

## Resolution of the Trentino-South Tyrol Regional Council

"Laogai: a reality that, in order to be defeated, must be denounced!"

In all of us, the word "lager" creates a deep sense of grief and anxiety.

Similar dismay is caused by the word "gulag", which recalls the madness of those who exploited their own people for the benefit of socialist ideology.

To most of us, the word "laogai" means very little; however, although it looks different, it has a lot in common with lager and gulag camps: like the Nazi and the Soviet camps the laogai are in fact places of death, places where work becomes a nightmare and the rights, all human rights, become mere distant memories.

There is only one major difference: the laogai are still in existence nowadays, in 2009.

The laogai are the concentration camps in China, the country with one billion and three hundred million people and a staggering economic growth, a candidate to become the new superpower, if it is not that already.

A chinese citizen denounced to the entire world, years ago and for the first time, the horror of these extermination camps of the new millennium. This

was Harry Wu, born in 1937, catholic and opposed to the regime spent nineteen years of his life in the laogai camps.

He founded in 1992 the Laogai Research Foundation in Washington and in 1994 he acquired U.S. citizenship. We owe to him a good part of what we know about these forced labor camps that are nowadays estimated to be at least a thousand, across China.

Historians have found that forced labor dates back to ancient China: the Great Wall itself, with its almost 9 thousand kilometers, was built that way.

The Laogai, however, are a relatively recent invention: it was Mao, in 1950, who created them; and today, more than half a century later, they are in full swing.

The exact number of prisoners currently detained in these camps is not, unfortunately, available: certainly several millions of chinese are detained there, maybe more.

Thanks to the testimony of survivors, we are able to learn what constitutes the life of the laogai inmates forced to work 15-16 hours a day, which are often followed by "study sessions", namely brainwashing and indoctrination practices aimed at cloning the prisoners into victims of a criminal political experiment.

In addition there are thousands of mass executions, indescribable forms of torture: from forced abortion to the transplant of the human organs of persons still alive.

In addition to political dissidents, the recipients of these infernal practices are those who adhere to religious beliefs, the real nightmare of a system that, to strengthen itself, aims at eliminating all forms of hope and redemption among its citizens. From this originates the hatred of all religions, particularly Christianity, which is growing in China every day.

However the worst aspect of it all is the conspiracy of silence of much of the western world, that maintains a daily and profitable business relationships with China: the country of torture and of the Laogai. .

It seems it makes no difference to those who worship the god of money, to know that their profits are made on the blood and skin of innocent people.

But not us, we can not accept this.

We must strive by all means, such as the disclosure of documents and information through conferences, in order to expose the deception of a great empire, the chinese, which is built on the worst of all slaveries, namely the one that denies all rights and all freedoms to its victims till, sometimes, their physical extermination.

We must do this with determination, with the hope and belief that tomorrow "laogai" along with "lager" and a "gulag", becomes a word of the past to be remembered as something to never happen again.

The Council of the Autonomous Region of Trentino-South Tyrol binds the Regional Executive Committee:

1) To strive for the dissemination of information through the organization of events (exhibitions, seminars and conferences), through the work of experts having witnessed the reality of the Laogai and through non-governmental organizations working for human rights in China;

2) To condemn the existence of the laogai labor camps across the country, in which the chinese regime detains, in inhuman conditions and without due trial, human rights activists and dissidents as well as members of national and religious minorities, forcing them to work in terrible conditions and without medical care. For all goods exported to the EU, China must give the assurance that they are not produced in the laogai; in absence of this commitment, it is necessary to prohibit the importation of Chinese goods into the EU;

the Council of the Autonomous Region of Trentino-South Tyrol pledges  
the Presidency of the Regional Council:  
to take action, according the institutional channels deemed most appropriate,  
to request respect for human rights in China, starting from the freedom of  
religion.