

1. The City Council should send a letter to the Tournament of Roses Association and request the Association to withdraw its invitation to Beijing for a Rose Parade float until Beijing fulfills its Olympics promises.
2. Include the letter from more than forty prominent Chinese citizens with demands that the PRC end human rights abuses. Those demands include declaring amnesty for all prisoners of conscience, allowing exiles to return to China, and allowing foreign and Chinese journalists to conduct interviews without pre-approval.
3. Include the letter and the demands from Reporters Without Borders. Among the eight demands are to free everyone who has been in prison for the 1989 Tiananmen protests, end control of the media including the internet, and abolish article 306 of the criminal code which allows lawyers to be arrested or banned
4. Include Amnesty International's demand to address the issues of human rights.
5. Include Human Rights Watch's demand that the PRC government fulfill the promise made by Wang Wei, secretary-general of the Beijing Olympics Games Bid Committee that international media would have "complete freedom to report when they come to China."
6. Demand from Friends of Tibet that the PRC government allow the International Red Cross ascertain the health of Gedhun Choekyi Nyima, the missing Panchen Lama, and engage in good-faith negotiations with the Tibetan Government-in-Exile for establishment of true autonomy for Tibet.
7. The New York Coalition for Darfur and Jews Against Genocide stated their opposition to the Beijing Rose Float because of the role of the Chinese government in supporting the Sudanese government in the genocide in Darfur. This has included financial support, military support in the sale of arms and political support by shielding the Khartoum regime from sanctions and from the introduction of UN forces to protect the people of Darfur by the Security Council.
8. Demands to release Bishop Jia Zhiguo, the underground Roman Catholic Bishop of the Diocese of Zheng Ding in Hebei Province, who was arrested on August 23, 2007. Also the release of Father Wen Daoxin of Beiwangli Village, Qingyuan County, Hebei, who was arrested on August 15, 2007.
9. Demand to release California resident Yaning Liu's mother Shuying Li who was arrested on December 15, 2006 and sentenced to 2.5 years in labor camp because she practices Falun Gong and kept Falun Gong literatures at home.
10. Demand to release California resident Hongwei Lou's husband Dongwei Bu who was arrested in Beijing on May 19, 2006 and sentenced to 2.5 years in labor camp because he practices Falun Gong.
11. Demand to release House Church leader Zhou Heng who was formally arrested on August 31, 2007 in Xinjiang for receiving 3 tons of bibles. A fellow inmate reported that Zhou has been severely beaten by prison guards and other inmates.
12. Demand for a complete and transparent investigation into the murder in Guangzhou, China of Darren Russell, son of Maxine Russell.

Recommend the City of Pasadena Mayor and City Councilmembers send a letter to the Sister City Xicheng District of Beijing

1. The Pasadena City Council should send a letter to Sister City Xicheng and asking the officials to remind the Beijing Olympics Committee that they have yet to fulfill the promises made to the International Olympics Committee.
2. Includes items 2 to 12 above.

Recommend the City of Pasadena Mayor and City Councilmembers send a letter to the Beijing Olympics Organizing Committee

1. The Pasadena City Council should send a letter to the Beijing Olympics Organizing Committee and ask the Committee to fulfill their Olympic promises.
2. Includes items 2 to 12 above.

\* \* \* End \* \* \*

Good Evening, Ladies and Gentlemen,

My name is Jie Li. I am very lucky, because I did not die in the jail of Chinese Communist Party like my grandpa did, and I came to the free world to expose these evil deeds. Since Chinese communist party took over the power, they never stopped persecution towards Chinese people. My grandpa was thrown into jail by Communist party because he was a member of Kuomintang. Two years later, he died in jail. As for me, just because I refused to renounce my belief, I was sentenced to a 5-year term. During my imprisonment, I was cut-off from the outside world, forced to attend brainwashing sessions and do hard labor.

When I was detained in Xicheng Detention Center (which is in our sister city of Pasadena), I held hunger strike for 8 days to protest the persecution. I was violently force-fed. More than 10 people tied me on a bed, then inserted a plastic tube from my nose to my stomach. It was so painful that I started vomiting green bile immediately. Slave work in the jail was very intense. Everyday we had to work for more than 16 hours, sometimes we even worked overnight. However, there was no protection during work. We were forced to cut wool, but we were not even provided scissors or masks. Our working condition was very poor. 16 people worked in a room less than 250 square feet. The room was also our bedroom full of bunk beds.

Yaning's mother, Shuying Li, lived in the same district with me from Dec. 2000 till Feb. 2003. She was a very kind old lady and cared for me like a mother. She helped me to get used to the difficult relationship in the jail, and cared for my daily life. She also helped juvenile inmates to improve their literacy, and get rid of their unhealthy habits and thoughts.

Among the 9 practitioners who were illegally sentenced together with me, at least two of them were detained again including Yaning's mother Shuying Li. They were detained because Communist Party would like to clean the streets for Olympics. Olympics brought us tremendous pain. Whenever I thought about Olympics, I thought about these innocent people illegally detained for Olympics and the pain they are suffering now. I request you to stop the Beijing Olympic Float from joining Rose Parade, and object to the fact that Chinese Communist Party use Olympics to persecute Chinese people.

Jie Li  
Resident of Rowland Heights

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**Note:**

An independent investigation confirmed that organ harvesting from live Falun Gong practitioners is truly practiced in China. As common knowledge, it takes a few years to receive a matching organ in America. But, in China to receive a matching organ takes just a few days.

From my experience in detention centers, I have come to believe that organ harvesting from live Falun Gong practitioners is truly happening throughout China. Falun Gong practitioners were tortured relentlessly and were transferred in secret to an unknown location later. I used to think they were released. It was not until the exposure of China organ harvesting on Falun Gong practitioners was I aware that some of them were sent to death camps waiting for their organs to be removed. I personally know a practitioner called Huang Xiong, who has been missing for years and possible already became a victim of organ harvesting.

**Jie Li**

**Resident of Rowland Heights**

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Good evening:

My name is Fengling Ge. I am a witness of the persecution towards Falun Gong in China.

On October 26, 2000, I upheld a banner with "Truthfulness, compassion, Forbearance" in Tian'anmen square. I was immediately taken away by police and put into slave labor camp for one year, where I suffered a lot of inhuman treatment. When I was detained in Fengtai Detention Center in Beijing in 2000, everyday many Falun Gong practitioners were arrested and put into detention centers. Since the persecution began, the detention cell where we stayed was always over its capacity. At peak time, there were ~30 people detained in one rectangle cell less than 50 square feet. Most of people in the cell had to sleep by side, with chest almost touching the back of the next person. When some of us felt too tired to sleep by side for hours, she had to ask other people all together to turn to the other side -- it even had no room for one person to turn her body alone.

The police forced us to do hard labor to make profit for them as well. We were forced to wrap chopsticks, plant trees, sew toys and knit hats, some of which were for export. At the dispatch center and labor camp, we were forced to wrap disposable chopsticks with a thin, narrow piece of paper. Usually, chopsticks were piled on the ground, and we had not washed our hands before packaging those chopsticks. On the paper, it said, "Sterilized, please feel free to use." Usually we were forced to do such hard labor more than ten hours per day. Sometimes we could only sleep for about three to four hours per day.

What I mentioned above is just an ice tip of what Falun Gong practitioners suffered in Mainland China. Actually under the governance of Communist Party, not only Falun Gong practitioners, Buddhists, Christians, dissidents in China suffer, but also all Chinese people and people all over the world. The recent explored poisonous foods just provide us a footnote. Please give your hands first on refusing "the bloody Olympics". Thanks for your listening.

Fengling Ge  
Resident of Rowland Heights

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Good evening:

My name is Wen Chen and I am a Falun Gong practitioner living in Pasadena. Falun Gong is a peaceful body and mind exercise based on the principle of Truth-Compassion-Tolerance. It is practiced by more than 100 million people in over 80 countries. In China, it was estimated that over 70 million Chinese practice it according to US World and News report in 1999. Because of its popularity and independent thinking not controlled by Communist Party, Chinese government started a crackdown towards Falun Gong in July 1999. Since then, over 100,000 practitioners were sent to slave labor camps and jails, at least 3000 Falun Gong practitioners died in police custody. Torture towards Falun Gong practitioners include all kinds of physical abuses like beating, shocking by electric batons, deprive of sleep, and use of lots of torture tools beyond our imagination, also sexual harassment including raping female practitioners and force abortion. The persecution towards Falun Gong is confirmed by many international human rights organizations such as Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch.

We are deeply concerned about the coming Beijing Olympic float, because communist party is using this as their propaganda tool to cover up the persecution, and because of Olympics, Chinese Communist Party kidnapped more Falun Gong practitioners as part of their "street-cleaning" policy. In 2001, when the Chinese regime made its promise on improving human rights for the Olympics, it was already carrying on the most horrific persecution towards 100 million Falun Gong practitioners. That promise, therefore, is a deception from the beginning.

We hope city of Pasadena could write a letter to Beijing government condemning the persecution towards Falun Gong, and help to rescue Yaning's mother to free world.

Wen Chen, Ph.D.  
801 N. Garfield Ave., #5  
Pasadena, CA 91104

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## Statement at Pasadena Human Relations meeting

Good evening everyone.

My name is Zheng Qu, I am speaking on behalf of CIPFG LA branch. CIPFG (Coalition to investigate persecution of Falun Gong) is a non-profit organization dedicated to investigating crimes committed against Falun Gong practitioners in China.

In March 2006, two witnesses revealed large scale organ harvesting for profit from unwilling Falun Gong practitioners in China. One of them, a former employee of Sujiatun hospital, revealed that this hospital has removed organs from 3000-4000 Falun Gong practitioners. Her ex-husband used to be a doctor removing cornea.

In May 2006, CIPFG requested help from Mr. Kilgour, a Canadian parliament member and former secretary of state for Asia-Pacific, and Mr. Matas, an international human rights lawyer to initiate an independent investigation into the allegations of organ harvesting from live Falun Gong practitioners in China. Their report was completed on July 6, 2006, and updated in January, 2007 (more info: <http://www.organharvestinvestigation.net>). They used 33 ways of proof and disproof. The following are some key points in the report.

1. China's organ transplant business skyrocketed after 1999. On the Web site of China's organ transplant centers, they claim that a matched organ can be found within weeks. In other countries, it takes years. This implies that they have a huge bank of living people, from whom organs can be harvested at any time.
2. In January 2007, according to BBC report, the Vice Minister of Health in China, Huang Jiefu, admitted that most organs China uses for transplant come from death-row prisoners. According to the U.S. State Department's Human Rights country report, released in 2007, over half the prisoned population in China today is Falun Gong practitioners.
3. Using Chinese government statistics, by comparing two consecutive six year periods before and after 1999 when the persecution started, it is found that the number of organ transplants performed in China increased from 18,500 to 60,000 (more than triple). But there wasn't much change in the number of executed prisoners in China between these two six-year periods. The increase in organ transplants occurred not long after the persecution against Falun Gong began in 1999.
4. Investigators called China's hospitals, pretending to look for organs for sick relatives. Some bold and greedy doctors in quite a few hospitals admitted that they have organs from Falun Gong practitioners.
5. Many Falun Gong practitioners were given blood tests while in labor camps. These tests were certainly not given for the benefit of the practitioner's health.

Their conclusions are:

"Based on what we now know, we have come to the regrettable conclusion that the allegations are true. We believe that there has been and continues today to be large scale organ seizures from unwilling Falun Gong practitioners. "

On September 9th 2006, the European Parliament adopted a resolution expressing alarm over a range of Chinese economic, foreign policy, environmental, and human rights issues, including the forced removal of organs from imprisoned Falun Gong practitioners.

Three United Nations Special Rapporteurs have recently reported the Chinese regime's live organ harvesting to the United Nations.

We believe that crimes of organ harvesting for profit and Olympic represent opposite extremes of human activities and cannot be allowed to happen together. Some days later the whole world will know what kind of crimes were happening under the glory of Olympics. Pasadena should be careful about its decision at this moment.

Zheng Qu, 299 N. Euclid Av. Suite 500, Pasadena, CA 91101

REC.  
8/7/07

STATEMENT to the Pasadena Human Relations Commission,  
Meeting of 7 August 2007

As a resident of Pasadena and co-coordinator of the local chapter (Pasadena/Caltech) of Amnesty International (AI), I am speaking to express my concern at the plans for the participation of a float in this year's Rose Parade promoting the planned 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing, China. There has been increasing concern over the deterioration of human rights in China in the past few years, which has been documented by a series of reports issued by AI, entitled: "People's Republic of China – The Olympics countdown", (available online at <http://web.amnesty.org/library/Index/ENGASA170152007>). I will here summarize some of the important points from this report.

1. When the games were awarded to China in 2001, several Chinese officials had made statements explicitly stating that hosting the games would improve the human-rights situation in their country. However, it appears that the opposite has been the case, with the Olympics apparently acting as a catalyst to extend the use of administrative detention and a continued crackdown on human-rights defenders. One activist, Ye Ghozhu, attempted to organize a demonstration against forced evictions in Beijing in connection with preparations for the Olympics and was arrested and sentenced to 4 years in prison. He reportedly suffers from health problems, partly as a result of being tortured in detention. AI considers him a prisoner of conscience and calls for his immediate release.

2. There is reliable evidence that there were about 8,000 executions in China in 2006, which is 13 times the combined number for the rest of the world. On 1 Jan 2007, China adopted a reform whereby all death sentences must be reviewed by the Supreme People's Court (SPC). While some Chinese legal figures claim that this will result in a reduction of executions by 20-30%, AI considers it impossible to verify these claims unless the authorities release full statistics on on executions both before and after this review was introduced, which has not been done. There is also evidence that executions have taken place since this reform without approval from the SPC.

3. The use of organ transplants is widespread in China, though exact statistics are hard to obtain. A Chinese official recently claimed that the main source is voluntary donation by the wills of the deceased. However, this is very unlikely, as China has no formal system of voluntary organ donation and it violates traditional Chinese cultural norms. It is also contradicted by statements by other officials that the majority of organs for transplant come from death-penalty prisoners.

4. AI continues to receive regular reports of individuals consigned to forced-labor camps without charge, trial or judicial review, solely for the expression of their political and religious opinions. One case that AI has singled out is that of Bu Dongwei, a Falung Gong practitioner held at the Tuanhe forced-labor facility in Beijing. His only crime was the possession of Falung Gong literature in his home. AI considers him a prisoner of conscience and calls for his immediate release.

Thank you for this opportunity to express my views.

Lucas Kamp  
187 South Catalina Ave.,  
Pasadena, CA 91106

Email: [lwkamp@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lwkamp@sbcglobal.net)

Rec.  
8/7/07



## Statement at Pasadena Human Relations Meeting

Good evening everyone, my name is Yaning Liu. I used to live right at the corner of Union and Wilson, and enjoyed our world famous Rose Parade each year. But now as the Chinese Olympic float is coming to our Rose Parade, I would like to take this opportunity to seek your help to rescue my mother who was arrested on December 15, 2006 due to Beijing government's clearing the streets for the coming Olympic Games.

My mother Shuying Li is a 63 years old retired high school teacher in Beijing Haidian District Zhongguancun High School. She had been a teacher for over 30 years and was honored as an "excellent teacher" by her school. She began to practice Falun Gong in 1995 after learned it from a colleague.

As you know Falun Gong is a traditional Chinese spiritual practice that includes exercise and meditation with its core principles being Truthfulness, Compassion and Tolerance. It was outlawed by the Chinese communist party in July 1999 simply because of the large number of people practicing it. According to Chinese government's own report, there were over 70 million people in China practicing Falun Gong in 1999. However since then, millions of Chinese families have been affected by this crackdown. My mother was first arrested in February 2000 because she intended to appeal for Falun Gong by demonstrating the five sets of gentle exercises in Tiananmen Square. She was sentenced to 3 years in prison and was release in 2003. However, after she's released, the policemen kept harassing her, especially during so-called "sensitive times". Last December, a few days before she could go to the U.S. embassy to apply for a visa to come here and visit me, 3 policemen broke into my parents' home and started to search for Falun Gong materials. Once they found some, they took my mother away. A month later, the Beijing Municipal Committee of Labor Education decided to send my mother to Beijing Female Labor Camp for 2.5 years.

My mother's arrest is not an isolated case. In the past year, I have learned that just in Haidian District, one of the eight central districts in Beijing, dozens of Falun Gong practitioners have been kidnapped this way. Most of them are over 60 years old.

I would like to ask the Tournament of Rose and the City of Pasadena to send the following message to Beijing government: if they want their Olympic float to be in the Rose Parade, they must release my mother Shuying Li, and further all Falun Gong practitioners jailed in Beijing prisons.

The persecution of Falun Gong in China is one of the most serious human rights violations in the world today as it targeted a very large number of people and has lasted for 8 years. Those good citizens of China like my mother are risking their lives, not just for themselves but for protecting the goodness of humanity: Truthfulness, Compassion and Tolerance. They are fighting for the fundamental freedom and justice for everyone in China and the rest of the world. And for us who live in the free world, stand besides them at their most difficult times is the least we can do.

Rec'd  
1/17/07

**From:** Sharonsilber@aol.com  
**Date:** Wed, 5 Sep 2007 11:38:34 EDT  
**To:** alau@visual-artists-guild.org

To the city of Pasadena

We are writing on behalf of Jews Against Genocide, an activist group devoted to speaking out for victims of genocide regardless of ethnicity. We staunchly oppose the inclusion of a float representing the Olympics to be held in the People's Republic of China in the Rose Bowl parade to be held in your city. The role of the Chinese government in supporting the Sudanese government in the genocide in Darfur is well-documented. This has included financial support, military support in the sale of arms and political support by shielding the Khartoum regime from sanctions and from the introduction of UN forces to protect the people of Darfur by the Security Council. In addition, the Chinese government has a long history of human rights violations including their shameful support of the military dictatorship in Burma and their oppression of ethnic and religious minorities in their own country. This has included the ongoing oppression both of the Tibetan people and the jailing and execution of people simply for practicing their religion. China is one of the few countries in the world where it is illegal to practice Christianity (as well as Buddhism, Islam and Falun Gong). The outlawing of free speech and the opposition to the rule of law in China is also well-documented by human rights groups including Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch. For all these reasons, we ask that you reconsider your inclusion of a Rose Bowl float for the Chinese Olympics.

Sharon Silber and Eileen Weiss, founders, Jews Against Genocide  
Member group New York Coalition for Darfur

Get a sneak peek of the all-new [AOL.com](http://AOL.com).

## **Human rights issues in China**

The scale of China's human rights violations is staggering. The following is but a brief summary of main human rights concerns in China:

The government of China holds thousands of political prisoners and regularly denies the right to freedom of conscience, expression, religion and association. China accounts for upwards of 80% of all executions documented in the world. China also harvests organs from executed prisoners, frequently without consent. Torture by law enforcement personnel is endemic throughout the country, and many prisoners are known to have died in custody. Religious persecution is also a growing problem, resulting in the detention and repression of thousands of Christians, Tibetan Buddhists, Muslims, and Falun Gong practitioners.

Women are still compelled to undergo forced abortion and sterilization. Other groups targeted for repression include trade union organizers, advocates of reform, and people using the Internet to disseminate information deemed to be "politically sensitive."

China executes political prisoners in the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (XUAR). Amnesty International is concerned that the Chinese government is using the death penalty as a tool of political repression in XUAR.

China is not allowing freedom of movement to Gendun Choekyi Nyima who was only six years old when the Dalai Lama selected him as the 11<sup>th</sup> Panchen Lama in 1995. The child has not been seen for the last twelve years. It is believed that the Chinese authorities are holding him in a secret location.

### Recommendations:

- Abolishment of the "Re-Education through Labour" detention system. More than 250,000 people are detained in re-education through labor camps without benefit of charge or trial.
- A public and independent investigation of the 1989 Tiananmen Square crackdown against pro-democracy demonstrators. The Chinese government continues to ignore pleas for justice and has taken no steps to institute a public inquiry. The bodies of some of those killed during the crackdown were discovered in unmarked graves in central Beijing. Several demonstrators who disappeared that night have never been accounted for.
- Stop expelling North Korean refugees from China. North Korean asylum seekers have also faced an intense crackdown in China, leading to large-scale forcible repatriation to North Korea.
- Release Gendun Choekyi Nyima immediately and allow Tibetans freedom of language, culture and religion
- Allow trade unions, freedom of speech, culture and religion and eliminate censorship throughout China

## INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES

In international affairs, China's role in Sudan has contributed to the ability of that government to conduct massive violations of human rights with impunity. It has also served as the one friend of the most oppressive governments in the world.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Stop selling weapons to Sudan and supporting the Khartoum regime through oil revenues.

End support of repressive military regimes in Myanmar and Zimbabwe.

All material on these pages is drawn from published reports by Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch. For further information contact the China country expert in each organization.

Collected by Sharon Silber, New York City Coalition for Darfur 212 714-4535, email is [interfaitharts@gmail.com](mailto:interfaitharts@gmail.com)



For Immediate Release  
07/27/07

Contact:  
Allyn Brooks-LaSure, 202.478.6174,  
[Allyn@savedarfur.org](mailto:Allyn@savedarfur.org)  
(<mailto:allyn@savedarfur.org>)

## **China must end U.N. 'interference'**

### **Advocates urge China to back strong U.N. peacekeeping resolution with 'clear mandate'**

WASHINGTON – Allyn Brooks-LaSure, spokesman for the Save Darfur Coalition, today released a statement following a news report that Chinese diplomats are allegedly preventing a stronger, more robust Darfur peacekeeping resolution in the U.N. Security Council. This news comes one day after Darfur activists – including Olympic gold medalist Joey Cheek and Darfuri refugee Daoud Hari – delivered more than 42,000 petitions to the Chinese embassy and consulates throughout the U.S.

“Chinese officials have recently said the international community must ‘learn to deal’ with the Sudanese government, as the same officials moved to water down yet another Darfur resolution in the United Nations Security Council. Chinese diplomats should tell that to the thousands dead and millions displaced who have indeed had to ‘deal’ with the campaign of terror launched by the Sudanese government and their surrogates. The Chinese government claims it doesn’t interfere in the affairs of foreign nations, yet a recent news report indicates it is indeed interfering with efforts to craft a stronger, smarter peacekeeping resolution in the U.N. Security Council. China should immediately end this interference by supporting a strong resolution that creates an unambiguous mandate with clear lines of command for a peacekeeping force and invokes the Chapter 7 provisions of the U.N. Charter.

“China consistently uses its ‘non-interference policy’ as a shield from doing more to stop the suffering in Darfur – this is a shield Omar al-Bashir is all too happy to hide behind. China has a responsibility to help end the genocide in Darfur. Until they do so, activists will continue to mount pressure on the Chinese and their role in the 2008 Olympic Games.”

Thursday’s day of action at the Chinese embassy and consulates was the first of many events aimed at pressuring China to take a proactive role in ending the genocide in Darfur. The Dream for Darfur torch relay, which will launch August 8, will occur both internationally – traveling to countries that define the terrible history of genocide and mass atrocities – and domestically – in 25 select cities across the United States. The relay aims to engage thousands of activists to impact important campaigns and advocacy opportunities for the Darfur movement.

The full text of the petition can be viewed here:

[http://ga6.org/campaign/china\\_embassy\\_petition/](http://ga6.org/campaign/china_embassy_petition/)

([http://ga6.org/campaign/china\\_embassy\\_petition/](http://ga6.org/campaign/china_embassy_petition/)). To learn about the Dream for Darfur torch relay, please visit <http://www.dreamfordarfur.org> (<http://www.dreamfordarfur.org>).

###

\* About the Save Darfur Coalition – The Save Darfur Coalition raises public awareness about the ongoing genocide in Darfur and mobilizes a unified response to the atrocities that threaten the lives of people throughout the Darfur region. It is an alliance of more than 180 faith-based, advocacy and humanitarian organizations. The coalition's member organizations represent 130 million people of all ages, races, religions and political affiliations united together to help the people of Darfur. For more information on the coalition, please visit <http://www.SaveDarfur.org> (<http://www.SaveDarfur.org>). To obtain footage from the Darfur border region, coalition events, various interviews, and more, please visit the Save Darfur Coalition media gallery at <http://media.savedarfur.org> (<http://media.savedarfur.org>). All footage may be previewed in non-broadcast quality and may be purchased in broadcast quality by filling out the purchase request form provided on the site.

Photo Credit: Daniel Pepper

Special Thanks: [eLeaP eLearning Management System](#)

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**STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

Department of Industrial Relations

**Yosh Yamanaka**  
Workers' Compensation Judge

Division of Workers' Compensation  
4720 Lincoln Blvd., 2nd Floor  
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Pasadena Commission on Human Relations  
100 No. Garfield Avenue, Suite 140  
Pasadena CA 91109-7215

Attn: Mr. Kenneth Hardy, Chair

RE: Beijing Olympics float

Dear Mr. Hardy:

Thank you again for providing us with the extended forum for public comments earlier this week. I gave the short presentation focused on media censorship in the Peoples' Republic of China and provided a small packet of materials for the commissioners.

Since that Monday evening meeting, other relevant documents have been published. We ask that you circulate to the commissioners on the Olympic float working group copies of the following:

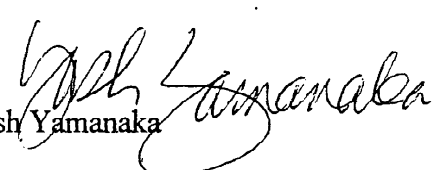
“China Under Fire From All Sides a Year Ahead of Games” – New York Times 7 AUG 2007 [page one only]

“Exactly a year before start of games, Reporters Without Borders goes to Beijing to condemn glaring lack of free expression” – Reporters Without Borders 6 AUG 2007

“China Attacks on Media Violate Olympic Commitments” – Human Right Watch 7 AUG 2007

If you or other members of the working group have any questions in this regard, please contact me at (310) 482-3832.

Thank you for your courtesy and consideration,

  
Yosh Yamanaka

YY:ldw  
encls.

## **REPORTERS WITHOUT BORDERS FOR PRESS FREEDOM**

**China - 2008 Olympic Games** | 6.08.2007

### **Exactly a year before start of games, Reporters Without Borders goes to Beijing to condemn glaring lack of free expression**

Four Reporters Without Borders representatives held an unauthorised news conference today in Beijing outside the building that houses the Beijing Organising Committee for the Olympic Games (BOCOG). Wearing T-shirts showing the Olympic rings transformed into handcuffs, they called on the Chinese authorities to free the approximately 100 journalists, cyber-dissidents and free speech activists currently imprisoned in China.

"You cannot hold such a big sports event as the Olympic Games in the shadow of Chinese prisons," Reporters Without Borders secretary-general Robert Ménard said. "The authorities have kidnapped these games. The official slogan, 'One world, one dream,' sounds more and more hollow. This is not about spoiling the party, quite the contrary. But Beijing has not kept its promises to improve the human rights situation and yet continues cynically to refer to the Olympic spirit."

Fernando Castello, Reporters Without Borders' Spanish president, and Rubina Möhring, its Austrian vice-president, urged International Olympic Committee president Jacques Rogge to take action. "The IOC's president now has a year to obtain what he has not yet even requested - the release of the imprisoned journalists and cyber-dissidents, an end to Internet censorship, and the ability for foreign correspondents to move about China freely," Castello said.

"The Chinese authorities have conned everyone, including us when we came to China last January," Möhring added. "They made us promises which they never kept."

Vincent Brossel, the head of the Reporters Without Borders Asia desk, also took part in the news conference.

At the end of the news conference, police stopped and questioned foreign journalists, including TV reporters.

For more information (in English, French, Spanish, Arabic and Chinese) about the Reporters Without Borders "Beijing 2008" campaign, go to the Reporters Without Borders website ([www.rsf.org](http://www.rsf.org)).



**Press report  
Beijing**

*Reporters Without Borders defends imprisoned journalists and press freedom throughout the world. It has nine national sections (Austria, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland). It has representatives in Bangkok, London, New York, Tokyo and Washington. And it has more than 120 correspondents worldwide.*

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August 7, 2007

## China Under Fire From All Sides A Year Ahead Of Games

By REUTERS

Filed at 2:42 a.m. ET

BEIJING (Reuters) - Free Tibet activists on the Great Wall, a barrage of critical rights reports, a shroud of smog hanging over Beijing -- China's government must surely have imagined a more auspicious one-year countdown for the Olympics.

On top of that, the flood of food safety scandals shows no sign of abating and a group of dissidents has written an open letter to President Hu Jintao calling for the Games' slogan to be changed to "One World, One Dream, Same Human Rights."

The weather is also refusing to cooperate in the run-up to the eighth day of the eighth month on Wednesday, which will start the one-year countdown to the opening ceremony.

Torrential rain has brought Beijing traffic to a standstill several times, and it seems so long since the sun last broke through the pollution that some are dubbing Beijing "Greyjing."

And few are convinced by government pledges to ensure media freedom.

On Monday, police prevented several journalists from leaving a Reporters Without Borders conference calling for greater media freedom. They were let go two hours later, without explanation.

"The ongoing harassment and detention of journalists make Beijing's Olympic pledge on media freedoms seem more like a public relations ploy than a sincere policy initiative," said Brad Adams, Asia director at Human Rights Watch.

The New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists said China was holding at least 29 reporters and editors behind bars because of their work.

"A decade ago we saw a tendency towards the liberalization of the media in China and under the Hu government we've seen a backing away from that. ...We don't see a liberalization," committee Asia program coordinator Bob Dietz told reporters.

"LET EXILES COME HOME"

Celebrations to kick off the one-year countdown start on Wednesday with a series of colorful events across the city, including in central Tiananmen Square, where soldiers bloodily put down pro-democracy

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protests in 1989.

Ding Zilin, whose son was killed in the protests and leads a campaign to seek redress for the events of 1989, was one of 40 people who signed an open letter to the government calling for more freedoms ahead of the Olympics.

"Let Chinese citizens who have been forced into exile for reasons of politics, religion or belief, come home, so they can enjoy the Olympics in their motherland and not some strange country," the letter said.

As if the government needed reminding about the potential for protests at the Games, the Free Tibet Campaign said six demonstrators had been detained for unfurling a banner on the Great Wall demanding independence for the Himalayan region.

"The Chinese government is exploiting the Olympics to gain acceptance as a world leader," said Tenzin Dorjee, deputy director of Students for a Free Tibet.

"By protesting at the Great Wall, the most recognizable symbol of Chinese nationhood, we're sending a clear message that China's dream of international leadership cannot be realized as long as it continues its brutal occupation of Tibet."

Health in the country that spawned SARS and whose tainted pet food, toothpaste and cough medicine has caused worldwide alarm, is another concern which won't go away.

Olympic organizers have promised to use satellite tracking to monitor food supplies for the Games and have stressed on numerous occasions that hygiene is one of their top priorities.

But still the bad news comes. The government is now trying to crack down on diseased pork entering the market, a phenomenon which has increased as prices have risen on the back of an epidemic which has killed one million hogs in the last year.

And if the food doesn't kill you, the smog might.

Chinese city traffic police have an average life expectancy of just 43 years because of the dire working conditions and pollution, state media said on Tuesday.

(Additional reporting by Chris Buckley)

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HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH

## **China: Attacks on Media Violate Olympic Commitments**

### ***IOC Should Press Beijing to Enforce New Rules on Media Freedom***

(New York, August 7, 2007) – One year before the 2008 Olympics open in Beijing, the Chinese government is violating commitments on media freedom it made to the International Olympics Committee by continuing to harass, intimidate and detain foreign journalists and their local colleagues, Human Rights Watch said in a report released today.

The 40-page report, *“You Will Be Harassed and Detained.”* documents how Chinese authorities have repeatedly obstructed the work of foreign journalists this year, even though China on January 1 adopted temporary regulations to comply with commitments it made to the International Olympics Committee (IOC) on guaranteeing journalists freedom. The report draws on interviews and information provided from 36 foreign and Chinese journalists in June 2007.

“The Chinese government’s attempts to intimidate and detain foreign journalists for simply doing their jobs shows contempt for Olympic ideas of fair play,” said Brad Adams, Asia director at Human Rights Watch. “The ongoing harassment and detention of journalists makes Beijing’s Olympic pledge on media freedoms seem more like a public relations ploy than a sincere policy initiative.”

As part of Beijing’s bid for the 2008 Olympics, in 2001 it assured the IOC that the government would ease its traditional chokehold on foreign and local journalists during the Olympic Games in Beijing. That commitment to wider media freedom is in line with the obligation of Olympic host cities to comply with Article 51 of the IOC Olympic Charter, which stipulates that the IOC should take “all necessary steps in order to ensure the fullest coverage by the different media and the widest possible audience in the world for the Olympic Games.”

Chinese officials who have reiterated the government’s commitment to media freedom during the Olympic period include Premier Wen Jiabao. In April, Wen said that “the freedom of foreign journalists in their news coverage will also be ensured,” according to China’s official Xinhua News Agency.

As part of its commitment to the IOC, the Chinese government in May 2007 announced new freedoms for accredited foreign journalists in China in the *“Service Guide for Foreign Media”* published on the website of the Beijing Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games. The guide states that “the regulations on Reporting Activities by Foreign Journalists shall apply to the coverage of the Beijing Olympic Games and the preparation as well as political, economic, social and cultural matter of China by foreign journalists in conformity with Chinese laws and regulations.” The temporary regulations, in effect from January 1, 2007 until October 17, 2008, allow foreign journalists to freely conduct interviews with any consenting Chinese organization or citizen. The regulations do not allow similar freedoms for Chinese journalists.

Some foreign journalists interviewed by Human Rights Watch said that, since January 1, the new rules have indeed widened their access to certain dissidents and normally media-shy government officials. But some said their reporting efforts remain routinely hobbled by government officials, police and plainclothes thugs

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who claim ignorance of the new regulations or willfully flout them.

### **Official obstruction of foreign journalists**

Foreign journalists have most often been harassed, detained and intimidated for pursuing stories deemed sensitive by the Chinese government, including coverage of political dissidents, Tibet, the country's HIV-AIDS epidemic and issues of "social stability," such as riots, demonstrations and their aftermath.

But officials do not confine their obstruction of legal reporting efforts by foreign journalists to issues judged "sensitive" by the Chinese government. In one case, a foreign journalist doing prearranged corporate coverage of a state-owned factory was confronted by a Chinese Communist Party official who insisted that the factory's mere existence was a "state secret" and who harassed the reporter throughout the duration of his visit. In another instance, a foreign photographer and her colleague were shadowed and intimidated for a full day by a group of plainclothes thugs while doing a story about a long-dead convicted serial killer.

In two separate incidents early this year, individuals in civilian clothes (whom journalists suspected were plainclothes police officers) violently pushed, shoved and attempted to detain two journalists in central Beijing in full view of impassive uniformed state security personnel. The attack happened while the journalists attempted to cover the efforts of petitioners from the countryside to seek government redress for problems including illegal land confiscation and official corruption.

Alarming, some correspondents told Human Rights Watch that China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs has itself engaged in intimidation to discourage unwanted reporting. In one case, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs actively pressured a foreign news agency based in Beijing to scuttle coverage of a "sensitive" topic by one of its bureaus outside China, and retaliated with the refusal of a work visa when the news agency refused to comply.

Human Rights Watch said that these and other ongoing violations of the temporary regulations raise troubling questions about the freedom and security of the many thousands of journalists expected to come to China to cover the Olympics.

"The Chinese government still has one year to get this right, but only if officials choose meaningful action over empty rhetoric," said Adams. "The world will be watching to see whether Beijing will live up to its commitments to the International Olympic Committee."

### **Discrimination against Chinese journalists**

The report also documents the tightening surveillance and pressure faced by Chinese nationals who are assistants, researchers, translators or sources for foreign journalists in the run-up to the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing. It examines how the Chinese government maintains a stranglehold on the activities of domestic journalists who are intentionally excluded from the new temporary regulations, and strictly censors local reporting to comply with official propaganda objectives.

"It's hypocritical for the government to deny Chinese journalists even the limited freedoms that their foreign colleagues enjoy," said Adams. "Beijing's failure to ensure equal freedoms for Chinese journalists not only violates freedom of expression, but is a form of invidious discrimination against its own nationals, particularly as China's own constitution guarantees freedom of the press."

## Related Material

### China: Media Freedom Under Assault Ahead of 2008 Olympics

Press Release, May 31, 2007

### Service Guide for Foreign Media

Web Site

### "You Will Be Harassed and Detained": Media Freedoms Under Assault in China Ahead of the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games

Report, August 7, 2007

### Beijing 2007: Human Rights and the Olympics in China

Special Focus

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