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## Pressure on China called for by Smith

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PRESS WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON — New Jersey Rep. Christopher H. Smith, just returned from a trip to China, said Congress must use the leverage of trade relations to convince Chinese leaders the United States won't tolerate rampant human rights abuses.

Smith, Republican of the 4th District, said at a press briefing yesterday the violations go far beyond the June, 1989 massacre of students protesting for Democratic reforms in Tiananmen Square.

He said religious and human rights groups have alleged the government routinely forces women to undergo abortions as part of rigid population controls. Dissidents have been imprisoned, some for decades, in cold and dreary gulags. Others who've escaped to this country have been prevented from being reunited with their families.

Smith visited China with Rep. Frank R. Wolf, R-Va. The two have led many human rights delegations overseas, including trips to Eastern Europe and

Russia



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Smith said the Tiananmen Square incident was the "wake-up call" for the United States and the world concerning human rights abuses in China. A major violation is coerced abortions as part of a rigid one-child-per-couple edict.

Smith and Wolf met Premier Li Peng, though Li made a statement and did not directly answer their questions. Li did say the abortions were voluntary, Smith said.

The premier also said his nation had no political prisoners, though Smith said he and Wolf were denied access to some 40 prisoners at Beijing Prison No. 1.

They asked specifically to see a well known dissident, Xu Wenli, and were told by prison authorities that Xu did not want to meet the Americans. Smith found the excuse wanting, saying Xu had no idea they were in the country and seeking to meet with him.

It is crucial, they said, that Congress and the Bush Administration use the leverage of "most favored nation" trading status to convince the Chinese to ease human rights abuses.

China, despite its human rights record, holds the status. The Soviet Union does not. China is expected this year to have a \$12 billion to \$15 billion trade surplus with the United States, Smith said.

Wolf said that during a tour of Beijing Prison they uncovered what appeared to be a striking trade and human rights abuse. He said prisoners forced into "slave labor" were producing socks and other articles of clothing that appeared to be destined for sale in the United States.

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