

**FREEDOM NOW FILES COMPLAINT TO UN WORKING GROUP ON
ENFORCED AND INVOLUNTARY DISAPPEARANCES**

Washington, D.C. - Freedom Now has filed a formal complaint to the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances on behalf of Liu Xia, the widow of 2010 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Liu Xiaobo.

Jared Counsel, counsel to Liu Xia said:

"Despite Chinese government claims that Liu Xia is 'free,' it is clear that since July 15th, she has been disappeared by Chinese security officials. I demand that Chinese authorities immediately provide proof that Liu Xia is alive and allow her unhindered access to her family, friends, counsel, and the international community. As a 'free' Chinese citizen who has never been charged let alone convicted of any crime, she has a right to obtain a passport and to travel abroad in accordance with her wishes."

Established in 1980, the Working Group reports to the UN Human Rights Council and consists of representatives from five countries from the different regions of the world, who each serve in their individual capacity. Currently its members are from Argentina, Canada, Lithuania, Morocco, and South Korea.

Its primary function is to assist families in determining the fate or whereabouts of family members who are reportedly disappeared. It receives, examines, and transmits to Governments reports of enforced disappearances by relatives of the disappeared or human rights groups working on their behalf.

According to international law, an enforced disappearance involves (1) deprivation of liberty against the will of the person; (2) involvement of government officials; and (3) refusal to acknowledge the deprivation of liberty or concealment of the fate or whereabouts of the disappeared person.

All three conditions have been met in Liu Xia's case so it is properly characterized as an enforced disappearance.

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