

International Committee for Liu Xiaobo



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 4, 2012

134 Nobel Laureates Urge Incoming Chinese President Xi Jinping to Release Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Liu Xiaobo and Wife Liu Xia

Citizens Petition to Chinese Government Launched at Change.Org by Archbishop Tutu

(Washington, D.C. – New York – Paris – London – Brussels – Geneva) Today, 134 Nobel Laureates across all six Nobel disciplines [wrote](#) to incoming Chinese President Xi Jinping, urging him to immediately and unconditionally release Liu Xiaobo and his wife Liu Xia. Liu Xia has been under house arrest since shortly after the Norwegian Nobel Committee announced her husband's selection as the Peace Prize Laureate for 2010. The letter was released by the International Committee for Liu Xiaobo, which is comprised of six Nobel Peace Prize Laureates and 15 non-governmental organizations.¹ The Nobel Laureates wrote:

Across all disciplines, the distinguishing feature which led to our recognition as Nobel Laureates is that we have embraced the power of our intellectual freedom and creative inspiration to do our part to advance the human condition. No government can restrict freedom of thought and association without having a negative effect on such important human innovation.

Archbishop Desmond M. Tutu (Peace 1984) and Sir Richard Roberts (Physiology or Medicine 1993) are leading this initiative with the support of Freedom Now, which serves as international counsel to both Liu Xiaobo and his wife. The letter from Nobel Laureates sends a powerful message to the Chinese government that releasing Liu Xiaobo and Liu Xia will send a positive

¹ The International Committee for Liu Xiaobo is composed of Nobel Peace Prize Laureates Dr. Shirin Ebadi, Ms. Tawakkol Karman, Ms. Mairead Maguire, Archbishop Desmond M. Tutu, Ms. Betty Williams, and Ms. Jody Williams as well as the following non-governmental organizations: Christian Action for the Abolition of Torture (ACAT), Act for Human Rights (ADH), Catholic Committee against Hunger and for Development (CCFD- *Terre Solidaire*), China Solidarity, Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW), Initiatives for China/Citizen Power for China, International Campaign for Tibet (ICT), International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), Freedom Now, Human Rights Foundation (HRF), Human Rights League (LDH), Human Rights Watch (HRW), Global Justice Center (GJC), Reporters Without Borders (RSF), Together Against the Death Penalty (ECPM). Until his passing, former Czech Republic President Václav Havel served on the Committee as well.

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signal about the new leadership's priorities and that their ongoing detention hinders China's development and damages its international stature:

"I hope that the Chinese authorities appreciate the diversity of extraordinary achievement represented by the Nobel Laureates who have written to them today," said Archbishop Tutu. "Our effort is not to embarrass China but rather to implore the government to take a different approach that would help China develop in the best way for all its people," he noted. "By releasing Liu Xiaobo and Liu Xia, China can demonstrate its strength and show that it is not fearful of those who seek dialogue about the most effective ways to reform its government," added Richard Roberts.

In addition to launching this letter today, Archbishop Tutu, on behalf of his fellow Laureates, launched a global citizen [petition](#) drive to the incoming Chinese President urging Liu Xiaobo and Liu Xia's immediate release.

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- Thor Halvorssen, Human Rights Foundation (Spanish, English): thor@humanrightsfoundation.org, +1-212-664-8464
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December 4, 2012

The Honorable Xi Jinping
General Secretary of the Communist Party of China
Zhongnanhai, Xichengqu, Beijing City
People's Republic of China

Dear Mr. Xi,

As you have taken the first step towards assuming the presidency of the People's Republic of China, we write to welcome the prospect of fresh leadership and new ideas. To that end, we respectfully urge you to release Dr. Liu Xiaobo, the world's only imprisoned Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, and his wife, Liu Xia.

On December 25, 2009, your government sentenced Dr. Liu, a highly respected intellectual and democracy advocate, to 11 years in prison for "inciting subversion." The charges were based on his political essays and co-authorship of "Charter 08," which called for peaceful political reform in China based on the principles of human rights, freedom, and democracy. Shortly after the Norwegian Nobel Committee awarded Dr. Liu its Peace Prize, the government placed Liu Xia under house arrest, where she remains cut off from the outside world two years later without charge or the benefit of any legal process. In response to the continued detentions of Dr. Liu and Liu Xia, the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, an independent and impartial body of experts, issued Opinions No. 15-16/2011, finding their detentions to be in violation of international law; however, despite this finding their cases remain unresolved.

Across all disciplines, the distinguishing feature which led to our recognition as Nobel Laureates is that we have embraced the power of our intellectual freedom and creative inspiration to do our part to advance the human condition. No government can restrict freedom of thought and association without having a negative effect on such important human innovation. Indeed, we Laureates are distressed that your government continues to block access to the main Nobel Prize web site (www.nobelprize.org).

During former Chinese President Hu Jintao's state visit to the United States in 2011, he recognized that "a lot still needs to be done in China on human rights." While we welcome such honest assessments, we hope that China's new political leadership will move past merely recognizing the problem and seize this important opportunity to take concrete steps towards embracing the fundamental rights of all Chinese citizens. An essential first step is the immediate and unconditional release of Dr. Liu Xiaobo and his wife Liu Xia.

Sincerely,

134 Nobel Prize Laureates

Name:	Category:	Prize Year:
<u>Peter Agre</u>	Chemistry	2003
<u>Thomas R. Cech</u>	Chemistry	1989
<u>Martin Chalfie</u>	Chemistry	2008
<u>Aaron Ciechanover</u>	Chemistry	2004
<u>Paul J. Crutzen</u>	Chemistry	1995
<u>Robert F. Curl Jr.</u>	Chemistry	1996
<u>Johann Deisenhofer</u>	Chemistry	1988

<u>Richard R. Ernst</u>	Chemistry	1991
<u>Gerhard Ertl</u>	Chemistry	2007
<u>Walter Gilbert</u>	Chemistry	1980
<u>Robert H. Grubbs</u>	Chemistry	2005
<u>Dudley R. Herschbach</u>	Chemistry	1986
<u>Avram Hershko</u>	Chemistry	2004
<u>Roald Hoffmann</u>	Chemistry	1981
<u>Robert Huber</u>	Chemistry	1988
<u>Roger D. Kornberg</u>	Chemistry	2006
<u>Sir Harold Kroto</u>	Chemistry	1996
<u>Yuan T. Lee</u>	Chemistry	1986
<u>Mario J. Molina</u>	Chemistry	1995
<u>Kary B. Mullis</u>	Chemistry	1993
<u>John C. Polanyi</u>	Chemistry	1986
<u>Venkatraman Ramakrishnan</u>	Chemistry	2009
<u>Richard R. Schrock</u>	Chemistry	2005
<u>Jens C. Skou</u>	Chemistry	1997
<u>Thomas A. Steitz</u>	Chemistry	2009
<u>Roger Y. Tsien</u>	Chemistry	2008
<u>Sir John E. Walker</u>	Chemistry	1997
<u>Kurt Wuthrich</u>	Chemistry	2002
<u>Ada E. Yonath</u>	Chemistry	2009
<u>Kenneth J. Arrow</u>	Economics	1972
<u>Peter A. Diamond</u>	Economics	2010
<u>Daniel Kahneman</u>	Economics	2002
<u>Finn E. Kydland</u>	Economics	2004
<u>Robert E. Lucas Jr.</u>	Economics	1995
<u>Harry M. Markowitz</u>	Economics	1990
<u>Eric S. Maskin</u>	Economics	2007
<u>Daniel L. McFadden</u>	Economics	2000
<u>James A. Mirrlees</u>	Economics	1996
<u>Dale T. Mortensen</u>	Economics	2010
<u>Roger B. Myerson</u>	Economics	2007
<u>Douglass C. North</u>	Economics	1993
<u>Thomas J. Sargent</u>	Economics	2011
<u>Thomas C. Schelling</u>	Economics	2005
<u>Vernon L. Smith</u>	Economics	2002
<u>Oliver E. Williamson</u>	Economics	2009
<u>J. M. Coetzee</u>	Literature	2003
<u>Gunter Grass</u>	Literature	1999
<u>Elfriede Jelinek</u>	Literature	2004
<u>Toni Morrison</u>	Literature	1993
<u>Herta Muller</u>	Literature	2009
<u>Tomas Transtromer</u>	Literature	2011

<u>Mario Vargas Llosa</u>	Literature	2010
<u>David Baltimore</u>	Medicine	1975
<u>Francoise Barre-Sinoussi</u>	Medicine	2008
<u>J. Michael Bishop</u>	Medicine	1989
<u>Gunter Blobel</u>	Medicine	1999
<u>Sydney Brenner</u>	Medicine	2002
<u>Linda B. Buck</u>	Medicine	2004
<u>Sir Martin J. Evans</u>	Medicine	2007
<u>Andrew Z. Fire</u>	Medicine	2006
<u>Edmond H. Fischer</u>	Medicine	1992
<u>Alfred G. Gilman</u>	Medicine	1994
<u>Paul Greengard</u>	Medicine	2000
<u>Carol W. Greider</u>	Medicine	2009
<u>Roger Guillemin</u>	Medicine	1977
<u>Sir John B. Gurdon</u>	Medicine	2012
<u>Leland H. Hartwell</u>	Medicine	2001
<u>Harald zur Hausen</u>	Medicine	2008
<u>H. Robert Horvitz</u>	Medicine	2002
<u>David H. Hubel</u>	Medicine	1981
<u>Tim Hunt</u>	Medicine	2001
<u>Louis J. Ignarro</u>	Medicine	1998
<u>Eric R. Kandel</u>	Medicine	2000
<u>Rita Levi-Montalcini</u>	Medicine	1986
<u>Craig C. Mello</u>	Medicine	2006
<u>Joseph E. Murray</u>	Medicine	1990
<u>Erwin Neher</u>	Medicine	1991
<u>Sir Paul Nurse</u>	Medicine	2001
<u>Christiane Nusslein-Volhard</u>	Medicine	1995
<u>Stanley B. Prusiner</u>	Medicine	1997
<u>Sir Richard J. Roberts</u>	Medicine	1993
<u>Hamilton O. Smith</u>	Medicine	1978
<u>John E. Sulston</u>	Medicine	2002
<u>Jack W. Szostak</u>	Medicine	2009
<u>E. Donnall Thomas</u>	Medicine	1990
<u>J. Robin Warren</u>	Medicine	2005
<u>Eric F. Wieschaus</u>	Medicine	1995
<u>Torsten N. Wiesel</u>	Medicine	1981
<u>Amnesty International</u>	Peace	1977
<u>Carlos Filipe Ximenes Belo</u>	Peace	1996
<u>Mairead Maguire</u>	Peace	1976
<u>Shirin Ebadi</u>	Peace	2003
<u>Leymah Roberta Gbowee</u>	Peace	2011
<u>Tawakkul Karman</u>	Peace	2011
<u>The 14th Dalai Lama</u>	Peace	1989

<u>Jose Ramos-Horta</u>	Peace	1996
<u>Desmond Tutu</u>	Peace	1984
<u>Elie Wiesel</u>	Peace	1986
<u>Betty Williams</u>	Peace	1976
<u>Jody Williams</u>	Peace	1997
<u>Zhores I. Alferov</u>	Physics	2000
<u>Leon N. Cooper</u>	Physics	1972
<u>James Cronin</u>	Physics	1980
<u>Jerome I. Friedman</u>	Physics	1990
<u>Andre Geim</u>	Physics	2010
<u>Riccardo Giacconi</u>	Physics	2002
<u>Donald A. Glaser</u>	Physics	1960
<u>Sheldon Glashow</u>	Physics	1979
<u>Roy J. Glauber</u>	Physics	2005
<u>David J. Gross</u>	Physics	2004
<u>John L. Hall</u>	Physics	2005
<u>Serge Haroche</u>	Physics	2012
<u>Antony Hewish</u>	Physics	1974
<u>Gerardus 't Hooft</u>	Physics	1999
<u>Brian D. Josephson</u>	Physics	1973
<u>Charles K. Kao</u>	Physics	2009
<u>Wolfgang Ketterle</u>	Physics	2001
<u>Klaus von Klitzing</u>	Physics	1985
<u>Leon M. Lederman</u>	Physics	1988
<u>Anthony J. Leggett</u>	Physics	2003
<u>John C. Mather</u>	Physics	2006
<u>Douglas D. Osheroff</u>	Physics	1996
<u>William D. Phillips</u>	Physics	1997
<u>H. David Politzer</u>	Physics	2004
<u>Robert C. Richardson</u>	Physics	1996
<u>Adam G. Riess</u>	Physics	2011
<u>Heinrich Rohrer</u>	Physics	1986
<u>Brian P. Schmidt</u>	Physics	2011
<u>Jack Steinberger</u>	Physics	1988
<u>Joseph H. Taylor Jr.</u>	Physics	1993
<u>Charles H. Townes</u>	Physics	1964
<u>Steven Weinberg</u>	Physics	1979
<u>Frank Wilczek</u>	Physics	2004
<u>Robert Woodrow Wilson</u>	Physics	1978