

## Committee of Support to Liu Xiaobo

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### Nobel Peace Prize Laureates and personalities launch the Committee of support to Liu Xiaobo

Two days before the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize ceremony in Oslo, five Nobel Peace Prize Winners and human rights personalities are launching together an International Committee of Support to Liu Xiaobo, prominent intellectual rewarded in 2010 by the Nobel Committee “for his long and non-violent struggle for fundamental human rights in China.”

The international community seems to have forgotten that a year after the award ceremony, Liu Xiaobo remains in prison in China and in harsh conditions. He is today the only Nobel laureate in prison.

The Nobel Peace Prize Laureates Shirin Ebadi, Jody Williams, Mairead Maguire, Betty Williams and Arch. Desmond Tutu agreed to join the efforts of this independent committee to demand the immediate and unconditional release of Liu Xiaobo. The Nobel Winners are also mindful of the fate of his family, including his wife Liu Xia who is under house arrest for over a year in Beijing, without trial or administrative decision.

After an international wave of intimidation, the Beijing authorities focus their pressure on the family and friends of Liu Xiaobo in order to reduce them to silence. Unfortunately, the sentencing to eleven years in prison seems to be forgotten slowly but steadily outside China.

The International Support Committee, composed of intellectuals, artists, experts on China and human rights activists, is aiming to inform, to defend and advocate for the release of the first Chinese winner of the Nobel Peace Prize. Its actions are addressed to governments, international organizations and the world’s public opinion. The Committee calls on all those committed to freedom of thought and opinion to join the Committee in its efforts to obtain the release of Liu Xiaobo.

Signatories:

*Dr. Shirin Ebadi*, 2003 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate

*Ms. Jody Williams*, 1997 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate

*Arch. Desmond Tutu*, 1984 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate

*Ms. Mairead Maguire*, 1976 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate

*Ms. Betty Williams*, 1976 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate

*Mr. Vaclav Havel*, Author, former President of the Czech Republic  
*Jared Genser*, International Law Counselor to Liu Xiaobo, Founder of Freedom Now  
*Jianli Yang*, President, Initiatives for China

*Souhayr Belhassen*, International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)  
*Pierre Tartakowsky*, Human Rights League (LDH)  
*Jean-François Julliard*, Reporters without Borders (RSF)  
*Pierre Bergé*, Pierre Bergé-Yves Saint Laurent Foundation  
*Raphaël Chenuil-Hazan*, Together Against the Death Penalty (ECPM)  
*François Walter*, Action of Christians Against Torture (ACAT)  
*Marie Holzman*, Solidarity Chine  
*Marie – Françoise Lamberti*, Act for Human Rights (ADH)  
*Jean-Paul Ribes*, président du Comité de soutien au peuple tibétain (CSPT)  
*Vincent Metten*, International Campaign for Tibet (ICT)  
*Thor Halvorssen*, President, Human Rights Foundation, Founder of Oslo Freedom Forum  
*Jean-Luc Bennahmias*, MP at the European Parliament  
*Jean-Philippe Béja*, Research Director at CNRS, Translator of Liu Xiaobo  
*Alain Bouc*, Human Rights League (LDH)  
*Dominique Guibert*, Human Rights League (LDH)  
*Emmanouil Athanasiou*, human rights lawyer

Liu Xiaobo was sentenced on 25 December 2009, to eleven years imprisonment for “power subversion ». He is currently detained at the Jinzhou prison - Liaoning province.
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