

October 25, 2010

His Excellency Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations

His Excellency Yves Leterme, Prime Minister of Belgium and Presidency of the Council of the European Union

His Excellency José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission

Her Excellency Cristina Fernández de Kirchner, President of the Argentine Republic

The Honorable Julia Gillard, Prime Minister of Australia

His Excellency Luis Inácio Lula da Silva, President of the Federative Republic of Brazil

The Right Honorable Stephen Harper, P.C., M.P., Prime Minister of Canada

His Excellency Nicolas Sarkozy, President of the French Republic

Her Excellency Dr. Angela Merkel, Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany

His Excellency Dr. Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of the Republic of India

His Excellency Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, President of the Republic of Indonesia

His Excellency Silvio Berlusconi, President of the Council of Ministers of the Italian Republic

His Excellency Naoto Kan, Prime Minister of Japan

His Excellency Felipe Calderón Hinojosa, President of the United Mexican States

His Excellency Dmitry A. Medvedev, President of the Russian Federation

His Royal Highness King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia

His Excellency Jacob Zuma, President of South Africa

His Excellency Lee Myung-bak, President of the Republic of Korea

His Excellency Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey

The Right Honorable David Cameron, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

The Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United States of America

Your Excellencies:

We, the undersigned Nobel Peace Prize Laureates, write to you with regards to 2010 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate and Chinese citizen Liu Xiaobo.

As you are no doubt aware, his wife Liu Xia has been detained by Chinese authorities since shortly after the Nobel Committee's announcement and denied almost all ability to communicate with the outside world. We strongly and respectfully urge that your respective governments request the Chinese government immediately release her from house arrest and enable her to communicate freely with whomever she wishes.

In addition, as part of the upcoming G-20 Summit, each of you will see Chinese President Hu Jintao in Seoul, South Korea on November 10-11. The Summit provides time and opportunity to address Dr. Liu's imprisonment. We strongly urge you to personally impress upon Chinese President Hu Jintao that the release of Dr. Liu would not only be welcome, but is necessary.

The Nobel Committee stated that: "Over the past decades, China has achieved economic advances to which history can hardly show any equal. The country now has the world's second largest economy; hundreds of millions of people have been lifted out of poverty. Scope for political participation has also broadened. China's new status must entail increased responsibility."

The Chinese government's release of Dr. Liu would be an extraordinary recognition of the remarkable transformation China has undergone in recent decades.

We are grateful that many of your governments previously raised Dr. Liu's imprisonment with the Chinese government. However, urgent action is needed to assist both him and his wife.

God bless you.

Desmond M. Tutu
Carlos Filipe Ximenes Belo
Jimmy Carter
F.W. de Klerk
Shirin Ebadi
John Hume
The Dalai Lama
Mairead Maguire
Wangari Maathai
David Trimble
Rigoberta Menchú Tum
Lech Walesa
Elie Wiesel
Betty Williams
Jody Williams