

U.S. Congress Hearing
- Gao Zhisheng

April 20th, 2023

Thank you very much, Congressman Chris Smith, all members of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission and the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

Thank you for holding this special hearing today, April 20, on Gao Zhisheng's 59th birthday.

It is also an honor to wish him to live on his birthday in this incomparably noble and sacred U.S. Congress.

First, I would like to talk about Gao Zhisheng and the United States.

Growing up in a poor rural village in western China, Gao Zhisheng has never set foot on American soil. Mr. James Madison Jr.'s "Minutes of the Constitutional Convention of the United States of America - A Debate" has been read many times by Gao Zhisheng. He hopes that his country, China, will one day become a free, democratic, and constitutional country like the United States. This dream has motivated him to strive for 20 years.

In 2007, Gao Zhisheng published "An Open Letter to the U.S. Congress", in which Gao Zhisheng pointed out that the Chinese Communist Party was a criminal gang in the guise of a state and called on the U.S. president and legislators to boycott the 2008 Olympic Games in China, just like President Reagan boycotted the Seoul Olympics.

Since this letter was issued, Gao Zhisheng has been upgraded from a disobedient lawyer to a "lapdog of the Americans" and has been kidnapped for more than 50 days without any judicial procedures and subjected to all kinds of appalling torture.

From that day on, Gao Zhisheng was never free again until August 2017, when he was illegally kidnapped by the Chinese Communist Party, and his life and death were unknown for almost six years.

The United States is not Gao Zhisheng's home country, but the U.S. Congress and the State Department have repeatedly issued statements to rescue Gao Zhisheng. And on April 27, 2006, the Congress voted unanimously to pass Resolution 365 [urging the Chinese government to reinstate Gao Zhisheng and his law firm's license].

The United States also took in me and my two young children during our family's most difficult time and escaped the tyrannical persecution of the Chinese Communist Party. Thank you, America.

And Gao Zhisheng's closest relatives were also tormented by the same strain as me. His sister, unable to endure the prolonged persecution and harassment by local public security officers, committed suicide by jumping into the river in May 2020. To prevent his family from searching for him, the local police not only confiscated the identity documents of his family members in the country, but also prevented them from leaving their place of residence at will. Even when my brother-in-law was seriously ill and needed to seek medical treatment, he was not allowed to possess his identity documents, thus making it difficult to provide

medical treatment. In May 2016 due to serious illness brother-in-law jumped to his death.

We are just an ordinary family, and Gao Zhisheng did not violate any Chinese Communist law, but he was so persecuted by the Chinese Communist criminal group. And such suffering continues today. As an innocent Chinese citizen, Gao Zhisheng has been kidnapped without trial for nearly six years without any news, which is a rare evil in the world.

In closing, let me pay tribute to the founder of your Commission, Thomas Peter Lantos, for his life of defending human rights around the world. Mr. Lantos was a Nazi Holocaust survivor, but he escaped the Holocaust not because he was smarter and stronger than the others at the age of 15, but because he was helped by a righteous Swedish diplomat, Raoul Gustaf Wallenberg, who saved more than 4,500 Jews. For this feat, he became the second honorary U.S. citizen in history. Mr. Wallenberg did not die at the hands of the Nazis, he lasted until the end of World War II, but was captured by the Allied Communist Soviet Union without legal proceedings, without trial, without visits from lawyers, without anyone even knowing where he was being held for what.

All of this is like what the Chinese Communist Party did to my husband Gao Zhisheng, the same totalitarian Communist state, the same criminal methods. Mr. Wallenberg eventually died in a Communist Soviet prison, no one knows when he died, and his family has never seen his remains. Could this be the fate of my husband Gao Zhisheng? I am very worried. Nearly six years have passed, and not only is there no arrest warrant, but no unit or organization has been responsible for Gao Zhisheng's abduction. No one has ever seen him, no one has ever heard his voice, and no one has confirmed that he is still alive in this world.

My husband Gao Zhisheng was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize three times and has received various international awards in the United States and Europe but could not get a fair trial or a phone call to his family.

Ladies and gentlemen, my children and I thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to present Gao Zhisheng's story, to show you our wounds, and to tell you, our despair. I implore you to help me. How dare I hope for Gao Zhisheng's freedom?

First, I expect the U.S. embassy officials in China to visit Gao Zhisheng, a husband and a father of the U.S. citizens. Secondly, I would like the U.S. Congress to urge China to allow Gao Zhisheng to be tried in public, like ordinary political prisoners, and to be granted the visitation rights that citizens are entitled to. If these cannot be achieved, it's okay to have Gao Zhisheng give me a call and tell me he's still alive, just knowing he's alive is enough.

I cannot see the end of Gao Zhisheng's and our family's suffering yet. In China, there are many other families like ours, and I hope that people will pay attention to Wang Bingzhang, Wang Zang, Guo Feixiong and other prisoners of conscience.

Thank you all!