

Pastor John Zhang's Testimony

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Hello, my name is Qianjin Zhang. I am currently serving as the pastor of the Bay Area Reformed Evangelical Church in San Francisco.

22 years ago, in 1989, I was a Language and Literature student at Beijing Language and Culture University. I actively participated in the 1989 Patriotic Democratic Movement in Beijing.

After the Tiananmen Square Incident, I organized a large memorial service to remember the people who were massacred at Tiananmen. I was arrested on June 15th on charges of "instigating counterrevolutionary propaganda" and sent to Beijing's Qincheng Prison for two years.

After being released, I was expelled from Beijing and went to Hainan, where I had to fend for myself.

In 2001, I was baptized as a Christian; it was not long after that that I became a leader in an underground house church. Every Sunday I would lead dozens of Christians in worship in hotels, restaurants or in followers' homes. Then, on the night before the 15th anniversary of the Tiananmen Square Incident, I was illegally detained for 10 days.

I came to the U.S. in 2006 to study Theology. Graduating in 2009 with a Masters in Biblical Studies, I found a position with a church in the San Francisco Bay Area.

While I was in Seminary, I would visit the Goddess of Democracy statue in San Francisco every year on the anniversary of the Tiananmen Square Incident. I would also actively participate in sending Christmas and New Year's greeting cards to prisoners of conscience in China. This was a good reminder to all Chinese immigrants, currently living in this free country, not to forget the blood and sweat of those who sacrificed their lives by the millions fighting for democracy in China.

While I was in China, my entire family suffered under China's persecution and everyday we lived in fear and without freedom. When Zhao Ziyang passed away, the police placed my family under house arrest for a month. We would have a police car "escort" us everywhere we went. Even when my daughter went to her piano proficiency exam, the police drove a police car to send her to the testing site. After arriving in America, while I was enjoying prosperity and democracy, I would, think about all the dissidents being persecuted in China. I teamed up with colleagues in the Bay Area to participate in Chinese humanitarian relief efforts. We would raise funds annually to provide humanitarian support and aid to victims of unjust treatment in China due to social, political and/or religious reasons. We also call them often to comfort and encourage them. Starting in 2007 up until today, annually, we support over one hundred victims and their families.

In 2009 we helped Fang Zheng, a man whose legs were crushed by a tank during the Tiananmen Square Incident, and his family escape from China and relocate to the U.S. In

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2010, we helped raise funds for Li Muzi, son of Guizhou Democracy Party member Li Yuanlong, to come to the U.S. and helped him gain legal residence so that he could graduate. Using Microsoft's Hotmail, Li Yuanlong wrote "Becoming American, in Ideology," plus three other articles under the pseudonym "Night Wolf" and posted them on foreign websites. For this he was charged with "inciting subversion of state power."

Liu Xianbin, a dissident from Sichuan, posted three articles online calling for the Communist Party to implement political change. For this Liu was sentenced on March 25, 2011 by the Sichuan Suining City's Intermediate Court to 10 years in prison for "inciting subversion of state power." This is Liu's third stint in prison. He is 43 years old and has celebrated 11 birthdays in the darkness of his prison cell. When his daughter, Chen Qiao, was only two years old, Liu was taken from her life. When she was eight or nine, during her winter vacations, she and her mother would take the train to Nanchong, and from there take the bus to Dazhu- a trek that would take up a whole day- to go visit her father in prison. Chen's interactions with her father were limited to letters and sketches sent out at intervals predetermined by the prison. Thus Chen's memory of her father is fuzzy and distant. When she was 11 years old in 2009, her father suddenly appeared at their home. He was like a stranger intruding into her calm life. Feeling guilty about his absence, Liu wanted to spend more time with his wife and daughter. However, on March 25, 2011, the Communist Party sentenced Liu to yet another stint in prison, where he will waste away for the next 10 years. Chen Qiao is now 14. She and her father have spent less than four years together. A girl's adolescent years are when she needs her father most. She will not have the opportunity to get spoiled by her father or horse around with him, nor can she receive her father's love, guidance or protection.

The American company Cisco has played a disgraceful role in Liu Xianbin's sad story. According to reports, Cisco knowingly helped China's Ministry of Public Security construct the "Golden Shield Project" as well as provided equipment, technology and training. The "Golden Shield Project" is a national surveillance network system that has a huge database and a sophisticated tracking network system. Thanks to network surveillance technologies provided by Cisco, the Ministry of Public Security can trace dissidents' IP addresses and then track, harass and arrest them. I saw this in four articles published on Cisco's Chinese website, clearly showing the cooperative relationship between Cisco and China's Ministry of Public Security. Without a doubt, Cisco is responsible for the deterioration of internet freedom in China. I hope that the Commission will enter these documents into the record.

Today, I want to remind everyone that freedom of speech is an inherent right given to man by God; it is an inalienable right. The U.S. was established on Christian values. The U.S. should defend and adhere to these universal human values and promote "non-evil" business practices. Each member of Congress has the responsibility to monitor American companies like Cisco, who are trying to maximize business interests in China. These companies should not ignore the most basic morals and principles of business ethics. In order to regulate the business practices of companies that violate American law, they should be subject to public criticism, condemnation, economic penalties and sanctions.

Thank you.