

Prime Minister urged to call for release of Liu Xiaobo on Human Rights Day

[2 December 2010] Representatives of Chinese, Uighur & Tibetan Solidarity UK (CUTS UK, a coalition which includes Tibet Society) delivered a letter to Prime Minister David Cameron at Downing Street in the run-up to Human Rights Day on 10 December.

The letter calls on Prime Minister Cameron to make a public statement prior to Human Rights Day urging the Chinese government to release Nobel Peace Prize winner Liu Xiaobo and to release all prisoners of conscience. It also urges the British government to publicly support a process which will allow real freedom, human rights and democracy for all citizens in China, including Chinese, Uighurs and Tibetans.

During his recent trade mission to China, Prime Minister Cameron failed to make any public statement regarding Liu Xiaobo or China's dismal human rights record. Human Rights Day and the Nobel Peace Prize ceremony on 10 December, provide an opportunity for the Prime Minister to redress the balance.

Note: On 10 December, CUTS UK will be holding a solidarity candle-lit vigil outside the Chinese Embassy (from 6.00pm - 8.00pm). Supporters of all Chinese democracy, Uighur and Tibetan groups are encouraged to attend the vigil, and call upon the Chinese government to release all political prisoners in the PRC. CUTS UK will also be sending a message to the Embassy to release Liu Xiaobo.

Solidarity candle-lit vigil outside the Chinese Embassy

Date: Friday 10 December 2010

Time: 6.00pm-8.00pm

Venue: opposite Chinese Embassy, 49-51 Portland Place, London W1B 1JL. [Map](#)

Text of letter sent to Prime Minister Cameron:

2 December 2010

Dear Prime Minister,

On Human Rights Day, 10 December 2010, the Nobel Committee will hold a ceremony for the awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize. As you are aware, this year's recipient, Liu Xiaobo, is currently serving an 11 year prison sentence on spurious charges of "inciting subversion of state power". Liu Xiaobo's 'crime' was his expression of his opinions and beliefs, freedoms which are guaranteed under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Liu Xiaobo was one of the key authors of Charter 08, a groundbreaking document demanding human rights and democracy in China, signed by 300 Chinese scholars and activists. In response to the publication of Charter 08 on Human Rights Day in 2008, the Chinese government detained, harassed or placed under house arrest the majority of the

signatories. Following the recent release of Burmese democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi, the People's Republic of China is now the only country to have a Nobel Peace Prize Laureate in detention.

Liu Xiaobo's incarceration is part of the Chinese government's wide-scale crackdown on human rights defenders, which has resulted in the arbitrary detention, disappearance and increased surveillance of thousands of dissidents and intellectuals across China, Tibet and East Turkestan. Amongst them are Dhondup Wangchen, a Tibetan film-maker serving a six-year prison sentence for directing a documentary about the realities of life in Tibet; and Nurmemet Yasin, a Uighur writer serving a ten-year prison sentence for a short story that was interpreted as critical of China's rule.

Though Chinese, Uighur & Tibetan Solidarity UK (CUTS UK) welcomed your recent call for political progress in China, during your trip to Beijing in November, we were disappointed you did not also take the opportunity to publicly call on the Chinese government to release Liu Xiaobo, to release all prisoners of conscience and to respect the human rights of all its citizens.

Therefore, CUTS UK urges you to take the opportunity of Human Rights Day, 10 December 2010, to make a public statement calling on the Chinese government:

- to release Liu Xiaobo, to end the house arrest of his wife Liu Xia, and to release and stop the harassment of all the signatories of Charter 08;
- to release all prisoners of conscience, including Dhondup Wangchen and Nurmemet Yasin;
- to ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and to change its domestic laws to conform with the standards established in the Covenant, in particular to implement legal processes to ensure fair and transparent legal trials;
- to recognize and uphold the integrity of human rights as guaranteed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

CUTS UK also encourages you to ensure that the issues of prisoners of conscience and human rights are raised by British government officials in meetings with their Chinese counterparts.

CUTS UK also specifically asks that the British Ambassador to China requests a meeting with Liu Xiaobo, to ensure his well-being and fair treatment whilst in prison.

As a respected leader of one of world's foremost democracies, CUTS UK urges you to not just call for political reform in China but to also publicly support a process which will allow real freedom, human rights and democracy for all citizens in China, including Chinese, Uighurs and Tibetans.

Yours sincerely,

Jiang Shao

Karma Chura-Tsang

Reyiman Mahemuti

on behalf of Chinese, Uighur & Tibetan Solidarity UK

Chinese, Uighur & Tibetan Solidarity UK opposes the tyrannical rule of the Chinese Communist Party and upholds the values of freedom, human rights and democracy.

Chinese, Uighur & Tibetan Solidarity UK is made up of the following organisations: Chinese Solidarity Campaign, Federation for Democratic China, Friends of Tiananmen Mothers, Tibetan Community in Britain, Tibet Society, Tibetan Youth UK, Students for a Free Tibet UK, Uighur Association and Uighur Community UK.

Tibet Society, the world's first Tibet support group, was founded in 1959. Funded by its members, it has been working for over 50 years to seek justice for Tibet through parliamentary lobbying, campaigns and actions. Help keep Tibet alive by joining Tibet Society today. (Annual membership £20; Overseas £32; Life £400).

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