

Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations

“Their Daughters Appeal to Beijing: “Let Our Fathers Go!””

December 5, 2013

Witness Background

Panel I

Lisa Peng, Daughter of Peng Ming.

Lisa’s father, **Peng Ming**, a founder of China Development Federation, was framed by the Chinese Communists in 1999 and imprisoned for one and a half years. When he was released from the labor camp, Peng fled to Thailand and arrived in the United States in 2001. There, he founded China Federal Development Committee. In 2004, Peng was trapped by Chinese special agents and kidnapped to China. In 2005, Peng was sentenced to life in prison on the false charge of “organizing and leading a terrorist organization.”

Peng’s seventeen years old daughter, our witness Lisa, was born in Beijing and suffered doubly as a second child by being denied official legal recognition. Her family fled political persecution in 2000 and was accepted by the United States as UN refugees in 2001. Lisa has been working with the China Aid Association, the State Department, and members of Congress to advocate for the release of her father and other prisoners of conscience. Lisa is currently a senior at Laurel School in Cleveland, Ohio. She is the principal keyboardist of the Cleveland Orchestra Youth Orchestra and was a featured high school Lincoln-Douglas debater at the City Club of Cleveland.

“Grace” Geng

“Grace” Geng, is the 20-year old daughter of imprisoned Chinese human rights lawyer Gao Zhisheng, the award-winning human rights lawyer who was convicted of “inciting subversion of state power” and sentenced to a three-year prison term. After being arrested and released several times from 2006 to 2010, Gao was accused of violating the terms of his parole and was sent back to jail to serve his three-year term. Many time during this period, Gao “disappeared”. He is currently incarcerated in a prison in far western Xinjiang.

During years of her father's disappearance and torture under Chinese government persecution, Grace—along with her mom Ms. Geng He—also experienced tremendous harassment, intimidation and beatings. She was deprived of her education opportunity as well. Unable to live a normal life anymore, Grace, her mother, and her little brother Peter Gao, fled to the United States before Gao's 2009 re-arrest and re-disappearance. Grace now lives in California and is a sophomore De Anza College in California.

Ti-Anna Wang, Daughter of Wang Bingzhang

Ti-Anna Wang was born in 1989 and was named to commemorate the victims of the Tiananmen Square Massacre. Soon after her 13th birthday, her father, Wang Bingzhang, a veteran democracy activist disappeared. After six months of secret custody, the Chinese government announced Wang Bingzhang's arrest. He was subsequently sentenced to life in prison on charges of espionage and terrorism.

Ti-Anna has spent much of her time and energy working for her father's freedom. This journey has taken her around the world in a process of discovery of the ideals her name embodies and her efforts have been fictionalized into the young adult fiction titled *Nine Days* by Fred Hiatt. Ti-Anna graduated McGill in East Asian Studies and recently spent a year studying Mandarin in Taipei. Currently, she is advocating full-time for her father's release.

Bridgette Chen, Daughter of Liu Xianbi

Many of us know that Bridgette's dad— **Liu Xianbin** —uses the pen name Wan Xianming. He was one of the original signers of Charter 08 and participated in the 1989 Tiananmen Square protests. Liu was first arrested in 1991 and held in Beijing's infamous Qingcheng prison. Liu served two and a half years for "counter-revolutionary incitement." After being released, Liu was sentenced again to a 13-year prison term for "inciting subversion of state power." After his release, he was detained in June 2010 and sentenced to a 10-year prison term in March 2011 for "inciting subversion of state power."

Bridgette's father has been in prison for almost all of her life. In 2011, after the Chinese government refused to give Bridgette's mother a passport, Bridgette fled China and arrived alone in the United States. Now just sixteen, this Bridgette will speak up for her dad and her family as a witness.

Danielle Wang, Daughter of Wang Zhiwen

Wang Zhiwen, a PRC Ministry of Railways engineer, became a Falun Gong practitioner in 1992. On July 20, 1999, Wang was seized from his bed by police and taken away. This was the same day the Chinese Communist Party began its crackdown on Falun Gong. On Dec. 26, 1999, Wang was sentenced to 16 years in prison. The sentencing trial, in which Wang was one of four defendants, was nationally broadcasted, and it was clear to viewers that the defendants had been physically abused. The four were convicted of "organizing and using a heretical organization to cause death" and "illegally obtaining state secrets."

Wang Zhiwen's daughter Danielle is a US citizen. Since her father's arrest, she has been working tirelessly to call for his release through public events, hunger strikes, sit-ins at Chinese consulates, and speaking out at various events around the world. Danielle has not been able to go back to China since she arrived in the US in 1998, and she hasn't been able to speak with her father since July 1999. It is her hope that one day soon she can be reunited with Zhiwen Wang in the United States and they can rebuild their lives together.

Panel II

Pastor Bob Fu, China Aid

Pastor Bob Fu was a leader in the 1989 student democracy movement in Tiananmen Square and later became a house church pastor and founder, along with his wife. In 1996, authorities arrested and imprisoned them for their work. After their release, they escaped to the United States and, in 2002, founded ChinaAid Association. ChinaAid monitors and reports on religious freedom in China and provides a forum for discussion among experts on religion, law, and human rights in China. Pastor Fu is frequently interviewed by media outlets around the world and has testified at U.S. congressional hearings. He has also appeared before the European Parliament and the United Nations. Pastor Fu holds a double bachelor's degree from People's University and the Institute of Foreign Relations, and he has taught at the Beijing Communist Party School. In the United States, he earned a master's degree from Westminster Theological Seminary and is now working on his Ph.D.

Chen Guangfu, Brother of Chen Guangcheng and father of Chen Kegui. **Chen Kegui**, nephew of Chinese activist Chen Guangcheng, was arrested after defending himself and his family against local government officials who forced their way into Chen's home on the night of April, 27, 2010, in Shandong province. Chen was charged with "intentionally inflicting harm" by the Yinan County People's Court on Dec. 3, 2012, and sentenced to three years and three months in prison. Chen has suffered beatings and a medical emergency and was rejected for consideration of medical parole. Witnessing years of Chinese government's persecution of his brother Chen Guangcheng, Mr. Chen Guangfu has been a leading family outspoken voice for justice not only for his brother, his whole family but also for many other persecuted Chinese citizens. For that he himself has experienced tremendous suffering including detention, harassment, torture and multiple physical attacks by the Chinese government security agents. His son Chen Kegui was imprisoned arbitrarily with trumped charges last year after Chen Guangcheng escaped from house arrest as part of Chinese government effort for vengeance.

Devra Marcus, Physician and Activist

Dr. Devra Marcus, a graduate of Stanford Medical School, is a Fellow of the American College of Physicians and, for more than 40 years, has been Washington, D.C. internist. In addition to her medical practice, Dr. Marcus has long worked to protect and serve China's government-targeted leaders and groups. She has traveled to Tumen, China, to provide medical services for North Korean refugees that the government of China seeks to deport to North Korean gulags. Dr. Marcus played a central role the case of Fang Zheng, the Chinese dissident and Tiananmen demonstration amputee, and ensured his receipt of prosthetic limbs and prosthetic training -- an act that sent a message to China and elsewhere of American generosity and compassion. Dr. Marcus recently traveled to Hangju China, to examine and bring public attention to the case of the imprisoned Chinese dissident Zhu Yufu and to protest the denial to him of adequate medical services. Dr. Marcus' McLean, Virginia home has long been a place of refuge for pro-democracy dissidents from all over the world

Zhu Yufu

Zhu Yufu, founder of a major pro-democracy publication and the China Democracy Party, was detained and sentenced to seven years in prison in 1999. After his release in 2006, Zhu was arrested on May 18, 2007. He was sentenced to two years for “jeopardizing public duty.” Zhu was arrested again on March 5, 2011 for supporting the Jasmine Revolution through the publication of a poem. In February 2012, Zhu was sentenced to seven years in prison for “inciting subversion of state power.”