



FREEDOM NOW

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

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 25, 2010

Contact: Maran Turner
+1 (646) 696-5064; +1 (202) 223-3733
mturner@freedom-now.org

**15 NOBEL PEACE PRIZE LAUREATES CALL ON WORLD LEADERS
TO URGE CHINESE PRESIDENT HU JINTAO TO RELEASE
NOBEL PEACE PRIZE LAUREATE LIU XIAOBO AND WIFE LIU XIA**

Washington, D.C.: Freedom Now has released a letter initiated by Desmond M. Tutu, Archbishop Emeritus of Cape Town, signed by 15 Nobel Peace Prize Laureates, and sent to the leaders of the G-20 today on behalf of 2010 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, Liu Xiaobo. The letter calls on these leaders to urge Chinese President Hu Jintao to release Liu Xiaobo from his imprisonment and to release Liu Xiaobo's wife, Liu Xia, from her *de facto* house arrest.

In the letter, dated October 25, 2010, and attached, the Nobel Peace Prize Laureates declared: "The Chinese government's release of Dr. Liu would be an extraordinary recognition of the remarkable transformation China has undergone in recent decades." Signatories also include Jimmy Carter, His Holiness the Dalai Lama, Elie Wiesel, and Shirin Ebadi, among others.

Upon sending the letter, Bishop Tutu remarked, "I am hopeful that President Hu will recognize the awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize to Liu Xiaobo as a moment of pride and opportunity for the Chinese government. I strongly urge President Hu to release Liu Xiaobo from his imprisonment and to lift all restrictions on Liu Xia's liberties."

Freedom Now was retained by Liu Xiaobo's wife, Liu Xia, to represent Liu Xiaobo as his *pro bono* international legal counsel. The team of international legal counsel and human rights specialists includes Freedom Now, NYU Law Professor Jerome A. Cohen, Canadian Member of Parliament and former Minister of Justice and Attorney General 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.

###

1750 K Street, NW, Suite 350 • Washington, D.C. 20006 • +1 (202) 223-3733 • www.freedom-now.org

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

October 25, 2010

His Excellency Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations
His Excellency Yves Leterme, Prime Minister of Belgium and Presidency of the Council of the European Union
His Excellency José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission
Her Excellency Cristina Fernández de Kirchner, President of the Argentine Republic
The Honorable Julia Gillard, Prime Minister of Australia
His Excellency Luis Inácio Lula da Silva, President of the Federative Republic of Brazil
The Right Honorable Stephen Harper, P.C., M.P., Prime Minister of Canada
His Excellency Nicolas Sarkozy, President of the French Republic
Her Excellency Dr. Angela Merkel, Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany
His Excellency Dr. Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of the Republic of India
His Excellency Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, President of the Republic of Indonesia
His Excellency Silvio Berlusconi, President of the Council of Ministers of the Italian Republic
His Excellency Naoto Kan, Prime Minister of Japan
His Excellency Felipe Calderón Hinojosa, President of the United Mexican States
His Excellency Dmitry A. Medvedev, President of the Russian Federation
His Royal Highness King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia
His Excellency Jacob Zuma, President of South Africa
His Excellency Lee Myung-bak, President of the Republic of Korea
His Excellency Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey
The Right Honorable David Cameron, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
The Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United States of America

Your Excellencies:

We, the undersigned Nobel Peace Prize Laureates, write to you with regards to 2010 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate and Chinese citizen Liu Xiaobo.

As you are no doubt aware, his wife Liu Xia has been detained by Chinese authorities since shortly after the Nobel Committee's announcement and denied almost all ability to communicate with the outside world. We strongly and respectfully urge that your respective governments request the Chinese government immediately release her from house arrest and enable her to communicate freely with whomever she wishes.

In addition, as part of the upcoming G-20 Summit, each of you will see Chinese President Hu Jintao in Seoul, South Korea on November 10-11. The Summit provides time and opportunity to address Dr. Liu's imprisonment. We strongly urge you to personally impress upon Chinese President Hu Jintao that the release of Dr. Liu would not only be welcome, but is necessary.

The Nobel Committee stated that: "Over the past decades, China has achieved economic advances to which history can hardly show any equal. The country now has the world's second largest economy; hundreds of millions of people have been lifted out of poverty. Scope for political participation has also broadened. China's new status must entail increased responsibility."

The Chinese government's release of Dr. Liu would be an extraordinary recognition of the remarkable transformation China has undergone in recent decades.

We are grateful that many of your governments previously raised Dr. Liu's imprisonment with the Chinese government. However, urgent action is needed to assist both him and his wife.

God bless you.

Desmond M. Tutu
Carlos Filipe Ximenes Belo
Jimmy Carter
F.W. de Klerk
Shirin Ebadi
John Hume
The Dalai Lama
Mairead Maguire
Wangari Maathai
David Trimble
Rigoberta Menchú Tum
Lech Walesa
Elie Wiesel
Betty Williams
Jody Williams