

Open letter: 2022 New Year' s Declaration on China' s Human Rights Crisis

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Beijing, China
(Photo: Flickr)

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We, the initiators of this open letter, are civil society organizations that have long been committed to human rights in China and strive to push forward China's progress from a society ruled by law as a tool of oppression to one that follows the rule of law, as well as guiding the Chinese people to become citizens of the world who can pursue freedom and justice.

As many are aware, the communist red tide rose in the 19th century and continued into the 20th century. It brought about a global-scale disaster for all to witness and caused hundreds of millions of innocent lives to be lost. Since Xi Jinping became the supreme leader of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), China's legal system and human rights conditions have been continuously deteriorating. Even the slight progress that came after the opening up and reform of the CCP, such as the term limits on the supreme leader, was removed; this is a clear indication that this setback in the rule of law and human rights has no sign of being reversed in the foreseeable future. It is bound to cause greater disasters and endanger the lives of more innocent people.

Since Xi Jinping came into power, the CCP's perverse practices at home and abroad in politics, economy, military, diplomacy, etc. are countless, but we will not discuss them all in this letter. Let's first take a look at its domestic policies: from the suppression of human rights lawyers to the elimination of civil society; from large-scale violations of human rights in Tibet and Xinjiang to the full-scale crackdown and persecution of house churches; from the surveillance on all citizens through big data to the deprivation of citizens' freedom of speech, assembly, association and other constitutional rights,

even unjustifiably depriving citizens of their personal freedom and private property. During the Hu-Wen era, the “black jails” used to arbitrarily detain and torture prisoners of conscience had spread throughout the regions of China. After the Jasmine Revolution in the spring of 2011, the CCP set out to “legitimate” it; on March 14, 2012, China’s National People’s Congress passed a law and implemented it on January 1, 2013; under Article 73 of the Criminal Procedure Law, the black jail was replaced by “residential surveillance at a designated location,” the arrest of a person can go on for six months without notifying family members and lawyers, and the duration can be extended an unlimited number of times for another six months.... it is darker than the black jail. There are other cases of dissidents being diagnosed as “mentally ill,” being illegally detained, teachers who lost their jobs because their students had exposed and reported them to authorities..... the resurrection of an intensified “Cultural Revolution” will inevitably bring about economic depression, fear in people’s hearts and result in anger and resentment. In order to divert internal conflicts, the Chinese Communist Party, headed by Xi Jinping, abandoned its promise of “Hong Kong will remain unchanged for 50 years,” threatened Taiwan, incited xenophobia, and made enemies on all fronts around the world. The fruit of China’s prior 40 years of reform and opening-up has nearly all been lost.

In today’s world, when the CCP headed by Xi Jinping brazenly brags about its “whole-process people’s democracy,” we only need to cite a few cases where the lives of people are at stake to see how little the CCP regards life and humanity! From just the humanitarian perspective, we strongly protest against the CCP’s inhumane violation of civil rights.

Chinese citizen Yang Maodong (pen name: Guo Feixiong) and human rights lawyer Tang Jitian have family members overseas whose time on earth is nearing its end, but they have been barred from leaving the country to visit

and take care of their dear ones. The female journalist Zhang Zhan's life is at the edge of death while imprisoned, but she was still refused medical parole. Prisoner of conscience Huang Qi's mother wanted to see her son for one last time before she died and was denied that before she passed away.

Guo Feixiong's wife Zhang Qing, who resides in the United States, was found to have end-stage bowel cancer in January of this year and was in urgent need of Guo Feixiong's company and care, but Guo Feixiong's trip to the United States in January was cited by China's Ministry of Public Security as "endangering national security," and was stopped by authorities at the airport. For ten months thereafter, Zhang Qing's condition deteriorated as each day passed, and in early November, the intestinal tumor caused the second intestinal obstruction, and her condition became critical and could turn life-threatening at any time. Guo Feixiong gave his utmost effort to go to the United States and accompany his sick wife, he made many sincere appeals to Chinese government departments and relevant leaders. At the same time, he also kept in communication with China's public security departments at various levels. However, the Chinese authorities repeatedly obstructed Guo Feixiong, until he was arrested on December 5th and is still held in secret detention.

Lawyer Tang Jitian's daughter was studying abroad in Japan when she suffered from tuberculosis in May of this year, and she was subsequently in the intensive care unit due to complications, in need of her father's company. Lawyer Tang Jitian was barred from leaving China because he would "endanger national security." Thereafter, lawyer Tang sought various government departments to make known his circumstance and even visited the ministry of public security, but his attempts were in vain. He was forcibly disappeared on December 8th.

Authorities arrested Citizen journalist Zhang Zhan last year for simply publishing the true living conditions of the Wuhan people during the coronavirus outbreak, and she was sentenced to four years in prison on the charge of “picking quarrels and provoking trouble.” The staunch Zhang Zhan began a hunger strike at the beginning of her arrest and her life has only been sustained through tube feeding and injections. But by the end of October this year, Zhang Zhan, who was nearly 1.8 meters tall, lively and healthy, now weighs less than 40 kilograms and is so weak that she can hardly raise her head. Her brother thinks it will be difficult for her to survive this winter. Family members and lawyers repeatedly requested medical parole, but no matter how critical Zhang Zhan’s conditions are, the Shanghai CCP authorities refused her parole.

Prisoner of conscience Huang Qi was arrested in 2016 and sentenced to 12 years imprisonment on the charges of “intentionally leaking state secrets” and “illegally providing state secrets to foreign entities.” Huang Qi was targeted because he created the website “Tian Wang,” which originally covered kidnappings and human trafficking, and has now expanded to all acts of human rights violations. His only family is Pu Wenqing, his 87-year-old mother who was suffering from cancer. The Chongqing authorities not only prohibited the elderly mother from meeting her son during her final moments before she passed, but also imposed the “four prohibitions” that deprived Pu Wenqing of her citizenship rights: no petitioning in Beijing, no media interviews, no contact with petitioners, and she was not allowed to hire human rights lawyers.

We believe that the above-mentioned cases display the CCP authorities' inhumane actions and abuse of public powers, and highlighted the CCP's anti-humanism nature. These deplorable acts of violence have also made the inherently illegitimate nature of the CCP's dictatorship even more evident. Those in power are also born as human beings, but where is their conscience? Their inhumane acts should face questioning from humankind. The CCP authorities have various excuses and reasons for their blatant behaviors that not only fail to convince the freedom-loving world citizens who are passionate about democracy and oppose the CCP's one-party dictatorship, but also more and more Chinese people who were forcibly brainwashed by the CCP are no longer deceived.

Guo Feixiong and Tang Jitian, as citizens of the People's Republic of China, enjoy the rights of free movement and free travel per the Constitution. They are neither terrorists nor public officials, how can they "endanger national security" if they leave the country to look after their dying family members? Zhang Zhan has already reached the point where she must leave prison for medical care. There are many precedents of criminal offenders in prison who obtained medical parole, so why is Zhang Zhan, a dying woman prisoner of conscience, repeatedly rejected? Huang Qi's mother is a free citizen, why was she illegally deprived of many civil rights? Family members of prison inmates have the right to visit, so why couldn't Huang Qi's mother do so?

These four dying women show clearly the nature of the CCP's departure from humanity. The tragedies of them and their families can only be attributed to the fact that they and their families did not want to be submissive to the one-party dictatorship, and thus suffered violent retribution from a dictator. This is why we must stand up and protest against the Chinese Communist Party and the Chinese government — for the sole reason that we are human beings,

from a humane standpoint of today's human civilization, we cannot accept such man-made human tragedies, we cannot accept it and cannot ignore it.

The CCP authorities have taken their citizens hostage and thoroughly politicized and weaponized relationships and blood kinships that transcend politics, using them to coerce dissidents into submission. These dangerous, extreme, destructive crimes and trampling on human relationships are happening across China; this has become a critical threat to the basic rights and freedoms of the Chinese people, which constitutes one-sixth of the human population.

Since 2005, Chinese human rights lawyer Gao Zhisheng defended the rights of Christians and Falun Gong practitioners, represented the North Shaanxi Oilfield case, and performed his duties as a lawyer. The police arrested him in August 2006 and on December 22 of the same year he was sentenced to three years and five-year probation for "inciting subversion of state power." Lawyer Gao was kidnapped and tortured many times during his probation period, he recounted his experiences in "Dark Night, Dark Hood and Kidnapping by Dark Mafia." Nearing the end of Gao Zhisheng's five-year probation, at that time he had been missing for 21 months, in 2011 he was sent to Shaya Prison in Xinjiang to serve his three-year sentence. Gao Zhisheng was subjected to prolonged solitary confinement, various forms of abuse, and appalling torture. After Gao Zhisheng was released from prison, he was under house arrest in his older brother's cave home in a remote village in northern Shaanxi. Even though a majority of his teeth were destroyed with only a few of them intact, he was still prohibited from visiting a nearby county hospital for dental treatment. Under the circumstances of restricted freedom, Gao still penned many articles for the 709 lawyers whose human rights had been violated, such as "The Possible Fate of Lawyer Wang Quanzhang" and "The 2nd Anniversary of the 709 Crackdown." On August 13,

2017, Gao Zhisheng's family discovered that after being under house arrest in the cave-dwelling for nearly three years, he went missing. Gao Zhisheng, who is a free person under the law, has been forcibly disappeared for more than four years and four months. His family members desperately wait for any news of lawyer Gao but have received no information, his whereabouts and current status are unknown to this day.

The CCP's kidnappings and threats have long gone beyond its borders. The kidnapping of Swedish citizens abroad and the holding of Canadian citizens as hostages have posed a threat to the safety of citizens of the free world and created the kind of threat only posed by terrorist organizations.

We have long called upon the corrupted powers, the Chinese Communist Party, to respect the law and basic humanity, but to no avail. We are now calling upon all the righteous people who stand for basic humanity, and all media, governments, and international organizations around the globe to oppose on China from all fronts and to fully unveil the antihumanism of the Chinese Communist regime, so that the world can recognize its evil nature. This includes a boycott of the Beijing Winter Olympics, and speaking up for the victims on different occasions to stop all the CCP's ongoing human rights abuses, especially to prevent the upcoming humanitarian tragedy from unfolding before the eyes of the world.

Therefore, we want to alert all of mankind: these humanitarian tragedies that are happening inside of China are an extremely serious indicator; please pay serious attention to this. China already possesses tremendous power to influence the world, and the totalitarian system has the ability to do evil to all

mankind, and has exposed its desire and ambition to expand its power and do evil in multiple spheres.

The various vile acts that are taking place in China severely trample on human rights and human relations, and violate the basic freedoms of citizens, they will not only endanger the Chinese people, but the repercussions are destined to overflow and will undermine human freedom and peace, and cause harm to all mankind. The grim “today” of the Chinese people is likely to be the “tomorrow” for the rest of the world. There can be no illusions or flukes about this. This generation of human beings should not repeat the appeasement policies of the world towards the Nazis in the 1930s with their disastrous consequences.

We are now urgently speaking up to protest and appeal, not only for the universal freedom and dignity of the Chinese people, including Zhang Qing, Tang Zhengqi, Zhang Zhan, Pu Wenqing, and Gao Zhisheng who was forcibly disappeared, but also to fight and prevent the dangers that have already appeared in China to endanger the freedom and peace of all mankind. We hope that through their cases and other similar humanitarian and human rights cases our fellow human beings will push forward quickly with their cooperation; not only to say “no” to the totalitarian communist dictatorship, but to also seriously consider how to fundamentally eradicate the malignant tumor of communist tyranny!

We eagerly hope that our fellow human beings with noble aspirations will stand with us in protest and appeal through various forms, and use pragmatic actions to refuse any association with evil!

Signed,

Mr. Chen Guangcheng, Distinguished Senior Fellow, Center for Human Rights, Catholic University of America

Dr. Bob Fu, Ph.D., Founder and President, China Aid

Contact media@chinaaid.org to get more information for signing this declaration.

中共迫害祸及全球：2022 人权宣言

我们, 这封公开信的发起者, 是长期致力于中国人权和力图推动中国由法制向法治社会进步的公民社会组织, 以及追求自由和公平的世界公民。

众所周知, 共产红潮自十九、二十世纪生成至今, 带来有目共睹的世界性灾难, 亿万无辜者死于非命。而习近平成为中共最高领导人以来, 中国的法制和人权状况不断退步恶化, 就连中共改革开放后有着些许进步的“最高领导人任期制”也遭到破坏, 显而易见这种在法制和人权上的倒退在可见的未来没有能够扭转的迹象, 正在和势必造成更大灾难, 危害更多无辜者的生命。

习近平当政以来, 中共在政治、经济、军事、外交等等……国内外的倒行逆施在此暂不细数。先看其部分对内政策: 从镇压人权律师到消灭公民社会; 从大规模在西藏、新疆地区肆意践踏人权, 到全面打击迫害家庭教会; 从大数据监控所有公民, 到非法剥夺公民的言论、集会、结社等宪法权利, 甚至任意剥夺公民的人身自由和私有财产; 胡温时期已遍布中国沦陷区各地用来任意关押、酷刑良心犯的“黑监狱”在 2011 年春茉莉花革命发生后, 中共即着手将其“合法化”, 2012 年 3 月 14 日中共人大通过, 2013 年 1 月 1 日开始实施, 黑监狱被以《刑事诉讼法》七十三条的“指定居所监视居住”替代, 抓人六个月不通知家属和律师, 并可无限多次再延期六个月……比黑监狱更黑; 另有异议人士被“精神病”、被非法拘禁、教师被学生检举揭发而失去工作……愈演愈烈的“文革”还魂态势必然引起经济萧条、人人恐惧, 导致天怒人怨。为了转移国内矛盾, 习近平为首的中共背弃“香港五十年不变”的承诺, 威吓台湾, 煽动仇外, 在世界上四面树敌。中国改革开放四十年的成果几乎丧失殆尽。

今天, 在习近平为首的中共厚颜无耻夸耀自己的“全过程民主”之时, 我们仅举当前十万火急人命关天的几例, 看中共究竟置人性、亲情生命于何处! 据此, 仅从人道主义角度, 对中共毫无人性的侵犯公民权利的行为提出强烈抗议。

中国公民杨茂东（笔名郭飞雄）、人权律师唐吉田都有在海外生命垂危的至亲，而他们被阻止出境看望照顾亲人。女记者张展在狱中生命垂危，也被拒绝保外就医。而良心犯黄琦的老母想在临终前再看一眼儿子而不得。

定居于美国的郭飞雄妻子张青，今年一月被发现患有晚期肠癌，急需郭飞雄赴美陪护，但郭飞雄一月份的赴美之行被中国公安部以可能“危害国家安全”为由，在机场出关最后一刻受阻。此后长达十个月里，张青的病情日益恶化，11月初肠道肿瘤引发第二次肠梗阻，病情转为危重，随时有生命危险。郭飞雄为赴美陪护病妻做了最大努力，多次向中国政府部门和相关领导人恳切呼吁，同时与中国各级公安部门持续沟通，但中共当局一再阻挠，直到12月5日将郭飞雄抓走，秘密关押。

在日本求学的唐吉田律师女儿唐正琪今年五月突发脑结核病，住进重症监护室，急需亲人陪伴。但是唐吉田律师也同样被以出境可能“危害国家安全”不予放行，无法踏出国门。此后唐律师找了各级政府反映情况，甚至去公安部上访，但始终没有结果，直到12月8日与郭飞雄前后脚被强迫失踪。

女记者张展去年仅仅因为把疫情下的武汉人民的生活状况用自媒体真实的发布出来就被警察抓走，并以莫须有的“寻衅滋事”罪名判处四年徒刑。刚烈的张展从被抓就开始绝食，后来靠灌食和注射才维持生命至今。但是到今年十月底，身高将近1.8米健康活泼的张展体重不到40公斤，虚弱到几乎不能仰头，她的哥哥认为她难以活过这个冬天。家属和律师多次要求保外就医，但是无论张展如何病危，中共上海当局一味拒绝。

良心犯黄琦因为创办为民生呼吁的《天网》网站，2016年被捕，2019年被控“故意泄露国家秘密”和“为境外非法提供国家秘密”两项罪名，获刑12年。他唯一的亲人是八十七岁高龄身患癌症的老母浦文清，中共重庆当局不但不让老母亲在临终前再看一眼儿子，而且强行规定了剥夺浦文清公民权的“四不准”：不准到北京上访、不准接受媒体采访、不准和访民往来、不准聘请人权律师。

我们认为，中共当局上述种种不但滥用公权力而且毫无人性的行为，凸显了中共反人类的本质。这些丧尽天良的恶劣行径同时也使得中共独裁统治本来就不具合法性的本质愈加显明，掌权者虽生而为人，良心何在再次面临世人拷问。中共当局为自己的无赖行为给出的种种借口和理由，不但不能说服反对中共一党专制、热爱自由民主的世界公民，就连被中共强制洗脑的中国人也越来越多不再受骗。

郭飞雄和唐吉田，作为中华人民共和国公民，依据宪法享有自由迁徙、自由旅行的权利，他们既不是恐怖分子，又不是国家公职人员，出境照看垂危亲人又如何能够“危害国家安全”？！张展在狱中已经到了非出监治疗不可的地步，狱中刑事犯获得保外就医先例不少，为何张展这个生命垂危的女良心犯被一再拒绝？黄琦母亲是自由公民，为何被非法剥夺诸多公民权利？监狱犯人家属都有探视权利，为何黄琦母亲就不行？

四位垂危的女性，用生命把中共背离人性的本质赤裸裸的彰显出来。她们和她们亲人惨剧的发生，只能归结为她们或她们的亲人不想当一党专制的顺民，从而遭到独裁统治者的血腥报复。这就是我们为什么必须站出来向中国共产党和中国政府发出抗议的原因——只因为我们是人类，仅基于今日人类文明共同的人道立场，对于如此人为制造的人伦惨剧，我们不能接受，不能视而不见。

中共当局把自己的国民当人质，把本来超越政治的人伦和血缘亲情彻底政治化、武器化，以之胁迫异议人士就范，这种危险的、极端的、摧残人性、践踏人伦的犯罪行为正在中国各地扩散，从而对占人类人口六分之一的中国民众的基本权利与自由构成严重威胁。

中国维权律师高智晟从 2005 年以来曾参与基督徒维权案、陕北油田案和为法轮功修炼者维权，履行律师职责。2006 年 8 月他被警方绑架，同年 12 月 22 日被以“煽动颠覆国家政权罪”判刑三年、缓刑五年。缓刑期间他多次被绑架和酷刑，他在《黑夜、黑头套、黑帮绑架》一文记述了自己的遭遇。在高智晟五年缓刑将满当时那次被失踪已达 21 个月时，于 2011 年被送新疆沙雅监狱服原判的三年实刑。高智晟遭长时间单独关押、各种虐待和酷刑。他出狱后被软禁在陕北家乡窑洞中。他的牙齿在狱中被摧残所剩无几，出狱后仍不被允许就近治

牙。在被限制自由的情况下，他仍为人权受到迫害的 709 律师群体写过多篇文章，如《王全璋律师可能的命运》，《写在 709 事件两周年际》……2017 年 8 月 13 日家人发现被软禁在窑洞中将近三年的高智晟失踪。法律上是自由之身的高智晟到现在被强制失踪已经四年零四个多月，家人望穿双眼，得不到任何消息，高智晟律师下落不明，生死未卜。

中共的这种绑架威胁早已越出国境，在海外绑架瑞典公民、把加拿大公民扣为人质，已经对自由世界公民的人身安全造成了先前只有恐怖组织才能制造的威胁。

鉴于长期以来对中共黑权力集团的当权者尊重法律和基本人道的呼吁毫无作用，现在我们呼吁全世界有基本人道立场的正义人士，以及各国媒体和政府、国际组织，从各个方面对中国施加影响，对中共政权全面揭露其反人类罪行，使世人认清它的邪恶本性。包括抵制北京冬奥会、在各种场合为受害者发声，来制止中共一切正在发生的践踏人权的恶行，尤其是避免即将到来的人道惨剧在世人眼前任其发生。

因此，我们向全人类同胞发出警报：中国国内正在发生的这些人道悲剧是一个极其严重的信号，对此请务必高度重视。中国已经拥有巨大的对人类造成影响的实力，极权专制制度因而拥有了对全人类作恶的能力，并且在多个方向暴露出其扩权、作恶的欲望和野心。

中国国内正在发生的诸如此类的严重践踏人权和人伦、侵犯公民基本自由的种种恶行，不仅会危害中国民众，而且注定外溢，破坏人类自由与和平，从而遗祸全人类同胞。中国人的今天，很可能就是其他人类同胞的明天。对此不能有任何幻想与侥幸。这一代人类同胞不应让 1930 年代世界各国对纳粹的绥靖政策及其灾难性后果在今天的地球重演！

我们现在站出来发出紧急抗议和呼吁，既是要为包括张青、唐正琪、张展、浦文清，以及被强制失踪的高智晟在内的中国人的普遍的自由与尊严而发声，而抗争，也是为阻止中国国内业已出现的正在危害全人类自由与和平的诸般危险而奋力呼吁。我们希望人类同胞通过这一事件，以及其他类似的人道、人权事

件，加速携手合作，不仅要对共产专制极权共同说“不”！还要认真思考如何从根本上铲除共产暴政这一毒瘤。

我们热切期盼人类同胞中的有志之士通过各种形式，与我们站在一起进行抗议和呼吁，用实际行动拒绝与邪恶为伍！

签名者：

陳光誠先生，美國天主教大學「人權中心」高級研究員
傅希秋牧師/博士，對華援助協會創辦人兼會長
2022 年元旦

注：

歡迎其它樂意署名認同這個宣言的機構和個人聯署；

聯署格式：機構名字/個人稱謂；

聯署 Email: media@chinaaid.org。