



## PETITION

# END REPRESSION OF EXPRESSION - FREE LIU XIAOBO!

Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress  
WU Bangguo Weiyuanzhang  
Quanguo Renda Changwu Weiyuanhui Bangongting  
23 Xijiaominxiang  
Xichengqu, Beijingshi 100805  
People's Republic of China

CC: President Hu Jintao, Premier Wen Jiabao, Minister of Justice Wu Aiyong

Dear Chairman,

We, the undersigned, are outraged that Dr Liu Xiaobo, 2010 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, remains in prison in China. Following an unfair trial, a Beijing court sentenced Liu Xiaobo to 11 years' imprisonment on 25 December 2009 on charges of "inciting subversion of state power."

Liu Xiaobo was convicted for his role in drafting Charter 08, a proposal for legal and political reform in China, initially signed by 300 scholars, lawyers, and officials. More than 10,000 people have added their names to Charter 08 after it was published online on 9 December 2008. The court also said Liu Xiaobo engaged in "rumour mongering, slander and smear" that exceeded the limits of freedom of expression and constituted a criminal offence, citing six articles in which he criticized official corruption, censorship, and one-party rule.

Liu Xiaobo has consistently maintained that he is innocent. Whilst admitting writing the articles listed in the indictment and the verdict, he says he was simply exercising his right to freedom of expression as guaranteed in China's constitution. We agree.

We believe that the ongoing imprisonment of Liu Xiaobo runs counter to the spirit and letter of China's Constitution. Article 35 grants Chinese citizens freedom of speech. Article 41 states that citizens have the right to criticize and make suggestions regarding any state organ or functionary. The Constitution also grants the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress power to grant special pardons. We urge you to use this power and release Liu Xiaobo immediately and unconditionally.

Freedoms of expression, association and assembly are also guaranteed in international human rights law, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), which China has signed and repeatedly expressed an intention to ratify.

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