

# AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL



## PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA: FREE LIU XIAOBO & LIU XIA



Liu Xiaobo & Liu Xia  
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*I firmly believe that China's political progress will not stop, and I, filled with optimism, look forward to the advent of a future free china. For there is no force that can put and end to the human quest for Freedom, and China will in the end become a nation ruled by law, where human rights reign supreme.*

"I have no enemies: my final statement,"  
by Liu Xiaobo at his trial on 23 December  
2009 (translation by HRIC)

Dr Liu Xiaobo, prominent Chinese literary scholar and 2010 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, is serving an 11-year prison sentence on charges of "inciting subversion of state power" imposed after an unfair trial on 25 December 2009.

This is the fourth time Liu Xiaobo has been detained as a prisoner of conscience.

Liu Xiaobo was first detained after the 1989 pro-democracy movement. Returning from the USA where he was a visiting scholar, he joined protestors in Tiananmen Square and went on a hunger strike to protest looming repression of the demonstrations by the People's Liberation Army (PLA). On the night of 3 June he negotiated the peaceful evacuation of Tiananmen Square with the PLA. However, the movement still came to a violent end after the PLA fired live ammunition on peaceful protesters in the streets around Tiananmen Square, killing many hundreds and injuring thousands.

For Liu Xiaobo, like many others of his generation, June 1989 was a "major turning point". He has since written prolifically, criticizing corruption, censorship and one-party rule and advocating the development of a democratic multi-party political system in China. He served as the President of the Independent Chinese PEN Centre from 2003 to 2007.

He is also the co-author of Charter 08 which calls for effective protection of universal human rights and democratic reform. For this, and six other articles he authored, the court in December 2009 found Liu Xiaobo to have engaged in "rumour mongering, slander and smear" that exceeded the limits of freedom of expression and constituted a crime.

Although best known for his calls for political reform, Liu Xiaobo has also defended other human rights. He has spoken out against discrimination faced by migrant workers and people living with HIV/Aids. He has also defended workers protesting against corrupt employers.

Liu Xiaobo was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize on 8 October 2010 for his long and non-violent struggle for fundamental human rights in China. He was informed the following day by prison guards.

His wife Liu Xia, a poet and artist, was placed under illegal “house arrest” following the announcement on 8 October 2010. That evening, police took her to Liaoning province to meet with Liu Xiaobo in prison.

Afterwards, Liu Xia tweeted that during their meeting on 10 October 2010, Liu Xiaobo had broken into tears and dedicated the Nobel Peace Prize “to all those who have sacrificed their lives in non-violent struggle for peace, democracy and freedom”.

The authorities escorted Liu Xia back to Beijing the same day and continue to keep her a prisoner in their home. She was last heard from on 18 October 2010.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

### **Please write to the Chinese authorities urging them to:**

- Calling on them release Liu Xiaobo immediately and unconditionally;
- Urging them to lift surveillance and all restrictions on Liu Xia’s freedom of movement, freedom of expression and association;
- Urging them to take effective measures to ensure freedom of expression in line with Chinese constitutional guarantees and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), which China has signed and declared an intention to ratify in the near future;
- Urging them to take effective measures to ensure that all human rights defenders, including Liu Xiaobo and Liu Xia, can carry out their peaceful activities without fear of hindrance, intimidation, arbitrary detention or imprisonment and in line with the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders.

### **Please send letters to all the following:**

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

Salutation: Dear Chairman

Premier of the People’s Republic of China

WEN Jiabao Guojia Zongli

The State Council General Office

2 Fuyoujie, Xichengqu

Beijingshi 100017, People’s Republic of China

Salutation: Your Excellency

Minister of Justice of the People’s Republic of China

WU Aiyong Buzhang

Sifabu

10 Chaoyangmen nandajie, Chaoyangqu

Beijingshi 100020, People’s Republic of China

Salutation: Dear Minister

**Please send copies to diplomatic representatives of China accredited to your country.**