

Hearing of the Committee on Foreign Affairs to be held by the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations in Room 2255 of the Rayburn House Office Building

DATE: Tuesday, October 29, 2013

TIME: 2:30 p.m.

SUBJECT: Guo Feixiong and Freedom of Expression in China

WITNESSES: Ms. Zhang Qing Wife of Guo Feixiong

Ms. Yang Tianjiao Daughter of Guo Feixiong

Pastor Bob Fu Founder and President ChinaAid Association

Mr. Chen Guangcheng

CHAIRMEN: Christopher H. Smith (R-NJ)

Mr. Chen Guangcheng

Dear honorable Chairman, honorable members of the committee and friends,

Greetings.

The detention of brave human rights leader Mr. Guo Feixiong has lasted for over 83 days for practicing his civil rights. During this time the regime has denied access to his lawyers eight times already. This is a clear violation of Chinese laws and citizens' basic civil rights. So, whether Guo is alive or dead is unknown.

In 2005, Guo Feixiong, Gao Zhisheng and I were persecuted by the Chinese regime almost simultaneously. Now, Gao Zhisheng is still in prison and his family members are forbidden to meet with him. Guo Feixiong was arrested again after being released less than two years ago from his last imprisonment. These events show the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) is determined to fight against human rights and rule of law, and we should not have any illusions toward the CCP regime anymore.

The trial of Ms. Liu Ping, Mr. Wei Zhongping and Li Sihua in Jiangxi yesterday was deemed by netizens as the evil against the good. In the name of social stability maintenance, a number of citizens, petitioners, and activists were kidnapped, tortured, and arrested. The lawyers who represent the three activist citizens on trial in Jiangxi were forced to cancel their legal contract with their clients.

A report released by the Freedom House last week shows the crackdown against freedom of speech, Internet freedom, and media censorship in China has already extended beyond China's borders. Nearly 150 people were already arrested since the crackdown started this spring. The CCP is using the trial against the three activists in Jiangxi as a test to the

international community. If we don't take actions, things will become worse. When Guo Feixiong was imprisoned last time he was tortured severely. It is certainly worrisome this time as Guo's lawyer and family have not been allowed to meet with him so far.

Freedom belongs to brave people. The extraordinary reaction against the illegal trial of three innocent citizen activists in Jiangxin province yesterday shows that the trial itself is against citizens' will. Nobody's rights will be guaranteed without a system safeguard. I hope the United States of America and the international community assist the Chinese people in getting onto the path of freedom, democracy, and constitutionalism as soon as possible.

The most urgent task now is to achieve Internet freedom because the Chinese communist authorities undermine Internet freedom and restrict the free access of information. Internet censorship is overwhelming and a large number of Internet management agents are hired to censor, block, and delete postings online, which is a blatant violation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights since according to Article 19 of the Declaration, everyone has the right to seek, receive, and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.

Hillary Clinton once stated clearly the policy of the U.S. government, which includes supporting an Internet that allows all the members of human race equal access to knowledge and thoughts and dedicating itself to the promotion of Internet freedom. The successful implementation of this policy of the United States will be vital to Internet freedom in China as well as the world. It is time to move forward to provide assistance to the freedom-loving people in totalitarian countries and tear down the Internet version of the Berlin Wall.

I suggest the legislative and administrative organs of each free nation increase government funding to encourage the research, development, and distribution of software that breaks through firewalls, such as FOE, Freegate, or Ultrasurf, which are all very effective. I learned that the U.S. Congress has a 700 million dollar budget for this, but only less than 3% is spent on breaking through China's firewalls. It is urgent to increase the budget for the Internet freedom in China.

Secondly, judicial and administrative organs must join hands in establishing a deterrent mechanism for human rights violators. Set up a global database of human rights violators, including the "610 Office" of the Chinese Communist Party and the Family Planning Commission at all levels of government. Expand, establish, and strictly implement current laws similar to the Magnitsky Act which prohibits the entrance of Russian rights-violating officials into the United States. Freeze their assets in the U.S. and abroad. Put an end to the history of wicked officials enjoying freedom overseas while exercising tyranny in their home country.

Thirdly, set up a trans-congressional human rights alliance of free countries. Convene regularly and invite civilians, human rights defenders, victims, their families, and authorized agents to share their stories.

Fourthly, demand that the CCP stop persecuting religious believers and respect religious freedom. One hundred twenty Tibetan monks have immolated themselves. People in

Xinjiang fighting against tyranny have been shot one after another. And we all know the indescribable persecution Falun Gong practitioners have suffered. These ethnic and religious groups can get along with other Asians, Europeans, and Americans, and earn their respect, yet why can the Chinese Communist government not tolerate them?

Fifthly, I call on lawyers and legal experts of the United States and the American Bar Association to advocate for the human rights lawyers of China and make joint efforts to provide them with some specific legal support and assistance.

Sixthly, I hope the annual U.S.-China Human Rights Dialogue will be practical in advancing human rights and dare to be open and honest. Human rights dialogues should not become a matter of formality and empty talk.

And last, I would like to call on the American people to take actions to urge the officials and congressmen you voted into office to apply all resources and means to help terminate China's evil one-child policy and forcible abortion because forcing women to abort their babies is a violation of universal human rights. It tramples on women's rights, the right of free choice, and also the sacred right of life. This wicked policy results in a severe imbalance in gender ratio and a rapidly aging population. I plead earnestly with you, kind-hearted American people, to take actions right now to contact your representatives and officials through text message, Twitter, Facebook, and other means, asking for their support on the human rights issues mentioned above. Caring for and supporting human rights is caring for and supporting ourselves, our children, and the generations to come.

Thank you.

Chen Guangcheng