



Honorary Co-Chairs
The Honorable Václav Havel
The Most Reverend Desmond M. Tutu

FREEDOM NOW

MEDIA RELEASE

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FREEDOM NOW CLIENT LIU XIAOBO SELECTED AS 2010 RECIPIENT OF NOBEL PEACE PRIZE

STATEMENT FROM LIU XIAOBO'S WIFE, LIU XIA

October 8, 2010

I am grateful to the Nobel Committee for selecting my husband, Liu Xiaobo, to be the recipient of the 2010 Nobel Peace Prize. It is a true honor for him and one for which I know he would say he is not worthy. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to former Czech Republic President Václav Havel, His Holiness the Dalai Lama, Archbishop Desmond M. Tutu, and so many others who courageously nominated him for the Prize.

I hope that the international community will take this opportunity to call on the Chinese government to press for my husband's release. As the Committee recognized, 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.

BACKGROUND

Liu Xiaobo is a Chinese scholar and democracy activist who was sentenced to 11 years in prison for "inciting subversion of state power" on December 25, 2009, for his role in drafting Charter 08. The Chinese government previously detained Dr. Liu for his peaceful democracy advocacy on four occasions, including his participation in the 1989 Tiananmen Square protests. Dr. Liu was one of four intellectuals who negotiated with the army for the safe passage of students out of the Square. Under China's Constitution, both the President and the Standing Committee on the National People's Congress have the power to grant special pardons (Articles 80 and 67 (17) respectively).

Freedom Now represents Dr. Liu with a team of international human rights specialists, including NYU Law Professor and Adjunct Senior Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations Jerome A. Cohen, Canadian Member of Parliament Irwin Cotler, Former Canadian Member of Parliament and Secretary of State, Asia Pacific David Kilgour, and former Freedom Now client and Founder and President of Initiatives for China Dr. Yang Jianli.

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Our mission is to free prisoners of conscience through focused legal, political and public relations advocacy efforts.