

**Appeal to President Obama: Seriously Raise Forced Abortion
With Chinese Leaders in Beijing--
The Worst Violation of Women's Rights in History**

**Hearing of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission
November 10, 2009
Rep. Chris Smith, Chairing**

Welcome to our witnesses and to everyone who is joining us this afternoon.

This year we mark at least three infamous anniversaries, the fiftieth anniversary of the 1959 Tibet Uprising, the 20th anniversary of the Tiananmen Square Massacre, and the thirtieth anniversary of the Chinese government's one-child-per-couple policy, with its attendant horrors of massive forced abortion campaigns and rampant sex-selective abortion. In effect since 1979, the coercive one-child policy is, in scope and seriousness, the worst human rights abuse in the world today.

Few people outside China understand what a massive and cruel system of social control the one-child policy entails. As the U.S. China Commission summarized, the system is "marked by pervasive propaganda, mandatory monitoring of women's reproductive cycles, mandatory contraception, mandatory birth permits, coercive fines for failure to comply, and, in some cases, forced sterilization and abortion."

The price for failing to conform to this system is staggering. A Chinese woman who becomes pregnant without a permit will be put under mind-bending pressure to abort. She knows that "out-of-plan" illegal children are denied education, health-care, and marriage, and that fines for bearing a child without a birth permit can be 10 times the average annual income of two parents, and those families that can't or won't pay are jailed,

or their homes smashed in, or their young child is killed. If the brave woman still refuses to submit, she may be held in a punishment cell, or, if she flees, her relatives may be held and, very often, beaten. Group punishments will be used to socially ostracize her--her colleagues and neighbors will be denied birth permits. If the woman is by some miracle still able to resist this pressure, she may be physically dragged to the operating table and forced to undergo an abortion.

Her trauma is incomprehensible. It is a trauma she shares, in some degree, with every woman in China, whose experience of intimacy and motherhood is colored by the atmosphere of fear created by the government, by government threats and determination to intrude itself, in deadly fashion, into the most private aspects of her life. The WHO reports over 500 female suicides per day in China. China is the only country in the world where the female suicide rate is higher than the male, and according to the Beijing Psychological Crisis Study and Prevention Center, in China the suicide rate for females is three times higher than for males.

The result of this policy is a nightmarish “brave new world” with no precedent in human history, where women are psychologically wounded, girls fall victim to sex-selective abortion (in some provinces 140 boys are born for every 100 girls), and most children grow up without brothers or sisters, aunts or uncles or cousins.

On Thursday President Obama travels to Asia, and will be in Beijing for four days of meetings with the government responsible for these crimes against humanity. I hope he will not conduct these meetings in the same airy spirit that Secretary Clinton expressed on her first visit to China, when she dismissed the human rights of the Chinese people as irrelevant to her

relationship with the Chinese government. She said that we can't let human rights "interfere" with peddling US debt.

I believe the Chinese government would respond to the President if he were to take the lead in speaking up in defense of human rights in China. The Chinese government is sensitive to how it is viewed by the rest of the world. Its rapidly increasing influence in the world, serving as the new model for authoritarian regimes throughout Asia and Africa, is all the more reason for us to defend the rights of the Chinese people. If we are not willing to work to improve the human rights standards by which China is governed, we are going to find China degrading the human rights standards the rest of us live by.

And so I—we—appeal to President Obama: seriously raise the plight of Chinese women who are every day cruelly and systematically assaulted by population control police. China's population control policy is violence against women and violence against children—by the hundreds of millions. It is the worst violation of women's rights in human history. It is outrageous that the Obama administration lavishly funds—to the tune of \$50 million—organizations, including the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), that partner with China's National Population Planning Commission.

This should not be a partisan issue. On June 10, 1998, at a hearing I chaired, Congressman Tom Lantos said, "There are few crimes against human beings which are more horrendous, more despicable, more outrageous than the practice of forced abortion and forced sterilization. Such brutal violations of human rights must be condemned across the political spectrum and you and I have stood together through the years in condemning them."

At that hearing, a woman, Mrs. Gao, who had run the forced abortion program in Fujian province, described herself as a “monster”, and testified that they routinely paid informants for information on women who were pregnant without government permission.

I ask the President, consider the appeal of Wujian, a Chinese woman victimized by forced abortion who is taking a great risk to be here today and tell her story—the story of millions of Chinese women:

About one hour later, the van stopped in the hospital. As soon as I was drug out of the van, I saw hundred of pregnant Moms there – all of them, just like pigs in the slaughterhouse. Immediately I was drug into a special room, and without any preliminary medical examination, one nurse did Oxytocin injection intravenously. Then I was put into a room with several other Moms.

The room was full of Moms who had just gone through a forced abortion. Some Moms were crying, some Moms were mourning, some Moms were screaming, and one Mom was rolling on the floor with unbearable pain...

Then I kept saying to her [the abortionist], “...how could you become a killer by killing people every day?”...

She also told me that there was nothing serious about this whole thing for her. She did these all year. She also told me that there were over 10,000 forced abortions in our county just for that year, and I was having just one of them. I was astonished by her words and I realized that my baby and I were just like a lamb on the cutting board. Finally, she put the big, long needle into the head of my baby in my womb. At the moment, it was the end of the world for me and I felt even time had stopped...

Since it did not come out as expected, they decided to cut my baby into pieces in my womb with scissors, and then suck it out with a special machine... I did not have any time to think as this most horrifying surgery began by force. I could hear the sound of the scissors cutting the body of my baby in my womb...

Eventually the journey in hell, the surgery was finished, and one nurse showed me part of a bloody foot with her tweezers. Through my tears,

the picture of the bloody foot was engraved into my eyes and into my heart, and so clearly I could see the five small bloody toes. Immediately the baby was thrown into a trash can... The one-child policy and forced abortion policy have killed millions of innocent lives in China.

Silence in the face of this barbaric Chinese government behavior, Mr. President, is not an option.

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And now I'll introduce our first panel of distinguished witnesses.

Harry Wu is the dean of Chinese human rights activists. He survived 19 years in Chinese labor camps. Coming to the United States in 1980, he became an activist for human rights in China. In the 1990s he showed incredible bravery in returning to China on a human rights mission; he was discovered, arrested, and sentenced to 15 more years in laogai, and released through an international campaign to release him. He is the president of the Laogai Research Foundation, the author of countless reports and numerous books on human rights in China, and recently founded the Laogai Museum in Washington, D.C.

Reggie Littlejohn is an attorney who has represented Chinese refugees in their US asylum cases. Passionate about human rights, she is the founder and president of Women's Rights Without Frontiers, which fights forced abortion and sexual slavery in China. She recently delivered an address to the European Parliament on the one-child policy.

Rebiya Kadeer is an ethnic Uyghur and the mother of 11 children, a former laundress who in the 1990s became the 7th wealthiest individual in China and was made a member of the National People's Congress. But she bravely spoke out in defense of the Uyghur people and the Chinese government imprisoned her. She was released through an international campaign on her behalf, moved to the US, and is now the president of the World Uyghur Congress and the Uyghur-American Association.

Jiang Tianyong [JAHNG TEE-UN-YUHNG] is a lawyer with the Beijing Global Law Firm, a veteran human rights attorney who has courageously represented Falun Gong practitioners, persecuted Tibetans, victims of forced abortion, and Chen Guangcheng [CHUN GWAHNG-CHUNG], the lawyer who exposed a massive campaign of forced abortion in Shandong province.

Nicholas Eberstadt is a demographer and political economist, the Henry Wendt Scholar at the American Enterprise Institute and author of many books and articles on Asia, and a member of the Global Leadership Council at the World Economic Forum.

Annie Jing Zhang is the President of Women's Rights in China, a group of Chinese and Chinese-American women that conducts research on the abuses of women connected to the one-child policy. Her interpreter will be Chai Ling, who was a leader of the heroic Tiananmen Square protest—indeed she was nicknamed the "general commander," and after the Chinese government murderously crushed the protest, it listed her as one of its 21 most wanted students. Thankfully she eluded the Chinese secret police, and now she lives in the US.

This is obviously a panel of extraordinarily brave and distinguished men and women. These people, who have worked so hard, and, some of them, suffered so much, are acting out of genuine concern and love for the suffering people of China. I am inspired and deeply moved by them. I hope their message will be heard in the White House and far beyond. Though their message concerns a boundless tragedy, they themselves are witnesses of hope. Evil never has the last word. The Chinese people will make their own future despite their government, because they are freeing their spirit from the oppression of their

government. We owe it to them to support them with words, actions, and prayers.

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Now I'll introduce our second panel.

Wujian [WOO-JEE-YEN] will testify about the personal tragedy of being forced to undergo an abortion. Wujian is not her real name, so the only thing I can say about her is that she is a very brave woman. She is here today to speak for the millions, and perhaps tens of millions of Chinese women who have been similarly violated, and out of love for the child that was taken from her. The Chinese government's crime is very public, and her tragedy is of course something very private and personal, so I think it's very fitting that she testify publicly, yet that we respect the privacy of her name and face. She has my, and I'm sure all of our, greatest respect and deepest sympathy. Words cannot express this...

And now we will wait a moment while a privacy screen is set up for her.

SPEAKING TO THE PRESS

Congressman Chris Smith (Emcee)

Harry Wu, President, Laogai Research Foundation

Reggie Littlejohn, President, Women's Rights Without Frontiers

Rebiya Kadeer, President, World Uyghur Congress

Jiang Tianyong [JAHNG TEE-YUN-YUHNG], Leading
Chinese human rights attorney, counsel to political prisoner
Chen Guangcheng [CHUN GWAHNG-CHUNG]

Nicholas Eberstadt, Scholar in Political Economy, American
Enterprise Institute

Annie Jing Zhang [JING ZHAHNG], President, Women's
Rights in China

Leonard Leo, Commissioner, US Commission on International
Religious Freedom