

Protest 11-year sentence for Liu Xiaobo

Sunday, 27 December 2009

Please join us in
either Los Angeles or New York and tell a friend

WHAT: Protest the 11-year prison sentence imposed on Liu Xiaobo
by
the
government
of the Peoples Republic of China

LOS ANGELES:

WHEN: Tuesday, December 29, 2009 6:00 p.m.

WHERE:

Consulate
of
the Peoples Republic of China, 434
Shatto
Place,
Los Angeles, Ca. 90020

CONTACT:

Ann
Lau
310-539-0234, James
Zheng
626-227-4575

NEW YORK CITY:

WHEN: Tuesday, December 29, 2009 2:00 p.m.

WHERE:

Consulate
of
the
Peoples Republic of China, 42nd
Street
&
12th Avenue, New York, NY 10036

CONTACT:

Ann

Noonan
646-251-6069, Jonathan Cao 917-292-7348

****SUPPORTING
ORGANIZATIONS
TO
BE
CONFIRMED****

Background: Liu Xiaobo was sentenced to 11 years in prison for calling for political reform in China through a manifesto called Charter 08. He has already been in detention in China for a year, and his 2-hour trial ended on Christmas Day with a guilty verdict.

“We continue to call on the government of China to release him immediately,” US embassy official Gregory May told reporters outside the courthouse following sentencing. “Persecution of individuals for the peaceful expression of political views is inconsistent with internationally recognized norms of human rights.”

In 2008, while human rights supporters throughout the world prepared to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the International Declaration of Human Rights, Liu Xiaobo, one of China's most prominent human rights activists was arrested in his home in Beijing. His crime was drafting a document, Charter 08, which calls for political reform in China. His telephone and internet lines were cut, and his personal papers, books and computers were seized.

Charter 08 reiterates many of the rights as set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It calls for democratic reform in China and it calls for change in 19 areas, including a new constitution, an independent judiciary, freedom of assembly, election of public officials and stronger guarantees for personal freedoms. It expresses a sense of urgency for the future and destiny of China. The document has more than 8,000 signatories including intellectuals and human rights activists, lawyers, journalists, dissidents, artists and rural leaders in China.

Charter 08 was based on Charter 77, a human rights manifesto which challenged Soviet rule and was originally signed by about two hundred writers and intellectuals in Czechoslovakia in 1977. One of the signers of Charter 77 was playwright

Vaclav Havel who later became the first President of democratic
Czechoslovakia after the 1989 "velvet revolution". Charter

77

serves

as

an example of how Czechoslovakian dissidents who signed
the Charter 77 petition changed history when they stand up for what
they believe.