
Written Testimony of Mr. Chen Guangcheng
Hearing of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs
Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights
2 p.m., April 9, 2013.
Room 2712, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington D.C.

Dear Honorable Chairman Mr. Smith, honorable members of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, ladies and gentlemen, friends,

Last year at this time, my entire family was in the midst of grave danger. At the end of April 2012, I escaped from the valley of the shadow of death, and after multiple twists and turns, I fled to the U.S. embassy in Beijing to seek emergency refuge from danger. On May 2, after Sino-U.S. negotiations had reached an agreement guaranteeing [my safety], I left the U.S. embassy in Beijing. At that time, the U.S. officials taking part in the negotiations told me that the agreement they had reached would be written down in Sino-U.S. diplomatic documents. My main requests were contained both in my letter to then-Premier Wen Jiabao and in my pre-recorded video that was released to the public. The requests in short were these: an immediate end to all illegal acts of persecution against me, my family members and my supporters; protection of all of our civil rights; and a thorough investigation into the illegal and criminal acts of persecution by the Shandong authorities over many years against me and my family, and a public resolution to the matter. Regardless of how high-ranking the officials involved were, nor how many officials were involved, if they had committed a crime, they must be held accountable. And compensation should be made for the losses incurred. Regrettably, to date, not only has the Chinese central government not honored its commitment to the U.S. government, it has instead illegally detained and put on trial my nephew Chen Kegui and on November 30, 2012 convicted Chen Kegui on the charge of so-called "intentionally inflicting injuries" and sentenced him to a prison term of three years and three months. Moreover Chen Kegui has been sent to the same prison in Linyi city where I was tortured when I was illegally sentenced on trumped up charges in 2006 to four years and three months imprisonment.

On April 26, 2012, after local government official discovered that I had escaped, the deputy Communist Party secretary of the town of Shuanghou, Zhang Jian, who is in charge of politics and law, led a few dozen club-wielding men in climbing over the courtyard wall of my elder brother's home. After breaking the lock to the courtyard gate from the inside and letting in more men, they broke down all the doors in the house and dragged my pajama-clad elder brother from his bed, put a black hood over his head and twisted his arm and stuffed him into a vehicle that took him to the criminal police section of the Yinan County Public Security Bureau, where they tortured him for a several dozen hours. According to the accounts of some residents in the

vicinity of the police station, they all heard my elder brother's screams as they tortured him that night---! After my elder brother Chen Guangfu had been kidnapped and taken away, they continued to beat, smash and rob my elder brother's home, which is also the home of Chen Kegui. They beat Chen Kegui and his mother Ren Zongju in different rooms, and they grabbed Ren Zongju's hair and beat her so badly that she cried out wretchedly for help. Because club-wielding guards were closely monitoring the courtyard premises and surrounding area, the other villagers were not able to come to her rescue. Meanwhile, Chen Kegui was beaten to the ground several times in another room, sustaining multiple injuries, especially to his head, neck and legs which were all bleeding from multiple places. Finally, facing the possibility of being beaten to death if he did not resist, Chen Kegui grabbed a kitchen knife lying on a cutting board and scratched several of the thugs that had been beating him; actually, their injuries were very light. Right after that, Chen Kegui ran away and called the police to report the incident but several hours passed without any police showing up. Nonetheless, he was still arrested on the charge of intentional homicide, which was later changed to intentional injury, for which he was sentenced to a prison term of three years and three months. From the time of his arrest until the day of the trial, the lawyers hired by the family in accordance with the law asked for permission numerous times to meet with him, but they were never allowed to meet with Chen Kegui, never mind discussing his defense him. Even on the day of the trial, the court refused to allow his own parents to observe the proceedings. The reason given was that they were to be called as witnesses, but by the time the trial had ended, Chen Kegui's parents, who had been held the entire time in a police car, had neither been allowed to observe the trial nor been called as witnesses.

To date, the lawyers that the family has lawfully hired, Ding Xikui, Si Weijiang and others, are still being prohibited by the authorities from meeting with Chen Kegui, preventing the lawyers from representing him in his case in accordance with the law. It was not until a visit on February 28, 2013 that, with fear and trepidation, Chen Kegui brought up the fact that he had been tortured and threatened while at the Yinan County Detention Center. Ma Chenlian, secretary of the Yinan County Politics and Law Committee and director of the Public Security Bureau, and Yi Chuandong, political commissar of the Public Security Bureau, have on many occasions come to the detention center and threatened Chen Kegui to his face, saying "If you appeal, you'll be sentenced to life in prison. If you listen to us and do as we say, you'll get a light sentence. Moreover, if you appeal, the case will be sent back to Yinan County for a retrial, in which case, you'll be brought back to Yinan County's criminal police section. Last time, you didn't get much of a beating, but it's hard to say what might happen if you are sent back." These threats could not be any more clear. Last time, during the short period that he was in the hands of the Yinan County criminal police section, the torment caused him to lose more than 10 kilograms (more than 22 pounds). To them, this is regarded as "not much of a beating." The implication was, if Chen Kegui is sent back for a retrial, his torment would be doubled. Moreover, they have also threatened to take his parents and his child as hostages. This was why Chen Kegui said in court

that he would not appeal. In Linyi Prison, he is still under threat now. The authorities have told him that if he appeals, he will be sentenced to life in prison.

Even more outrageous is that on March 7, an official from the local family planning office, Xu Xicai, was asked by the local Party Committee leaders to go to the local kindergarten and remove Chen Kegui's four-year-old son. Fortunately on that day, Kegui's father, that is, my eldest brother Chen Guangfu, was one step ahead of the official sent by the authorities in picking up the child. On the morning of March 11, as my brother Guangfu was taking the child to the school, they were followed by a man in a helmet and an army overcoat on a motorcycle. This was most likely the authorities' way of threatening them, to show that the life of the child and of Kegui's parents are in their hands.

To sum up, we cannot continue to tolerate the Chinese Communist authorities continuing to go back on their words and deceiving the international community at will. When the Chinese Communist Central Party Committee can act like this in breaking its promises to me, to the United States and to the whole world, and when it can willfully break agreements in a case that has attracted the world's attention, how can we expect it to improve the human rights situation in other areas and to take up its international responsibilities and obligations? I hereby request Mr. Chairman, the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and other related committees to formally obtain from the relevant departments of the administrative authorities—and publish—the written and oral diplomatic agreements between China and the United States with regard to this incident of mine, including my letter to Premier Wen Jiabao that I wrote while I was in the U.S. embassy. I hereby urge the U.S. government to solemnly demand that the Chinese Communist leaders do as they promised. Thank you!

Chen Guangcheng
Tuesday, April 9, 2013; Washington D.C.

Relevant online reports:

1, English translation 滕彪在 2012 年 5 月 2 日晚跟陈光诚的通话纪录: on May, 2, 2012, 19:55:12

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2012/05/urgent-attention-chen-guangcheng-calls.html>

2, English translation of 2012 年 5 月 2 日 8 点曾金燕与陈光诚通话后发的推文说明陈光诚离开使馆的情况:

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2012/05/zeng-jinyan-chen-guangcheng-talked-to.html>

3, English translation Yuan Weijing 's smuggled written letter about the persecution experience:
伟静 2011 年 6 月中她写的信:

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2011/06/detained-blind-activist-chen-guangcheng.html>

4, 2011 年 2 月 9 日公布翻译了陈光诚夫妇录制传出的出狱后被非法监禁家中的第一个录像报导:

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2011/02/exclusive-video-shows-ill-treatment.html>

5, 2012 年 4 月 30 日沃尔夫议员在《外交政策》杂志上发表题为: " 美国必须营救陈光诚: 现在就是时候了 "

http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2012/04/30/chen_guangcheng_human_rights?print=yes&hidecomments=yes&page=full

Why America Must Save Chen Guangcheng

Now is one of those times when the United States must live up to its ideals.

6, 2010 年 9 月 16 日翻译成英文的自由亚洲电台记者张敏采访伟静, 傅希秋牧师, 李苏斌律师呼吁国际社会帮助:

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2010/09/chen-guangcheng-asks-for-urgent-help.html>

Chen Guangcheng asks for urgent help; the attorney appeals for the mobilization of people worldwide.

By Zhang Min, reporter for Radio Free Asia

English Translation by ChinaAid | PDF

September 16, 2010

7, Latest NYT report(shows his main assessment about China and his relatives treatment :
Chinese Activist, Now in U.S., Says His Relatives Remain Under Surveillance

http://www.nytimes.com/2013/03/14/world/asia/family-of-chinese-activist-chen-guangcheng-said-to-be-harassed.html?_r=0

8, About Chen Guangcheng's nephew Chen Kegui's case and latest CECC (Congress-Executive Commission on China) analysis (Chen GC will talk about this case a lot):
the CECC published two analysis pieces relating to Chen Kegui:

Authorities Use Threats, Abuse, and Harassment To Maintain Control Over Chen Kegui and Family - <http://www.cecc.gov/pages/virtualAcad/index.phpd?showsingle=187488>

Chen Kegui Serving Criminal Sentence, Legal Experts Refute Conviction -

<http://www.cecc.gov/pages/virtualAcad/index.phpd?showsingle=186995>