

Laogai Research Foundation Teams Up with other Noted Organizations to Call on President Obama to Raise the Imprisonment of Liu Xiaobo, Other Prisoners of Conscience on Up-Coming Trip to China



Washington, DC- November 12, 2009- In a letter sent to the Whitehouse on November 9, 2009, the Laogai Resarch Foundation and several other organizations made the following demands of President Barack Obama before his trip to China: 1) Realize the mission of the Nobel Peace Prize and demand the Chinese government release all imprisoned writers and prisoners of conscience and 2) Respond to the resolution passed by the US House of Representatives demanding the immeadiate release of Liu Xiaobo. Other signatories to the letter include the Independent Chinese Pen Centre, Beijing Spring, and the Hong Kong Journalist Association. The text of the letter is as follows:

US President Obama Visits China in November; Call on the Nobel Peace Prize Recipient to Demand the Chinese Government Release all Prisoners of Conscience

Dr. Liu Xiaobo, prominent Beijing writer and honorary president of the Independent Chinese PEN Centre, has been formally arrested for four months. He has been detained for eleven months and accused of “inciting subversion of state power” simply because in December last year he took part in drafting Charter 08, which demands that the Chinese government improve its political system and human rights situation, and because he penned several articles critical of government officials. He is one of many writers and human rights defenders to be imprisoned and prosecuted for this offence.

US President Obama received this year's Nobel Peace Prize on 9 October. He will visit Beijing and Shanghai on 15-18 November to meet with Chinese President Hu Jintao. The US House of Representatives had already passed resolutions to demand for the immediate release of Liu Xiaobo and Sichuan human rights defenders Tan Zuoran and Huang Qi who investigated the Sichuan earthquake last year. The House of Representatives also demanded that President Obama discuss the cases of Tan and Huang during his visit to China. Again, we call on President Obama to live up to the objective of the Nobel Peace Prize and the duties it entails. When he meets with Chinese leaders, he should ask the Chinese government to release all prisoners of conscience, including Liu Xiaobo, Tan Zuoren, Huang Qi, Guo Quan, Xie Changfa, Gao Zhisheng, Hu Jia, Shi Tao, Chen Guangcheng, Guo Feixiong, Jin Haike, Lu Gengsong, Yang Tianshui and Zheng Yichun.

We, therefore, demand that President Obama:

- 1) Realize the mission of the Nobel Peace Prize and demand the Chinese Government release all imprisoned writers and prisoners of conscience**
- 2) Respond to the resolutions passed by the US House of Representatives demanding the immediate release of Liu Xiaobo, Tan Zuoren and Huang Qi**

We also call on all other heads of state to use their influence to persuade the Chinese government to release Liu Xiaobo and all imprisoned writers and prisoners of conscience.

Co-signed by:

Independent Chinese PEN Centre

Jirí Grusa, former president of the International PEN

John Ralston Saul, current president of the International PEN

Karin Clark, former chairperson of Writers-in-Prison Committee of the International PEN

Marian Botsford Fraser, current chairperson of Writers-in-Prison Committee of the International PEN

Edwood Kovac, Committee member of Writers-in-Prison Committee of the International PEN

PEN American Center

Austrian PEN

PEN Canada

German PEN

French PEN

Justice and Peace Commission of the Hong Kong Catholic Diocese

China Human Rights Lawyers Concern Group

Scottish PEN

German Writers Abroad PEN

Pakistani PEN

Serbian PEN

Slovenian PEN

Russian PEN

Vietnamese Writers' Abroad PEN

Uighur PEN

Tartar PEN

Hungarian PEN

Taipei Chinese PEN

Swiss Romand PEN

Tibetan Writers' Abroad PEN

Zambian PEN

Basque PEN

Dutch PEN

Turkish PEN

Mongolian PEN

Swiss Italian PEN

Italian Trieste PEN

Swiss German PEN

Swedish PEN

Polish PEN

Portuguese PEN

Slovakian PEN

New Zealand PEN

Norwegian PEN

Kurdish PEN

Kazakh PEN

Egyptian PEN

Moroccan PEN

Japanese PEN

Korean PEN

Belarus PEN

Haitian PEN
Galician PEN
Italian PEN
Lithuanian PEN
Belgian PEN
Algerian PEN
Croatian PEN
Sierra Leone PEN
Danish PEN
Czech PEN
Nepal PEN
Sydney PEN
Melbourne PEN
Bulgarian PEN
Colombian PEN
Cuban PEN
English PEN
Iran PEN
Malawi PEN
Palestinian PEN
South African PEN
Hong Kong Journalist Association
Hong Kong Christian Institute
Beijing Spring
Qi's Cultural Foundation
Princeton China Initiative
Christians For Hong Kong Society
Hong Kong Christian Industrial Committee
Laogai Research Foundation
Deng Liberty Foundation
Taipei Society
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The [Laogai Research Foundation](http://www.laogai.org) is a nonprofit organization founded by former political prisoner Harry Wu in 1992. Its mission is to gather information on and raise public awareness of the Laogai, China's extensive system of forced-labor prison camps.

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