

Congressional Testimony Regarding Bill HR 2121

Chai Ling: Founder, All Girls Allowed; Author: A Heart For Freedom

Introduction

Chairman Lamar Smith and respected Members of the Committee, I thank you for giving us this opportunity today as we discuss a very important and critical step in our nation's relationship with China---the hearing on **China Democracy Promotion Act, of 2011, HR 2121**. A bill that once passed, will give the President the right to ban U.S. visas to all Chinese human rights abusers and One-Child Policy enforcers. This effort could be the beginning of the end of the massive crime that takes place under the One-Child Policy. This policy has taken 400 million lives in the past 30 years. China's government has inflicted many other cruel and inhumane human rights abuses before and after the 1989 Tiananmen massacre, when Chinese leaders ordered tanks and troops to openly gun down its innocent and peaceful protestors.

I am especially honored to testify alongside Chairman Smith, who is our hero and has been fighting to end China's cruel and inhumane One-Child Policy since it was put into action in 1980. I look forward to the day when Chairman Chris Smith and Chairman Lamar Smith and other respected members of Congress, that with all your great leadership and courageous effort, we can put all these atrocities into the history books to close a very dark and bloody period of China's history.

The past two decades of China's Human Right Conditions:

22 years ago, I was at Tiananmen Square on the early morning of June 4th, when the tanks rolled in to crush our peaceful movement. As a key student leader, I remembered hoping until the last hour that America would take a stand to end China's government violence against its own people. However, America never came. Although late Ambassador Lilly wrote in his memoir, *China Hand*, about his call for action, his memo never made to the president. I believe that if the US President had been able to come to the Chinese people's aid, as President Reagan wrote a stern message in 1988 towards the leaders of South Korea, and South Korea was led to freedom, China would have had a different outcome both then and now, and our relationship with China today could have been a much more productive and fruitful one.

Once the Chinese leaders were given the green light to kill and torture their own people, they replicated an even worse Tiananmen massacre than we saw in 1989. Each day there are over 35,000 forced and coerced abortions taking place, and each day 500 women commit suicide out of a spirit of despair. To show an example of how cruel and inhumane this Policy is for the Chinese people, I will share with you again a few eyewitness cases that were brought to light.

- At a hearing last month, Liu Ping told members of Congress her tragic story through tears----5 forced abortions and a painful, forced IUD procedure that has caused many additional health problems and led to the demise of her marriage. In her textile factory, all female workers were forced to prove they were menstruating each month, and were incentivized to turn each other in if they wanted to get paid.

- Then Ji Yeqing shared her recent story: She suffered 2 forced abortions and her family was beaten violently by government officials. In 2007, after she lost her second child to a forced abortion, Ji woke up in a cold room and discovered there was an unexpected, painful IUD device inside her body. When she no longer could bear a son, her husband divorced her. When she got the IUD removed here in the States, her doctor found cervical erosion that will hinder her ability to have future children.
- The last story took place just a few weeks ago, on October 14th. At 9 in the morning, Lijin County Family Planning Commission sent a dozen agents by van into the village to arrest Ma Jihong, who was seven months pregnant with an over-quota child. As soon as she saw them, Ma began to run. The Family Planning agents chased the pregnant woman and caught her in a cotton field nearby. They dragged her to the car and drove away immediately. Her family had no idea where they went. It wasn't until 9 o'clock at night that a man came to notify the family that Ma had died in the hospital. The whole family rushed to the county hospital only to see her body still on the operating table.

By then, poor Ma's body had already been totally freezing cold, with purple lips and bleeding nose, lying on the operating table without any movement . . . Ma had been healthy and could not have died from any illness, yet the hospital and the Family Planning Commission have still not disclosed the reason for her death. Ma's daughter does not know yet that her Mom has passed away. She cries looking for her Mom every day.

- Chen Guangcheng is a blind attorney who investigated incidents of forced abortions and forced sterilizations by Linyi Municipal Authorities. He revealed his findings and documentations of late-term abortions and forced sterilizations (130,000 in 2005 alone) to the media. For this, he was arrested and imprisoned for four years and three months, finally released in September 2010. No one had heard about Chen's condition for months. In July, a brutal four-hour beating by local authorities almost killed Chen and his wife. It was witnessed by their elementary school-age daughter.

How can a bill such as HR 2121 end this all?

There are many reasons why I support the China Democracy Promotion Act of 2011 (HR 2121), but I did not arrive at the decision quickly. Since my escape from China, I have continued to miss my home, love the Chinese people and hope to help in some way the entire nation of China. Now, with the forgiveness Jesus has shown me, I have forgiven China's leaders for their action against us in Tiananmen Square. China's success is something I long to see. So when I heard about a bill that would prevent not only wrongdoers, but their immediate family members from coming, I needed to be convinced of its necessity before supporting it. It seemed harsh to me. In 2009, 128,000 Chinese students studied in America. Even the leader appointed to succeed Hu Jintao, current Vice President Xi Jinping, has a daughter currently enrolled at Harvard. Should we punish children for the sins of their parents?

This bill is not intend to harm anyone whose family and children are doing good, rather to ban those who do evil and urge them to repent and to change. –It only affect people who are hurting others, people who are infusing terror into the hearts of millions of mothers, people who are sustaining a culture of abortion despite deep social problems of aging and gendercide. It would expose murderers who killed a woman, seven months pregnant, and would prevent these killers from coming to the United States. It would send a clear message.

It would also protect our country and our children from people who commits terrible violence to potentially harm our citizens.

The very reason I was concerned about the visa ban, namely, Chinese students—is the reason it can work to improve the human right conditions. Parents react strongly when they cannot send their children to American universities or visit them there.

In 2008, Congress passed the Tom Lantos Block Burmese JADE (Junta’s Anti-Democratic Efforts) Act to close a loophole in the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act. Together, these acts call for accountability of those responsible for human rights violations, and enforce a visa ban for certain Junta leaders. This extends to their immediate family members. According to reliable sources, when entering negotiations, a visa ban may become a powerful bargaining chip. The first thing leaders requested when asked to release Nobel Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi from house arrest, was for the visa ban to be lifted. it is important to note that this has not hurt U.S.-Burma relations, but has arguably helped increase dialogue in other areas.

Imagine the day when Chinese leaders will ask: “What must we do to have this ban lifted?” would they offer to release Chinese Nobel Prize winner Liu Xiaobo, or would they offer to end China’s One Child Policy? The day that US-China leaders can truly engage in this kind of discussion, rather than the one-sided denial and stonewalling given by the leaders of China today, will be the beginning of the end of this One Child Policy.

What might be the cost or consequences for the US to stand up again the human right abuses in China?

The surprising answer is: The cost of doing nothing is far greater than doing the right thing!

When Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses.. God said in Numbers Chapter 12: “My servant Moses, of all my house, he is the one I trust. So why were you not afraid to criticize my servant Moses?” ...

Then God punished Miriam and Aaron for their transgressions against God’s chosen servant. (Numbers 12:1-16)

On many of the Congressional buildings, it was printed: “In God, we trust” to remind us what we ought to do as leaders of this nation. If we are truly trusting God, we ought to follow his command and do the right thing: Act Justly, love mercy and walk humbly with the Lord your God. When we act as his faithful servant like Moses did, God will be our protector and our shield, both to our leaders and to our nation. When we act out of our

own self interests and calculations, we are on our own, and are polluted and left defeated by the world.

That's exactly what is happening: when daily U.S. headlines demonstrate that the US's tiptoeing around China's human rights outrages, and kowtowing to their placing such topics "off limits," has led to little positive response from Chinese leaders on all fronts.

In contrast, public international condemnation of China's human rights violation threatens to undermine the status and legitimacy of Chinese leaders in the eyes of their people. That is something that the Chinese Government fears, especially in light of the resurgent interest in China's traditional Confucian and Buddhist moral values. Shining a spotlight on China's human rights record will **not** substantially harm, and may help resolve, other disputes with China. Taking a firm stance on the One-Child Policy could actually strengthen our relationship with China.

Recognizing this, the Administration has sharply criticized China's Internet policy. It has felt free to impose steel tariffs and announce new arms sales to Taiwan, despite knowing that both would upset Beijing. Even a few, isolated incidents of Chinese dissidents being jailed are critically noted, as well as China's treatment of the recent Nobel Peace Prize winner in absentia.

Historically, China may try to offset or divert public international focus from gross human rights violations by being more **flexible** on other disputes. For example, Canada's strong condemnation of persecution of Falun Gong did not halt their cooperation. In fact, it was followed by new trade agreements expanding Canada's grain exports to China.

We ask that this bill move forward even though it may seem superfluous to some. Subsection (f) of 8 U.S.C. 1182 broadly authorizes the President to order exclusion of person's whose admission the President deems harmful to the national interests. This and other administrations have used this authority to exclude torturers and other wrongdoers from various nations, but it is important to remember that so far **not one** has used this authority to deal with the problem of human rights in China.

As a matter of fact, we would like to ask for an Executive Order to be issued by President Obama to ban visas to those people whose names we are submitting as the leaders and enforcers of One Child Policy. These should immediately be banned to coming to the United States. If the President chooses not to confront this issue, Congress should move forward this bill in full force.

Warning against indifference:

Recently a two year-old child was run over by a van in Foshan, a city in China. The whole world watched security camera footage of 18 people who walked by the toddler as she lay in a pool of her own blood, waiting for help. Later, another car ran over her before a garbage collector finally had mercy and took her to the hospital. I want to know how these people could walk by unaffected, not acting on her behalf, even though they knew what had happened and that the baby needed help.

Are we any different? We know the statistics. We know that millions of girls are killed or abandoned every year as a result of China's One-Child Policy, and that mothers have been killed during forced abortion procedures simply because they were pregnant with a second child. If we do not do what we can do as a nation, we are no different from these 18 passersby who left Yue Yue to die.

Part of what made the media pick up this horrible story of a hit-and-run accident thousands of miles away was the indifference of people to a toddler's cry even though they knew what was happening to her.

Ma's poor family, who worked the cotton fields for less than \$1,500/year, was destroyed by the One-Child Policy the same week that the little two-year-old toddler was run over in the street. In the case of the toddler, the government immediately arrested the drivers who had run over her. But Ma's killers continue to roam freely. Chinese officials had killed a pregnant mother and her seven-month old fetus, and yet these murderers have yet to be held accountable.

We know what is happening in China, and there is something we can do about it. We recognize the need to bar violent, cruel policy enforcers from entering our own local communities and we have brought with us a list of the most influential enforcers.

I continue to urge both sides of the political divide to unite on this issue. The Obama Administration is not the first to avoid a hard stance in our dealings with China's human rights abuses, and our nation has seen both liberal and conservative presidents be soft in their interactions with China.

Finally, it must be noted that in addition to the millions of families affected by this brutal One-Child Policy, human rights offenders in China have tortured and injured various other groups because of their ethnicity, religious backgrounds or political beliefs. We stand for justice against all such wrongdoers visiting the United States of America.

As we go forward from here knowing so much about such evil, we must ask ourselves what we can do and what we will do. Sometimes we speak at special hearings just to inform, but today is a day to act. I urge you to support this bill and act on behalf of the oppressed. While we cannot change China's policy of death overnight, we can stand firm on what we believe as a nation and not waver when it comes to our own moral boundaries.

The issue of human rights in China and the opportunity for America to send the strongest possible signal of condemnation **is not** a political or partisan issue for Congress. Nor is it an issue of political ideology for liberals or conservatives. It's a question of whether America will tell China and the world where it **stands** on fundamental questions of decency and humanity.

Frenchman Alex de Tocqueville, who came to America in 1831 to study our nation, warned of the following:

"I sought for the key to the greatness and genius of America in her harbors; in her fertile fields and boundless forests; in her rich mines and vast world commerce; in her public

school system and institutions of learning. I sought for it in her democratic Congress and in her matchless Constitution. Not until I went into the churches of America and heard her pulpits aflame with righteousness did I understand the secret of her genius and power. America is great because America is good, and if America ever ceases to be good, America will cease to be great.