia as “Jimmy Lai Way”, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. CONDEMNING THE ARBITRARY DETENTION OF**

4 **JIMMY LAI IN HONG KONG.**

5 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Jimmy Lai Chee-ying, a Hong Kong democ-
2 racy advocate, media entrepreneur, and a British
3 citizen, has been in prison since December 2020 on
4 multiple fabricated charges, and is serving a sen-
5 tence of almost 6 years in prison under politically
6 motivated fraud charges, concurrently serving two
7 other sentences, one for joining a vigil to mark the
8 1989 Tiananmen Square Massacre, and another for
9 participating in peaceful protests in 2019.

10 (2) Jimmy Lai is held in solitary confinement
11 for 23 hours and 10 minutes each day, with only 50
12 minutes for restricted exercise and limited human
13 contact or access to daylight. He suffers from diabe-
14 tes and has experienced significant weight loss and
15 increasing frailty since being imprisoned. He was de-
16 nied access to independent medical care.

17 (3) The Apple Daily newspaper which Jimmy
18 Lai founded and published was forced by the au-
19 thorities in Hong Kong to close in June 2021, and
20 the parent company Next Media was delisted from
21 the Hong Kong Stock Exchange under government
22 coercion in January 2023, severely restricting the
23 free flow of news and information that undergirded
24 Hong Kong role as a major financial center.

1 (4) On August 10, 2020, Lai was charged with
2 “collusion with a foreign country or with external
3 elements to endanger national security” under Arti-
4 cle 29 of the National Security Law, charges levied
5 in part because of meetings taken with United
6 States officials, including those during the first Ad-
7 ministration of President Donald J. Trump (2016–
8 2020) and supporting publicly the policies pursued
9 at that time by the Administration.

10 (5) Jimmy Lai’s meetings with former United
11 States Government officials and public figures, in-
12 cluding the Vice President, Secretary of State,
13 Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Con-
14 sul-General in Hong Kong have been cited by the
15 prosecution in the court proceedings.

16 (6) Lai trial under the National Security Law
17 began in December 2023 and is ongoing.

18 (7) A group of United Nations experts, being
19 alarmed by multiple and serious violations of Lai’s
20 rights, including the right to a fair trial and access
21 to a lawyer of his own choosing, called for his imme-
22 diate release.

23 (8) The minimum sentence required under the
24 National Security Law is 10 years imprisonment,

1 and therefore it is possible that Lai could spend the
2 rest of his life behind bars.

3 (9) In 1997, the United Kingdom transferred
4 sovereignty over Hong Kong to the People's Repub-
5 lic of China (PRC) with guaranteed that funda-
6 mental rights are protected under both the Sino-
7 British Joint Declaration and the Basic Law, which
8 enumerate specific rights and freedoms including
9 those of speech, of the press, and of assembly.

10 (10) The Government of the People's Republic
11 of China has repeatedly undermined Hong Kong's
12 autonomy since, in particular since the Umbrella
13 Movement protests in 2014, the mass prodemocracy
14 protests in 2019, and the imposition of the draco-
15 nian National Security Law in 2020.

16 (11) Since its enactment in June 2020, the Na-
17 tional Security Law, unilaterally passed by the Na-
18 tional People's Congress Standing Committee and
19 enforced by officials in Hong Kong as a pretext to
20 repress legitimate and peaceful speech, assembly,
21 and expression of political opinions.

22 (12) Jimmy Lai stands for the values of democ-
23 racy, human rights, respect for the rule of law, reli-
24 gious freedom, freedom of expression, and media
25 freedom, and is prosecuted and persecuted by the

1 PRC's proxies in Hong Kong solely because of his
2 opinions and activities in pursuit of these values.

3 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—Congress—

4 (1) condemns the unjust imprisonment, mis-
5 treatment, and the show trial of United Kingdom
6 citizen Jimmy Lai in Hong Kong;

7 (2) calls upon the Hong Kong authorities to re-
8 lease Jimmy Lai immediately and unconditionally
9 and cease prosecuting him and others charged under
10 the National Security Law;

11 (3) reaffirms the importance of the freedom of
12 speech and the right of publishers, journalists, and
13 media workers in Hong Kong and around the world
14 to operate free from intimidation, harassment, re-
15 pression, censorship, and fear;

16 (4) recognizes that the severe restrictions on
17 the free flow of news and information from Hong
18 Kong impacts the ability of individuals, corporations,
19 and diplomats to make decisions about travel, invest-
20 ments, and political conditions in Hong Kong;

21 (5) urges the Secretary of State and other rel-
22 evant Department of State officials to advocate for
23 the release of Jimmy Lai by raising his case with of-
24 ficials of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Re-
25 gion and People's Republic of China;

1 (6) urges the Secretary of State to employ the
2 financial sanctions found in the Hong Kong Human
3 Rights and Democracy Act and the Hong Kong Au-
4 tonomy Act for Hong Kong officials complicit in the
5 arrest and prosecution of Jimmy Lai and other po-
6 litical prisoners in Hong Kong;

7 (7) urges the United Nations High Commis-
8 sioner for Human Rights to hold a special session
9 and appoint an impartial and independent United
10 Nations mechanism to evaluate, monitor, and report
11 on a range of human rights violations in the Peo-
12 ple’s Republic of China, including the impact of the
13 National Security Law on human rights in Hong
14 Kong, as requested by over United Nations Special
15 Experts in 2020; and

16 (8) urges the Government of the United King-
17 dom and all governments that view extension of
18 human rights, the rule of law, and an end to censor-
19 ship as critical aspect of their national and economic
20 security to call for all charges against Jimmy Lai to
21 be dropped, the trial to end, and for the immediate
22 and unconditional release of Jimmy Lai.

23 **SEC. 2. DESIGNATION OF “JIMMY LAI WAY” IN THE DIS-**
24 **TRICT OF COLUMBIA.**

25 (a) DESIGNATION OF STREET NAME.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The area between the inter-
2 sections of 18th Street Northwest and Church Street
3 Northwest, and 18th Street Northwest and P Street
4 Northwest in the District of Columbia shall be
5 known and designated as “Jimmy Lai Way”.

6 (2) REFERENCE.—Any reference in a law, map,
7 regulation, document, paper, or other record of the
8 United States to the area referred to in paragraph
9 (1) shall be deemed to include “Jimmy Lai Way”.

10 (b) DESIGNATION OF ADDRESS.—

11 (1) DESIGNATION.—The address of 1520 18th
12 Street Northwest in the District of Columbia shall
13 be redesignated as 1 Jimmy Lai Way Northwest.

14 (2) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law,
15 map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of
16 the United States to the address referred to in para-
17 graph (1) shall be deemed to be a reference to 1
18 Jimmy Lai Way Northwest.

19 (c) SIGNS.—The Administrator of General Services
20 shall construct street signs that shall—

21 (1) contain the phrase “Jimmy Lai Way NW”;

22 (2) be similar in design to the signs used by the
23 District of Columbia to designate the location of
24 Metro stations; and

25 (3) be placed on—

1 (A) the parcel of Federal property that is
2 closest to 1 Jimmy Lai Way Northwest (as re-
3 designated by subsection (b)(1)) in the District
4 of Columbia; and

5 (B) the street corners of 18th Street
6 Northwest and Church Street Northwest, and
7 18th Street Northwest and P Street Northwest,
8 in the District of Columbia.

9 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING MAIL DELIVERY**
10 **BY THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE TO**
11 **1 JIMMY LAI WAY.**

12 It is the sense of Congress that the Postmaster Gen-
13 eral should recognize any mail which is addressed to the
14 Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office at “1 Jimmy Lai
15 Way” in San Francisco, California, or New York, New
16 York, with the appropriate postal codes, and should deliver
17 such mail to—

18 (1) 130 Montgomery Street, San Francisco,
19 California 94104; or

20 (2) 115 East 54th Street, New York, New York
21 10022, as the case may be.