

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)

Testimony before Subcommittee on Africa, Health and Global Human Rights of the House Foreign Affairs Committee

By Tianjiao "Sara" Yang

Dear Honorable Chairman, members of Congress, and friends,

My name is Yang Tianjiao and my American name is Sara. My dad is Guo Feixiong. I am here to thank the Congress and Congressman Smith for giving me this opportunity to speak here.

The last time I saw my dad was about 7 years ago. It was in 2006, and I was only 10. I remember that he bought me this video game, and we played it almost every day during that summer. However, on September 14th, when I came back from school, he was gone, and I have not seen him since that day. I did not even have a chance to say "bye" or "I love you" to him.

Over the past 7 years, I have dreamed about him a lot. I dreamed that he would play that video game with me again so we could pass level 5 together. But they were only dreams. The next day I always found myself in tears.

I got to know about my dad's condition from my mom's conversations with her friends. My mom would not talk about my dad's news in front of me because she thought it was too heavy for a 10-year-old girl to accept. But I still listened to them anyway, and to be honest, they were extremely heavy, sad, and shocking. I heard that he was incarcerated for five years. During those

five years, the government transferred him to many different places and used numerous different tortures to against him. I was always so deeply hurt when I heard about them.

In 2009, we moved to the United States of America. In 2011, my dad got out of jail. The day he was out, we talked on the phone. I literally cried when I heard his voice. I had been longing to hear this voice for five years, and I could finally do that.

Over the past two years, I talked to my dad through Skype. He gave me advice for life, and I showed him my drawings. A few years ago, I drew my dad in a miniature cartoon form, and he immediately complained about the one short leg and one long leg when he saw it. Recently, my art skills have improved so much that he applauded my artwork. However, he still pushes me to move forward; he still wants me to draw like some of the most famous and brilliant artists—Da Vinci, Michelangelo, etc.

But the good times did not last long. He was captured, again, on August 8th, 2013. Again, I do not remember our last conversation. Again, I did not get to say a formal "goodbye" to him. Again, I have not heard his voice for about 70 days. Again, I miss him so much.

Right now, I have a water color painting of my dad that I finished in September. I hang it on my wall so that I can see his face every day. In this painting, he is smiling. In my memory that is what he looked like every day when we were together. Also, I composed a piano piece called "The Cosmos." This is a piece for my dad. I would always laugh at him when he joked that he fell asleep to my piano playing.

However, words, drawings, and music cannot express how much I miss him. My dad is a great man; he is my hero. He has helped so many people. He, a man who pursues democracy, works so hard to improve the law of China. I, his daughter, always want my dad to have the freedom that he works so hard to achieve for others. I always want him to be safe and free. President Obama, you also have two daughters; you are also a human-right lawyer. I wish that President Obama can send a request to China to free my father. I do not know what has happened to him in jail for the past two months. I am so worried about his health, so I hope that the Congress will talk to the Chinese government and secure my father's freedom!

Thank you very much!!

"Sara" Yang Tianjiao