

Statement by Nobel Peace Laureates on 2010 Laureate Liu Xiaobo

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Nobel Peace Prize Laureates recently gathered in Bogotá to discuss the future of peace in the world. That gathering was, for us there and for those of us unable to attend, another sad reminder of the absence of our brother Liu Xiaobo of China, who was awarded the 2010 Nobel Peace Prize in absentia and has served more than seven years in jail.

Liu was sentenced to 11 years in prison for “inciting subversion of state power” on December 25, 2009, for his role in drafting Charter '08, a manifesto which called for increased rule of law, respect for human rights, and the evolution of the Chinese government to a multiparty democracy.

After the Norwegian Nobel Committee announced Dr. Liu was to be the recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize, his wife, Liu Xia, was placed under house arrest. She has been held in her small Beijing apartment without charge or trial for more than six years with minimal contact with the outside world. The UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention issued legal opinions concluding both Liu Xiaobo and Liu Xia are being held arbitrarily and in violation of international law and must be immediately released.

Today, we call on Chinese President Xi Jinping to release Liu Xiaobo and Liu Xia immediately and unconditionally. China should act immediately to remedy this profound injustice.

Jody Williams, 1997

Shirin Ebadi, 2003

Leymah Gbowee, 2011

Tawakkol Karman, 2011

Mairead Maguire, 1976

Kailash Satyarthi, 2014

David Trimble, 1998

Rigoberta Menchu Tum, 1992

Desmond M. Tutu, 1984

Lisa Clark, Co-President of International Peace Bureau, 1910