

## **President of the United States, Barak Obama**

“I welcome the Nobel Committee’s decision to award the Nobel Peace Prize to Mr. Liu Xiaobo. Last year, I noted that so many others who have received the award had sacrificed so much more than I. That list now includes Mr. Liu, who has sacrificed his freedom for his beliefs. By granting the prize to Mr. Liu, the Nobel Committee has chosen someone who has been an eloquent and courageous spokesman for the advance of universal values through peaceful and non-violent means, including his support for democracy, human rights, and the rule of law.”

"As I said last year in Oslo, even as we respect the unique culture and traditions of different countries, America will always be a voice for those aspirations that are universal to all human beings. Over the last 30 years, China has made dramatic progress in economic reform and improving the lives of its people, lifting hundreds of millions out of poverty. But this award reminds us that political reform has not kept pace, and that the basic human rights of every man, woman and child must be respected. We call on the Chinese government to release Mr. Liu as soon as possible.”

## **Office of U.N. Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon**

“The award of the Nobel Peace Prize to Liu Xiaobo of China is a recognition of the growing international consensus for improving human rights practices and culture around the world. The secretary-general has consistently emphasised the importance of human rights, along with development and peace and security, as the three main pillars of the work of the United Nations. Over the past years, China has achieved remarkable economic advances, lifted millions out of poverty, broadened political participation and steadily joined the international mainstream in its adherence to recognised human rights instruments and practices. The secretary-general expresses his sincere hope that any differences on this decision will not detract from advancement of the human rights agenda globally or the high prestige and inspirational power of the award.”

## **U.N. Commissioner for Human Rights, Navi Pillay**

“I welcome the award because it recognises not only the prominence of Liu Xiaobo, whose release I have often called for, but it recognises the very important role of human rights defenders not only in China but in many parts of the world, where for bringing up human rights issues, calling for reform, they are being punished in various ways.”

## **European Commission President, Jose Manuel Barroso**

"The decision of the Nobel Peace Prize Committee is a strong message of support to all those around the world who, sometimes with great personal sacrifice, are struggling for freedom and human rights. These values are at the core of the European Union and the decision of the Nobel Peace Prize Committee highlighted their importance all over the world."

### **President of the European Parliament, Jerzy Buzek**

"I warmly welcome the award of the Nobel Peace Prize to Liu Xiaobo. In him we have one of the staunchest defenders of human rights who has fought for the freedom of expression using peaceful means. He stands for the values and fundamental freedoms that the European Union and the European Parliament regard as cornerstones of society."

### **The British Foreign Office**

"The decision to award the Nobel Peace Prize to Mr. Liu Xiaobo shines a spotlight on the situation of human rights defenders worldwide. British ministers, including Foreign Secretary William Hague, have raised his case in China since his imprisonment in 2009. We continue to call for his release and to champion freedom of expression in all countries."

### **Canadian Prime Minister, Stephen Harper**

"Our government has expressed concerns in the past about his imprisonment."

"I would hope the fact that he is now a Nobel Peace Prize winner would cause our friends in the Chinese government to look seriously at that issue of his release from prison."

"But, as I say, I think more than anything, we're delighted for him and send him our congratulations."

### **German Foreign Minister, Guido Westerwelle**

"I do not expect this to affect diplomatic relations. This is a sovereign, brave and correct decision by the Nobel Prize Committee. This is not something ... between two states."

### **German Government Spokesman, Steffen Seibert**

"The government would like to see him released soon and receive his prize in person. The government has pressed for his release in the past and will continue to do so."

### **French Minister of Foreign Affairs, Bernard Kouchner**

"This decision represents the defense of human rights around the world. France, like the European Union, expressed its concern upon his arrest, and called for his release on several occasions. It reiterates the call. France reiterates its attachment to freedom of expression worldwide. The Nobel committee, which made its choice independently, wanted to send a strong

message to all those who peacefully advocate for the promotion and protection of Human Rights.”

**Taiwanese President, Ma Ying-jeou**

“This is not only a personal honour for Liu but it has major historic significance for China's human rights development and the global Chinese society.”

“China's economic developments have impressed the world and it would win the recognition of Taiwanese people and the international community if it can make progress and a breakthrough in human rights issues.”

**Prime Minister of Norway, Jens Stoltenberg**

"I would like to congratulate Liu Xiaobo, who has been awarded the 2010 Nobel Peace Prize for his work to promote democracy and human rights."

**Polish Foreign Ministry**

"We hope that granting the Nobel Peace Prize to Mr Liu Xiaobo will be treated by the PRC authorities as an impulse to further efforts aimed at building the rule of law and at fully implementing the laws and freedoms for which the PRC citizens are eligible.”

**Congressional-Executive Commission on China Chairman, Byron Dorgan and Cochairman, Sander Levin**

“We applaud the Norwegian Nobel Committee's award today of the Nobel Peace Prize for 2010 to imprisoned Chinese writer and democracy advocate Liu Xiaobo for his ‘long and non-violent struggle for fundamental human rights in China.’ For his more than two decades of advocating for freedom of speech, assembly, religion, peaceful democratic reform, transparency and accountability in China, Mr. Liu is currently serving an eleven-year sentence in a Chinese prison for ‘inciting subversion of state power.’ He reportedly is the first person since 1935 to win the prize while in prison.”

“Those in China, like Mr. Liu, who have penned thoughtful essays or signed Charter 08 seek to advance debate, as the Charter states, on ‘national governance, citizens' rights, and social development' consistent with their ‘duty as responsible and constructive citizens.’ Their commitment and contribution to their country must be recognized, as the Nobel Committee has done, and their rights must be protected.”

“We call on Chinese officials to release Mr. Liu, and in so doing to demonstrate through action the Chinese government's commitment to developing the rule of law and to upholding international human rights standards. As Liu Xia, wife of China's newest Nobel Laureate, said

this morning 'China's new status in the world comes with increased responsibility. China should embrace this responsibility, have pride in his selection, and release him from prison.'”