

CECC Hearing
December 7, 2016

Testimony by Chen Guangcheng

Greetings to the Chair people, to all the human rights Congressional representatives, ladies and gentlemen: hello!

In China, people know me as, “the barefoot lawyer:” despite having no formal training as a lawyer, I did the work of a lawyer, bringing officials to court and asking that the party respect China’s own Constitution and laws. As a result, I endured 7 years of kidnappings, house arrest, secret detention sites, and imprisonment. After I was let out of prison, my family and I were put under illegal house arrest under conditions even worse than prison, including torture, until I finally escaped.

My own experience tells me that one should not hold out hope in the Communist Party. This is a fascist regime that destroys the essential goodness of humanity.

The Communist Party has been persecuting its own people for years. Last year it began the infamous 709 crack-down, persecuting human rights defenders and lawyers, torturing people and harassing family members. Some attorneys and activists in detention have been forced to confess guilt in the state-controlled media, and have subsequently been sentenced to prison. But some, like Li Heping, Li Chunfu, Wang Quanzhang and other attorneys refuse to confess to crimes they have not committed, and hence continue to be held illegally. Two weeks ago, Attorney Xie Yang was tortured by prison police, and Attorney Jiang Tianyong has been disappeared. Activists Huang Qi and Liu Feiyue have been taken by public security. Countless netizens have been blocked online, and their speech censored. Under Party control, the Chinese people have long lived in a state of suffering and fear. It should be clear that Communist Party is the enemy of humanity: its destruction of humanity’s civilized values must be stopped.

On the other hand, America is a great nation that truly stands out in its commitment to universal values. There is simply no way to compare the US and China on this front. Hence, America must be a model for human rights, and a leader in the global push to democracy. The American system has the strongest immunity against corruption, and the greatest capability for correcting its mistakes. After many injurious years of appeasement and self-belittling, the time has come for the US to reinvigorate its core values and to protect universal human rights.

I would like to make the following recommendations to the incoming administration and Congress regarding human rights:

1. Correct the mistaken policy of separating trade from human rights. Human rights are like clean water, clean food, and clean air: they are an indispensable part of life, and cannot be separated from anything we do. The essence of the policy of

separating trade and human rights is to focus solely on making money, without care to justice or ethics. In addition, the reality is that a country with strong human rights and rule of law is a better business partner for American companies.

2. In its position as a global leader, the US should express a position of clear support for the universal values of freedom, democracy, and human rights. When a dictatorial regime uses force to suppress its people, the US should act decisively to stop it. In addition, we should reconsider NATO's function, to transform NATO from hedgehog's quills to hero's sword.

3. Prevent human rights abusing officials from entering the United States. Investigate and where illegality is found, freeze the US assets of Communist Party officials.

4. Prevent the Communist Party from infiltrating US academia, media, and other institutions.

5. Demand that the Chinese Communist Party respect the UN International Treaty on Human Rights. Change the policy of speaking with the CCP on issues of human rights behind closed doors.

6. Ensure reciprocity of visas for journalists, and prevent the CCP from using visas to punish journalists who expose the crimes of the party.

[At the moment, the US allows roughly 800 journalists from China into the US, the majority of whom are from party media outlets, but China only allows around 100 US journalists into China]

7. Invest in tools to get past internet blocking mechanisms, to assist those who seek freedom in getting past the Great Firewall [Internet Berlin Wall]. Establish direct communication with the Chinese people, instead of just with the party.

8. Establish international, collaborative mechanisms to prevent the Chinese Communist Party from persecuting its own people internally, and from breaking down international procedures externally.

Great nations have great responsibility. In Chinese there is an ancient saying: "Bring out the best and eliminate the worst under heaven." This should be the principle to follow. As long as we join together, we can banish dictatorships, and make the world a better place.

Thank you!

回顾过去展望未来

主席先生，各位人权议员，女士们，先生们下午好！

大家都称我赤脚律师，在国内我只因为要求中共遵守中国的宪法和法律，先后却遭到中共的绑架，非法拘禁，黑监狱，构陷入狱，出狱后连同家人继续遭到比监狱还要残酷的非法拘禁和酷刑，总共长达近7年，直到我逃出来为止。我的经验告诉我，对中共这样的独裁专制政权不应抱有任何的幻想和希望，这个政权是完全灭绝人性的法西斯。

中共长期以来残酷迫害自己的国民，去年臭名昭著的709对维权律师和维权人士的大抓捕，在酷刑和亲人遭株连的情况下，一些被抓律师和维权人士被迫在中共的喉舌媒体认罪后被判刑。但李和平，李春富，王全章，谢阳等律师及维权人士吴淦至今未认罪，因而仍被非法关押。两周前，谢阳律师再次被狱警酷刑。最近江天勇律师又因关心被酷刑的谢阳律师而被失踪，维权者黄琦，刘飞跃被共安带走，众多网友被封号禁言——。在中共的统治之下，中国人民长期生活在痛苦和恐惧中。可见共产专制是人类的公敌。必须阻止它继续破坏人类的文明价值。

而美国是一个伟大的国家，其与众不同毋庸置疑，和中共政权不能相比。因此应该做好人权表率，领导世界的民主潮流。美国体制具有最强的免疫力和自我纠错的能力。民主、自由、人权是美国的立国之本。经过多年的绥靖政策和妄自尊大的伤害之后，到了必须重振美国价值，捍卫普世人权的时候了。

在新政府成立之际，对新政府和国会的人权政策我建议：

1，纠正贸易与人权脱钩的错误政策。人权，就像水，食物和空气一样，和我们每个人的生活息息相关，不能和任何东西脱钩。贸易与人权脱钩的实质就是只管赚钱，不顾正义与道德。

2，美国做为世界的人权盟主，应该表明将坚决捍卫自由，民主，人权等普适价值的立场，将之做为新的历史使命。当独裁政权对自己的人民暴力镇压时，会果断出手制止。可以考虑调整北约职能，让其从刺猬之刺变成英雄之剑。

3，禁止参与迫害人权的官员入境美国。调查，冻结中共官员在美的非法财产。

4 阻止中共独裁政权对美国的学术自由，媒体等各方面的渗透。

5, 要求中共遵守《联合国国际人权公约》。与中共公开讨论人权问题, 改变与中共的闭门人权对话, 否则就是我们现在所看到的人权废话。

6, 实行中美互驻记者的签证对等原则, 防止中共用签证来惩罚揭露共产罪恶的记者。

7, 投资开发破网工具, 协助追求自由的人民推倒网络柏林墙。建立与中国人民的沟通渠道而不仅仅是和中共打交道。

8, 建立民主国际, 民主国家携手防止中共对内迫害人民, 对外破坏国际秩序。

负责人的大国, 要以“兴天下之利, 除天下之害”为己任。只要我们携手行动, 就能消除专制, 让世界变得更好。

谢谢!